

EDITORIAL

We were just testing Now we know. Law librarians are really children's librarians at heart: you ALL like colour pictures! We enjoyed hearing from you after the last issue. Thank you for your comments. We hope to repeat the colour theme some time but it is very expensive. We will have to keep you guessing as to the next occurrence.

Sadly we farewell our National Convenor, Jane Ponting, who has done a sterling job for the ALLG in the last two years. The issues have been hard but Jane has tackled them diplomatically and fairly with a lot of success. Although moving out of the familiar sphere of law libraries, Jane is sure to enjoy her new position at De La Salle College in Melbourne. I wish her well and thank her sincerely for all her hard work.

Turning to this issue, *Mabo* is the most topical legal matter in Australia today. We are fortunate to be able to present here two important contributions on the *Mabo* case, one by an Australian lawyer and the other by a visiting law lecturer from Harvard University. These papers are written to assist law librarians in finding material relevant to the issues in the *Mabo* case, and to indicate directions in research that may not have occurred to us. I hope you find them interesting and useful.

Finally, this issue contains a "Note to Contributors" concerning the style of presentation (disk, hard copy, etc.) of material to be published in *Australian Law Librarian*. It will lighten the workload considerably if all intending contributors observe these guidelines.

JACQUELINE ELLIOTT - EDITOR

NATIONAL CONVENOR'S NOTES

It is with mixed feelings that I write these notes, knowing they are written before the National AGM but that they will be published and received after we meet together in Queensland. However, this anomaly in timing does provide the opportunity to announce my retirement from the position of National Convenor.

During the past two years the Group has experienced a significant period of change on a national basis. A process was undergone during which we were able to forge a solid foundation for the ALLG as a nationally recognised, professional group. This was successful because it was achieved by consensus, with ideas, positive criticism and feedback received from every Division. The development of the ALLG Constitution was a slow process but it demonstrated that we can work together across

differences in law library environments and the difficulties of distance. We may not yet have a 'perfect' end-product, but the mechanisms for further improvement are solidly in place. At the end of June, copies of the Constitution were distributed to each local convenor and are available for members through their Division.

Other projects, previously reported in the *ALLG Newsletter* and the *Australian Law Librarian*, were also successful because of the co-operative efforts of members. Initiatives, such as the Publishers Liaison Group will become an important part of the ALLG if the same collaborative approach is continued. A balance that allows for strong local activities and support networks and an effective national voice is gradually being achieved. Because of this the ALLG has experienced an increase in its status