

EDITORIAL

This is a significant time in our history. This month the ALLG celebrates a very special occasion: the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Group. On 2 December 1969 the first general meeting of law librarians took place in Sydney. To mark the occasion in this issue of *Australian Law Librarian*, Rob Brian, one of the five founding members of the Group, has contributed a wonderfully researched article on the origins of the Group and its first meetings. All the old names are there, evoking the early days of the law library scene in Australia, and what energy they had! It is instructive to see the issues that such a small group of people decided to tackle straight away: a subject headings list, a directory, and matters relating to the teaching of law librarianship. Congratulations to everyone who was involved - we have much to thank you for!

To commemorate the founding of the Group, a dinner was held at Allen Allen & Hemsley's in Sydney on 24 November. Ruth Bird and the state convenors were among those attending and I am pleased that we have been able to include some late copy from Ruth so the occasion did not pass without a special write-up in the journal.

On another topic of interest, this issue includes the text of the Attorney-General, the Hon Michael Lavarch's, speech in Canberra on 13 November on the appointment of judges. With the vacancy occurring next April on the High Court when the Chief Justice, Sir Anthony Mason, retires, there is much discussion about judicial appointments in general. The Government's policy on court appointments is of interest to everyone and we welcome the Attorney-General's readiness to make the speech available here.

Professor Alex Castles has recently had published an important work for law librarians entitled *Annotated Bibliography of Printed Materials on Australian Law 1788-1900*, which Anne Twomey

reviews in her article. Early Australian legal bibliography is an area that has, to a large extent, been neglected. Professor Castles, well-known legal historian from the University of Adelaide, worked on the book for over ten years. It is gratifying to see the Law Book Company bring his efforts to the public after so long. The author spent many hours looking at archives in Sydney and Hobart, and unearthed a number of publications on law which were not commonly known. With the celebration of Federation only a few years away, the book is of particular significance for both librarians and historians. It not only identifies publications, but also provides interesting information on early Australian legal publishing. I particularly recommend the introductory chapters.

Everyone should have received a copy of the *Directory* by now. It is wonderful to have this to hand - I find I am using it several times a day. Congratulations to Ruth Bird and all involved in its production.

Finally, 1995 will see a few changes to the Committee of *Australian Law Librarian*. Julia Butler will not now be taking over the editing. I shall continue to be editor until December 1995. Julia has carried a considerable part of the efforts to publish the *ALL* which I, especially, have found so helpful. We shall all miss your enthusiastic contributions to our meetings. Julia, but enjoy your well-deserved long service leave! We are very pleased to welcome Judy Grant, Librarian, Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman, on to the Committee, as well as James Claremont from Attorney-General's Library. Karyn Gladwish has kindly agreed to help with the advertising.

Thank you to all our 1994 subscribers and advertisers, and happy Christmas.

JACQUELINE ELLIOTT - EDITOR