

## EDITORIAL

Since the Conference on the Gold Coast will take place before the August issue is published this issue features some Queensland conference matters. The librarians at Bond and Griffith universities have contributed interesting articles on the administrative structure and functions of their libraries. These libraries will welcome library tours before or after the Conference and tours can be arranged by contacting the respective librarians in advance. Further information on the Conference attractions comes from Barbara Laffan, the Publicity Convenor, and Helen Routh has contributed a piece on the planning and structure of the law programme.

Queensland is always a popular location for a conference and the committee has worked hard to put on a varied programme. It was only six years ago that the Queensland law librarians staged an ALLG conference. We owe them a debt of gratitude for gathering their strength to host another one so soon. It will be good to

see as many law librarians as possible at the Gold Coast in August - plan your week in the sun now!

One of the most important items on the programme is the Annual General Meeting. With the rapid expansion of the ALLG business matters are becoming more complicated. Apart from electing a new convenor, members will have to discuss the organisation of the Group's finances within the wider context of finalising the Constitution. It will help if everyone is familiar with arrangements provided for the Group's funds in the new Constitution so try to have a look at these provisions before you come to the AGM.

Finally, for the law firm librarians in particular, the Sterling Committee of Sydney has contributed an interesting and detailed survey of their libraries and services.

JACQUELINE ELLIOTT - EDITOR

## NATIONAL CONVENOR'S NOTES

The Conference draws closer! This also means the next General Meeting is upon us and this issue of the *Australian Law Librarian* includes notice of the Agenda for that meeting.

Those members who wish to refresh their memories of the last AGM can check the minutes, which were published in the *ALLG Newsletter* No. 106, October 1991, p.147.

In addition to my report as National Convenor, I have asked for brief reports from four areas of activity of members, in special interest areas. Jacqui Elliott will survey recent changes from the *ALLG Newsletter* to the *Australian Law Librarian*. Fay O'Grady will talk about the development of the ALLG Publishers Liaison

Group. Terry Hutchinson will give an overview of the University Law Librarians' activities in the publication of Australian university law library standards. Lorraine Weinman will report on the Pacific Twins Project. I have not asked for State Convenors' reports as the activities of each Division are regularly reported in the *Australian Law Librarian*.

Business on Notice is focussed on consolidating our national identity, building on the collective achievements of the Group over the past two years. We have a formalised structure now, with a Constitution that provides a solid basis for further progress, although it still leaves room for issues to be discussed in at least three areas. These areas are:

### ***Incorporation***

With an increasing financial base, and as the Group moves to initiate and support activities of national interest, the desirability of incorporation must be debated and settled. Formal incorporation is certainly another bureaucratic process and one strength of the ALLG has been its ability to function cooperatively in an informal manner. However, the benefits of incorporation, at least to protect national office bearers, and at least the members' financial interests in the group, should be seriously considered.

### ***Conferences***

Consideration should also be given to the future planning of conferences. To date, our practice has been to organise a law component as part of the ALIA Specials Conference. The benefits of this have been obvious: support in organising potentially expensive venues and speakers; sufficient delegates to make the conference a viable venture; and the presentation of papers covering a wide range of areas. Balanced against these arguments for continuing with the present arrangements is the suggestion, first raised several years ago and echoed more recently by Betty Moys during the last conference, that the ALLG hold its own biennial gathering. We are now members of one of the largest associations of law librarians and it may well be that arguments for an independent gathering include: greater flexibility to develop law-related programmes, of particular importance

in this economic climate where justifying attendance at professional development activities to management is very much dependent on easily recognised relevance to the work environment; and potential to liaise with other related associations, for example our New Zealand colleagues, in offering members joint conferences.

### ***National Finances, National Projects***

Definition of what constitutes a "national project", and associated matters such as financial arrangements for funding and receiving funds raised from such projects, needs clarification. This is an important area for discussion as it will help to set a base for future planning.

Input into the General Meeting by all financial members is a valuable contribution to the operation of the ALLG. Members who wish to raise any other business are asked to register their interest with me, either in writing or by phone, before the Conference. Members who are unable to attend the Conference but wish to express their views on any of the items on the Agenda are also encouraged to contact me.

The success of this General Meeting will depend on the active and, as we have been strictly limited to a short meeting, constructive participation of those members in attendance, who will need to be bright and early and prepared!

**JANE PONTING - NATIONAL CONVENER**

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## **AUSTRALIAN LAW LIBRARIANS' GROUP**

**GENERAL MEETING 1993 • Wednesday 25 August 1993 • 8.00 a.m. - 9.00 a.m.**

### ***Agenda***

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the last General Meeting
  2. Reports:
    - 2.1 National Convener
    - 2.2 Australian Law Librarian
    - 2.3 Publishers Liaison Group
    - 2.4 University Law Librarians
    - 2.5 Pacific Twins Project
  3. Installation of National Convener
  4. Business on Notice
    - 4.1 Incorporation of the ALLG
    - 4.2 National Finances
    - 4.3 Conferences
    - 4.4 National Projects
  5. Other Business
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