



SOLV CAMPAIGN 'ON WHEELS'



'You could lose your library' is the SOLV (Survival of Libraries in Victoria) group's battle-cry warning regarding funding cuts to Victorian public libraries announced late last year.

The group represents library professionals, municipal associations and unions and is spear-headed by members of the LAA Public Libraries Section (Vic Group). The SOLV campaign highlights the consequences of reduced funding, namely, libraries with less staff, shorter opening hours, fewer books and less services.

According to SOLV's Secretary, Mr Alasdair Wardle the group formed to give shape and focus to the general feeling of outrage among librarians and local government authorities over the handling of library funding. 'We have been quiet for long enough and feel that the time for action has come. Over the last 8 years there has been a steady decline in real terms in state funding for library services, to slash another \$4 million off library budgets would be catastrophic.'

'The Cain Government was elected on a promise to increase library funding to match local government expenditure, and has not only broken the promise, but has also put in the boot' says Mr Wardle.

The group has been working on its action plan since mid-December. So far posters and pamphlets have been sent to public libraries together with an appeal for library users to petition their local MP.

The official launch of the campaign began with a Black Friday wake on 13 February. Black be-ribboned libraries featured with some libraries even sporting coffins to symbolise the death of library services.

A bookmobile 'round-up' planned for 26 February will take place from 11.00am until noon. Bookmobiles will converge 'truckie' style outside the Victorian Parliament. Here, instead of serving the needs of the elderly and housebound, bookmobiles will be used to acquaint the public and 'housebound' parliamentarians of the consequences of slashing library funding. A street march will be held afterwards.

A stepping up of the campaign will see a 24-hour closure of public libraries from 10.00am Friday 6 March till 10.00am Saturday 7 March.

The group is currently seeking support and funding. For enquiries and further information contact Alasdair Wardle on (03) 547 8311.

SOLV's letter circulated to Victorian Public Libraries is reprinted below:

YOU COULD LOSE YOUR LIBRARY!

The Cain Government made an election promise to restore state funding of public libraries to a dollar for dollar basis with Local Government. Despite this, the Minister for the Arts, Mr Mathews, has announced there will be a \$2 million cut from the state government contribution to public libraries in 1987/88, as well as a similar cut the following year.

The announced \$2 million cut will seriously reduce the service that public libraries provide. Although Mr Mathews has appointed a committee to examine public library funding, he announced the \$2 million cut before they met.

SAVE YOUR LIBRARY — WRITE A LETTER NOW TO YOUR [VIC] STATE MP

- In your letter explain that you value your public library and want to see better state funding.
- Say that you want to see the public library remain a free, accessible and well-resourced community facility.
- Tell your MP the state government promised to fund libraries on a dollar for dollar basis and they have not honoured their promise.
- Explain how often you use the library and that you don't wish to see the service curtailed due to the slashing of \$2 million from the library budget.

Susan Ryan to open TAFE Conference!



Senator, Susan Ryan, Federal Minister for Education will deliver the opening address at the first National Conference of the LAA TAFE National Section and TAFE Section Queensland Group, in Brisbane, 8-10 July 1987. Keynote speaker will be Barrie Mitcheson, Institute Librarian, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

In recent years the Commonwealth Government has significantly influenced the direction of many TAFE library activities through its funding of capital and special projects and through the programs offered by TAFE for the unemployed and disadvantaged. In her address Senator Ryan will consider the role of TAFE libraries in relation to government policies; the rationale of the Government for its financial support of TAFE libraries and future directions for their development.

It is 13 years since the Kangan Report of 1974 set down interim guidelines for TAFE libraries. [Australian Committee on Technical and Further Education. *TAFE in Australia: Report on needs in Technical and Further Education*. (Chairman, M. Kangan). Canb., AGPS, 1974. Vol. 2, Appendix E.] The report has provided a gauge by which progress since that year can be considered.

The Conference, with the theme *Halfway there: between Kangan and 2000*, will focus on the library and information needs and expectations of the stakeholders in TAFE — students, teaching staff, industry and the community. Rapid developments not envisaged at the time of the report, in areas such as automation and communication technology, will also be addressed at the Conference.

Standards will be a major focus, and one of the conference objectives is to identify a range of library services appropriate for supporting quality technical and further education.

On a personal level, participants will have the opportunity to meet with colleagues from other states and territories to share information about developments in TAFE library services, and to visit some of Queensland's TAFE libraries. A variety of social activities will include the conference dinner at the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, followed by a moonlight cruise.

The Bardon Professional Development Centre, Brisbane, has been chosen as the conference venue, and a wide range of accommodation will be offered — including the TAFE Halls of Residence for those on a budget.

Programs and registration forms will soon be available, with further details covered in *InCite*, so until then fill in 8-10 July in your new 1987 diary and spend part of winter in the Queensland sun.