

EDITORIAL

With the Conference over and everyone back at work the ALLG has a new National Convenor in Anne Gardner of Minter Ellison in Perth. Congratulations to Anne, and our gratitude for your willingness to take on the task of steering the ALLG for the next few years. Anne's position in Western Australia will complement the move of the *Australian Law Librarian* to Adelaide at the end of the year. Geographical proximity has its advantages when one is trying to finalise copy.

The Conference in Sydney seemed from my brief attendance to be a great success. It was very well organised and I particularly admired the visual effects in the auditorium which made the speakers so much more interesting. The law dinner was wonderful and what an inspired choice for an after-dinner speaker!

One recent change, of course, has been Lynn Pollack's retirement after 20 years in charge of the Law Courts Library in Sydney. With Lynn's departure a great reservoir of knowledge and experience has gone from the workplace. My telephone is silent after so many years of exchanged calls. Lynn, however, is enjoying the

freedom of being able to pursue knowledge in a variety of fields. Before she left she kindly consented to give *ALL* an interview. I am sure everyone will benefit from her wise words on law librarianship, and court librarianship in particular.

The Internet continues to change the face of information provision for librarians. Law reports are becoming increasingly available in electronic form. The High Court of Australia judgments, for example, are now available in full text from 1950 on AustLII. In this issue several authors look at "state of the art" law on the Internet and how to find it. Although the latter topic has been discussed before, developments are occurring so fast that it seems appropriate to have an update.

Finally, sincere thanks for all her work to Pauline Downing of the High Court Library, who has gone on maternity leave till February. Since Canberra took over the journal in 1993 Pauline has been on the Committee and has helped in a lot of ways, including compiling several columns, and assisting with the proof-reading. We shall miss her for the last issue.

JACQUELINE ELLIOTT - EDITOR

NATIONAL CONVENOR'S NOTES



Outgoing Convenor

I would like to, on behalf of the ALLG, thank Ruth Bird for her work as National Convenor over the past two years. Anyone who has had personal contact

with Ruth during this time, would know the amount of energy and enthusiasm she has put into this role. Even when her career took her in a

different direction, Ruth continued her commitment to the ALLG and her presence in our profession will be sorely missed.

Ruth has been an outstanding convenor, regularly communicating with the state convenors, and with all members through her column in the *Australian Law Librarian*. She has addressed all the issues relevant to the ALLG and ably acted as a representative for law librarians with other professional bodies such as ALIA, the National Library and ACLIS.

And Introducing . . .

As the new National Convenor, I for one am certainly going to find Ruth's shoes very hard to fill. For those of you who don't know me, I thought it might be appropriate to tell you a little bit about myself. I have worked in libraries for almost my entire adult life, beginning as a library clerk at Murdoch University when I started my degree there. After finishing my studies, my first professional position was in Cataloguing at the University of Western Australia. Despite the lack of glamour cataloguing seems to hold for librarians, I found it an excellent grounding for all the positions I've held since.

I sort of fell into law a few years later - a change of direction I have never regretted. Not only have I enjoyed working in a university law library with academics and law students, but also the demands I now find working in a private law firm continue to stimulate and challenge me. My professional interests include legal education and training, mentoring of young professionals, and broadening the public perception of librarians' capabilities. On a more personal note my passions are gardening, eating, shopping, antiques, tap-dancing and my three Burmese cats!

Synergy in Sydney

Having just returned from the 6th Asian Pacific Specials, Health and Law Librarians' Conference in Sydney, I once again feel energised and enthused not only from the formal sessions but more importantly from the collegial networking that is an essential part of conferencing. It was wonderful to see so many law librarians from all around Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific gathered together.

Congratulations to the Conference Organising Committee for putting together a professional and successful conference. Like preparing a good

meal, it is amazing how something that would have taken so much planning and hard work can be over in such a short time. I'm sure all those who attended appreciated the amount of effort that went into organising the speakers, the trade exhibits and the social events. A highlight for me was the Law Dinner at the New South Wales Parliament - a lovely location and a great night!

I felt that this conference once again challenged the role librarians should play in our rapidly changing technological environment. We were invited to take up the marketing role, the litigation support role, and the information technology role - all areas in which we are more than capable of being successful. Much of this challenge lies not so much in changing what we do, but changing the perception of what we do. Beatrice Doran's address highlighted some of the marketing initiatives librarians should be undertaking. None of what she said was particularly new to most of us - marketing has just become the latest way of describing this aspect of the librarian's role. The same could be said for litigation support which is really about organising information in a logical way. As for information technology, I strongly believe that librarians should be at the forefront as we have the clearest understanding of information and the way it is organised.

National Treasurer

One of the things I omitted to announce at the AGM in Sydney was the identity of the new National Treasurer. Marie Luffman, who is the Law Librarian at the WA Bar Association, has agreed to take on this role. Marie is already treasurer for the ALLG (WA Branch) and is also the treasurer for the 1997 Conference so she will have her work cut out for her. Congratulations and thank you to Marie for being willing to take on this task.

ANNE GARDNER - NATIONAL CONVENOR