

IN THE NEWS

FOI Spreading . . . at last?

Following the proposed introduction of Freedom of Information Legislation by the Greiner Government in NSW, the Opposition Leader in SA, John Olsen, now appears to be supporting FOI.

The SA Branch will be seeking a meeting with Mr Olsen to convey the LAA's strong support for FOI in all states. John Olsen said, in an address to the Australian Suburban Newspapers Association (reported in the *Adelaide Advertiser*, 28 May) that the availability of most Government-held documents was a fundamental right of a democratic society. 'Having access to information is a sure way of keeping any government accountable'.

Managing hi-tech

Ms Rona Wade, Executive Director of CLANN Limited, has been awarded a NSW Bicentennial Fellowship in Management by the NSW Bicentennial Council. Rona's proposal concerned the management of high technology in a co-operative structure. She will use the \$10,000 Fellowship to visit networks overseas which have integrated systems similar to that of the CLANN network to study how they are managing growth and planning future development.

Nonbook union catalogue

The NLA has decided to produce a Union Catalogue of Nonbook Materials on microfiche on a trial basis in the second half of 1988. If there are sufficient sales to recover costs, there could be a second edition in 1989.

The union catalogue, tentatively entitled NUC:N National Union Catalogue Nonbook Materials is estimated at this point to contain 80,000 entries with about 110,000 holdings. It will occupy about 30 fiche. It will include catalogue entries and locations for cartographic materials, motion pictures and video recordings, sound recordings, film strips, music scores, pictorial materials, slides, transparencies, kits, manuscripts and computer software.

The LAA's Audiovisual Services Committee considers that this important initiative will significantly increase the availability of nonbook materials in libraries in Australia and recommends that libraries seriously consider purchasing a copy when it is released later in 1988.

1989 Professional Development Program

It might seem like a long time to 1989, but if the Association is to offer members a good range of professional development activities next year we should already be thinking about this.

In *InCite* Vol 9 No 5 of 15 April, Twila Herr, Convener of the Association's Professional Development Committee, asked members and Divisions to begin identifying priorities for activities to be included in the national program.

So contact your Divisions now about activities you wish to be offered in 1989. Divisions are to advise the Professional Development Committee now of their priorities, so that a schedule of activities for which tenders will be called can be drawn up by the Committee at its next meeting on 30 June.

Sue Phillips

Membership Services Manager.

LAA Conference Program Highlights

The plenary session of the conference is scheduled for 10.00am — 11.30am on Sunday, 28 August 1988. Entitled 'People, Persuasion and Power — Keys to Professional and Organisational Success', it should be a stimulating and thought-provoking session.

The speakers are Anne Deveson, Director, Australian Film Television and Radio School who will take a media view, Rodney Cavalier, former NSW Minister of Education who will speak from a political point of view and Caroline Taylor, Director, Corporate Vision, who will present the marketing viewpoint. The moderator for the plenary is John Levett, Head, School of Librarianship, University of Tasmania.

Dagmar Schmidmaier

Convener LAA Program Sub-Committee.

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Last, but certainly not least, the Branch held a function on 18 May to honour the recipients of the LAA Student Award. Ms Nicolie Tuan received the Award for the student with the best overall results in the Graduate Diploma in Librarianship course at the University of Tasmania, and Mrs Lyn Reeves received the Award for the best overall results in the Library Technicians Certificate Course at Hobart Technical College. We congratulate Lyn and Nicolie and wish them well in their careers.

Our program for the remainder of the year is filling quickly, with Tom Wilson from the University of Sheffield visiting in August and Ernie di Mattia of Ferguson Public Library, Stamford, speaking on advocacy strategies in early September. With the IFLA/LAA conference in between August and September look particularly busy.

In summary the Tasmanian Branch is finding 1988 a stimulating and challenging year.

Christine Frey

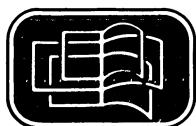
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