

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the **Australian Law Librarian**, the "new look" ALLG Newsletter. The Committee considered that the Victorians had developed the Newsletter so successfully that the time had come for us to present it as a journal rather than a newsletter. Tentative enquiries to the previous committee and others about a possible change of title were met with encouragement. I hope you like the new format.

Notwithstanding the change of title, I hasten to assure you all that the Committee remains very aware of the importance of up-to-date news. We shall do our best to include your notices and news as close to the date of printing as possible.

Turning to this issue, it is sad for me to have to feature an interview with Ted Glasson to mark his retirement. Ted and I have been in law libraries for much the same length of time. He made a most significant contribution to Australian law librarianship in the seventies with the Monash union lists. We have all relied on them, and his book on legal research, for many years, and still

do. His voice of reason, sound advice, and quiet achievements will be missed. Thank you Ted, for all you have done for us, and our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

This issue also features several articles on the Pacific. This is not a personal indulgence so much as a recognition of the need to broaden our horizons a little and to follow up on the Canberra Conference. I hope you enjoy the tales of our South Sea travellers and Peter MacSporran's interesting article on the law of Nauru. With the case against Australia proceeding in the International Court of Justice it is a topical piece on a subject that few know.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Victorian committee on the magnificent job they have done on the Newsletter over the last three years. In particular I would like to thank Fay O'Grady who has been so helpful and patient in assisting with the journal's transfer to Canberra.

JACQUELINE ELLIOTT – EDITOR

NATIONAL CONVENOR'S NOTES

In December, I took the opportunity provided by the ACT Division, to visit Canberra to meet local members and, most importantly, to follow up the ALLG discussions with the National Library.

The aim of the meeting at the National Library was to develop a co-operative climate in which to resolve some of the concerns raised at the meeting held in Adelaide in 1989, and develop an agenda for working together to achieve the policy expressed at that meeting. I spent several hours with Warren Horton and Jan Fullerton, the ADG in charge of collections and services, discussing ways in which both the National Library and the ALLG can move forward together in developing the national legal collection,

and services by which to access it. Eric Wainwright did not attend the meeting because he was overseas at the time.

One of the first areas for discussion concerned recognition of the status of the ALLG as a national organisation. It was made clear that our work since the Adelaide conference in consolidating a national profile of the ALLG as a cohesive organisation with a more formal structure has had considerable impact on the way in which we are recognised by the National Librarian. He was keen to resume discussions with the ALLG and has been monitoring our developments in a variety of ways, including regular reading of the *Newsletter*.