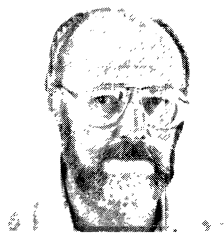


NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT



Warren Horton, the President for 1984, said to me in January of this year that being President of the Association is fine for the first four to six weeks because there does not appear to be much to do, but thereafter it gets extremely busy.

I can only agree with Warren's assessment of the situation. I felt honoured to be able to serve the Association as President and I was particularly pleased that as a member of the Association from a remote area, I was able to assume the office of President and perhaps bring to that office a slightly different perspective.

The demands placed upon the President are considerable, many of these are associated with travelling to meetings. I have found it necessary to say that in 1985 I will attend meetings where I can conveniently make them back to back with other meetings so that the Association's funds and my time are not spent unnecessarily on lengthy trips around the country. I enjoyed the opportunity of talking to the Victorian Branch and the Riverina Regional Group in May.

The LAA has a number of issues ahead of it in 1985 onwards. The most exciting issues from my point of view are the Corporate Review and the decision that public library funding should be identified as a top lobbying priority for the Association. As a result of that decision and a similar decision by the Standing Committee of AACOBS, a Joint Committee

was formed in February 1985 to plan a campaign to increase public library funding at the local government and state government levels, and also to lobby for federal government involvement in funding or supporting public library services.

The Joint Committee comprises Ron Davis, *Convenor*; Margaret Trask, *Deputy Convenor*; Tonia Walker, Carmen Hannaker, Jenny Adams and Louise Lansley. Funds have been made available for the appointment of a part-time research officer, Gail Goodair, to produce the necessary statistical data for the campaign to proceed.

The campaign for federal funding or support for public libraries is going to be a long one and it will be necessary for public librarians in all States to become actively involved. State and Territory committees are being formed and convenors are being identified. It is ten years since the Horton report saw the light of day and its recommendations in relation to federal funding of public libraries are not realistic in today's political climate. There are other strategies and action that we can adopt to lobby for funding at all three levels of government. It is these strategies and actions that the Joint Committee will be seeking to identify.

Ron Davis President

LIBRARY EXCHANGES TO FIJI

Anita Deo of the Library Service of Fiji has advised the Association that the Fijian Government has established an exchange programme for librarians.

She would like to know of any Australian libraries which may have developed overseas exchange programmes for their staff.

She may be contacted at: Library Service of Fiji, Central Processing Centre, P.O. Box 3244, Lami Fiji.

An open letter to Members of the LAA

Dear LAA members,

This letter is to thank you, on behalf of the General Council of the Association, for your 1985 membership renewal and for your continuing support of the Association.

The Association exists to provide you with the support you need in your chosen career and to work on your behalf in the wider context.

This year the Association has many plans which hopefully will be of benefit to you. There are a number of sectional conferences coming up — Specials, Medical, Acquisitions, Cataloguers to name a few, and a quick glance at 'Happenings' gives an accurate picture of the many continuing education meetings being held by the LAA divisions.

The Corporate Plan and Review Committee is addressing the structure and activities of the Association and is paying particular attention to membership, fees and the problems of being a country member. It is not too late to provide the Committee with comment if you haven't yet done so.

In the broader context the Association is working in areas such as the Federal Government's Taxation Review, Federal Funding for Public Libraries and the National Language Policy, to name a few.

1985 will also see the start of a database of Australian libraries, the first segment of which will be special libraries.

These are just a few items of the many worth mentioning and the thanks go to you because you, the members, are making it possible.

Jenny Adams
Executive Director

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