

# LAA:50 Nationwide

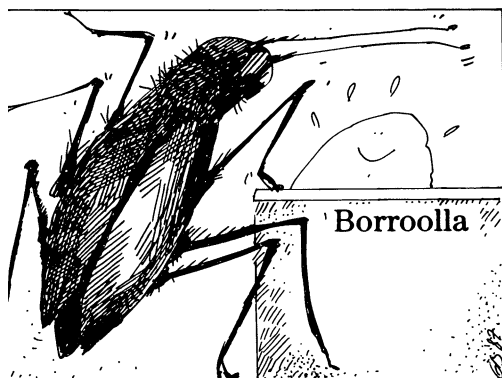
## Borroolla on a budget

Originally NT Branch planned to celebrate the LAA 50th Anniversary by flying interested library people to Borroolla and to participate in the official opening of the new Borroolla public library.

Unfortunately our various fund-raising activities failed to provide the necessary finances. Thus a cheap alternative was suggested — a 'Borroolla on a Budget' dinner.

This dinner was held at The Lee Regency Restaurant on 3 September. Twenty-five people enjoyed a sumptuous meal and a fascinating talk from Mr Ted Evans, a former patrol officer with the Welfare Branch of the Department of the Northern Territory.

Ted was able to set many of the rumours about the Carnegie Library at Borroolla to rest. He has first-hand knowledge of what happened to the Borroolla library as he was the person who had the dubious honour of closing it. Ted was instructed to close the library and destroy all books — unless of great literary value or of some significance to the Northern Territory.



Only one book met this criteria — Von Mueller's *Flora of the Northern Territory*. The whereabouts of this book is unknown now.

Additionally Ted brought back two other books for his own sentimental reasons and he brought these two books to the dinner. These now reside at the NT Museum.

Of the original collection, some 1,000 to 1,500 books, only 200 remained when Ted was sent to close the library. Of these only 50 were

in a solid state — the rest crumbled into dust when touched. White ants, cockroaches, mildew and appalling storage conditions had taken their toll on this once valuable collection. This is not surprising when one realises that 'the library' was in a disused cell of the Borroolla police station.

Ted provided a fascinating insight into one of the most well-known Territory libraries and rounded off a most enjoyable and successful evening.

*Julii Tyson*  
President

## By Sandy Bay

The Tasmanian Branch of the LAA celebrated the 50th anniversary by holding a luncheon on Saturday 5 September at Beach House, Sandy Bay, Hobart. The River Room was the perfect setting for the occasion.

Thirty-four people attended, of whom 8 were 'original' members. For many people it was the first time they had seen old colleagues in some years. Two speakers shared their reminiscences with us.

Mrs Theo Sharpels, who was Treasurer of the Branch in the mid 1940s spoke about the activities of the Association during that time. Membership was very small and for most librarians the role of the Library Association was seen as the means whereby they obtained their qualifications.

Mrs Mary Thompson gave an amusing account of life in the Cataloguing Section of the State Library of Tasmania in the 1940s. In particular she remembered the LAA registration papers which required trainee librarians to know important details such as 'what is the meaning of the word colophon'.

All those who attended thoroughly enjoyed the occasion and said 'let's do it again next year'.

The LAA:50 Jubilee wine is selling fast. Make sure you get some of this festive drop by ordering now! For prices and further information contact Jo-anne Fuller on (02) 692 9233 or (008) 22 1481.

## Jubilation

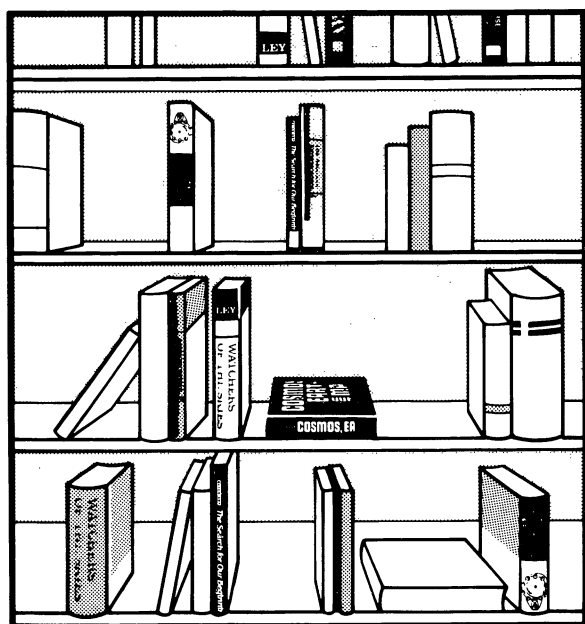
Sixty-six former members and friends joined with the Queensland Branch to celebrate LAA:50 with a three course dinner at the Special Functions Room of Brisbane CAE, Kelvin Grove Campus, on 15 September. The festive wine and champagne flowed freely and the enjoyment of the evening may be attested to by a number of sore heads the next morning. At times the din was deafening, as old friends met for the first time in many years over pre-dinner drinks.

Branch Vice-President Phil Roberts had 'sleuthed out' many former members and these special invitees were presented with LAA stick pins to commemorate the evening by special guest speaker, Harrison Bryan. Branch President Gaynor Austen proposed the toast to 'the next 50 years' while long serving member Mrs Hazel Jones cut the cake, with the assistance of Gaynor and Harrison.

Several early members shared their memories. Phyllis Courtice, who joined the University of Queensland in 1935, recalled her training in Canberra on a Carnegie Scholarship in 1937 and the handwriting lessons that all library staff were given for entering into the accessions register. Corinna Mowatt described her courage in forcing her one borrower at the Main Roads Department Library to register his loans, and her experience with the early examination system, when success in a subject made you automatically the next year's teacher. Spencer Routh recalled early days at the University of Queensland when librarianship included crawling up ladders, bucket of cement in hand, to fix a leaking roof. He also remembered the great bookloading race which took place between Harrison Bryan and Barry Scott during a stock relocation.

After dinner Harrison Bryan shared a fascinating tale of his period in Queensland libraries and of the development of the Queensland Branch of the LAA from 1949 through to his desertion south in 1963. The great support of prominent local academics was a feature, as were the yearly Christmas parties of enormous size and enjoyment. Concerns of the Branch then seem little different from those still facing the LAA today. He closed with a hearty rendition 'An LAA Jubilation' with the assistance of wife Florence, and the whole gathering joining in the refrain:

LAA: 50 continued overleaf



***If you can't quite put your finger on all your library's resources . . . 3M can help you deter light-fingered "borrowers"!***

3M's range of electro-magnetic and radio frequency book detection systems have been proven over the last fifteen years in libraries with both large and small budgets.

*"Certainly (the system has) reduced book numbers going 'missing'. (Also) library staff able to relax more with the system providing objective security".*

*"Staff are able to get on with the business of providing top library service".*

**Sydney Adventist High School, NSW.  
Alwyn Campbell, Teacher/Librarian.**

### Security Systems Division

3M Australia Pty Ltd (inc. in NSW)  
Sydney 498-9333; Canberra 47-4322; Melbourne 542-5222  
Hobart 34-3104; Adelaide 243-6111; Perth 328-5244  
Darwin 81-4545; Townsville 72-3855; Brisbane 391-7844  
Newcastle 2-5461



**AN LAA JUBILATION**

**Air:** **Pomp and Circumstance No. 1**  
**Words:** **Bryan and Bryan**  
 (Turn over Sir Edward Elgar!)

**Refrain:** The LAA is old and hoary  
 Its objects nu-umber three  
 How can we ensure that  
 It keeps li-braries free  
 Wider still and wider  
 Must it cast its net  
 Conferences and vouchers will  
 make it more solvent yet  
 Conferences and vouchers will  
 make it more solvent yet

**1st verse:** Our tale begins when our A.M.  
 Ceased with Pitt and Munn  
 When mighty men like old J.M.  
 Sought our place in the sun  
 Nothing could stand in their  
 way  
 And the A.I.L. was bo-orn  
 In forty-nine came the L.A.A.  
 Now we're fifty years on

**Refrain:** The LAA is old . . .

**2nd verse:** And how has Queensland  
 played its part?  
 How have we soldiered on?  
 Despite the dreaded Schools of  
 Ar-rts  
 Free Lib-rar-ies have come  
 But not witho-ut some sweat  
 and tears  
 Comes triumph for the ri-ight  
 Though it's taken fifty years  
 Even Brisbane's seen the light!

**Refrain** The LAA is old . . .

Once again, with feeling!

**The party to end all parties**

The Western Australian Branch of the LAA marked the occasion of the LAA 50th Anniversary celebrations with a dinner held in the splendid surroundings of Government House ballroom. One hundred and thirty members and guests joined the Governor, Professor Gordon Reid and Mrs Reid at one of the best attended Branch functions for some time. Among the distinguished guests were Professor Reeves, Chairman of the WA Library Board, and Mrs Reeves, Mr Robert Sharman, State Librarian, and Professor Geoffrey Bolton, Murdoch University, who gave the after-dinner speech on 'WA in 2029'.

The President of the Branch, Dr Patricia Layzell Ward welcomed the guests and read messages from both within Australia and overseas, congratulating the Branch and hoping the assembled company would have a splendid party.

Two presentations were made — one to Professor Reeves as Chairman of the Library Board took the form of a copy of D.Base III plus training manuals for use by the State Library. The other was to Mary Williams who was one of the earliest members of the Association in WA.

The food was good, the evening long and the speeches short — all the ingredients for a successful party. Guests covering all areas and all eras of librarianship from Mary Williams to a group of third-year students from DLIS at Curtin University made sure of that.

Two days later DLIS students held their own celebration. A lunchtime gathering was organised by the student association ADLIBS with a smorgasbord plus a giant birthday cake complete with candles which must have constituted a fire risk! Again speeches were short, the food good and the subsequent lectures saw both staff and students wishing it had been an evening function. This was the first function organised by the new student executive and augurs well for the future.

*Peter Maskell*  
 Curtin University of Technology

**Celebrating in the sunny south**

The South Australia Branch celebrated the Golden Jubilee with a dinner at the University of Adelaide.

Among the 76 guests was a foundation member, Miss Flora Brennan, who worked in the Victorian Parliamentary Library from 1927-1938. She spent one year in the State Library of Victoria and remembers two greats who worked there — Ernst Pitt and Karel Axel Lodewycks. Miss Brennan later went on to the principal celebration in Canberra.

The evening was an outstanding success according to those who attended. It began with pre-dinner drinks, aimed at loosening tongues and warming friendships, followed by a superb smorgasbord dinner and three short speeches about different periods of Australian librarianship.

Joan Brewer spoke of the 1940s and 1950s, Mr Ira Raymond spoke of the 1960s and 1970s and Miss Anne Hazell spoke of the 1980s.

The Branch was honoured by the attendance at the dinner of Senator Robert Hill who is a member of the Council of the National Library of Australia. Thanks must go to the speakers and to Gerrie Stafford for a superb job in promoting and organising the dinner.

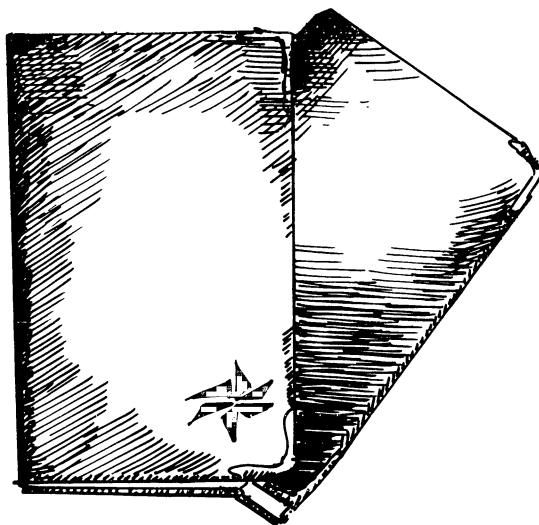
*Patrick Condon*  
 SA Branch President



**Photo:** (back row) Patrick Condon, SA Branch President, Joan Brewer and Gerrie Stafford; (front row) Flora Brennan, foundation member, Ira Raymond and Anne Hazell.

**LAA 1988 DIARY —**  
**be prepared for a Biennial**  
**and Bicentennial year**

- Slim, smart leather-look
- handy purse/pocket size
- includes vital LAA information, contact persons and dates for 88
- plus Library Week, Children's Book Week dates etc and Bicentennial highlights



**ORDER NOW! \$10 (including postage)**

**Library Association of Australia, 376 Jones St, Ultimo 2007**  
**LAA 1988 Diary**

Please send me ..... copy/copies  
 I will pay by cheque/Bankcard/Visa/Mastercard No .....  
 Signature .....  
 Name .....  
 Address .....  
 Postcode .....