



## NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AFTER A REASONABLY tranquil period of settling in during January and February I have now started to visit some of the divisions and make contact with many of you.

During March I visited South Australia, Newcastle, Wagga, Albury and Wangaratta specifically to talk to members and potential members about the activities of the LAA. The most rewarding aspects of these visits for me are the opportunity to get ideas from you (from every visit I've come back with several very good ideas that will solve a problem and improve a service) and the opportunity to gain a broader perspective of the overall library scene in Australia.

I was particularly interested in the joint school/community and TAFE community libraries which I saw in South Australia.

On 30/31 March the first General Council meeting for 1984 was held at LAA headquarters. This was attended not only by the General Councillors but also by all Branch Presidents (with the exception of the Western Australian President who was unable to attend due to ill health). A report of the meeting appears elsewhere in this issue.

I have received very good response to the call for media liaison officers although I have not yet been notified of a contact for each state. There has however been good support for the concept of a higher public image for the LAA.

I promised in an earlier issue of *incite* to let you know the responses received by the NSW Public Libraries Sectional Group to their telegrams to the NSW Premier and NSW Leader of the Opposition re State Government funding of public libraries.

The Leader of the Opposition made the following response:

'I am pleased to inform you that the Liberal/National Party Government will reverse the downward trend for State Government funding for Public Libraries and resume a more responsible funding level. We would aim to achieve about 30% of the total Public Library budget. We also have a specific commitment to increase the provision of library services to country areas in terms of quality, variety and type for both borrowing and reference material.'

No reply has been received from the Premier's Department.

### Back to basics

During my travels I have been asked some questions to which, because of my familiarity with the Association, I thought everyone knew the answers. I plan to publish one of these topics from time to time and will also be happy to answer your queries if you would like to send them to me.

**Fact:** If you have been a member of the Association in the past and wish to rejoin you *do not* have to pay for the past years when you were unfinancial. You rejoin the Association as of the present time.

Jenny Adams  
Executive Director

## Report of General Council

THE FIRST meeting for 1984 of the General Council of the LAA was held in LAA House on 30/31 March 1984. The following report highlights the major items discussed. Further information is available from your Councillor, Branch Secretary or the Executive Director.

- **Lobbying**
- **Code of ethics**
- **National information policy** — a draft paper has been circulated to Divisions for comment by end April/early May. The paper must be finalised in May.
- **Draft media release policy**
- **Public library standards revision project**
- **Multicultural library services** — draft statement
- **Role of General Councillors** — Council endorsed the statement of duties and responsibilities of General Councillors and General Councillors-at-large. There was some discussion on the effectiveness of General Councillors-at-large. Council felt their role was a fairly new one and that the membership should be encouraged to make more use of their services. Their role will be reviewed in 12 months time.
- **Statement on International Relations** — Council moved that the International Relations Committee utilising existing Association and relevant Government reports, examine the Association's International and

Regional role. Then as a result of this examination, present to General Council a policy statement which delineates these roles and plans to implement these policies, including recommended priorities and resource implications. This is to be brought to December 1984 General Council.

- **Joint Australian Information Council** — It was felt that the formation of JAIC was untimely and instead Council encouraged the formation of the proposed INFORMATION RESOURCES FORUM. This is an informal body of information societies eg. Australian Computer Society, Records Management Assoc of Australia, Micrographics Assoc of Australia, International Word Processors Assoc and the LAA.
- **Volunteer Workers in Libraries** — General Council did not feel that the draft statement clarified what is/is not acceptable as voluntary work. After much discussion Council asked the NT Branch Councillor, Delys Newman to take a new look at the Statement on Volunteer workers in libraries, to review all previous documents and their related comments and to present her findings to December 1984 General Council.
- **Structure of the LAA** — Council moved that Susan Acutt and Barrie Mitcheson's initial review of the LAA Structure be circulated to the Divisions for comment. A motion was passed that General Council establish a Select Working Party to review the Association's present structure and function and seek ways to meet its objectives and develop a corporate plan. As part of the Organisational review the Working party will consider the membership structure. A sub-committee will look at the categories and fees. This report will be brought to General Council at December 1984. The Membership Structure Committee is The General Treasurer, General Secretary, General Councillor at large, Anne Hazell; SA General Councillor and the Executive Director, as secretary.
- **LAA Objectives 1984/85** — The objectives will be published in the next issue of *incite*.
- **Freedom of Information** — Developments concerning freedom of information are monitored for the Association by Jeanette Knox and Merilyn Bryce. Council resolved; that the Association draws the attention

**GENERAL COUNCIL  
REPORT continued on page 9**

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