

1984 WAS A VINTAGE YEAR

Audited figures for the Association's 1984 financial year have been received and show an extremely pleasing profitable result which was not anticipated when the 1984 budget was constructed and approved by General Council. The full set of financial statements will be published in the 1984 Annual Report later this year.

Income derived from membership fees, interest earned on investments, the 1984 conference and sales of and advertising in *ALJ* and *InCite* all exceeded budget.

The membership fees budget excess of \$107,000 would appear to be mainly attributable to a sharp rise in institutional members arising from changes to the rules of the inter-library voucher scheme which now limits participation to members of the Association. The additional \$42,000 earned in interest reflects higher rates of return which prevailed on money throughout 1984. The net return from the 1984 Brisbane conference of \$91,000 exceeded budget by some \$53,000 reflecting a very successful trade exhibit and more delegate attending than had been expected.

Some of the income was applied by the Association's General Council to finalise the renovation of its Head Office (\$24,000), provide 'seed' money for the Association's revised continuing education program (\$30,000), meet added cost of depreciation of assets (\$26,000) and enhance computing and word processing facilities.

It is not expected that such a windfall will occur in the near future as interest rates cannot remain at 1984 levels indefinitely, some members in the institutional membership category will transfer to the less expensive 'voucher only' membership category, there is no way of estimating the impact of the 5% decrease in 1985 membership fees, and substantial conference income is only returned in alternate years.

It is therefore vital that this profit is regarded not as money to be immediately spent but rather as a consolidation of Association finances which allow the Association to survive its leaner years and to make it possible to carry out any changes which may arise from the current corporate plan and review being undertaken.

Alan Bunsell
General Treasurer 1984

WEEKEND SCHOOL AT LOUGHBOROUGH

The L.A. Public Libraries Group held a weekend school at Loughborough from March 29 to 31. I am interested in discovering the use made of public libraries by Open University students so was delighted to have an opportunity to attend this seminar. The weekend was titled 'Back to Books' and the course director was Peter Mann, whom many will remember from the Canberra conference in 1979. Peter also presented an excellent paper at this school.

Another great speaker was Brough Girling, a promotions consultant for the book trade. Brough spoke with insight and humour on the role of paperbacks in stimulating children's reading; his presentation was excellent. He would be a first-rate speaker for the groups and sections interested in children's, public or school libraries and in adult literacy also, as his interests and talents are wide.

I also attended the AGM of the group, as an observer and listened with interest as the discussion centred on the LA Futures Report. Some recommendations of that report included broadening the membership base of the LA; delegation of responsibility to LA groups; and a re-structuring of professional qualifications. The debate brought home the similarity of the problems of a professional association in a large or small country, as there were comments that the priorities of the LA were 'not relevant to the needs of many of its members'.

There was a small trade exhibition also, which gave me an opportunity to catch up with some old friends from the Brisbane conference. As they are in Australia, I found the British group of public librarians friendly and welcoming, and as a result of attendance at an interesting, informative and enjoyable weekend seminar, I shall be visiting several public libraries during my stay here.

May, 1985 *Christine Crocker*

NOTICE

The Local History/Studies Librarians' Group invites public librarians involved in the local history field to attend THE LOCAL HISTORY SHOW-AND-TELL WORKSHOP, to be held on 31st July, 1985, from 9.30-4pm at Willoughby Municipal Library, 407 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood. Bring along your problems and ideas. RSVP Dierdre Newton or Nick Manfield — 419-7816.

OBITUARY

Elsbeth Stuart Barnes

All her friends and colleagues at James Cook University of North Queensland, and throughout Australia, were deeply shocked to learn of the tragic death of Elspeth Barnes in a road accident on Thursday 2 May.

Elsbeth Stuart Barnes (née MacDonald) was born in England on 29 November 1947. She held a Bachelor of Science Degree with Honours in Zoology and Physiology and a Master of Science degree in Public Health Engineering from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and she completed the LAA's registration examinations in 1966. She was an Affiliated Member of the Institute of Water Pollution Control and an Associate Member of the Library Association of Australia.

Elsbeth had worked in a research capacity on waste disposal methods in the UK, the West Indies and Australia before joining the Library staff in 1975. She worked initially in the Cataloguing section and later became Systems Librarian before moving to Reference. Most recently she had been responsible for the Library's Online Reference Service, and had been deeply involved in its development and promotion both within and outside the University.

Elsbeth was well known throughout the University for her charming manner and cheerful disposition. She led a full life with a high commitment to her two professions and she had an artistic and creative flair which she expressed through her involvement with crafts and music. She will be greatly missed.

Elsbeth leaves her husband David and her two children Lucy and Alexander.

J. McKinlay

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by Barbara Arnold, Department of Librarianship, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Melbourne, 1984.

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