

# DIRECT LINE



Sue Kosse, Executive Director

## ALIA/ACLIS joint meeting

The first joint national meeting of ALIA and ACLIS at the national level occurred on 22 March at Latrobe University Library. ALIA was represented by Lynn Allen, President, John Levett, Vice-President and the Executive Director, Sue Kosse. ACLIS was represented by Earle Gow, President, Alison Crook, Deputy President, Warren Horton, ACLIS Policy and Advocacy Committee and the Executive Officer, Gordon Bower.

The meeting considered several key national issues involving the two organisations. In particular these included resolutions from the Australian Libraries Summit requiring joint action by the two bodies, lobbying and promotion of libraries, the Review of Library Provision in Higher Education, library statistics, the use of recycled paper in the publishing industry and government publications.

The discussion of individual organisational activity with the joint Australian Libraries Summit resulted in there being agreement that in some instances one organisation should take the lead in further pursuing a Summit resolution. These included ALIA to take the lead on the resolutions relating to prison libraries and standards; and for ACLIS to take the lead on the resolutions relating to the encouragement of library authorities to employ more Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders and to seek a statement from institutions on their policy and practice for the provision of library service to remote students.

As regards school libraries, it was agreed that there was a need for a joint ALIA/ASLA/ACLIS working party to work towards a replacement for the

*Books and beyond* publication. ASLA has recently established a committee to develop a draft brief for such a publication for consideration by its next ASLA Council teleconferenced meeting. The ALIA School Libraries Section will be contributing to this draft brief.

As regards the resolutions to the training of library personnel in particular areas, the Board of Education has primary responsibility, with the ACLIS Preservation Committee also expressing interest in the area of conservation.

Both ALIA and ACLIS expressed continued interest in the area of national guidelines for technology, and further work will be done by both organisations in the future.

In the area of lobbying and promotion, ALIA indicated that it would continue to support its policy statements, while at the same time developing a wider role in the area of library promotion. ACLIS reported that its efforts would be directed towards demonstrating the contribution which libraries and information services can make to economic development.

There was considerable discussion of the Statistical Framework as prepared by the Statistical Advisory Group and the shortcomings of the final draft. It was agreed that there had been a very considerable investment in the draft by both ALIA and ACLIS, and that additional means of conveying concerns to the ABS, DASETT and the State/Cultural Ministers would be pursued by both. ALIA and ACLIS also agreed that further joint action was required to ensure that existing and proposed statistical databases within the library and information sector are continued and improved.

Discussion on government publications centred upon the need for proper bibliographic control and who should pay for this. It was felt that State and Territory libraries have a key role to play in this area.

The next joint national meeting of ALIA and ACLIS at the national level is to be held in Brisbane on Wednesday 27 June 1990.

## User pays proposed in NSW public libraries

The release of the Oaks Committee report in NSW this week on charging for local government services has raised the issue of charging for public library services in NSW. The report suggests that a charge of \$5 per quarter be instituted for use of a public library, and that

as library users become accustomed to paying that this charge could be gradually increased.

It would appear that the NSW State Government, with a need to reduce the level of the State debt and its interest burden, is testing public reaction to this idea before proceeding to the legislation stage for implementation.

The NSW Branch, the Metropolitan Chief Librarians and the Association of Local Government Librarians have established a meeting for Sunday 20 May to consider their combined strategy.



## Scholarship awarded to Wollongong librarian

Craig Grimison, has been awarded the prestigious James Cook Bicentenary Scholarship sponsored by Blackwells (Oxford) and Blackwell North America. Valued at \$25 000, the scholarship is open to librarians from Australia and New Zealand who wish to spend time as a management intern in a British or North American library.



Craig Grimison

Currently Information Services Librarian at the University of Wollongong, Craig was previously Lending Services Librarian at the University of New England. He has also worked with TAFE in NSW and the Canberra College of Advanced Education. Craig has been an active participant in the Library Association of Australia and is Vice-President of the NSW Branch of ALIA.

The scholarship will provide Craig with a unique opportunity to broaden his administrative and managerial skills by intensive observation of one organisation. The concept of an internship provides an attractive alternative to course-based learning. It is a well



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established method of learning in the health sciences and teacher training, and has proven to be beneficial to both the individuals and the organisations participating.

Although the arrangements for his internship are not finalised, Craig will spend the latter half of 1991 at an American university library. As part of the internship, Craig will undertake several special projects. These will include investigating the provision of library services for international students, alternate techniques for staff training and appraisal, and the application of performance indicators in the assessment of library services.



## Public library awards

Two Wells School/Community Library (District Council of Mallala) and West Torrens Public Library received the inaugural Innovative Grants from the Libraries Board of South Australia.

The Innovative Grants program was established by the Libraries Board of South Australia last year when \$50 000 was set aside from Trust funds for projects to develop, test and evaluate new, imaginative and creative approaches to library services and their management.

The Two Wells project is to establish a Life Appreciation Library. The library has set up a computer-based register of people buried in the district and has compiled their biographies. By examining burial records, conducting genealogical searches, interviewing families and transcribing funeral serv-



Joan Post, Community Aide, and Christine Pearce, volunteer, transcribing headstones at Two Wells Cemetery.

ice eulogies, Mallala now has an invaluable record of the people who have been part of and contributed to the life of the district.

The library has benefited from a strong group of volunteers established to help with the project. These people have identified burial sites, transcribed headstones, and interviewed relatives.

Initially the project was to concentrate on biographies of those who passed away over the last 5 years. However enthusiasm from the community has had a snowballing effect and relatives have been forwarding information on people of the district over a long span of time.

A deceptively simple, but brilliantly original idea that has put on permanent record the lives and achievements of ordinary people in the District Council of Mallala.

The grant to the West Torrens Public Library is to establish services to the deaf and hearing impaired, a 'first' for a public library in Australia.

The library has purchased equipment such as listening loops, a telephone typewriter and teletext decoder, bought 250 sub-titled videos and trained its staff in signing for the deaf.



Staff operating the Telephone typewriter and issuing captioned videos, West Torrens Public Library

West Torrens has embarked on a State-wide campaign to attract the deaf and hearing impaired to its and other libraries. It has established itself as a library offering specialist services to the deaf and hearing impaired but at the same time, demonstrated that people with such disabilities are part of our mainstream society entitled to services through normal community centres such as public libraries.

Since July 1989 when the service started over 500 queries have been received from the general public. Schools, both specialist hearing impaired and ordinary, use the service for hearing impaired students and 15 other public libraries have organised regular interlibrary loans for the deaf and hearing impaired in their communities.

Extensive publicity for the project has received unexpected spin-offs with the subtitled videos being extensively

used by people whose second language is English and financial support from the Department of Community Services and Health.

As a project where funding from the three spheres of Government has contributed a service to an often forgotten area of disability, it has proved extremely successful.

This year the Board has continued the Innovative Grants Program and presented the 1990 awards at the Local Government Week Conference.

The Port Adelaide Public Library and the Bray Reference Library received an award for a world first joint project to network CD-ROM technology to provide Port Adelaide residents with up to the minute access to world information on this new technology.

The Salisbury Public Library Service will establish a new information service, Industrial history, on the local level. A model and guidelines will be produced showing libraries how to collect and manage histories of local industries to make local history relevant to the wider community.

The third recipient is The Australian Library and Information Association, Children's and Youth Section, which will make an entertaining and educational video targeting young people aged 12 to 16 years with the goal of inspiring them to 'take a look at a book' in their school or public library.

Prospect Public Library received the fourth award to set up a multimedia adult literacy collection. This will be a 'user friendly' collection for literacy, numeracy and English as a second language. The collection will be used by other libraries, community groups and tutors as well as individuals studying on their own.

An additional two personal awards were presented. In recognition of the significant contribution to the librarianship profession made by Rod East, the inaugural Chief Librarian of Noarlunga Library, a joint service between the City of Noarlunga and the Department of Technical and Further Education, a memorial award has been established. This enables the successful awardee to undertake a program of research study or training within Australia, New Zealand or Papua New Guinea.

The successful candidate this year was Bern Bird, Youth Services Librarian of the St Peters Public Library.

Val Gauld was the inaugural Executive Officer of the School/Community Libraries Committee and administered