

New challenges for Publications Board

NEW year, new chairperson, new challenges: 1989 will be a year of challenge and change for the Publications Board which met on 10 February and elected Neil Radford as its Chairperson. This year there will be a number of new publications, including a new edition of the *New Classics*, a pioneering reference work on Australian mottoes, a further volume of Harrison Bryan's acclaimed *ALIAS*, a new dictionary of Australian acronyms, an award-winning bibliography of the works of Dorothy Hewett and other stimulating publishing projects.

New people

Judith Baskin's term on the Board expired at the end of 1988 and Neil and other members of the Board paid tribute to her sustained and positive contribution to its work. Peter Clayton is a new member of the Board and David Jones has been reappointed for a further term. The other members of the Board are James Henri, Frank Thompson, Pat Ward and Kerry Webb. The President and Executive Director are *ex officio* members.

Neil and the Board also expressed their appreciation of the work of Kathy Hesselbee, Publications Manager, who left the Association to work for Redfern Legal Centre Publishing at the end of 1988.

A replacement for Kathy has yet to be appointed and in the meantime day-to-day publishing activities are being overseen by Sue Kosse. Sue reported on the move of editorial work for *InCite* to Canberra and on design and format

changes. *InCite* from 1989 will be in A4 format rather than the former non-standard size. Advertising would be channelled through the Sydney office for the time being. An index to *InCite* is being considered.

New publications

The Board noted the publication of the first volume of Harrison Bryan's encyclopaedia, *ALIAS*, which was launched in January and was sponsored by Kilners Commercial Carriers of Kingsgrove, NSW. *ALIAS* is printed on 'Perpetuum' a 'permanent' paper manufactured by Australian Pulp and Paper Mills. Pat Ward reported on the active conservation campaign being waged by Helen Price and others where the permanent paper message was being put across very forcefully. A further print run of *Stopping the rot*, also on permanent paper, is under way.

Living together, the proceedings of the 25th LAA Conference in Sydney, which is also printed on a longlife paper, was another new ALIA publication tabled at the meeting. Janet Robinson, its editor, was congratulated on its production.

A number of publications in progress, as well as reports on negotiations with co-publishers, were also discussed.

New possibilities

The Board discussed in more detail the report on ALIA's publishing activities which had been prepared late last year by a consultant, Sandra Forbes. As the first step in its plan of action following the report, the Board is preparing a statement defining its objectives more clearly and, most importantly, distinguishing between

its role as publisher of commercial materials and its part in the production of 'service' type materials such as *InCite*, annual reports, the *Vital Link* and conference proceedings. If this were fully implemented commercial publications would be produced on a firm commercial basis under the ALIA Press imprint. Service publications, many of which could not be expected to cover costs of production, would appear under the ALIA imprint and would be separately funded so as not to distort the performance of ALIA Press.

All stages of the publishing process would be run on a professional basis and, as Sandra pointed out in her report, would need adequate resources in order to do so. Co-publication with larger publishers would be encouraged, primarily to improve marketing and distribution performance. Some publishers had already expressed interest in this and there would be further exploration of these possibilities.

A considerable amount of work needs to be done to strengthen and streamline our publishing activity for the benefit of all ALIA members. For the Board and everyone involved in ALIA publications, 1989 will be a busy year with many changes and challenges. And of course some lively new publications for your library and home reference shelves. Good reading!

David J. Jones
Member, Publications Board

Toll free line buzzes

If you have wondered why you sometimes have difficulty in getting through to ALIA on the toll free line, you may be interested to know that during the last 3 months of 1988 ALIA's toll free line received 1792 calls. This was an average of 28 calls per day, at an average cost of \$1.33.

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