

# News from the Divisions

## VICTORIAN BRANCH

### **Role of General Councillors**

At its last meeting Branch endorsed the role of the General Councillor, feeling that this person played an extremely important function. It did, however, feel that the role of the Councillor-at-large was nebulous. While understanding the reasons for the establishment of these positions, i.e., to give members an alternative communication channel for their ideas in the event that their General Councillor was unsympathetic to their cause, it feels that Councillors-at-large are rarely, if ever, used to this end. It thus feels that these positions should be abolished.

### **Report of the Futures Committee**

The long-awaited report from the Futures Seminar has been received. A sub-committee of Branch consisting of Margaret Munro, Bev. Kirby, Beatrice Fincher and Angela Bridgland, has prepared a discussion paper on the Futures Committee Report for the next Branch meeting. Comments will then be forwarded to the Executive Director for consideration at the August meeting of General Council.

Any member who would like to read and comment on the report should contact Diane Costello, Secretary, on (053) 301800 xtn. 364, or any member of the sub-committee.

### **The Australian Science Index**

Branch received a letter from Barry Jones, Minister of Science and Technology, stating that it was not CSIRO's responsibility to produce national listings/indexes of scientific material such as the *Australian Science Index* – that this was the National Library's role. Current staffing problems would suggest that the added responsibility of producing ASI or an equivalent publication would be difficult for the National Library to bear at present, thus collaboration with commercial publishers is being investigated.

### **Inter-library Loan Networks**

Branch discussed the problems currently facing Melbourne's Inter Library loan network and decided to write to the Director of the Consultancy and Public Libraries Division pointing out that fewer librarians were having to bear the brunt of inter-library loans.

It was moved that while Branch appreciated the grave financial circumstances which led Geelong, Dandenong Valley and Box Hill-Doncaster Regional Library Service to suspend inter-library loan services, the LAA Victorian Branch expresses its regret that they should have had to deprive their borrowers of such a basic element of public library service, and trusts that these libraries will retain inter-library loan as a basic service objective. Branch further moved that the President write to the executive officers of the three regions and their respective chief librarians expressing the sentiments outlined in the foregoing motion.

### **Branch Programme**

The year got off to a good start with a well-attended AGM. Guest speakers – Helen Sharpe, Senior Training Librarian of the State Library; Margot Hyslop of the Borchardt Library at La Trobe University; and Don Schauder, Associate Librarian, RMIT – talked about staff exchanges. They dealt with practical considerations of implementing and participating in such schemes as well as their philosophical objectives.

Branch has a fully and varied programme of general meetings and activities for 1984, so check 'Happenings' regularly for details.

*Angela Bridgland*

## SCHOOL LIBRARIES SECTION (NSW GROUP)

### **Annual General Meeting**

This year's Annual General Meeting of the School Libraries Section (NSW) Group, held on Tuesday 21 February, was attended by some 50 teacher-librarians and other interested people.

During the short business meeting the incoming and outgoing Presidents, Jennifer Davoren and Dianne Simpson respectively, officially thanked the 1983 Committee and Executive for their efforts and enthusiasm. The 1984 Committee and Executive were

welcomed with equal zeal. Judging by the hectic calendar of seminars and events already planned, 1984 looks like being another busy and productive year.

The guest speaker was Inspector Patricia Morgan from North Sydney Regional Office of the Department of Education, who gave a lively, captivating and illuminating talk on some of her personal feelings on Children's Literature. Pat left her audience with much food for thought!

## STATUS OF WOMEN IN LIBRARIANSHIP SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

The Status of Women in Librarianship Special Interest Group originated at the 'Library Workforce conference' held in November 1982. At the request of the Victorian LAA Branch Council a Committee under the interim chairmanship of Mr Barry McIntyre was formed to investigate the formation of a Special Interest Group.

In September 1983, the Inaugural meeting of the Status of Women in Librarianship Special Interest Group was held at the State College of Victoria and sixty people heard a stimulating discussion led by Ms Cassandra Pybus on the question of 'Gender and status in the workplace'. This meeting also called for nominations for a new Committee.

This Committee has met several times since, and held a further public meeting in November 1983, when the subject of 'Equal opportunity' was addressed by Ms Maura Croghan, a Senior Conciliator of the Victorian Equal Opportunity Board. Maura described the legislation operating in Victoria, outlined the work of the Equal Opportunity Board, and highlighted some recent notable cases.

The Group's objectives are stated to be:

- To assist in the development of guidelines and programmes designed to enhance the opportunities and the image of women in the library profession
- To promote and initiate the collection, analysis, dissemination and co-ordination of information on the status of women librarians and other 'information' professionals and raise the level of consciousness concerning women
- To provide General Council and Membership with reports needed for the establishment of policies and actions related to women in librarianship
- To liaise with other groups, inside and outside the LAA, with common interests in the field of women's issues.
- To be concerned with general feminist issues as they relate to women in libraries

1984 promises to be an exciting year for the Group. Current programme plans include: a public meeting in May on the topic of 'Women and management'; the Annual General Meeting to be held during the LAA/NZLA Conference which is to include a speaker on the theme of 'Women and technology'; and the compilation of a resources booklet.

The Convenor of the Group is Ms JINETTE de Gooijer, who can be contacted at (03) 339 5404 during business hours, or at her home address: 95 Gladstone Street, Kew, Vic. 3101, Telephone (03) 861 8994.

All issues of *Incite* should contain 1984 LAA/NZLA Conference Registration forms as well as an insert from the Margaret Gee Media Group. Tasmanian readers will receive a Continuing Education program and all Queensland issues should contain the Branch Newsletter.

# MANNINGS

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