

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

and recognition as a national association. I strongly believe this has been achieved because of the active involvement of so many members, who have worked towards this goal as members of local teams and as interested individuals. Continued sharing of the concerns, and the work required to meet them, will maintain the dynamic profile that has always been a hallmark of the ALLG.

To this end the rotation of national positions works on several levels. New people bring fresh ideas and widening networks of colleagues. Scope is provided to show the library and law communities the range of expertise available in the membership of the ALLG. All members and Divisions can be encouraged to participate fully in a professional body which consistently works to improve the information environment in which they work.

So, finally, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the new ALLG National Convenor - Ruth Bird, whose nomination was unopposed. Ruth has managed the library at Arthur Robinson & Hedderwicks for several years and has been actively involved in the Victorian Division. She served on the Editorial Board of the *ALLG Newsletter* while it was based in Melbourne. Ruth's proven commitment to Australian law librarianship and her determination to develop further the national profile of the Group will make her a strong advocate and leader of the ALLG.

To Ruth, my very best wishes. I am sure of the warm support and ready assistance that you will receive and I look forward to watching your progress during the next term.

JANE PONTING - NATIONAL CONVENOR

Note to contributors

Australian LAW LIBRARIAN welcomes the contribution of articles and notes. Articles should be 1500 to 3000 words long and be accompanied by a passport photo of the author.

All material should be submitted on an IBM compatible disk of either size in MS-Word, Word Perfect or other major word-processing package. ASCII format is also acceptable. The disk should be accompanied by a hard copy, double-spaced, on A4 size paper.

Please use upper and lower case in headings and for spacing use the "TAB" function and not individual spaces. Contributors should follow the format of the current journal and contact the editor (fax (06) 273 2110, ph. (06) 270 6922) to obtain a copy of the *ALL* Style Guide. The editor would appreciate notice of pending contributions to assist in planning future issues. Acceptance and publication of contributions are at the discretion of the Editorial Committee.

Deadline dates are published in *Australian* LAW LIBRARIAN several times a year.

24 September Vol.1 no.5 (October 1993)

19 November Vol.1 no.6 (December 1993)