



FEEDBACK

QUEENSLAND CATALOGUERS SECTION GROUP

Our first general meeting for 1987, held on 28 April at the Kelvin Grove campus of the Brisbane CAE, was attended by about 46 people. The topic was retrospective conversion, and was presented by a panel of five speakers, representing most of the larger institutions presently engaged in retrospective conversion in Brisbane. They were Ann McLean, (Brisbane City Council Library), Bruce Edwards, (Griffith University), Carolyn Chalmers, (Queensland Institute of Technology), Anne Walton, (State Library of Queensland) and Mary-Rose McCarthy, (University of Queensland.)

Each speaker addressed the following five points:

1. Type of conversion (card to automated percentage of records already converted).
2. Outside agencies used and the pros and cons of using them.
3. Resources (staff, money, time, equipment) needed.
4. Priorities, time constraints, etc.
5. Pitfalls.

The discussion ran overtime, but many of the audience were reluctant to leave, which just goes to show how interested cataloguers are in their work! (and maybe in the cheese and wine?)

Lyn McMillan
(Committee member)

WA BRANCH

FA Sharr Medal

The prestigious FA Sharr Medal was presented to Ms Helen Nicolas of Mt Isa by the WA Branch at its recent Annual General Meeting.

The medal is named after Mr Francis Aubrey Sharr, WA State Librarian from 1953 until his retirement in 1976 and is awarded for an overall high standard of academic achievement, leadership and community involvement. The recipient must also be actively involved as a student member of the LAA. All final year librarianship students at Curtin University and the Western Australian College of Advanced Education are eligible to nominate for the award.



Photo: Ms Helen Nicolas, resplendent in a Darwin crocodile t-shirt, FA Sharr medal winner for 1986.

Helen was the top graduating Library and Information Studies student at this year's graduation ceremony. Apart from high academic achievement, Helen was active in the Adlibs student association, and the Library Promotion Council of WA.

Helen married in her last year of studies, and now works with her husband, Mr Mark Hooper, at Mt Isa. She works in the Technical Library of MIM Holdings Ltd, and completed her studies on an employee scholarship.

Charges and the entrepreneurial library

Branch members who attended the recent AGM held at the Fremantle Port Authority were treated to a lively discussion on 'Charges and the Entrepreneurial Library.'

The discussion, which occurred after the official business was over, was chaired by

UWA University Librarian Arthur Ellis and speakers included Jane Klobas, Kerry Smith and Kay Poustie. Following the meeting, members who stayed for dinner enjoyed fine food and a panoramic view of Fremantle and the coast from the Premier's Hospitality Suite on the 7th floor of the Port Authority building.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES SECTION NATIONAL

Books and beyond

The Steering Committee for the Commonwealth Schools Commission project 'Revision of *Books and Beyond: Information Needs of Schools*,' met for the first time in Canberra on 13 April 1987.

The project began in response to concern expressed by educators and teacher-librarians that the standards were out of date and needed revision. In addition the School Libraries National Section (then based in Victoria) made submissions to the Commission requesting funding for research on the current resources of Australian school libraries and on the introduction of information technology into post-primary schools via the school library. Late in 1986, the LAA was granted \$52,000 to support the project.

Members of the Steering Committee are: Dr R. Andrews, Full-time Commissioner Commonwealth Schools Commission (Chair); Mrs P. Mitchell, Part-time Commissioner Commonwealth Schools Commission; Ms S. Gapper, Department of Education, SA; Ms H. Coghlan, Department of Education, Queensland; Ms J. Hansen, Department of Education, NSW; Ms B. McConchie, ACT Schools Authority (Library Services); Mr A. O'Meara, Catholic Education Office, Victoria; Dr N. Johnson, Australian School Library Association; Mr P. Wilkie, National Council of Independent Schools; Mr P. Schaefer, Commonwealth Department of Education; Ms J. Kirk, Library Association of Australia; Mr G. Bull, Commonwealth Schools Commission.

At the first meeting the committee discussed the requirements and intention of the project and it was agreed that although there was still a need for a 'standards' document, it should be restyled so that it presents broad guidelines related to information resources and their use in schools. The guidelines could be used by planners, administrators, teachers and teacher-librarians.

In contrast to *Books and Beyond* 2nd ed., the proposed document will focus more on school curriculum and related issues such as information skills programs, the role of information in schools, information technology, equitable access to information, planning for an information rich school environment, and teachers' and students' information needs. The quantitative data of *Books and Beyond* will be revised and included as appendices.

The position of consultant for the project has been advertised in the national press. The appointment is for a nine-month term, during which the consultant is expected to visit at least all capital cities. The next meeting of the Committee is planned for 16 June.

Joyce Kirk
Secretary,
National Committee

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NSW BRANCH

Staff Development on a Shoestring

On 29 April, the NSW Branch, together with the State Library of New South Wales, held a successful seminar on staff development. Participants from all types of libraries were enthusiastic about the seminar, which included Margaret Coffey, Joan Barry, Isabella Trahn, Lyn Barakat, Alison Crook and Annie Talve as speakers.

CE for Country Members

Following the success of last year's effort to make continuing education available to country members by offering to subsidise travel, NSW Branch has decided to repeat the exercise. However, for 1988, country members are invited to apply now to attend any of the following activities which Branch will mount during the year. The Branch has also included the Riverina Regional Group 'Libraries in Isolation' Conference amongst those to which it would be prepared to consider subsidising travel, since this may be of particular interest to country librarians.

So, if you are interested in attending any of the following —

- ILL Update Seminar (app. June)
- Problem Solving and Decision Making (July)
- Libraries in Isolation (July 21-22, Wagga)
- Copyright Update (August)
- Implementing Automated Systems (October)
- Managing People at Work (November)

please write and tell us. Write to Alison Crook, NSW Branch LAA CE Co-ordinator, c/-State Library of NSW Macquarie Street, Sydney.

Branch will consider all applications, set a budget and allocate travel funds based on funding members with the greatest distance to travel. At this stage of the year, without firm dates and without knowing the fee to be paid for the seminar (Branch subsidies travel only, in order to equalise costs for city and country members), members will obviously have some difficulty in making a firm commitment. Expressions of interest are all that are required at this stage.

Alison Crook

VICTORIAN BRANCH

Branch Council notes

The May meeting of the Victorian Branch Council was attended by two visitors, Peter Dawe, LAA President, and Alasdair Wardle, Convenor of the SOLV campaign. Peter spoke about the effects of the Corporate Plan, and the LAA program for the rest of the year.

Issues discussed included National Information Policy, the need for a paid local representative of the LAA in Victoria and Federal support for the SOLV Campaign. Alasdair spoke about the recommendations of the Geddes report on Victorian public libraries. It provides justification for a large reduction in the per capita grant to public libraries throughout the State and for the State Library to lose its role in supporting municipal libraries. SOLV has enlisted the support of the Municipal Association of Victoria to fight the State government on these issues. The

support of all Sections and Branches of the LAA is now sought in the run up to the State budget — ring your favourite politician, Write to newspapers etc.

Section membership

The change in the membership form has seen many members fail to nominate any Section in 1987. Section funding is based on a per capita grant calculated according to the previous year's membership of the group. In many cases Victorian Sections are showing a 50 — 75 percent drop in members and this will have a drastic effect on funding in 1988. LAA Head Office has agreed to accept late Section and Special Interest Group membership at \$5 each — support your Section or Group now or it may not exist in 1988!

Ray Price

**LIBRARY TECHNICIANS SECTION
NSW GROUP**

A must for anyone with an interest in library technicians' matters is the Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday 19 June (6.00pm for 6.30pm) at Sydney TAFE Library. Guest speakers Alison Crook, Dagmar Schmidmaier, Diana Oliver and Rosemary McLauchlan will participate in a panel discussion with the theme 'Technicians Towards 2000'. These notable personalities of the library world will provide a fascinating insight into the directions and technological developments technicians can expect to encounter by the turn of the century. Don't miss it! Refreshments will be provided before the meeting.

Jan Harris

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