

and contributions, and to their employers for allowing them the time to participate. We were also delighted to be involved in the ALLG (NSW Division's) twenty-fifth anniversary dinner held at Allen Allen & Hemsley the previous night. It is a matter of great pride that our group has grown to be a recognised and effective national body from its inception as a small self help group in

Sydney in 1969. Two of the founders, Lynn Pollack and Rob Brian, were suitably feted on the evening.

Until next time, may I wish you all a happy, safe and relaxing festive season, and all the very best in 1995.

RUTH BIRD - NATIONAL CONVENER

LETTERS

A Note of Appreciation

The Editor has graciously agreed to my using the columns of the *Australian Law Librarian* to express my enormous debt of gratitude to all those responsible for their kind words at the Anniversary Dinner and for the magnificent crystal balls presented to Rob Brian and to me as mementos of our 25 years in the Group.

It seems strange to be honoured for the joy of sharing 25 years of friendship and mutual support with so many inspired and inspiring legal information specialists. I have deliberately not used the word law librarians as in the early days we were conscious that many of the most valued members of the Group were not librarians and we were keen to draw on their energies and experience. Many may not agree with me but I believe that the richness and the diversity of our membership stimulated a remarkable range of significant achievements given our lack of a formal constitution and lack of funding. I was delighted to see on Thursday night that that richness and diversity of membership still pertains and that the members of the Australian Law Librarians Group of today are as inspired and inspiring as their counterparts in the 1960s.

We received tremendous support from the publishers, from the Law Foundations and from our parent bodies in the early days of establishing the Group and, with Rob's extraordinary leadership and financial skills, miracles were achieved from an almost non-existent financial base. From the report of the 'trade fair' in Melbourne I can see that Rob's entrepreneurial skills are reflected in the current Executive and it is clear from their professional approach and

ingenuity that we can expect even greater achievements in the future.

It is a far cry from our first roneoed Newsletter in 1973 to the excellence of today's *Australian Law Librarian* and there have been innumerable dedicated Editors and their staff who have devoted hours and hours of their time and energy to produce what is, for most, a labour of love to bring forth what, for me, has always been and continues to be the one item I never put down until I have skimmed the contents the minute it arrives. As it stands today it is undoubtedly a top quality journal and those responsible should be very proud of their achievement. I look forward to the days, which is not too far away, when we will receive our copies over the Internet complete with the colour illustrations!!

The Internet, the reality of the distributed national collection and now the exciting developments planned by the joint venture between the National Library of New Zealand and the National Library of Australia offer incredible opportunities for the future which add a whole new dimension to the fellowship we have built up through the *Australian Law Librarians Group* and through our association with the *International Association of Law Libraries*, I envy those of you who are just embarking on your careers and I will watch with endless fascination what I know will be the outstanding achievements in the future in this exciting and rewarding profession where every day brings new challenges and new ideas.

Thank you for your kind thoughts, your good wishes and for my treasured crystal ball. The pleasure has been all mine!

Lynn Pollack

Law Courts Library, Sydney



Two founding members of the ALLG, Lynn Pollack and Rob Brian



Jacqui Elliott and Ruth Bird



Margaret McAleese, Josie Taylor, Jeanmine Goasdue, Colin Fong, John Rodwell and Julia Butler in a happy mood at the dinner



Prue Jessep presenting a gift to Lynn Pollack as a founder of the ALLG



Lyn Pollack, Phil Murphy, Rob Brian and John Rodwell



Ruth Bird, National Convenor, with Julia Butler