

TIP-OFF: News from the Executive Director

WHILST DISCUSSION ABOUT the location of LAA Headquarters dares not die I sometimes wonder about the validity of this pastime. It is true that the Association maintains a physical presence in one centre but this is far from the truth as far as the professional staff are concerned. In April and May the Industrial Officer and I have spent more than 25 per cent of our time outside Sydney, not to mention the heavy schedule of the President.

Very recently I spent five days in Victoria on what I call a 'meet the members' campaign. I guess recruitment is the word which springs to most people's minds, but I would rather be more subtle than say that I am visiting Victoria to recruit – the connotations are numerous!

Such visits are generally physically and mentally exhausting, not to mention the strain placed on the stomach by the constant

desire of all hosts to wine and dine one. I think it is an attempt to dull the senses so that some well-kept secret about the LAA might become unleashed!

In all seriousness though, the value of meeting a wide range of members and non-members in the profession is considerable. I was able to speak to and with students at Monash, RMIT, Melbourne State College and Ballarat CAE, some of whom knew little of what the LAA was all about. There were numerous penetrating questions, a pleasant change from – why isn't the LAA a trade union?

Visiting libraries and meeting staff in their home territory always promotes a range of questions or accusations not usually forthcoming at general meetings. While the subject of fees often arises, many people are genuinely more interested in what the LAA is doing in specific areas. This once again

boils down to a communication problem, but then, how can we communicate with non-members?

The week would not have been complete without a visit to the Ballarat and Gippsland Regional Groups. Evening meetings of both groups were well attended, illustrating that the LAA is alive and well in country areas. It is very important that we keep in perspective our obligation to these groups. This is particularly well supported in 1982 by the hosting of two travelling workshops in country areas.

The Victorian Branch is to be congratulated for organising such a well-planned itinerary – meaning there was not a spare minute before 10.30 pm on most days. I believe that every minute was well spent and hope the recipients of this subtle exercise feel the same way.

Susan Acutt
Executive Director

Report on Meeting of Education Board

THE BOARD OF Education held its first meeting for the year in late March. This report outlines some of the main items considered by the Board.

Recognition of courses in librarianship

General Council has accepted the recommendation of the Board that the Master of Arts offered by the Graduate School of Librarianship, Monash University, be recognised subject to the normal requirements of annual reporting and reinspection at least once every seven years.

The Board advised Council that the Graduate diploma in Teacher-Librarianship offered by the School of Education, Ballarat College of Advanced Education, does not meet the requirements set out in the *Statement on the recognition of courses in librarianship*.

Professional courses at the University of Tasmania and Ballarat CAE (Department of Librarianship) and library technician courses in New South Wales, Tasmania, Queensland and Western Australia, are to be assessed this year. Proposed visits to Melbourne State College and South Australian CAE are likely to be rescheduled pending further advice about possible college amalgamations.

The Convener of the Course Recognition Committee is preparing a paper on limited periods of recognition (ie less than the maximum 7-year period) for consideration by the Board.

Committee of Inquiry into the Recognition of Overseas Qualifications

On the Association's behalf Miss Doreen Goodman has prepared a submission to this inquiry. Interested members may obtain a copy of the submission from the LAA office.

ASTEC Technological Change Committee

In 1981 the Australian Science and Technology Council formed a standing committee to review technological change in Australia and overseas. The Board has established a

working group to gather ideas for a submission to the committee.

Any member who would like to contribute ideas or comments should contact John Levett, c/- School of Librarianship, University of Tasmania.

Library technician education

A joint recommendation of the NSW & Victorian Branches and the Riverina Regional Group asked the Board to encourage the development of external courses for library technicians, and the production of guidelines for fieldwork programs.

Ian Miller is to prepare a paper on the feasibility of teaching technician courses externally. The Board believes that it is the responsibility of the library schools to produce guidelines for work experience programs, but that divisions might take up the matter with employers.

Regional work experience

While overseas recently the Deputy Chairman, Mrs Trask, visited both the ALA and Library Association offices, and collected a good deal of literature and many ideas about topics relevant to the Board.

One area of particular interest was the work experience program being introduced in the UK for chartered librarians. Mrs Trask is to prepare a more detailed report for the Board's consideration.

Retirement of Chairman and members of Board

After six years as a member of the Board, including three years as Convener of the Course Recognition Committee and two years as chairman, Mr Flowers retired on 30 April.

During his term of office he gave new direction to the Association's role in course recognition, championed the development of library technician education, and encouraged the Board to consider a wider range of issues relating to education for librarianship.

John Cook, Ian Miller and Ira Raymond were also completing terms as Board members, and the Board expressed its appreciation and thanks for their contributions.

Sue Phillips
Assistant Executive Director

The gen on ISBN

THE STANDARDS ASSOCIATION of Australia has published a standard dealing with international standard book numbering (ISBN).

AS 1519 which is based on the international standard ISO 2108, issued by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), was prepared at the request of the National Library to formalize its work as an ISBN agency. This standard will eliminate any confusion regarding the allocation of ISBN numbering and meaning.

It applies to the construction of an international standard book number; the location of the printed number on the back; and the use of back numbers. Information regarding the control and administration of international standard book numbers, and facilities for participation by Australian publishers, is included in a number of appendices.

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