

News from the Divisions

ACT BRANCH

Recruitment dinner

'Why be an April fool? Don't miss out on joining the Library Association of Australia.' A slogan along these lines was developed and posters distributed to libraries in the ACT, inviting members to bring a non-member to the ACT Branch recruitment dinner held on April Fool's Day in the Readers Lounge of the National Library of Australia.

The security attendants at the library had never seen anything quite like it before. Balloons and a fool-mobile arrived, followed by curries, enormous bowls of rice, jellies and fools (old English desserts) and three kinds of liquid refreshments. The garish jellies and the LAAmington HQ (built from vividly coloured lamingtons) were by far the most admired culinary works of art.

The Pie in the Sky (PITS) Theatre company sent Charlotte along as the jester. Fortunately for the security attendants' general state of health she changed into her costume after arriving in the building.

Susan Acutt, LAA Executive Director, was the guest speaker and gave a convincing address on the professional and economic benefits to be derived from membership of the Association. The dinner was attended by more than 60 people, a good proportion being non-members. The ACT Branch looks forward to seeing their names on the next membership printout.

Linda Beveridge
General Councillor-at-large.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES SECTION – NSW GROUP

The Annual General Meeting of the NSW School Libraries Section of the LAA was held on 23 February 1982 at Tempe Public School. Forty-three members of the section were present to take part in a brief general business meeting, to meet the members of the 1982 committee and to hear reports from our 1981 and 1982 Presidents.

The highlight of the meeting was a talk and slide presentation from Mr Nick Van Exter, Senior Government Architect, who has a particular interest in school libraries. Mr Van Exter showed slides of the exterior and interior of several new schools and explained the rationale for the position of the library within the school. He has worked closely with the Education Department Building and Research Group and is obviously convinced that libraries should be the focal point in schools.

Mr Van Exter was responsible for the development of the 'Homestead' library which has been used extensively in primary schools. He showed how the interior of these homestead libraries could be furnished and decorated to suit the needs of particular schools and locations. It was pleasing to see how, in spite of pressures for the production of purely functional buildings, the architects believe in the importance of atmosphere and aesthetics.

NSW BRANCH

The Editor of the *Australian Library Journal*, John Levett, was the guest speaker at the NSW Branch's Annual General Meeting in the Galleries of the State Library of New South Wales on 25 March, 1982.

In a lively and thoughtful address, Mr Levett traced the development and evolution of the *ALJ* and compared it with its counterparts from Library Associations of other countries. He discussed its editorial persuasion under successive editors and the manifestations of this not only in content, but frequency, format and appearance. This was followed by an evaluation of the present arrangement, with *ALJ* appearing quarterly and *InCite* issued fortnightly as a news and information publication.

One of the problems confronting the editor of a journal which is received by right of membership, is that of ascertaining how many of its potential readers actually read it. With journals to which separate subscriptions are required this can be more directly assessed. Mr Levett indicated that comments and criticism (and praise) of any aspect of *ALJ* are always welcome. He wondered, too, how many members read the *Journal's* editorial.

The majority of articles submitted to, and therefore, published in the *Journal* are of a report nature . . . 'How we do this in our Library' and so on. Mr Levett claimed that the profession requires that its members review current trends and practices and contemplate future paths of development. He regretted, however, the dearth of articles initiating new concepts in the profession as a whole and quoted MacLaughlin and Trahn's paper on job sharing as an example of this.

Mr Levett examined the relationship between the editor of *ALJ* and the Editorial Board, saying in conclusion that relations in general are harmonious. Some members of the audience, however, voiced their reservations about the need for an editorial board.

It was a thoughtful, thoroughly-researched, often provocative paper to which this summary does not do justice. The AGM was well attended by over fifty NSW Branch members and guests, who considered themselves fortunate to have been treated to such an excellent address.

NSW SPECIAL LIBRARY SECTION

The NSW Special Library Section meeting on continuing education held in the Dixon Galleries on 23 March was attended by a small number of members who benefited from the 'soiree' form and its consequent ease of interaction with the speakers – Carmel Maguire, Mel Weinstock, Marilyn Bryce and Mairead Browne.

Points discussed were the need of educators for feed-back from graduates in practice, the economics of costing courses, the acceptance and recognition of continuing education by employers, the concept of continuing education as an essential part of professional life.

'Specials' present particular problems with their wide ranging areas of interest and small units of staff where LAA programs must have a broad appeal.

Suggested approaches were the formation of discussion groups, audio and video packages, attendance at special units 'lifted out' from library school courses.

The meeting concluded that lip-service was paid to continuing education. It is important but institutions receive no support to provide it.

Joan Parker

LAA 22 continued from page 2

of activities would not be attempted, but children would be suitably occupied. Staff-child ratios would comply with child-care regulations.

Again staff costs for this would be met by participating parents on a share basis.

Delegates who wish to use either of these services should notify the Conference Organiser, Mrs Muriel Ellis, 81 Fullarton Road, Kent Town 5067 giving projected details of times care may be needed and the ages of children involved as soon as possible, but *no later than the end of July* so that preliminary arrangements can be made. Final details will need to be confirmed immediately before the Conference begins.



John Cook who will conduct one of the parallel sessions 'Children, information and new techniques' with Bob Miller.

Library Technicians and LAA22

Technicians will find many sessions to attract them. Special studies have been requested on the following subjects:

- 1) Automated cataloguing systems – Monday 23 August 2-4pm
- 2) Middle level management problems in libraries: how to recognise and resolve them – Tuesday 24 August 2-4pm
- 3) Library statistics: planning and collection – Thursday 26 August 11.15am-12.30pm.

It is difficult to select just a few items but the following sessions will probably be of interest to a large number of technicians and may also be good 'material gatherers' for those who are still studying.

- 1) Monday 23 August
 - a) Bibliographic and information networks for Australia
 - b) Library and information work: the employment situation
 - c) Joint use Libraries.
- 2) Tuesday 24 August
 - a) Children, information and new technologies
 - b) Censorship
 - c) Telecommunications
- 3) Wednesday 25 August
 - a) One bibliographic data base for Australia?
 - b) Challenges in childrens books
 - c) Community information networks
 - d) On-line access public catalogues and reader services.
- 4) Thursday 26 August
 - a) Library services in a multicultural society
 - b) Copyright
 - c) New learning resources: educational technology and the librarian
 - d) Staff roles in the '80s.

There will also be a dinner, an AGM and no doubt several impromptu lunches, theatre parties, tours etc, as well as the organised ones.

Reports on LAA22 from Anne Hazell, Julie Dow and Nancy Stanelis.