

## FEEDBACK

### PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION (NATIONAL)

Several matters of interest to public library members were on the agenda at the April General Council meeting in Sydney. There were three matters of particular relevance.

#### Interlibrary loan charges

There was much lobbying on this issue from NSW public librarians concerned at how little consideration had been given by AACOBs to the likely impact on public libraries of the decision to 'permit' the introduction of the \$6 ILL charge from 1 March (now 1 July).

General Council hammered out a series of resolutions requesting, and agreeing to share in, a study of the likely impact of the charge on municipal, public and other small libraries. The study should also investigate the municipal public/small libraries' claim for exemption from charges (the full text of the resolutions were included in the last issue of *InCite*).

#### Section membership

Public Library Section membership has fallen dramatically. At 31 March membership was down 66 percent. That is, there were only 344 financial members in the whole of Australia. This will increase with late joiners, but based on previous years' patterns, the situation is still serious. As it is for almost every other Section.

The cause, presumably, is that there are no longer any automatic (no additional costs)

Section memberships.

If Section membership continues at the present level it will lead to dramatic cuts in financial allocations to the Sectional groups in each state in 1988. So if we want to survive, we need to exhort public libraries and those with the interests of public libraries at heart who have rejoined in 1987 without nominating our section, to part with an additional \$5 section membership fee. It's not too late to do so.

#### SOLV

General Council passed two strong resolutions of support for free public library service and for the Victorian campaign in particular. The Survival of Libraries in Victoria (SOLV) campaign is resisting a \$2m State Government cut in funding for municipal public libraries. The resolutions were as follows:

1. *That this meeting of General Council reaffirms its position on free public library services, and in so doing supports the SOLV campaign to maintain current levels of State Government funding for public libraries in Victoria.*
2. *That Branch Councils be asked to formulate expressions of support for the Victorian campaign.*

#### New General Councillor

The other matter of interest arising is that General Council now has a second municipal public librarian (I had been the only municipal librarian on Council for 1987). Tanya Whitmarsh from Lane Cove Public Library is now NSW General Councillor replacing Frances Lemmes who has resigned.

Ross Gibbs,  
President

### SCHOOL LIBRARIES SECTION (NSW GROUP)

#### Contact Project

The need for teacher-librarians to occupy a key role in professional development and the implementation of change has always been great. On the weekend of 28/29 March, an exciting new project was commenced by the School Libraries Section (NSW Group) to further the professional development of teacher-

librarians throughout the State. In an attempt to reach a greater number of people the section has developed a two-pronged approach by:

- designing and producing a package, 'Priority 1: Information Skills', for use by library network groups or school staff to run workshops or a seminar.
- selecting representatives from every region in the state to act as contact people, and undertaking to train these people so that they would be able to plan and run inservice courses in their own region.

The training these representatives received was designed to enable them to develop strategies for identifying needs, planning, organising, conducting and evaluating courses. Speakers addressed fundamental aspects such as the current inservice situation within public and private schools, good meeting practices, the mechanics involved in presenting courses and the role of the LAA. Emphasis was placed on creating an awareness of and developing skills in adult learning, leadership and group dynamics.

A great deal of expertise was developed and the participants look forward to being able to use the 'Information Skills' package and contribute to the design of further courses for teacher-librarians and teachers, as well as working more effectively with their own staff.

Maggie Roche

### SA BRANCH

#### President visits SA

President Peter Dawe went to Adelaide in the week before Easter. His visit included tours of school, academic and special libraries and library schools.

He also addressed the SA Branch about developments in CSIRO, and the importance of National Information Policy to libraries and librarianship — timely as the SA Branch is holding a National Information Policy Seminar on 11 May.

Peter's visit to SA had varied aspects as the photos show.



Above: Information at the Parks Community Library (one of the many examples of joint-use libraries in SA).

Below: 'Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the library' — Peter Dawe with Parks Librarian, Ross Barrett, inspect the library shark.



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## NORTHERN AREAS REGIONAL GROUP (TASMANIA)

Tasmania's public libraries are battling to retain their relevance and presence in the community with restricted funding and little support from a disinterested State Government.

All libraries are facing financial restrictions and are having to compete with other information agencies in the 'market place', none of us are alone in that respect. But in smaller population centres, the library has over many decades been a vital component in community life. This prominent and hard-won position is being slowly eroded, and yet hard-hitting publicity generated nationally, or from capital cities, does not often have the impact in regional areas that it should. Perhaps it is parochialism rearing its ugly head, but it still means we remain lost in a backwater. NARG is hoping to stimulate discussion both in the community and among those who work in our local libraries.

*Robyn McKenzie,*  
President, NARG.

### RECENT NARG PRESS RELEASE

The Tasmanian public library system, once the envy and forerunner of the other states is in a sad state of decline.

The LAA Tasmanian Northern Areas Regional Group wants the public to be aware of what is happening to their libraries and asks the northern community to fight to ensure the right of all Tasmanians to a quality library and information service. NARG is concerned about the decline of library services, in par-

ticular the public library service in the north and north-west of the State. Cosmetic solutions to a deep-rooted problem fool no-one.

The basic, and acknowledged problem is lack of government funds. The State Library of Tasmania — one of the few agencies which exists to provide free public access to information — is not a high priority to the Government. The 'back to basics' approach in its spending policy leaves the public's major free access to information (the State Library) out in the cold. If a quality library service is not basic to a literate democracy, what is?

The Tasmanian Library Advisory Board notes in its Annual Report for 1985-86 that it is 'becoming increasingly difficult for the State Library Service to maintain its service to the public, its stocks of library material and the quality of its maintenance of those stocks'.

If a public library lacks enough staff and lacks adequate input of new books each year, it produces a frustrated public and a frustrated, disillusioned staff. This is happening in northern and north-western Tasmania right now.

There has been a slashing of opening hours and a decline in the book request service — long queues are getting no shorter. There has been a decline in staff morale, a huge turnover in staff and most crippling of all, a continuing decline in staff numbers. Most centres had to cut-back their holiday activities for children. On the North-West Coast, some of the branches have had to suspend the regular rotation of books between branches. So the well-read remains to gather dust in one library while readers elsewhere are denied this popular reading. The list sadly could go on.

Tasmania's library opening hours do not compare favourably with their interstate counterparts. The northern population centres of Launceston, Devonport and Burnie have even more restrictive hours than Hobart. Don't try to do some research on your family tree for the Bicentennial; if you're lucky enough to find the library open, it has insufficient machines to meet the demands of an increasingly library-literate clientele.

NARG calls on the Minister responsible for libraries, Mr Peter Rae, and the Tasmanian Government to ensure that our libraries are given sufficient staff and financial resources necessary to restore high quality library services to the people of northern Tasmania.

## LIBRARY TECHNICIANS SECTION NSW GROUP

The NSW Library Technicians Committee has set its program for 1987, as follows:—

- May* — Promotional meeting with students of Wollongong TAFE
- June* — AGM at Sydney TAFE Library 'Technicians Towards 2000' see next InCite for details.
- Sept.* — Promotional meeting with students of Sydney TAFE
- Nov.* — (Fri. 13th) End of Year Party.

Committee meetings are held approximately every six weeks at various venues (Phone the section secretary on (02) 521 0351 for information). We welcome technicians who would like to be involved in our activities.

*Jan Harris*

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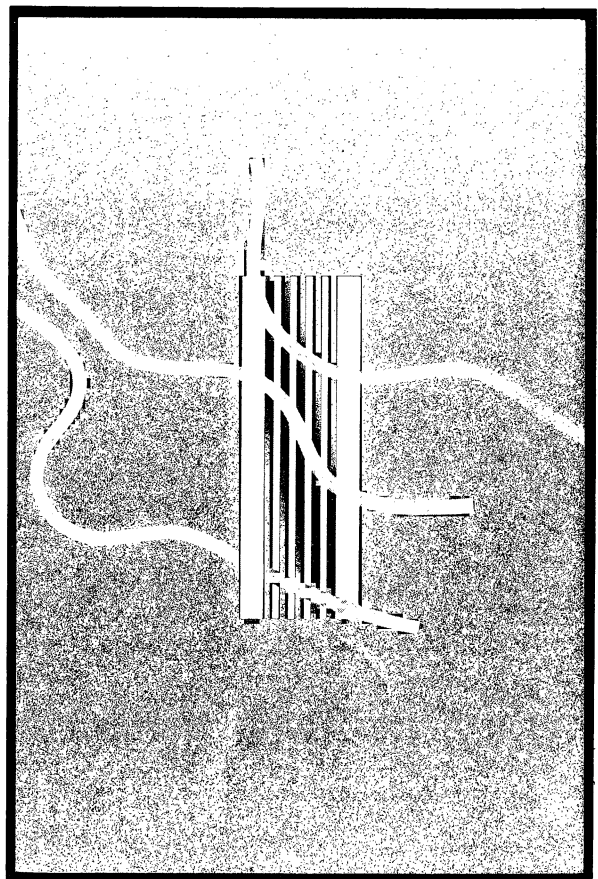
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## Tasmania

- **MAY 22-23 LAA Tasmanian Branch Seminar: Software Selection for Microcomputers.** Conducted by Christie Frey, (Lecturer, School of Librarianship, University of Tasmania). Venue: School of Librarianship, University of Tasmania. Cost: \$100 LAA members; \$140 non-members. Contact: Joy Ellis (002) 20 2225.
- **MAY 29 LAA NARG, Northern Areas Regional Group (Tas). Meeting.** Guest Speaker: Miranda Morris-Nunn, field officer for North-East Tasmania for the Historical Records Search. Time: 7.30 pm. Contact: Nella Pickup (003) 95 4294.
- **JUNE 10 LAA Tas Branch Lunchtime meeting. Bruce Davis 'Bibliographic Database of the Heritage Commission'.** Good Woman Inn, Argyle Street, Hobart. Time: 12.30 pm. Cost: \$12.50. RSVP by 5 June to Christine Frey (002) 20 2351.

## Queensland

- **MAY 22 LAA UCLS (Qld Group). Workshop: Briony Thompson 'Counselling for performance improvement** Bardon Professional Development Centre. Time: 8.30 am-5.00 pm. Contact: Helen Darch (07) 377 4214.
- **MAY 25 Public Libraries Section (Qld Group) Meeting** Brisbane City Library Service, LAH, 76-86 Commercial Rd, Newstead. Time: 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm. Speaker: Christine Tilley from QIT Dept of Libraries and Information Studies. Contact: Kathy Gurr (07) 253 5644.
- **MAY 25 Insearch Ltd DIALOG Legal Applications Seminar** Brisbane. Contact: (02) 218 9790.
- **MAY 26 Insearch Ltd DIALOG Introductory Seminar** Brisbane. Contact: (02) 218 9790.
- **MAY 27 Insearch Ltd DIALOG Business Seminar** Brisbane. Contact: (02) 218 9790.
- **MAY 27 LAA Special Libraries Section (Qld Group). Nighttime Meeting: 'A moving experiencing - relocating libraries'.** Library, Feez, Ruthning & Co, 32nd Floor, Riverside Centre, 123 Eagle Street. Speakers: Sue Rigney, Kerry Blinco, Katherine Brennan. Time: 5.30 for 6.00 pm. Contact: Allison Bowles (07) 369 8937.
- **MAY 28 Insearch Ltd DIALOG MEDLINE Seminar** Brisbane. Contact: (02) 218 9790.
- **MAY 29 LAA QLD Branch. Seminar: NIP and Libraries - 'What You Should Know and Do'.** Brisbane CAE, Kelvin Grove, Community Services Building. Time: 1.00 pm-5.00 pm. Cost: \$10. Contact: George Eichinski (07) 377 2420.
- **JUNE 5 AACOBS AV Subcommittee. AV Access 86/87 Seminar: 'Organising AV collections'.** Speakers: Pam Dunlop and Anne Russell. Bardon Professional Centre. Cost: \$15. Contact: Gulcin Cribb (07) 377 3479.
- **JUNE 6 LAA Library Technicians Section (Qld) Meeting.** 1/155 Gladstone Rd, Highgate Hill. Time: 9.00 am. Contact: Christine Cameron (07) 846 2516 ah.
- **JUNE 9 LAA Cataloguers Section (QLD Branch). Meeting: 'Future Directions for ABN and the National Union Catalogue'.** Library Lecture Theatre, QIT (Queensland Institute of Technology). Time: 5.00 pm for 5.30 pm. Contact: Carolyn Chalmers (07) 223 2721.
- **JUNE 9 LAA Qld Branch Council Meeting.** Venue: R306, K.G. Campus. Time: 5.30 pm. Observers welcome. Contact: Rosemary Cullen (07) 352 8441.

**JUNE 19,24** Data-Star training. Contact: Scansearch (08) 372 2735.

**JUNE 22-23** Scansearch Scientific databases. Contact: Scansearch (08) 372 2735.

• **JULY 6 LAA Qld Branch General Meeting.** Room 306, Resource Centre BCAE, Kelvin Grove Campus. Speaker: Margaret Trask, Executive Director, AIMA. Time: 5.30 pm for 6.30 pm. Contact: Barbara Paton: (07) 377 3249.

• **JULY 7 LAA Library Technicians Section (Qld) Continuing Education Activity.** Visit to a special library in Brisbane. Venue and time to be notified. Contact: Christine Cameron (07) 846 2516 ah.

## Overseas

**JUNE 6-11** Special Libraries Association Annual Conference Theme: 'Global Information Access - Expanding Our World'. Anaheim, California. Contact: David Malinak USA (202) 234 4700.

**JUNE 10-18** Pacific Conference on New Information Technology. First Pacific Conference. Venue: Hyatt Central Park, Bangkok. Contact: Dr Ching-chih Chen, Chief Organiser, 1400 Commonwealth Avenue, West Newton Massachusetts 02165 USA.

**JULY 26-31** International Association of School Librarianship 16th Annual Conference: 'The School Library - Gateway to Knowledge'. Venue: Hotel Saga, Reykjavik, Iceland. Registration Fee: IASL - members US\$150 non-members US\$180. Contact: Ms Sigrun Klara Hannesdottir, IASL Conference Chair, 1987, University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland.

**AUGUST 12-14** IFLA Official Publications Section Pre-Conference Seminar 'Official Publications: an Undervalued Library Resource'. Contact: Geoffrey Hamilton, Official Publications and Social Sciences Service, The British Library, Great Russel Street, London WC1B 3DG. Ph 01-323-7561, tix 21462.

**AUGUST 12-15** IFLA Working Group on Newspapers. Symposium on Newspaper Preservation and Access, London. Contact: Valerie Nurcombe, 8 Kingfisher Dr, Over, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 1PF, UK Fax 061 941 6124

**AUGUST 13-15** IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations Conference on 'Multiculturalism and Libraries: Issues and trends'. Commonwealth Institute, London. Contact: Neville Price, North Kensington Libraries, 108 Ladbroke Grove, London W11 1PZ UK, or Radha Rasmussen, Graduate School of Librarianship, Monash University (03) 565 2958.

**AUGUST 16-21** IFLA 53rd Council and General Conference. Brighton UK. Contact: Rob Palmer, Library Association, 7 Ridgmont Street, London WC1E 7AE, UK. Telex: 21897 LALDNG.

**AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 4** The British Council. Seminar: 'Organisation and management of smaller specialised libraries'. Course 753. Working sessions and accommodation will take place in an hotel in central London. Cost: Stg 1010 residential only. Contact: The British Council, PO Box 88, Edgecliff, NSW 2027.

**SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 2** International Research Society for Children's Literature Conference, Cologne, Germany. Theme 'Books for Children, Books for Adults - the relationship between'. Registrations by 15 June to: Dagmar Grenz, Arbeitsstelle Fur, Kinder-und Jugendliteratur, Richard-Wagner-Strasse 39, D-5000 Cologne 1 FRG.

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## DISTANCE EDUCATION SIG

Wednesday 22 July, at 7.30 pm is the time for the Second Annual Dinner of the Distance Education Special Interest Group. A good chance to meet informally, if you are coming to the 'Libraries Alone' conference in Wagga Wagga, NSW.

All members of the committee's executive will be present, including the newsletter editor, Shirley Cohen, who will be stalking around looking for printable anecdotes. Some of the state representatives will also be there, including our Queensland reporter, Morris Bellamy. Morris is emerging from darkest and dampest Weipa to present, with John Pinson of Warrnambool CAE, Vic, a paper on 'Services to students in isolated areas.'

Bookings for the dinner may be made with: Convenor, Distance Education SIG, School of Information Studies, Riverina-Murrumbidgee IHE, Box 588, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650.

*Shirley R. Cohen*

## VICTORIAN BRANCH

**Branch Program 1987:** Branch Council has set up a working party to organise a local activity to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the LAA. Convenor of the working party is Bruce Davidson and he would welcome ideas and suggestions.

The Branch has agreed to jointly help the Medical Libraries Section to sponsor a meeting with Ms Fiona Picken when she visits Australia in September. The Branch Executive is examining the possibility of a joint meeting with the South Australian Branch, with the idea that it may be possible to have a meeting in the Warrnambool area where a new regional group may be formed.

**Continuing Education Program:** Planning is underway for a June meeting on occupational health and safety. Other activities are likely to include a 'Back to the Workforce' workshop along the lines of the very successful SA Branch workshop; a desktop publishing trade expo; and a joint seminar with the Gippsland Branch on a topic yet to be decided. More details are available from Branch Secretary, Bev Kirby, or Continuing Education Officer, Bruce Davidson.

*Ray Price*

## TAFE NATIONAL SECTION

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 July 1987 at 4.00 pm at Bardon Professional Development Centre, Simpsons Rd, Bardon, Queensland, in conjunction with the Conference 'Halfway there: between Kangan and 2000'. A preliminary agenda has been drawn up:

1. Annual report
2. Treasurer's report
3. Future of National Sections in the LAA
4. Location and composition of 1988 National Executive Committee
5. Future plans for TAFE National Section
6. General business

Any other issues for addition to the agenda would be most welcome. Please contact Judy Engall, Secretary TAFE National Section, 188 Castle Hill Rd, West Pennant Hills, NSW 2120 (02) 634 6907.

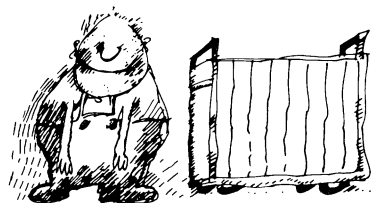
Please note AIMA's 18-20 November Institute was wrongly publicised as an Advanced Management Institute in previous issues of *Incite*. In fact it is a Review and Update Course (as appears in this issue).

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