

Doctorate for Ali Sharr

inCite 2 gave the news that Ali would receive an honorary Doctorate of Letters from Curtin University, in recognition of his contribution to Western Australia in the creation of a State-wide public library system. *inCite* 5 added the information that a dinner would be held in his honour. ALIA President John Levett was asked to send a message to be read out at that dinner. He wrote as follows:

I was delighted to receive the advice that Ali Sharr was to receive an honorary Doctorate of Letters in recognition of his work in the provision of State-wide public library services in Western Australia. I had a letter from him just the other day, in which he responded to a paper I had written on the subject of 'mentoring'. This was entirely fitting, because I had been one of Ali's unobtrusive 'mentorees' during his Presidency of my Association in 1969 and 1970. I was



then a newly-appointed Deputy State Librarian, working for another Englishman, Ted Browning.

Ali was an outstanding President, confident in his office, firm, positive and commanding, and yet with a gift for noticing and encouraging lesser lights, myself included. Perhaps more importantly, he had the supreme gift of keeping the different parts of his life in balance, so that we all were aware that President Sharr was also a keen and expert wild flower photographer. For his juniors, this made him at once more rounded, more approachable, and more like us. He had that great gift — the capacity which I call that of the 'incidental teacher', for in everything he did, there was something

Minister at ALIA House

On 9 April at ALIA House, the ACT Branch held a reception for the Minister for Arts, Tourism and Territories, the Honourable David Simmons. There were around 40 guests, including senior officers from the Minister's Department, ALIA National Office staff and Branch members. The Minister, whose portfolio responsibilities include the National Library, spoke on a range of issues and congratulated the Association on its magnificent building. □



(From left) Mr Simmons with Michael Evans, ACT Branch President.

for others to learn. In my Presidency, as in that of many of my predecessors, there is more than a touch of something learned from Ali Sharr.

On behalf of my Association, its members, and all its Presidents since 1969, I would like to convey our delight and appreciation that his contribution to our profession has been recognised in so fitting a manner. □

On the move

Talking book and Braille library now at Enfield

The Royal Blind Society of NSW has moved into a new talking book and Braille library complex at Enfield in Sydney.

Not all functions will be fully operational until June but most of the staff, equipment and books was moved from the old building with only a 5-day disruption to talking book borrowing services. All the production facilities for audio, Braille and student material had to be moved and re-established in the new building.

- About 35 000 Braille volumes had to be moved, along with 10 000 storage boxes for talking books. (Circulation was increased in the preceding weeks to ease the temporary storage problems.)

Taking over the Filing System

Records Management for librarians

Expressions of interest are being sought for a short course in records management to be held in July/August, 1991.

School of Librarianship University of NSW

For further information contact:
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- 2500 bins were used to store Braille during the move.
- 3 kilometres of shelving had to be dismantled and is being reassembled in the new building. Eventually 7 kilometres of shelving will be available.
- Nearly 100 people were involved in the move.
- One recording studio remains operational in the old building while the new studios are being equipped.

The Royal Blind Society's new talking book and Braille library will be the largest and most modern of its kind in the southern hemisphere, and should play a big role in meeting the reading and information needs of blind and vision impaired people well into the next century.

Bill Byrne

Greening Australia:

Directory of help for rural trees

The fight to stop land erosion, and to conserve, plant and grow trees by farmers and land-managers will be made easier with the aid of a new directory of assistance schemes. This was launched at the Australian National University recently, by Hazel Hawke, the national patron of Greening Australia.

The 1991 Directory of Assistance Schemes for Trees on Farms and Rural Vegetation summarises 74 schemes available throughout Australia that provide assistance and advice on tree growing and retention. The directory is a joint venture of Greening Australia and the Bureau of Rural Resources.

Available for only \$14.95, the directory lists where to find grants, cheap seedlings, free literature, information about what species grow where, or assistance with planning, management or marketing. Each scheme entry has a standard format, one to each page. Contact numbers and basic information are provided to allow readers to follow up the most relevant scheme, and to make easy comparisons. Knowing where you can obtain assistance certainly swings the odds in your favour.



Hazel Hawke with, from left, co-authors Roslyn Prinsley, Annie Boutland and Neil Byron at the book's launch at the Australian National University.

The directory will be updated annually and is being promoted widely to rural landholders, landcare groups and public libraries, particularly in rural centres. Inquiries and orders to GPO Box 9868, Canberra ACT 2601, telephone (06) 281 8585, fax (06) 281 8590.

Greening Australia □

Moving into non-traditional areas

Librarians in records management

More and more, librarians are seeking positions in what are classed as 'non-traditional areas', such as records management and archives. Management is tending to hand over the management responsibility for 'the filing system' to in-house special librarians, and librarians are also natural contenders for the position of Information Services Managers.

Librarians moving into new areas of information management need additional skills if they are to succeed. They also need to know the nature of the new environment in which they will operate, if they are to avoid some of the classic 'traps for young players'.

The Continuing Education program for information professionals at the School of Librarianship, University of New South Wales is aware of the need among librarians for knowledge in this area. To meet this demand for training, to enable librarians to acquire these skills, the School of Librarianship, in conjunction with Records Archives and Information Management (RAIM) Pty Ltd, is planning another continuing education course in July/August this year, following the success of the pilot course held late in 1990.

The course will be offered for either 4

consecutive days or for 8 evenings (1 evening per week for 8 weeks). The School of Librarianship is seeking expressions of interest in the course, to determine which configuration will suit most potential participants.

Enquiries should be addressed to Maureen Henninger, Coordinator of Continuing Education, School of Librarianship, University of New South Wales, telephone (02) 697 3589, fax (02) 313 7092. □

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Train Line



Carol
Kenchington
Training and
Development
Officer

Association members showed clearly in their responses to the national PD survey that they are concerned about the cost of training. The training industry has received a massive boost from the Training Guarantee Scheme, introduced last year. Costs are currently rapidly changing. So far the movement has been markedly upward, far in excess of any cost-of-living arguments.

To illustrate, in 1990, a 1-day management seminar cost \$180 with one reputable training institution. This year the same course is \$220. Another group's fee has moved from \$235 to \$300 per day, over the same time period. It is now quite common to see quite startling charges of \$400 to \$500 for a 1-day event.

In comparison, the training fees in the library sector are very modest. A quick scan of the Events column shows the average fee to be less than \$100/day. The library community has been very successful in containing costs while continuing to provide quality opportunities. It can be expected, however, that as costs in the training world increase, some increases will occur in the library area.