

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

The second meeting of ALIA's General Council for 1990 was held in Canberra on 23-24 June. The General Council is elected by the membership of ALIA and is charged with establishing policy for the entire Association.

OAKES REPORT

In her Frontline in *incite* (Vol. 11) No. 11, the President, Lynn Allen referred to a number of issues which were considered by the Council at its meeting. In particular Lynn mentioned ALIA's response to the Oakes Committee Report. A press release has been developed and issued as widely as possible in NSW, and is printed on the back of the cover sheet for this issue of *incite* for your information. It is likely that a consultant may be employed to assist the NSW Branch to develop a more complete response to the Report.

INFORMING MEMBERS

The General Council has been concerned for some time about the level of communication within the Association, and particularly between itself and members. In an attempt to address this issue, the General Council has focused its attention upon the flow of information from the national office to members of Council, and the availability of General Council agenda papers and minutes.

The national office produces a monthly report which is circulated to members of Council. To date this report has been confidential to Council. However, as many of the issues covered are not of a confidential nature, and provide useful information updates on ALIA business and activities, the Council has decided that the reports will be broken into two parts: a confidential section not for circulation, and the main section which Councillors are able to make available to their Branches and members upon request.

Council has also decided that it is important that as many members as possible have the opportunity of seeing a set of Council agenda papers, but that the most effective way of providing this opportunity is not to continually expand the number of agendas produced. Instead, sets of agenda papers will be provided to members of Council, Secretaries of Branches (2 sets), Regional Groups, National Sections, and a copy of the agenda contents together with an abstract be provided to Secretaries of State Sectional and Special Interest Groups, and the Editor of *ALJ*. Members may then seek a copy of a desired paper from their General Councillor, Branch Secretary or national office.

NATIONAL INFORMATION SERVICES TRAINING COUNCIL

General Council is to continue to seek to establish a National Information Services Training Council, and will develop a submission to the Minister for Employment, Education and Training. In addition, the Board of Education are to investigate the possibility of ALIA becoming a registered industry training agent.

1990-91 STRATEGIC PLAN

Council continued its consideration of the strategic issues facing the Association in the coming 2 years. This work continues the work of the Corporate Plan and Review of 1986, and picks up the initiative of 1988 whereby Council resolved to adopt a strategic planning process for ALIA.

Each member of Council is to develop a discussion paper based upon the identified strategic issues. The issues are: continuing education and professional development (Chair, Board of Education), award restructuring and industrial priorities (ACT General Councillor), membership (Tasmanian General Councillor), ALIA's finances (Victorian General Councillor), the "I" in ALIA (President), capitalising on the move to Canberra (Immediate Past President), promotion and lobbying (NSW General Councillor), administrative effectiveness of the national office (Vice President), cooperative activities with other organisations (Qld General Councillor), and defining the role of the library and information services industry (WA General Councillor).

These discussion papers will be circulated in the week of 13 August to Branches for consideration. They will also be considered at the September General Council meeting, and copies will be available for consultation by members at the ALIA stand in Perth.

These issue papers will form the basis for developing a strategic plan for ALIA. It is proposed that once this has been developed, and programs identified, that program budgeting will also be adopted for ALIA in line with the programs. This whole process will possibly take about 2 years before it is in place.

INTERLIBRARY LOANS MEETING

Planning is continuing for the interlibrary loans meeting scheduled for 22 November 1990. The Planning Committee is composed of the President, the ACT General Councillor, the Executive Director, representatives from ACLIS (Gordon Bower) and the National Library of Australia (Warren Horton).

AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY JOURNAL

The Editor of *ALJ* and Vice President, requested that the present arrangements for *ALJ* be reviewed. The ACT Branch is to undertake a review of *ALJ*, and will also be seeking the support and advice from other members with relevant experience.

1991 BUDGET

Council discussed the guidelines to be followed for the drafting of the 1991 budget and these include: that membership fees increase according to the CPI and that an allocation be made for three local presences in 1991. The Membership Services Manager is to provide a report on the investigation of section membership fees, and to provide an outline paper for the strategy for increasing membership.

CONFERENCE GUIDELINES

The proposed biennial conference guidelines were endorsed as interim guidelines pending further discussion by the Biennial Conference Committees and Divisions. Similarly, the proposed budget for the 1991 Biennial Conference, was endorsed pending further consideration by the 1992 Biennial Conference Committee.

AWARDS

The distinction of Fellow of ALIA has been conferred on Alan Bundy, and a Letter of Recognition has been awarded to Joan Martin. Congratulations to both Alan Bundy and Joan Martin.

ALIA ARCHIVES

The ALIA Archives Committee made recommendation to General Council that, among other things, priority should be given to ordering of the central records, that by preference ALIA's archives be located in the National Library of Australia and that ALIA employ an archivist to prepare guidelines for ALIA's archives. These recommendations were endorsed by the Council.

ALIA HOUSE

Work on the construction of the building was progressing according to schedule, with extensions of time having been sought due to wet weather and a number of minor fitout changes. A tenant has been secured for the building and will occupy the first floor (870 square metres). ALIA is to occupy the majority of the ground floor. The Prime Minister is to be invited to open the building in November 1990.

If you would like further information on any of the matters considered by the Council, please contact either your State's or Territory's General Councillor or the Executive Director at the national office.