

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editors,

I would like to respond to Yvonne Butler's comments on page 40 of the *Australian Law Librarian* of March, 1998, in relation to our relations with the New Zealand Group.

I attended one of the conferences held by the New Zealand Law Librarians Group when I was National Convenor, in 1994 or 1995. It was an excellent conference, and I was so impressed by the organisation, the themes and the enthusiasm of the audience and the trade, that on my return I canvassed my colleagues in Victoria to investigate the possibility of emulating the style here in Australia.

Along the way there had been decisions taken at the 1993 AGM, and again the 1995 AGM (held at the Asia Pacific Specials, Law and Health Conferences) that we (ie, the ALLG) should pursue a conference independently of the existing conference. There was a survey of members conducted, with inconclusive results, with half of the respondents wanting a total break, and the rest wanting both – a big joint conference, and a smaller, more focused symposium style conference in alternate years.

We held informal discussions with several New Zealand colleagues, including the organisers of this year's New Zealand conference, about the possibility of a joint conference this year. However, the timing was set for the New Zealanders – Feb, 1998. Although the Victorian organisers of this year's symposium had not set the date for 1998 at the time of our discussions with New Zealand, we were concerned that a February conference which followed on so closely to the On the Edge conference in Perth would not be practical for many of our members.

I agree wholeheartedly with Yvonne that we should pursue a joint conference. I would favour the idea of holding such a conference in the year 2000, (which would be the time for another Symposium) and would encourage members on both sides of the Tasman to

give serious consideration to this idea. The Villans group (ie, the current organisers of the Symposium) have decided to retire from conference organising at the conclusion of this year's efforts, and are happy for the mantle to pass to others.

If the new organisers could determine a time of the year which would be agreeable to both the Australian and New Zealand Groups, then I know that I, for one, would certainly support a joint conference. The Symposium has shown us that we can get 220 enthusiastic supporters for 2 days in Melbourne, so combining with NZ would swell the numbers to a very viable total. As an aside, the Canadian LL conference attracts 200-300, and when I was at BIALL last year I was surprised to see that their numbers are not much higher.

So it's not that we haven't wanted to work together – it's that our timing has never been right. But early planning would overcome this obstacle, and could see us attending a joint conference in a couple of years.

Regards,

Ruth Bird

Law Librarian

University of Melbourne

Prue Jessep had some useful information about the New South Wales Parliament's Home Page to supplement the details provided in the Online and Ondisc column in the March issue of the *Australian Law Librarian*.

Dear Editors,

On page 48, under NSW you have given the Parliament's Home Page and stated that although there is an index to Hansard, there is no search facility.

In fact, because the index is on Acrobat Reader, the usual search mechanism, using the toolbar with the binoculars, works in searching the long index. I have asked Hansard to state more clearly what each index

heading refers to, but they haven't done anything yet. So for your information, an example under Aboriginal Reconciliation – m 8707-LA1505 – indicates a motion on p8707 of the 15th May 1997 (if you are in the 1997 index)

Once you have identified the day, you can go to full text for that day, also on Acrobat and find 8707 via the binoculars. Remember also that you need to click on the binoculars for find again after you have found the first hit

I hope this will help you to search that Hansard for which there are indexes

With kind regards,

Prue Jessep

New South Wales Parliamentary Library

The *Australian Law Librarians' Group* thanks **LBC Information Services**

for

sponsoring an **Australian law librarian's** attendance

at the

1998 AALL/BIALL/CALL Joint Study Institute

and the

Annual BIALL conference

to be held in the **UK** in September