

Medical Librarians Section  
Victorian Group  
Newsletter  
May 83  
#2



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1983 programme

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| 31 May 1983 | Notice of meeting accompanies this newsletter.<br>Note change of date. |
| 4 Aug 1983  | General section meeting  |
| 18 Nov 1983 | Annual general meeting   |
| 8 Dec 1983  | Christmas party  |

News from your Executive Committee

In correspondence ... Dr Stephen Lock, Editor of the British Medical Journal, may visit Australia in 1984. We missed him on a recent visit, but will try to reserve a slice of his time next time ... We distribute the agenda of our general section meetings and the newsletter to the various state medical librarians sections, and in return have received minutes of meetings held by medical librarians in Western Australia and South Australia ... the New Zealand Health Libraries Section Newsletter for December 1982 contains items on the role of unions, medical data bank security, a health manpower resources publication, among others .

Reports from Victorian Branch Council ... at the meeting on 9 Feb 1983, it was carried that the LAA General Council be requested to support the creation of a Library Workforce Standing Committee; it was reported that an LAA General Council meeting will be held in Melbourne on 22/23 July ... at the meeting on 9 Mar 83, several motions were carried regarding the Trask paper on professional practice in librarianship; it was reported that a sub-committee is consulting on the status of women in the library profession ... a list of Branch Council members at March 1983 has been received.

Treasurer's report ... due to circumstances beyond our control, a missing cheque for half of our allocation for last year still has not been received.

More from your Exec.

Meeting topics for the rest of 83 ... a visit to ACI is being planned for 4 August to coincide with Computer Month ... a breakfast meeting is mooted for our AGM in November.

This newsletter ... is produced from input from your Executive and from the group as a whole (this means you!). Closing date for items for inclusion in the next issue is three weeks prior to the next meeting, i.e. 14 July. Don't be bashful - any news is good news; contact any member of the Executive Committee and share what you know: Susan Liepa, Joan Martin, Anne McLean, Stacey McKeown, Brenda Lee, Kathy Gray.

Australian Medical Librarians' Conference

Registration brochures are due out in May. The cost of registration will be \$145. The brochure will give details of post-conference tours. Speakers will include Dr Martin Cummings, Director of the United States National Library of Medicine. Contact Ingrid Sims, Biomedical Librarian, University of WA, Nedlands, WA 6009.

Overseas events

Modern developments in medical librarianship course, London, 23 October - 4 November 1983, offered by the British Council. Details from British Council, P O Box 88, Edgecliff, NSW 2027.

Fifth international congress on medical librarianship, Tokyo, 30 September - 4 October 1985, hosted by the Japan Medical Library Association. Chairman of the Organizing Committee is Irwin H Pizer, Library of the Health Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago, Health Sciences Center, P O Box 7509, Chicago IL 60680 USA.

Maternity librarians

Congratulations to our fearless leader, Sue Liepa, who gave birth to a son, Robert Andras, on 4 May. Congratulations also to Else Paeglis of the Brownless Library, who has a baby girl, Karla. Cecily Gilbert will return from maternity leave to the Queen Victoria Medical Centre Library in July.

Exchange librarians

The exchange between Sandra Russell of Monash Biomedical Library and Ellen Howard of University of Washington has drawn to an end. We hope that both have found the experience worthwhile and will reflect on it in the next newsletter.

A librarian working in a hospital library in the University of British Columbia Biomedical Library system in Vancouver, Canada is interested in a similar exchange in Australia. Contact Kathleen Gray, Medical Library, Queen Victoria Medical Centre, Melbourne for further information.

Anne Harrison's retirement dinner

A dinner for Anne Harrison on 20 April 1983 celebrated her many years of service at the Brownless Medical Library and her tremendous contributions to medical librarianship. The dinner was held at Le Gourmet Restaurant in Fitzroy, and attended by nearly 40 people, including former Brownless staff members as well as librarians from around Melbourne. The Medical Librarians Section presented Anne with a travelling handbag which should prove useful on her planned extended holiday overseas. She thanked her colleagues for "the pleasure and interest they gave to my working life". We hope that she'll still be available in her retirement to offer more of the support and guidance to which we are so indebted. (AM/SL)

Inter-library photocopy exchange

In response to the introduction of the \$3 ILL voucher, many libraries have become interested in making bi- or multi-lateral arrangements for exchanging photocopies free, or for only a \$1 voucher. The Medical Librarians Section has decided to take up the offer of Pat Nakouz of the Health Commission Library to co-ordinate such arrangements. Interested libraries should provide her with details of terms and conditions under which they are prepared to exchange, so that a directory can be compiled. Contact: Mrs P Nakouz, Regional Medical Library Service, John Lindell Library, Health Commission of Victoria, P O Box 4013 GPO, Melbourne; tel. 616 7756.

MED/BIOSIS seminar

Monday and Tuesday 2 and 3 May saw many of us tackling the area of computerized information - this time in connection with the BIOSIS Previews data base. 1983 marks the 10th anniversary of the availability of BIOSIS Previews through the National Library of Australia and the Department of Health. In celebration, BIOSIS is offering a series of workshops and regional users' meetings in Australia, Melbourne being the first venue.

The workshop covered the medical indexing features of BIOSIS with special emphasis on diseases, drugs and chemicals, organ systems, and medical specialties. It was sometimes mentally taxing (the euphoria associated with correctly assigned concept codes made it worthwhile!) but gave us a feel for constructing search strategies for most of the major topics, including medicinal chemistry.

Some features of BIOSIS worth considering:

- of the 315,000 items indexed in 1982, 80% are relevant to medical research
- it indexes content summaries of 150,000 books, book chapters, bibliographies, reports, reviews and meetings published annually in biology and biomedicine

- the National Library and the Department of Health, together with BIOSIS, are permitting 'free' on-line searching for the months of May and June 1983. The user bears the normal telecommunication or connect charges only.

BIOSIS Previews does not exist to compete with other data bases, e.g. MEDLINE, but rather to enhance and supplement information already accessible. It is highly recommended that a searcher beg, borrow or steal a copy of the BIOSIS search guide and take the opportunity to get some hands-on experience without the usual cost factor. (BL)

#### Librarians for Social Responsibility?

Doctors Helen and Bill Caldicott spoke at two hospitals in Melbourne in April during a visit to Australia sponsored by UNESCO and the group Physicians for Social Responsibility. Helen's outspokenness against nuclear warfare has received considerable media attention and is the basis of a recent Academy Award-winning documentary film, If you love this planet. She and her husband described vividly the threat to the lives and health of vast numbers of people posed by the arms race, and of the disparity in the amount we spend on weapons versus health and welfare, subjects taken up in a leading article in Medical Journal of Australia 7 August 1982: 109-110.

The Caldicotts spoke of their conviction that nuclear war is the ultimate public health issue, and that medical workers are bound by their professional ethics to work to prevent it. (KG)

#### 38-Hour work week

The Industrial Advisory Committee of the VAHPA, the union which represents a number of Victorian medical librarians, has been considering the prospects for a 38-hour work week. A 19 day month, i.e. one day off each month, is the basic approach being taken by the union in negotiations with the Health Commission. Concern is being expressed by people who are already working less than 40 hours per week that they may have to increase their working day to qualify for the one day off each month. It seems that where a less-than-40-hour week is formally recognized by the employer, staff would be given a choice whether to stay on existing arrangements or have the day off per month. VAHPA members and interested parties should contact Stacey McKeown, Medical Library, Royal Children's Hospital, Parkville 3052, for further information. (SM)

#### Combined Medical/Special Librarians meeting

Any volunteers to write a report of this meeting, which took place 27 April? Those of us who weren't able to make it would be interested in learning what went on.