

EDITORIAL

As everyone knows, 1999 is the thirtieth anniversary of the Australian Law Librarians' Group. **Dick Finlay**, Law Librarian, University of Adelaide, has provided us with a potted history of this period of the Group's existence. Thank you very much, Dick.

Dick's article caused me to reflect that the profession of librarianship has always encapsulated two important cultural values. One is the egalitarian nature of our society, the other is its democratic nature. In terms of democracy, the fact that our Group has existed so long and has been able to achieve so much is a living example of how democracy works and the power and importance of groups (lobby groups form an integral part of the democratic process usually being responsible for the initiation of policy and law making in the first instance). Looked at, at a most fundamental level, the Australian Law Librarians' Group is a vocal articulate group of professionals whose continuing strength lies in its ability to work cooperatively together. In terms of the egalitarian values of our culture being reflected in our group ethos, this is demonstrated by our mentoring ability and that we are not unnecessarily self promoting. Dick acknowledges that he may have missed out "important" people and describes how many projects were started by one lot of individuals and completed by others. This is our strength and the spirit that has enabled us to continue without being overly burdened by our own internal bureaucracy.

Libraries have been portrayed as a cornerstone of democracy, freedom of speech and all that. Although this might be changing in the days of user pays! It is reassuring though, to read about the significant role librarians are playing in the democratic process. In this issue, **Mary Anne Neilsen**, Law Information Specialist, Department of the Parliamentary Library, has written a fascinating article on the Bills Digest Services and the Parliamentary Library's Internet publishing program entitled "Access to the Law in Australia: the Commonwealth Parliamentary Library's contribution".

Dorothy Shea provides a summary of Law Forum from the very successful 8th Asia Pacific Specials, Health and Law Librarians' Conference held in Tasmania in August.

Continuing the mentoring theme my joint editorial co-ordinator, **Joanna Fear** has written an excellent article on Moys which, I feel sure, will guide future generations of law librarians as they grapple with the intricacies of this classification scheme. **Colin Fong** has also provided us with an exhaustive coverage of taxation resources and how to find them in Australia. This article is very useful and topical for those of us involved in university research projects.

Vanessa O'Meara provides an insight into her experience as a law librarian in the UK.

This is the final issue for the Queensland Group, and as I said in Hobart, it has been a bit like having children – demanding, exhausting, challenging (I could go on) but incredibly rewarding. There are many people to thank – again too numerous to mention. We have met our Perth colleagues – Helen Wallace is the new Editorial Co-ordinator and Anne Gardner the Business Manager. We wish them both well and will be giving them every assistance possible.

I would like to thank the column co-ordinators who are unsung hero/heroines sometimes, particularly those who provide column co-ordination irrespective of which state has editorial responsibility – Jacqui Elliott is a prime example. Also it has been great to have Greig Williams from Victoria (ably substituted by Clare Capper from Queensland during Greig's brief stint overseas). Having co-ordinators from other states helps to create a feeling of joint ownership.

Finally to all those people in Brisbane who have provided their input and labour over the past two years – a great debt of gratitude is owed to you.

So, Western Australia, you follow a great tradition of committed, enthusiastic, hard-working people who belong to a Group now spanning thirty years.

Catherine Crawford
Joint Editorial Co-ordinator