

## FOURTH ANZTLA CONFERENCE HELD IN AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

"Ehara I Te mea  
No Inaianei te aroha  
No nga Tupuna  
Tuku iho tuku iho"  
("There is no better than the love  
From the ancestors  
Trickling down  
Trickling down")

With the singing of these words of an ancient Maori greeting, staff from St. John's/Trinity welcomed nine Australians and fourteen New Zealanders to the fourth conference of the Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association, held on the magnificent campus of the College of St. John the Evangelist, Auckland, 2-4 July, 1989. It was the first time the conference had been held in The Land of the Long White Cloud and constituted the biggest gathering of New Zealand theological librarians in history. As a sequel to the conference, they held a meeting to form the New Zealand chapter of ANZTLA.

The major emphasis of the conference was on reference work. The Reverend Harold Pidwell, Baptist Theological College of New Zealand, introduced the theme with "Reference from a user's point of view"; based on a survey of Auckland theological library users, it showed how regular library practices often place obstacles in the way of users. Coral Ridling, Auckland Public Library, brought a lifetime of astute library experience to her session on "The Reference Interview"; it emphasized that we dare never forget that patrons are people. Margaret Tibbles, Satis, Auckland, took up the highly specialized topic of "Telephone Reference Services"; she emphasized the need to get the question clear before beginning the search for the answer. A John Cleese Video helped to reinforce the message. Finally, Dr. Lawrence McIntosh, Joint Theological Library, Parkville, Victoria, presented a paper on "Reference Tools and their Evaluation"; pointing out the difference between a correct answer and a quality answer to a question, he talked from experience about the tools which will help one to arrive at the latter.

A final plenary session was devoted largely to sharing information on automated library systems; it showed that while many libraries are considering or even planning to automate, only three have so far taken the plunge. Opportunity was provided for hands-on investigation of the CATALIST system, developed in New Zealand and now installed in both St. John's and Baptist theological libraries in Auckland.

A visit to the Sylvia Ashton-Warner Library, Auckland Teachers College, offered new insights into user education, the use of CD-Rom technology, the processing and storage of audio-visual materials, and the newly-installed Dynix automated library system.

Social highlights of the conference included a sumptuous dinner, providing, among other culinary delights, a taste of New Zealand wine, and a visit to Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World, courtesy of Hills Library Information Service.

In the Annual General Meeting of the association, it was decided:

- to include all library staff in institutional membership;
- to hold the next conference at Pius XII Regional Seminary, Banyo, Queensland, 5-7 July, 1990;
- to add a day to future conferences for taking in something of the local environment;
- to retain membership and subscription fees at A\$20 and A\$15 and to make it possible for New Zealand members to remit fees to a New Zealand representative;
- to create an ANZTLA logo and letterhead.

Following the decision of the funding Secretary/Treasurer, Hans Arns, to step down from this position, the conference elected as his replacement Mrs. Val Canty, Parkin-Wesley Theological College, 20 King William Road, Wayville, SA, 5034, Australia. Mrs. Liz Jordan, Trinity Theological College, Auchenflower, Queensland, was elected as the Extra Member of the Executive for 1989/90. All other officers were re-elected, including the board and committee of the *Australasian Religion Index*, the first issue of which was being printed as the conference was in session.

(Rev.) Trevor Zweck,  
President, ANZTLA.