

Members of the Group met during the 1975 Library Association Conference at a symposium organised by the Victorian Branch. It was decided that a National Newsletter for the Group should be produced.

It is proposed to publish a newsletter several times each year. The editor for 1975/76 is George Franki, Biomedical Librarian, University of New South Wales, P.O. Box 1, KENSINGTON 2033. He would be grateful if members could provide items of interest for future issues.

#### Formation of the Australian Medical Librarians' Group

It may be of interest to record the background to the formation of the Group. In May 1971 Ann Harrison, Librarian, Brownless Medical Library, University of Melbourne, wrote to a number of university medical librarians suggesting that they meet at the LAA Conference which was held in Sydney in that year. The meeting took place at the Medical Branch Library, University of Sydney on 27 August 1971. Present were: Brenda Heagney, Medical Branch Library, University of Sydney; Ann Harrison; Jac Baillie, Biomedical Library, Monash University; Judith Lloyd, Medical Library, University of Adelaide; and George Franki. It was decided that meetings should be called in state capitals with the purpose of forming state branches of an Australian Medical Librarians' Group. The aims of the Group were to be:

1. The advancement of the needs of medical librarians in Australia.
2. The development of better liaison between medical librarians in Australia.
3. The development of education programmes for medical librarians.

Since 1971 branches of the Group have been operating successfully in New South Wales, Victoria and the A.C.T. It is understood that branches may be developed soon in Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia.

Regular meetings of the state branches of the Group have been held. The New South Wales Branch conducted a seminar in 1973 and the Victoria Branch a symposium at the LAA Conference in 1975. The Group has made submissions to appropriate bodies concerning ALBIS, STIEC, and to the KARMEI Committee on medical education.

Perhaps the area in which the Groups have made the earliest impact is in increased liaison between medical librarians in capital cities and nationally. If for no other reason, the Groups have been successful.

#### National Council

At a meeting of the Group held during the 1975 LAA Conference a National Council was formed. It is hoped that the council will meet at least biannually at future LAA Conferences. The following are state representatives of the National Council:

- N.S.W. - Allan Bourne - Repatriation General Hospital, Concord
- VIC. - Ms. Amy Bush - St. Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne
- A.C.T. - Bert Pribac - Commonwealth Dept. of Health
- S.A. - Maureen Bell - Mental Health Services Library, Eastwood, South Australia
- Q. - Mrs. Merle Ellens - Royal Brisbane Hospital
- W.A. - Miss Ingrid Sims, Biomed Library, University of Western Australia

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Dr. Martin Cummings

All medical librarians will be delighted that Dr. Martin Cummings, Librarian - National Library of Medicine (U.S.A.), is now in Australia as a consultant to the Life Sciences section of ANSTEL. Dr. Cummings will produce a report early in 1976.

Our hopes are high that the visit of Dr. Cummings will mark a turning point in the provision of medical information services in Australia.

Mrs. Jac Baillie

A leading figure in medical librarianship in Australia, Jac Baillie - Biomedical Librarian of Monash University, retires shortly. Jac has been prominent in medical library matters, first as convenor of the AACOB'S sub-committee on medical library services and later as a founder of the Groups. She has provided leadership in moves to improve medical library services in Australia. All medical librarians will wish her well in her retirement.

REMINDER: Please send any information for the next newsletter to George Franki before March 1976.