BOARD OF EDUCATION — News

The Board of Education held its second meeting for the year on 24 and 25 July. This report covers the major activities in which the Board is presently involved. Further information about any of these items may be obtained from the Chairman, Moira MacKinnon (03) 669 9821, the Secretary, Sue Phillips or any member of the Board.

Revised conditions for professional membership

The Board's discussion paper has been circulated widely, and its recommendations for widening eligibility for Associateship and introducing a currency component have been endorsed by the Corporate Plan and Review Committee. They will be discussed by General Council in November. The Board is drawing up guidelines for implementation of the proposals. Comments should be forwarded to the Executive Director by 21 October.

Library Manager of the Year Award

General Council has endorsed the Board's proposal for this award, and its offer to seek sponsorship. The award will be presented during biennial conferences or at a special function in non-conference years. Details are to be finalised at the Board's October meeting, and will be published in *InCite*.

Workforce data

The Board has accepted responsibility, with the Industrial Information and Research Officer, for the collection and analysis of some workforce data. It will draw together data from such sources as the Graduate Careers Council, AACOBS, *AARL*, the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations, library schools and job advertisements, and publish reports on a regular basis. It is not intended to update the Bourne, Hill, Mitcheson study.

Course recognition

• *Complementary studies* — The Board's proposal that undergraduate courses should include an integrated program of study with library and information science (and education in teacher librarianship courses) as a major discipline within the program have been accepted by Council. Courses will not be required to include a 3 year major sequence of study in a second discipline.
• *Library technician courses* — TAFE authorities are moving nationally to upgrade library technician courses from Certificate to Associate diploma (UG3) level. The Board is monitoring the changes, which are likely to include the introduction of bridging courses to allow Year 10 and Year 11 school leavers to gain entry to UG3 courses. The Board does not favour the establishment of courses which could lead to another level of library worker below that of library technician.

A second development in technician education will offer more scope for people wanting to gain these qualifications by external or mixed mode study. Students may undertake the external components of the SA Department of TAFE Library Technician Certificate Course and supplement these with block release units in their own state to complete a recognised library technician award.

Information work definitions in education policies

If the Association is to embrace the wider information sector, its education policy statements need to accommodate this sector. At present they refer only to studies in library and information science. The Board is examining the statements to see whether they can be modified, or whether new statements are needed.

Continuing education

Divisions were invited earlier in the year to determine which courses they wished to be included in the national CE program in 1987. 27 courses have been identified, and tenders have been called for these. Tenders close on 3 October, and application forms are available from the LAA office. The Association is to offer 'LAA provider approval' status for CE courses which meet LAA standards, but for which no funding is required.

Visit by James Thompson

James Thompson, Librarian of the University of Reading, visited Australia from 7 to 26 September, following his keynote address to the Singapore/Malaysia Library Congress. He undertook a busy schedule of CE activities for divisions and library schools which took him to Hobart, Darwin and points in between, speaking on technology and its effect on libraries, and the librarian as politician.

Single subject enrolments and CE courses at library schools

Many library schools offer single subject enrolments and other professional development courses. The Board believes that the availability of these course should be more widely publicised. Many schools appear not to be aware that funding generated from such activities may be able to be channelled back into the school. It is proposed to publish information on these units and courses in *InCite*, with the consent of the individual schools.

LAA awards

The Board is to act as a co-ordinating body for all LAA honorary awards, to ensure comparability between the awards and to streamline procedures and timetabling. The Honorary Awards Committee of General Council will assess nominations with the assistance of the Board, and make recommendations to Council. Guidelines for the Letter of Recognition have been revised to clarify the distinction between this award and the Fellowship. The Letter of Recognition is to recognise 'a significant, special and specific service to a library or libraries or the LAA, or the promotion or development of libraries or library service, or for demonstrating such service over a period of time.'

Darwin meeting with library educators

Members of the Board met with a group of library educators during the Darwin conference to discuss matters of common interest and exchange information. The proposed revised conditions for Associateship, course design and CE activities were among the items discussed.

The Board's next meeting will be held at LAA House on 16 and 17 October.

Sue Phillips
Secretary
Board of Education