

State Library of Queensland Foundation Dinner

Over 400 of Queensland's top corporate executives attended the State Library of Queensland Foundation's annual fund raising dinner at the Sheraton Hotel in Brisbane on 25 May. It was a gala black tie affair which represented an extraordinary show of support for the State Library by the corporate sector.

Guests paid \$135 a ticket or were sponsored by some of Queensland's biggest companies who paid \$1250 each for their own tables. As if that show of support was not enough, many of them later in the evening joined in spirited bidding at a much publicised auction which netted more than \$40 000 for the State Library.

Promoted as 'An Evening with Henry Lawson' the event retained its traditional literary theme (last year it was 'Banjo' Paterson) and guests who packed the Hotel's huge ballroom quickly warmed to actor Leonard Teale's recitations of some of Lawson's best known works.

Entertainment was also provided by a concert orchestra, Australian singer and entertainer James Blundell and a group of children from the flooded Charleville area of Western Queensland.

The influential guest list headed by the Governor of Queensland and Patron of the State Library Foundation Sir Walter Campbell and Lady Campbell, also included the State Minister for Justice and Corrective Services, Glen Milliner MLA representing the Premier and Minister for the Arts. Others at the official table were the Deputy Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Alderman Phil Denman, President of the State Library Foundation, Sir Llewellyn Edwards, Library Board Chairman, Manfred Cross and State Librarian, Des Stephens.

Quite apart from the fund raising potential the dinner was of enormous public relations value. Twenty eight companies sponsored tables this year — most of them having had no previous involvement with the State Library.

The Foundation, launched just 2 years ago, is now well in sight of its initial target of raising \$2 million for the development of the State Library of Queensland.

Andrew Swanton

State Library of Queensland Foundation



Christine Henderson



Australian Library & Information Association

Annual General Meeting

The 2nd Annual General Meeting of the Australian Library & Information Association will be held at the Perth Concert Hall on Wednesday, 3 October 1990 at 2.30 pm.

Watch InCite 13 for Notices of Motion and full rules of meeting.

The Cancer Help Source book

The University of New South Wales University Librarian, Dr Christine Henderson, has just seen this book, which she co-authored with Angela Raymond, go into a second revised edition only 2 years after it was first published.

The book is an invaluable directory of assistance available in Australia for cancer patients, their helpers, families and friends. It arose out of Dr Henderson's experience in caring for her mother, Alexia, who was found to have a form of lung cancer.

As a professional librarian and academic used to information-gathering, Dr Henderson's (and Alexia's) first response to the news was to try to understand what was happening and to 'find out all about it'. Her difficulties in doing this led her and her co-author to compile a summary of the more readily assimilated literature and audiovisual material available to cancer patients and their friends. During her enquiries, Dr Henderson observed that many patients were not very positive about their condition and this made it hard for their doctors. She advises patients to take as much responsibility for their care as possible.

'I really sympathise with the doctors,' she said. 'Cancer patients are all different, and doctors dealing with scores of them have to try to figure out an individual approach with each. They need guidance from the patient to know how to help them.' But if a patient feels too ill to participate in their own care, they ought to enlist the aid of a family member or close friend to help them with research and with asserting their rights.

In a chapter on 'Your Rights as a Patient' Dr Henderson states that few people who become ill know they must not be entered into clinical trials without their

'informed consent'. Moreover, should they wish to try other forms of treatment, they are entitled to copies of their medical records held by hospitals.

Desperation often drives cancer sufferers to desperate measures of dubious value and readers are warned of this. The director refers to the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria's library of therapies 'which have not been proven under clinical conditions'. One highly significant outcome of Dr Henderson's research into pain control was the information that pain transmitting nerves could be severed as an alternative to administering opioids. Professor Tess Brophy, a Brisbane surgeon, operated on Alexia enabling her to remain alert and communicative till the last. Dr Henderson was also pleased by the fact the good diet reduces weight loss and ensured her mother always looked 'well' throughout her illness. One chapter in the director includes a listing of writings on the possible links between diet and cancer. Solace as well as treatment is another priority for cancer sufferers and their families. So the directory lists sources of spiritual comfort and support.

Dr Henderson is confident that the revised directory encompasses most information relevant to the Australian situation but much experience has yet to be documented. Not enough has been written of child cancer patients, for instance. Likewise a lot more needs to be written about breast cancer patients.

Dr Henderson sees the advancement of human rights as basic to a librarian's profession in that equality of access to information is a prerequisite of political and social justice. The *Cancer Help Source Book* was one way of combining personal with professional obligations.