

ANZTLA AFFAIRS

By now, the 1988 conference seems a long way behind us and the 1989 conference almost upon us. In retrospect, many thanks to Peter Mendham and his staff at St Mark's Library for their efforts in organizing such a successful and enjoyable conference in such delightful surroundings.

In Canberra, we spent a lot of time on business matters, but there were some key issues and some far-reaching ones to be resolved. I was greatly impressed by the frank manner and the earnest level of the debate at times.

Regarding the Australasian Religion Index (ARI), we have "put our hands to the plough" and there can be no looking back! This project will call for the whole-hearted commitment of the association. Please begin (if you have not already done so) by sending your subscription (A\$30 members; A\$50 non-members) to James Henri, Centre for Information Studies, PO Box 588, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650. Then encourage other libraries also to subscribe. This is a publication which should be found in every major library, as well as all libraries with an interest in religion and/or theology. Dr Lawrence McIntosh and his editorial team in Melbourne have been very hard at work setting up guidelines, selecting journals and indexers, and now have the task well in hand.

Together with the minutes of the General Meeting, you will also have received the ANZTLA Standards, as finally adopted at Canberra. Don't forget to use this document when presenting a case to the administration of your institution for the improvement of library services and/or facilities. Use it also in working together with other libraries for a better combined library service. Many thanks to Lawrence McIntosh for his contribution also in this key area. As directed by the General Meeting, the Standards have been submitted to the General Council of the Australian Library and Information Association for endorsement.

Libraries which contributed holdings information to the 1983 edition of the *Australasian Union List of Serials in Theological*

Collections (AULOTS) will by now have been contacted with printouts for updating and will hopefully have submitted their updated data to Hans Arns, who now has the unenviable task of inputting the revised data and getting it published. If your library has missed out, you should check with Hans to see whether it is not too late to have your data included.

In recent months, I have become concerned about a trend among major public libraries (which enjoy public funding) to reduce their commitment to the acquisition of theological materials - meaning that the burden of supplying the theological information needs of the wider community is being left more and more to the theological libraries (which of course enjoy no public funding). I have written specifically to both the State Library of New South Wales and to the National Library of Australia regarding their policies in this area, because of recent reports about the collection development policies of both libraries. I have received courteous replies from both. Alison Crook (SLNSW) assures me that there has not been any change of policy for several years, but I nevertheless remain convinced that there has been a change of policy - perhaps a few more years ago than she is referring to! Eric Wainwright (NLA) assures me that my comments will receive due consideration in the current deliberations over the revision of the NLA collection development policy. Since both of these libraries are basing their policies and practices on use surveys (which have been published in *ABC News*), it would seem advisable to us to use these libraries as much as we possibly can for Inter-Library Loan purposes - to boost the statistics in the religion area.

Meanwhile, the next ANZTLA conference may be closer than you think - both in terms of time and of distance! Since the time of the conference has been altered from September to July, there will be only ten months between the 1988 and 1989 conferences. Our hosts at St. John's, Auckland, are well aware of this and are well advanced with planning; now is the time for us to commit ourselves to attending and making this a really memorable experience for our New Zealand members and colleagues.

Australian members may find that it is no more expensive to travel to Auckland than to travel to another Australian capital city. For the past few years, Qantas have been offering low-season specials which brought the cost of a Melbourne-Auckland return ticket below \$A400. Student Travel Australia have already had a special below that level. Remember also that you will need a passport!

Finally, if you know of people or libraries which might be interested in ANZTLA membership or subscription to the *Newsletter*, please make a personal approach to them; we will need them to balance out those which are about to be struck off for failure to pay their dues in 1988!

(Rev) Trevor Zweck,
President.

Editorial Note: Both Qantas and Air New Zealand are presently offering their winter special, Melbourne-Auckland return fare for minimum 6 nights out of Australia at \$449.

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NEWS

Rev Trevor Zweck, Librarian, Luther Seminary Library, North Adelaide, has received approval for a job exchange with Rev Dick Mentel, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio. His duties will include original and copy cataloguing on the new state-of-the-art OCLC system and some acquisitions and reference work. He will be in Columbus from August to January 1990-1991. Dick will come to Adelaide in July to familiarize himself with the library at Luther before Trevor departs. Both intend to undertake some studies while on exchange.

Rev Gary Gorman, Lecturer in Library and Information Studies, Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education, Wagga Wagga, is currently on sabbatical leave at Middleton, South Australia. He is doing research for a doctoral dissertation to be presented at University College, London (a division of the University of London). His topic of research is the information