

NATIONAL CONVENOR'S NOTES



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Conference Scholarship Program

The BIALL 31st Annual Study Conference and Exhibition Scholarship has been awarded to **Michelle Bendall** from the Supreme Court Library in Victoria. Entitled 'Managing or Just Managing' the Conference is being held in Bristol, England from 9th to 12th June 2000.

The field of candidates who applied for the scholarship was outstanding, which made for a very difficult decision for the selection committee. The committee wish Michelle the very best for an inspiring conference; she will make an excellent ambassador for the ALLG, and will go far in cementing our international relationships.

Symposium News

As I write this column, the 2000 Australian Law Librarians Symposium is looming large

on the horizon. The organising committee, along with some dedicated recruits (for example Anne Gardner, the web-site coordinator) have been extremely busy, making sure that the symposium gets maximum exposure and that as much information as possible regarding it is disseminated as widely as possible.

I am sure that law librarians will be as supportive of the fourth symposium as they have been this year. It will be organised in 2002 by the Queensland ALLG.

Executive Meeting - 19 July 2000, Law Librarians Symposium

The Executive Committee meeting at the 2000 Law Librarians Symposium will discuss a number of issues including salary surveys, copyright issues, incorporation, the ANZ-list policies, conference and symposium funding policies, GST and a broad range of other issues. It is good to have the opportunity to meet in conjunction with the symposium.

Copyright issues

Last year, during debate in Federal Parliament on the *Copyright Amendment (Digital Agenda) Bill*, the ALLG in conjunction with ALIA put in a submission to the Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs (LACA), House of

Representatives, expressing some concerns we had about issues arising from the Bill. LACA prepared an Advisory Report on the *Copyright Amendment (Digital Agenda) Bill 1999*, which went to Parliament in relation to the Bill this year. The Bill has been delayed several times, and we have again been asked to lobby the Parliament in relation to the concerns we had initially, as there has been pressure not to make the changes we requested (and which the Committee also advised against making). Each Division has been asked to lobby members of Parliament, and on behalf of the National Group, the Executive has once again written expressing our concerns in hopes of having the issues overturned. The saga continues.

GST

We have had an advice about GST in relation to the ALLG; for the national group and the state divisions, the symposium and conference funds, and for the *Australian Law Librarian*. When we have gathered more information on the accounting side of the Group, we will take whatever action is deemed to be necessary to comply with the law.

International profile

In 1999 ALLG became a member of the annual Joint Study Institute, being held this year in New Haven, Connecticut. **Vanessa O'Meara** from NSW Law Courts Library is attending the 2000 JSI and will be the official ALLG representative.

Since I started my term as Convenor, has become affiliated with the Special Libraries Association, Legal and is in the process of doing the same. The Canadian Association of Law Librarians is also a member of the International Association of Law Libraries, and, while on hold for the symposium, I will be attending the Annual Study Course in Law Librarianship entitled 'A Common Law for Europe: Systems and Legal Information' which will be held in Dublin 20-24 August.

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