

LAA'S HALF CENTURY PLANS

The LAA:50 Committee established by the ACT Branch of the Association has now met five times, and plans to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary are well under way.

As the original dates chosen clashed with IFLA and Budget week, it was decided to change the dates to 3-4 September, 1987. The Canberra weather will be warmer then and the blossoms should be out!

The Committee is now employing a Secretary to cope with the increased workload. Margaret Thomson is working for us on a part-time basis. We are also using the ACT Branch Post Office box as our address. Please mark your envelopes clearly — LAA:50 Committee.

The following is a brief outline of what we have done so far, or what we hope to do:

1. Letters to major papers calling for photographs or reminiscences have caused a few people to contact us. We now seek, through *InCite*, your help. Please let us know if you have any stories to tell, or photographs to lend us.
2. Requests have been made for a special stamp to celebrate the occasion, as well as a first day cover.
3. An oral history programme is being developed, in the hope that the founders will be taped and photographed. Dr Maxine Rochester is co-ordinating this programme with staff from the National Library and the Canberra College of Advanced Education. A video is planned.
4. As the Association is a national body, and the anniversary should be celebrated throughout Australia, we have asked librarians in each State and Territory to co-ordinate celebrations in their State. When arrangements with coordinators have been finalised their names will be published in *InCite*.
5. The Committee is approaching library suppliers for sponsorship.
6. Two special publications are being planned. One will be written by Jean Whyte; the other by Harrison Bryan.
7. The following is a possible timetable for the celebrations:
Wednesday, 2 September 1987:
 Welcome to Canberra. Albert Hall. Buffet meal and cabaret by Canberra Philharmonic Society.
Thursday, 3 September 1987:
 a.m. — Conference to be opened. National Library Theatre.
 p.m. — Conference: Australian Library history, 1937-1987.
 8.00 p.m. — Dinner to inaugurate the Harold White Oration. Lakeside Hotel.
Friday, 4 September 1987:
 a.m. — Conference, the next 50 years.
 p.m. — Farewell function.
 At present, the Committee hopes that both the Prime Minister and the Governor-General will be participating in these proceedings; obviously, confirmations are not yet possible.
8. The programme is under discussion and further details will be published in due course.

The Committee: Members of the Committee are: Jenny Gleeson (Convenor), Judith Baskin, Pauline Haldane, Maxine Rochester, Gordon Bower, David Barron, John Brudenall, Peter Clayton, Warren Horton, Jenny Adams (ex officio). We want to hear from members of the Association so please write.

Jenny Gleeson
Convenor

OBITUARY

PATRICIA ANNE GILBERT



Patricia Anne Gilbert was born in Deloraine, Tasmania on 30 November 1934 and died in a motor accident near her home town on Sunday, 4 August 1985.

Pat Gilbert joined the State Library of Tasmania in 1960 and in her early years there she gained wide experience in public lending and reference library work, upon which she was able to build when in 1964 she became a librarian in the Division of External Services. Her day-to-day contacts with local council officers and representatives were important factors in the willingness with which local councils entered into the agreements underlying the Regional Library systems developed in the 1970s.

Pat played an important role during the 1960s and 70s in persuading local councils to upgrade library buildings and provide improved furniture and equipment. In the Division of External Services, Pat was also responsible for government departmental libraries, a job she took most seriously and extended into an interest in and enthusiasm for special library services in general.

With the establishment of a number of Regional Library systems during the 1970s, Pat was able to bring her considerable experience to bear, from 1974, as Divisional Librarian with responsibility for the remaining unregionalised parts of the State Library service, including the Hobart Lending Library, where she was able to prepare municipal councils for the regional groupings which they subsequently formed. During this period she worked with Barbara Sattler and others in the establishment of the Hear-a-Book scheme for the print-handicapped.

In December 1976, as Derwent Regional Librarian, Pat began what for her was the most satisfying period of her career, in which she took charge of the newly-created Derwent Regional Library, saw the region established in its new headquarters in 1979 and proceeded to develop a community library service which bears the stamp of her strong commitment to people as individuals with individual library needs.

She was the first chairman of the Tasmanian Advisory Committee on Library Services to the Disabled where she established standards, guidelines and plans for action.

Pat's prodigious energy and her highly developed sense of the ridiculous were well expressed in 1972 during a trip to Europe when, in a series of letters to staff she described an incredible number of ports of call with such comments as: 'I went to Vienna and managed to get a mass with the Vienna Boys' Choir and to a training session with the Lippinzer horses (I had to fight my way in but managed it thanks to my training in football grounds). The horses, as distinct from the people, were beautifully behaved.'

The State Library of Tasmania, State Library staff, and the people of this State have lost an invaluable employee, colleague and friend in the untimely death of Patricia Anne Gilbert.

W.L. Brown
State Librarian

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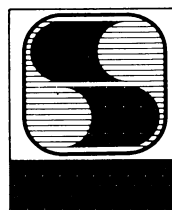
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