

# ALIA General Council

**A packed agenda at the November 1991 meeting focused on the 1992 budget, the strategic plan, awards, library standards, conference guidelines, Division changes, the skills audit for the library and information sector and a review of Federal Government issues in which ALIA has been involved.**

by Sue Kosse, Executive Director, ALIA

**T**HE ASSOCIATION'S chief policy-making body, the General Council, met for the third and last time in 1991 in November at its National Office in Canberra, ALIA House. The General Council is made up of General Councillors from each state and territory, two of whom fill the offices of General Secretary and General Treasurer, the Chair of the Board of Education, the Immediate Past-President, the Vice-President and the President. General Council meetings are chaired by the President.

The General Council had a very substantial agenda to consider over the two days, with key items focusing on the 1992 budget, revision of the strategic plan, review of Association awards, library standards, conference organising guidelines, Division changes, reports and recommendations from the various Association Boards and Committees and Program Managers, the skills audit for the library and information sector and a review of a number of Federal Government issues in which the Association has been involved.

The Strategic Plan and the skills audit will be critical items of business for the Association throughout 1992. They are reported upon in greater detail elsewhere in this issue of *inCite*.

## Ramifications of the 1992 Budget

Budget discussions for the Association are always difficult because of the wide range of programs in which the Association is engaged, and the difficulty in setting priorities for funding without a fully developed strategic plan. For 1992 however, with an income estimate of \$2.59 million, the General Council was again committed to endorsing a balanced budget, and to increase funding programs to which it had made a strong commitment in 1991.

These programs included:

- Board of Education with a total budget allocation of \$91,400, including:
  - Training and development (\$41 100)
  - Course recognition (\$18 000)
  - Employment (\$4 300)
- Increasing the number of local presence to 6 in 1992 (Western Australia, Victoria, New South Wales,

South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania) \$60 000

- allocations to Divisions of \$98 000
- the International Relations Program (\$8 000)
- financial support for the incoming President.

## A new role for *inCite*

With the increase in resources being channelled to the Branches to support programs and members needs at the local level, General Council considered that changes were required to the programs implemented by the National Office. In particular, the Council considered with the growth in Branch and Division newsletters, that *inCite* needed to be repositioned within the Association. It considered that *inCite* should become the focus of national issues and news for the Association, and that therefore it should be published as a monthly news magazine. This change is to commence in 1992.

In addition, with the commencement of the cooperative publishing arrangement with DW Thorpe, the National Office will be increasingly less involved with the sale and despatch of publications.

These two changes have led to a saving on staff salaries in the National Office of approximately \$36 000.

It is estimated that Association expenses for 1992 will be in the vicinity of \$2.587 million, which comes very close to achieving a balanced budget for the beginning of the year.

In its budget discussions the General Council also endorsed the general guidelines for program budgeting. These will remain sufficiently flexible to enable the budget to be matched to the strategic plan as it evolves.

## Review of Award

The Association's awards had been under review since 1989, and based upon the recommendations of this review, significant changes were agreed to by the General Council.

These included that

- the Association recognise as its premier awards the H C L Anderson Award, the Redmond Barry Award and the Ellinor Archer Award
- nominations be called for each of these awards annually, and that not more than one of each award be made following the call for nominations

- an Awards Committee be established, consisting of five members (the Immediate Past President, two Past Presidents and two other distinguished members of the profession)
- written reports be required by the nominator and seconder
- the Letter of Recognition be renamed the Merit Award, and that it be a state/territory award
- all Association Awards and recipients be listed in the Association's Handbook
- a Library Design and promotional Award be developed.

These decisions are to be considered by the By-Laws and Regulations Committee for inclusion in the constitution. The General Council recorded its appreciation of the work done by Averill Edwards and Alan Bundy in undertaking this review. ▶

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## ► Library Standards

The Association is involved in the development of standards for special, TAFE, local studies collections and school libraries. The National School Libraries Section was approved a recoupable grant of \$10 000 to work with the Australian School Library Association to develop a replacement for the school library standard *Books and Beyond*. The discussion paper on the procedures for the development of library standards was deferred for consideration until 1992.

## Conference Guidelines and Sponsorship

The proposed Guidelines for the organisation of biennial conferences, division conferences and division meetings were endorsed by General Council, as was the proposal for bidding for the biennial conference. It also endorsed the proposal that sponsorship for the Association's national conferences be coordinated on a national approach by the Conference Manager. Council accepted the suggestion that the biennial conference may be held at a time other than September/October.

## Division changes

Two new Divisions were approved by the general Council. These were: a Reference and Information Services Librarians Section, NSW Group, and a

Health Libraries Section, Tasmanian group. The application to disband the Information Policy and Planning Special Interest Group was also approved.

General Council also approved the change of name of the Reference and Information Services Librarians Section to the Reference and Information Services Section.

The NSW Branch Council discussion paper on the proliferation of Divisions was referred to the By-Laws and Regulations Committee for consideration before circulation to Branches and Divisions for comment.

## Committees

Ms Margaret Findlay is to be the General Council's nominee to the Board of Education for the three year term 1992-1994, while Mr Andrew Wells is to be the Association's representative to the Australian Committee on Cataloguing for 1992-1994.

## Board of Education

The General Council accepted the Board of Education's recommendations on course recognition for the following institutions: Curtin University of Technology, Western Australia, Charles Sturt University—Riverina, Adelaide College of TAFE, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Victoria, University of South Australia, and the Queensland University of Technology, School of Information Systems.

General Council also accepted the Board's recommendation that, subject to advice from the Association's solicitor, from January 1 1994, applicants for admission and readmission who have passed the Registration Examination of the Library Association of Australia (or hold an award recommended by the Board of Education as of equivalent standard) will not be deemed to be qualified for Associate status unless they provide documentary evidence that they are holders of an undergraduate degree. This decision will be widely promulgated, subject to the advice received.

## Federal issues

The General Council noted that the Working Party convened by the Executive Director was planning a library and information industry forum to consider the report of the Inquiry Into Australia as

## ALIA GENERAL COUNCIL 1992

President	Ms Bev Kirby, North Fitzroy Vic
Vice President	Ms Jenny Cram, Brisbane City Council Library Services
Past President	Mr John Levett, Middleton Tas
General Secretary	Mr Peter Cohen, University of Tasmania
General Treasurer	Ms Philippa Middleton, Noarlunga SA
Chair, Board of Ed	Ms Anne Hazell, Education Dept. of SA

## GENERAL COUNCILLORS

ACT	Ms Sue Brudenall, ANU Canberra
NSW	Ms Julie Young, State Library of NSW
NT	Ms Ruth Quinn, University of NT
QLD	Mr Geoff Chapman, Qld University of Technology
SA	Ms Philippa Middleton, Noarlunga SA
TAS	Mr Peter Cohen, University of Tasmania
VIC	Ms Jane King, Carringbush Regional Library Vic
WA	Ms Kerry Smith, Curtin University of Technology WA

an Information Society, as a starting point for an information policy for Australia. The Executive Director is to work with the Vice-President and the Victorian General Councillor to develop a response to the second part of that report, 'The role of libraries,' and to include consideration of funding for public libraries in this strategy.

The General Council considered at length the Finn Report, and the Association's future strategy in this regard. A Working Party is to be established to develop that Association's position and strategy. The Working Party will be chaired by the President, Bev Kirby, with members being the Chair of the Board of Education and the President of the TAFE National Section.

The draft submission to the Inquiry into the Needs of Urban Dwelling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People was endorsed, subject to the inclusion of clarification of the word 'urban'.

The General Council welcomed the Association's membership of the Information Industries Roundtable, seeing this as being complementary to its membership of the Australian Information Technology Council and the National Information Technology Council.

## Rates for postage

The Executive Director and the General Secretary will work together to consider the Association's position on the changes to the Australia Post concessional rates for postage of registered publications.

Given the size of the General Council agenda papers for this meeting, it is not possible to report in detail on each item.

If you would like to know more about any particular decision, or about an item not reported upon in this summary, please contact the Executive Director, Sue Kosse at the Association's National office. □

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