

### ***VILLANS Underway..... Planning the Inaugural Victorian Law Librarians Symposium***

---

In August 1995 six Victorian law librarians decided to follow up the enthusiasm for a special law librarians conference generated by "Synergy in Sydney". The national ALLG had endorsed Victoria's wish to pursue the idea of a law symposium to be held in the alternative years between the Specials' Conference. All it required was for someone to take up the challenge - and so VILLANS was born.

VILLANS is one of those acronyms loved by librarians - it stands for Victorian Law Librarians Symposium - and seemed less formal than "Steering Committee". The VILLANS are James Butler (convenor & venue organiser); Jenny Wood (social convenor); Brenda Currie (secretary and trade display); Petal Kinder (treasurer); Ann Wootton (ALLG link & publicity); and Ruth Bird (program organiser)

Our meetings have been numerous and fruitful - we now meet every fortnight on Friday mornings over a 7.30 breakfast (how's that for dedication??). In our eleven meetings so far we have arranged our dates (3 & 4 Oct 1996), venue (Trinity College at Melbourne Uni), program, extent of trade display, and, most importantly, the dinner!

We've had fun discussing the myriad of issues which arise in planning such a symposium, and have been heartened by the very positive response from potential speakers, as well as the trade. We are concentrating on a program which has four interrelated elements - emerging information

platforms; workplace issues; legal issues and management issues. By offering flexible registration options we hope to attract a wide range of delegates for single sessions through to those attending both days.

By now you will have received a flyer about the Symposium. If you would like to know more, please contact Ann Wootton on (03) 9619 0771 - we're keen to take on board any ideas or suggestions from colleagues, and hope that some of you from interstate will be able to attend the Symposium.

**RUTH BIRD**

University of Melbourne Law Library

---

### ***ALTA CONFERENCE***

#### ***Diminished Responsibility? The Changing Role of the State***

---

This is the theme of the annual conference of the Australasian Law Teachers' Association which is being hosted by Flinders University Law School in Adelaide from 10-13 July 1996.

A range of plenary sessions will examine how the 1980's and 1990's have seen conflicting pressures placed on legislators, judges and other policy makers. On one hand in provision of services to the community and the determination of employment conditions there are calls for privatisation, deregulation and "smaller government". On the other hand the state is under increasing pressure to raise both the level and effectiveness of regulation so as to enforce a

higher standard of justice or morality in commercial dealings. In cases such as accommodating Aboriginal laws and beliefs or alternative sexual preferences the challenge for the State is how to be inclusive without simply demanding conformity to "mainstream" values.

A panel of speakers from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA will debate these issues.

Special Interest Group Sessions are also a feature of the Conference. Two SIGs which are of interest are Legal Research and Communications and Law Librarians, Terry Hutchinson of Queensland University of Technology is the National Convenor of this group, Nicholas Pengelley of Monash University is National Convenor of the latter group. He has arranged sessions on standards and statistics in university law libraries. There will also be a discussion session on electronic developments.

The plenary sessions of the Conference will be held at Adelaide Convention Centre on 11 July and 13 July, whilst the interest group sessions will take place at Flinders University on 12 July.

Looking to social matters, the Conference Banquet will be held at the Hyatt International on Thursday 11 July followed by a wine tasting and what promises to be a memorable Publishers' Dinner on Friday 12 July at Hardys Reynella Winery in the Southern Vales. Transport to and from Flinders University and Hardys Winery will be provided.

#### **HELEN CULSHAW**

Co-Convenor Law Librarians' Special Interest Groups

---

### ***Canadian Job Exchange***

If you are a highly experienced law librarian and are interested in a job exchange in Canada during late 1996, please contact Barbara Coat, Editorial Co-ordinator ALL, Ph: (08) 202 8414, Fax: (08) 202 8410, Email: bpcoat@camtech.com.au

### ***Types and Quality of Titles Issued by Legal Publishers in Australia - Call for Papers***

---

Margaret Maes Axtmann, Assistant Director of Collections and Technical Services, University of Minnesota Law Library, email: m\_axtm@maroon.tc.umn.edu, recently posted a notice on the **anz-law-librarians-one@uow.edu.au** Internet emailing address asking for a good source of information on the various legal publishers in Australia and New Zealand.

To our knowledge, there has been no article produced on all of our publishers and their specialities. We would greatly appreciate one of members volunteering to produce an article on this topic for the next issue of the Australian Law Librarian. If you are interested in producing an article on this topic or know of someone who may be, please contact, Barbara Coat, Editorial Co-ordinator ALL Ph: (08) 202 8414, Fax (08) 202 8410, Email: bpcoat@camtech.com.au

### ***Flinders Journal of Law Reform***

---

The first issue of the *Flinders Journal of Law Reform* was published in February 1996. The journal of the Flinders University Law School, South Australia will be published twice a year. It will contain articles on law reform in its broadest sense. Reform in areas including children and law, sentencing, mental health and consumer credit are discussed in the first issue. Articles on drug law and unfair dismissal are also included. If you require further information on this journal please contact Helen Culshaw, Law Librarian, Flinders University of South Australia Ph: (08) 201 3581, Fax: (08) 201 2508 or Email: lihc@pippin.cc.flinders.edu.au

## *A Newsletter for Law Indexers*

---

Special indexers tend to be found in ones and twos, geographically scattered throughout their countries. While law indexers within a particular jurisdiction may be able to get together occasionally at general indexing conferences, there is little chance of their being able to hold meetings on other occasions. Therefore, the circulation of a newsletter is the best way for law indexers to keep in touch with each other

But why should togetherness be confined to any single jurisdiction? There are, of course, many differences in the details of legal publishing around the English-speaking world, but we have representatives from several jurisdictions:

United Kingdom     Elizabeth Moys  
                                 (editor in chief)

Australia             Garry Cousins

United States         Kate Mertes

We hope a Canadian representative will also join the editorial team soon. The first issue, due in April 1996, will include two short articles: one from a new indexer, who has been working in law offices as a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners; the other is the first part of an open letter to aspiring lawyers and indexers, containing firm advice to undertake a course of training in indexing. There is also a semi-comic piece from a well-known barrister-indexer about his experiences with a rather unconventional Swiss professor and the index he commissioned, and a letter on the problem of whether to use the singular or plural in the main headings of law indexes.

The newsletter is emphatically not intended to be a forum for complaints against publishers (though some might be acceptable). Publishers are invited to join in and make their own contributions to the discussions, as are lawyers, law teachers and librarians.

*Brief Entry* aims to publish twice a year, in the autumn and spring. The first issue will be distributed gratis and subsequent issues will be available for \$7.50 each (annual subscription \$15.00), mainly to cover production and mailing costs

Available from:     Garry Cousins  
                                 2/27 Whatmore Street  
                                 Waverton NSW 2060  
                                 Tel/fax (02) 9955 1525

---