

### Most certainly NOT the last word...

Anastasia Govan's comprehensive report of the ALIA 1996 Biennial Conference (*inCite* April 1997) was headed 'The very last word on the 96 Biennial Conference'. This is an unfortunate choice of headline as the papers and proceedings at the Biennial should be the starting point for a considerable amount of debate and discussion, not just during the days of the conference, but for as long as it takes following the conference.

In an effort to provide an additional forum for pre- and post-conference discussion, the 1998 committee will be posting abstracts of speakers' papers, as they become available, on the conference home page. This will provide people with an opportunity to interact with the presenters as they develop the final version of their papers. Full papers will also be available on the web page to facilitate, and stimulate, debate about the issues raised during the conference.

*inCite* is also an appropriate forum for this post conference

discussion and I hope that Anastasia's columns will not be 'the very last word...'

**Di Booker, Adelaide 98**

### Options for retired members

I sympathise with Leila Hoffman (*inCite*, April 1997, p5). Some twenty or more years ago I suggested to the Association that they should follow the practice of some other professional bodies in allowing long standing members who had reached retiring age to continue as members without charge. This was adopted, except that no retiring age was specified and the requisite number of years was ten. Many left the profession with ten years of service but without reaching retiring age, and many retired with ten years of service, and the numbers made the scheme financially unviable. There is now the anomaly that I, who retired after over forty years as a professional member retain my professional membership, while others, who entered the profession at the same time, but retired later, do not.

Once one has spent a lifetime in libraries one likes to keep in

touch. I do this through Friends of libraries groups, and through receiving copies of *inCite*; I am enabled to keep in touch with library affairs generally, and this assists in the contribution I can make to the groups to which I belong. People like Leila Hoffman have studied to qualify for professional membership, have been employed as librarians, and have done a great deal of voluntary work for the Association. I feel strongly that they should be allowed to retain their professional status — after all, AALIA looks better after one's name than 'ex-AALIA'.

**Agnes Gregory, Victoria**

### From the Editor:

*The Association has received many letters and comments from retired members over the last few months. The Membership Services Manager took this issue to the last General Council meeting in (March). The matter is now being investigated and a report and recommendations will be put to the July meeting of the ALIA General Council.*

### Retired members come together

A group of retired members of the Association in New South Wales meets regularly to discuss

professional and personal interests. A remark was made recently by one former librarian member that she no longer felt interested in maintaining her membership of the Association.

This has prompted me to write that our most recent gathering was in July 1996. Moya Frost, Anne Jack, Joy Jones, Joan Hansen, Jean Michaelides, Eve Ahearn, Barbara Johnson, Joan Humphreys and myself met in the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Sydney. Unhappily, one of our members, Joan Humphreys, died suddenly on 25 February in Melbourne.

**Shirley McGlynn, NSW**

## Your voice

**Your letters on any issue of relevance to the library and information sector are welcomed.**

All letters should be addressed to the *inCite* editor and may be e-mailed to [incite@alia.org.au](mailto:incite@alia.org.au), or faxed to 06 282 2249, or posted to: Your voice, ALIA, PO Box E441, Kingston ACT 2604. Please include your name and postal address with your letter or e-mail.

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