



Working Party on Higher Education Libraries

At the end of December 1989, the terms of reference for the long rumoured review of libraries in higher education were announced. The review is being conducted under the National Board of Employment, Education and Training (NBEET) by a specially convened Working Party. The Working Party will be chaired by Professor Ian Ross, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Australian National University, and will also include Alan Bundy, Barrie Mitcheson, Margaret Trask and Eric Wainwright.

The December press release from NBEET indicated that 'recent rapid changes in the structure of higher education reinforced the need to reassess the effectiveness of provision of higher education library services within current resourcing levels'.

Margaret Henty from the Australian National University Library has been seconded to provide secretariat support to the Working Party. Submissions are being invited from all interested parties, and further information can be obtained by contacting Margaret Henty at the ANU Library. (Submissions are still being accepted in spite of the early closing date of 28 February 1990.)

An ALIA submission has been drafted and is now being considered by the General Council before being submitted.

NZLA POWER

The recent NZLA Conference, Information + Energy = Power, held in New Plymouth was an outstanding success, with over 500 delegates attending, or

more than one third the NZLA membership!

Barbara McKerrow and the Conference Committee organised an extremely efficient and friendly conference, together with a most interesting speakers' program. Two of the speakers received standing ovations from delegates. These were Chief Judge Silvia Cartwright who spoke on the responsibilities of a professional person in providing information and advice to the client; and Robert Croneberger, Director of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, USA, who introduced the action oriented mission statement for public libraries 'to excite, to entertain, to inform and to educate'. His strong vocal support for free public library services and the New Zealand position on US nuclear warships, added an external dimension to the many discussions at the conference on charging for interloan, and the inestimable value of libraries to the advancement of civilisation.

The conference also saw the establishment of the New Zealand Library Association Incorporated to replace the previous NZLA, and strong endorsement for the management of the Association under Geoff Chamberlain (1989-1990 President) and the Council, and for the directions being mapped out by the Futures Group.

National Ideas Summit

Summits are very popular in Canberra at the present time, and the National Ideas Summit as organised by the Australia Council was no exception. It was difficult to see the positive outcomes of the Summit; however perhaps the most promising but not resolved outcome, was the often stated endorsement of the concept that valuable contributions to Australia's progress are not always measurable in dollars.

General Council

The first meeting of the Association's General Council is to be held in Melbourne at the Parliamentary Library 23-24 March. All observers are most welcome to attend.

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