

ANZTLA Affairs



Kim Robinson, President of ANZTLA since 1997, chose not to stand for re-election. As I take over from him, I would like to acknowledge Kim's time as President and his continuing contribution to the Association. There are few people who have served the Association in so many capacities: Newsletter editor, ARI indexer and editor and President.

At this year's Annual General Meeting, the membership voted on some important changes for the Association, amongst which was a decision to become a company limited by guarantee under Australian Commonwealth Corporations law. The Executive has spent a good deal of time on this issue since the AGM, to ensure that we are fully informed of options and issues arising from this decision. We have also found a more cost-effective way of becoming incorporated than that notified at the AGM. As I write this, we are now in a position to move ahead with the process, including the drafting of an amended constitution for ANZTLA, which will take account the requirements of incorporation.

The AGM also approved the Executive setting up a sub committee to work on amending the constitution. This will proceed once we have a base document from the lawyer to work with.

The other major issue in process is the purchase by ANZTLA of the share of the Australasian Religion Index (ARI) data held by Charles Sturt University, and the development of new software to enable indexers to index directly on line, without further data input by another party. The terms of purchase have been agreed on, and once ANZTLA becomes incorporated as a Company, we will be in a position to proceed with the purchase. Much of the new software has been developed, and trials are underway. It is hoped that it will be ready for use by April 2002.

Lynn Pryor has notified her intention to relinquish the position of Editor of the *Newsletter* at the next AGM in July of this year. Please give thought to a possible replacement, and offer your services if you have an interest in this position. Stephen Connelly has resigned as the ANZTLA forum list administrator, and Jocelyn Morris (Luther Seminary) has taken on this role.

As advertised already, the 2002 conference will be held in Canberra, 4-7 July. The 2003 conference will take place in Perth, 10-13 July; this is an advance notice, to enable you to start thinking about the possibility of a mid-winter break in Western Australia.

Judith Bright
President