

General Council Report

General Council held its second meeting for the year on 5-6 September at the National Library, Canberra.

Income and expenditure

The financial situation at 31 July was healthy, with the prospect of a reasonable surplus on the year's trading. A number of new publications and a good level of subscriptions for the Australian Library Journal pointed to a more successful outcome in this area than in 1986, but continuing education seemed unlikely to return a profit as a number of proposed nationally-funded programs had not been conducted.

Membership fees

Council resolved that membership fees for 1988 will remain substantially the same as those for 1987. A corresponding member category for overseas members will however be created, with a membership fee of \$80. An early bird incentive of a \$10 voucher will be given to members whose renewal is received by 31 January 1988. The Membership Services Manager has been asked to bring forward a recommendation on part-time workers' membership fees to the last Council meeting of 1988.

1988 Division allocations

The divisional allocation for 1988 will give \$13,000 more to divisions than in 1987 and a further \$20,000 has been allocated to establish local presences in Western Australia and Victoria. Sections and Special Interest Groups are to be offered recruitment bonuses.

Division payments

The Executive Committee decided that an additional \$20,000 should be made available as grants to divisions for nominated special projects. Applications for grants totalling \$17,870 were received in July and approximately \$12,500 had been approved at the time of the Council meeting, with further information being sought for some projects.

National Information Policy

Council established an NIP Working Party, adopted a four-part strategy comprising model libraries, a lobbying kit, a lobbyist based in Canberra and an appropriate advertising cam-

paigned and adopted a policy statement on NIP. The Working Party of the Vice-President, Past President, Alex Byrne, the President and the Director met in May and further refined a campaign strategy. Alex Byrne tabled a draft NIP lobbying kit at the meeting. In view of the large amount of work to be done for the campaign, the Executive Committee has retained Mike Lynskey to draw up a media awareness program for the Association. Ian McCallum has refined the 'model libraries' program retitling it 'Library Highways: information for the nation'.

Head Office location

Following the 1986 AGM resolution supporting in principle the transfer of the LAA Headquarters to Canberra, the Executive Committee in March 1987 commissioned a working party of the Treasurer, Past President and Vice-President to undertake a feasibility study and to examine financial implications for the Association. The Association has paid a deposit on a site in Deakin suitable for a 2000m² building, of which half could be leased.

The working party estimated that the cost of such a building would be about \$2M, of which up to \$1.5M could be borrowed. It suggested a number of options for selling or retaining the Ultimo building, combined with building or leasing in Canberra. Loan servicing costs would be offset against general LAA operating surpluses and leasing revenue. The working party concluded that relocation is within the financial capacity of the Association and in the long-term would be of financial benefit. However it did not recommend any specific course of action to Council.

Council resolved to approve in principle the option to retain the Ultimo building and build or purchase in Canberra subject to (i) a further study by the Executive Committee of the short and long-term costings of the proposal (ii) an examination by the Executive Committee of the means of protecting service delivery to members, particularly during 1988.

It was further resolved that the New South Wales Branch be asked to develop a short paper outlining the details of what is required for a national presence, LAA headquarters and local presences for the next 5-year period (1988 - 1992) for consideration by Council at its first meeting in 1988.

LAA constitution

A supplemental Charter to change the Association's name, objects and other matters arising from the Corporate Plan and Review Report has been drafted and submitted to the Department of Administrative Services. It is not known how long it will take for the supplemental Charter to be granted. There has been some delay in registering the new name as a business name in each state because the Association has no registered office in States other than New South Wales.

Election of General Councillors

Draft regulations for the election of two General Councillors to the Executive Committee were approved by Council.

Close links with ASLA

Proposals for more formal links between ASLA and the LAA were put forward in 1986 by Anne Hazell and Douglas Down. These suggested the establishment of national and state committees representing the LAA School Libraries Section and its state groups and ASLA member bodies. The Executive of the School Libraries Section met the President and Secretary of ASLA in April and it was decided not to support the proposed committee structure. It was agreed that liaison should continue via reciprocal attendance at the meetings of the LAA and ASLA councils, by joint action in such areas as the issuing of policy statements and lobbying and through ongoing consultation between the two bodies at national and state levels.

Professional appointments

Following a complaint by a member about the publication in *InCite* of an advertisement for a senior position that did not state that librarianship qualifications were essential, Council endorsed the Executive Committee's resolution that the Association should accept all advertisements but publish a disclaimer stating that any position not specifying professional qualifications was advertised in the interests of members and that the employer had been advised of the advantages of employing a qualified librarian.

Associateship

In 1986 Council endorsed, in principle, a Board of Education proposal to widen eligibility for Associateship to allow admission to applicants without recognised qualifications but who could demonstrate a broad professional understanding and competence. The Board has revised its proposed assessment procedures for applicants without recognised awards, including those holding overseas awards. Council endorsed the Board's revised proposal.

In 1986 Council did not support a recommendation by the Board of Education for the introduction of a currency component for Associateship. The Board feels that the Association should however provide some incentive for Associates to upgrade their knowledge and skills throughout their career and proposed the creation of a higher grade of membership, to be known as Senior Associate.

Eligibility would be based on possession of a recognised degree or diploma, evidence of involvement in the provision of an information service at a professional level and of professional competency demonstrated by a broad professional understanding, commitment to keeping abreast of current developments, commitment to the improvement of library and information services, recognition by peers and further study. It was envisaged that 25-30

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percent of Associates might achieve this grade of membership.

Council felt that other measures could achieve the same result of upgrading professional competence and that if 25-30 percent of Associates were expected to achieve this level of membership it could be considered elitist. Council resolved not to support the creation of a new grade of membership to be known as Senior Associate.

Policy Statements revision

Council resolved to endorse the definition of library and information service work which has been prepared by the Board of Education, subject to minor editorial changes. This definition will be included at the beginning of the education policy statements when the LAA Handbook is next re-printed.

Library standards

A project team from the Department of Information Studies at Ku-ring-gai CAE has been appointed as consultant for the revision of the Schools Commission's Books and Beyond and a further \$13,700 has been allocated for the project's budget.

Library standards for people with disabilities were expected to be presented to Council in 1988 and a second draft of public library standards was expected in September and would be circulated for comment. Work on Special Library Standards was almost complete and steps were being taken to begin drafting standards for prison, TAFE and joint-use libraries.

Council endorsed draft National Minimum Standards for Hospital Libraries, subject to their final endorsement by the Medical Libraries Section at its AGM on 16 September 1987.

EEO legislation.

Concern has been raised at the employment of librarians in library technician positions in some libraries on the grounds that it is permissible under EEO legislation.

Council resolved that the LAA write to all employers who are known to have appointed librarians to library technician positions advising them of the Association's policy on this matter as expressed in the Statement on the Role of Librarians and Library Technicians and that the Work Level Guidelines for Librarians and Library Technicians be distributed as widely as possible.

SOLV campaign

The Victorian General Councillor, Ross Gibbs, reported that the Victorian budget handed down in August restored \$1.5M of the \$2M previously cut from public library funding, although the restored funds represented CPI increases and no real improvement in funding. Implementation of the recommendations of the Geddes Report has been delayed for 12 months, pending further consultation. The Survival of Libraries in Victoria (SOLV) Committee was continuing action in both these areas.

Council resolved to congratulate the SOLV Committee on its success, particularly the Chairman, Rod Blacker and the Secretary, Alasdair Wardle.

Sunday opening

A survey by the Vice-President of the 42 public libraries throughout Australia which open on Saturday afternoon or Sunday found that only 13 open on both days.

Mr Bundy suggested that action should be taken to encourage public libraries to be more responsive to community needs.

Council resolved to make the tabulation available to members and to the Public Libraries Section in each state and to refer the issue to the Executive for appropriate action.

Government publications

The AGPS scheme to sell government publications through selected public libraries was progressing slowly. The National Maritime Museum, Department of Primary Industry and Department of Health have distributed material through public libraries.

AITC

The Australian Information Technology Council (AITC) has sought to promote exchange between members of its constituent bodies by the reciprocal offering of member rates at conferences sponsored by those bodies. It has also proposed that a conference on Knowledge-Based Systems, to be organised by the Institute of Engineers in 1989, be jointly sponsored by the LAA.

Council resolved that members of AITC member bodies be offered membership rates at LAA activities provided the offer is reciprocal. Council also agreed in principle that the Association become a joint organiser for the Conference on Knowledge-Based Systems and has requested further information about the proposal.

CAPL campaign

The Federal Government has accepted all funding recommendations of the LoBianco report on a national language policy except those relating to funding of multicultural public library services. Lobbying for funding in the Federal budget and lobbying of the Minister, the National Population Council and the Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs was recommended.

National Sections and Special Interest Groups

The Corporate Plan and Review Committee recommended that National Sections and Special Interest Groups be abolished but that some form of national committee could be formed if this was desired. Nineteen submissions were received from divisions concerning this issue, of which 14 favoured the present Section and Special Interest Group structure. Council resolved that the current structure allowing for the existence of National Sections and Special Interest Groups remain unaltered.

New Divisions

Council approved the formation of 6 divisions: the Far North West Regional Group (NSW),

Green Triangle Regional Group (Victoria and South Australia), TAFE Section (Victorian Group), Local Studies Section (NSW Group), Information Science Section (SA Group) and Australian Serials Interest Group.

Conferences

The LAA had a very successful stand at the IFLA Brighton Conference in August. The brochure for the IFLA 1988 Conference was published in August and distributed through *InCite*, at the Brighton Conference and to all IFLA member Associations. A corporate sponsorship consultant has been employed and a range of potential sponsors approached.

The 1990 Conference is to be held in Perth and the Western Australian Branch has appointed an interim Conference committee. Proposed dates are 30 September — 5 October 1990.

Awards

Council resolved that the distinction of Fellow of the Library Association of Australia be conferred on Margaret Cameron, John Levett and Barrie Mitcheson.

Council endorsed the Board of Education's recommendation that the 1987 Library Manager of the Year Award be conferred on Georgina Cane.

Council endorsed the establishment of a Library Student Award to be offered to each library school. The award will be made annually and take the form of complimentary membership of the Association (plus the joining fee for one Section and Special Interest Group) including a subscription to one Association journal.

Council resolved that an annual award be established to reward the writer who develops an outstanding feature story in a non-library journal on Australian libraries or librarianship.

Local Presence

The Corporate Plan and Review Committee recommended that the Association employ a person in each state other than NSW on a part-time basis to establish a local presence.

Council authorised \$10,000 for 1988 for the Western Australian and Victorian Branches to enhance their local presence. The success of the project will be reviewed in 12 months with a view to establishing other local offices.

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