

OUT LINE

Welcome to a regular column which will concentrate on membership and division news.

This, our first column is devoted to changes within the various divisions of ALIA. Each year brings changes to the Association which reflect the current needs of members and the profession. Contact names and numbers for all divisions can be found in the *Vital link* which appears as an insert with this issue of *inCite*.

The Darling Downs Regional Group has reformed after a break of several years and is already planning activities for 1990.

Name changes for the following Groups were approved by General Council at its March meeting: The Education for Librarianship Section (EDLIBS) has become the Education for Library and Information Services Section (ELISS), and the University and College Libraries Section (UCLS) has altered its scope to become the University, College and Research Libraries Section (UCRLS).

General Council also approved the formation of the Acquisitions Section, Queensland Group and the Reference and Information Services Librarians Section. An article detailing the role of the Section and listing contacts can be found elsewhere in this issue.

A list of newsletters produced by divisions is currently in the pipeline and details of its availability will appear in a future *inCite*. Questions about divisions should be directed to the membership section or myself at the National Office.

Helen Mandl
Division Support Officer

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State Libraries Council of Australia

The State Librarian's Council, first established in 1973, changed its name to State Libraries Council of Australia, adopted a constitution, elected a new Chairperson and embarked upon the development of a strategic plan at its meeting in Perth on 17 February.

The objectives of the Council are to:

- promote and advance the provision, awareness and use of library and information services in Australia;
- provide a consultative forum for State and public library service management in Australia;
- enable the formulation of common plans, policies and programs for State and public library services;
- allow for the common views of State and public libraries to be presented to government, and to other relevant bodies.

The new Chairperson elected is Des Stephens, State Librarian of Queensland while Alison Crook, State Librarian of New South Wales remains as Deputy Chairperson.

The meeting recorded a vote of thanks to the previous Chairperson, Warwick Dunstan for his work in re-establishing the Council following the demise of the Australian Libraries and Information Council.

The strategic plan being developed is based on the three major strengths of State Libraries. These are their Stateiana collections, the strong commitment in subsidy and support services to public libraries and the reference and information collections and services available to the public.

With respect to the Stateiana collections, each State Library is to re-examine its own policies for Stateiana collections. These are to be related to those of other Stateiana institutions, such as universities, historical societies, etc. and national collecting bodies, to ensure that there is general agreement and acceptance throughout Australia regarding the roles of all institutions involved in collecting Australiana. The policies will relate to all aspects of Stateiana including collection development, preservation, organisation and access. They will deal with all formats including newspapers, machine-readable records, oral histories, multicultural, film and video, photographs and ephemera.

The public libraries component will involve identifying desired outcomes and definitions of the role and purpose of public libraries, gap analysis and the identification of strategies for agreed priorities in developing public library services. Consultative mechanisms with public librarians will be established in each State.

Both the Stateiana and information services policies will relate to conspectus and the distributed national collection.

Further matters discussed by the Council include the development of a national newspaper plan, a submission to the Higher Education Libraries Review and finalisation of the National Statistical Database for State and public libraries.

Des Stephens
Chairperson,
State Libraries Council

National Library receives an award for excellence

The National Library of Australia recently received a special commendation for *The Hunter Sketchbook* in The Galley Club of Sydney Award for Excellence for 1989.

Judging of the award was very close, with only one point separating the eventual winner. *The Hunter Sketchbook* is a high quality, limited edition, published in late 1989 by the National Library under the auspices of the Morris West Trust Fund.

The sketchbook is a collection of drawings from 1788 and 1790 of NSW's

flora and fauna by Captain John Hunter of the First Fleet, who later became the second Governor of NSW.

The objectives of the award are to promote and encourage a high standard of all aspects of book production and manufacture, and at the same time develop an increased awareness, both inside and outside the publishing industry, of the wide range of skills involved. Books entered for the award are judged on three criteria — typography, pre-press and printing, and binding.