

MEDICAL LIBRARIANS' GROUP

(VICTORIAN BRANCH)

NEWSLETTER, MAY 1975

Minutes of the meeting held 6.30pm, on Wednesday, 7th. May, at the Brownless Medical Library, University of Melbourne.

Miss Anne Harrison and the Brownless girls provided sandwiches, wine, and tea or coffee for group members as they arrived at the library. The refreshments were especially welcome as several members were going on directly to an LAA meeting after their own.

Apologies:

Mrs. Enid Meldrum, Mrs. Margaret McKinnon, Mrs. Brenda Turnbridge, Mrs. Inara Ermers, Mrs. Joan Martin, Mrs. Patricia Smith, Mrs. Joanne Diplock, Mrs. Bronwyn Pearl, Miss Ann Ensten.

The meeting opened with a welcome to some new members who were able to attend, even from such distant libraries as Frankston and Bendigo; we were all pleased to meet them personally. On a more practical note, another reminder was given of outstanding \$2 dues; also, 1975-76 fees are due in July, payable at the next meeting.

It had been hoped that we might have as guest speaker at this meeting, Mr. A.H. McDonald, a medical librarian who is at present on Sabbatical leave from Nova Scotia, and teaching at the South Australian Institute of Technology. His studies are concerned with investigating branch libraries in Victoria and N.S.W. Unfortunately we were not able to arrange a convenient date for Mr. McDonald to address this May meeting, but we are hoping to be more successful for the July one. It has been thought necessary to hold a July meeting rather than one in August, to finalize plans for the Conference.

Regarding the Medical Directory correspondent position: Heather McDonald, Judy Weaver and Dianne Friend have volunteered to share the workload of this task. They will maintain the Directory, and all new sets and replacement sheets should in future be passed on to them at the Brownless. News of alterations in directory information (staff names, etc.) should also be sent on to them.

The Consultative Panel has been continuing its active existence; a letter has been sent to Mr. P.C. Dorian, Acting Secretary of the Hospital Accreditation Committee for Intern Training, Medical Board of Victoria. The letter was basically for his information, outlining the help which the panel is willing to give to any small community or country hospital attempting to establish any sort of library service. Amy Bush gave a brief report on the recent Seminars on Branch Librarianship held in Shepparton, Maryborough and Traralgon, and attended by Enid Meldrum, Fay Baker, Marion Rock and Amy. Suggested schemes for interlibrary cooperation between city and country hospitals, especially to help retain doctors in rural areas, were met with interest and enthusiasm. A note of appreciation of this attendance at the Seminars was received from Mr. Barrett Reid, Executive

Officer of the Public Libraries Division, Library Council of Victoria.

Marjorie Pinder made three points of interest to members: Firstly, she extended a formal invitation to Anne Harrison to attend a dinner in Anne's honour on June 25th, at the Windsor Hotel. Marjorie also invited all Medical Librarians and any person who worked with Anne during the 21 years since she started the Central Medical Library Organization at the Brownless.

Secondly, Marjorie suggested that the Darwin Hospital should be given honorary membership of CMLO for one year, as a gesture of aid after the recent losses due to the cyclone. The CMLO will be prepared to assist with duplicate journals etc provided that there is a specific, informed person at the Darwin end to make maximum use of any donated library material.

The third point was largely a publicity item, lauding the work of the Australian Red Cross service in hospitals. The Red Cross does wonderful work in 122 Victorian hospitals, and deserves any possible assistance in the way of gifts of books, journals, magazines etc.

The subject of books and journals to be sent to Indonesia was again raised. The National Library's representative in Djakarta is Miss Ilse Dammerboer, and it would be necessary to contact her to discuss specifically what would actually be considered useful material - perhaps books in good order and not more than five years old would be a reasonable criterion. An interesting point is that Qantas will not charge freight if this sort of material is sent to Indonesia with a person, rather than dispatched on its own.

Two Librarian's have been in touch with the Group, wanting a position. The first is from Columbo, and is very qualified and experienced; for further details, contact Jac Baillie at Monash Biomed- Anne Harrison also has the name of a Librarian who would like part-time work (20-24 hours per week), preferably in an innersuburb library. The Dept. of Housing and Construction has a very interesting vacancy for an experienced Librarian, probably at class 2 level, working within a Building and Construction cell on standards etc. Miss Glen Walker, Librarian in Dept. of Housing and Construction has further details.

The Victorian Section of the Special Libraries Association has invited the MLG to send a delegate to its quarterly meetings - Anne Harrison has volunteered a Brownless staff member. Meetings are usually held at CSIRO Central Library. MLG members have also been invited to join in the Special Libraries Section Dinner at the Windsor Hotel on Wednesday, 27th. August. As there is a limited number of places available, interested members are advised to apply early. A final point - at the last special libraries meeting, Miss Betty Foord (DSL) mentioned the new compulsory airmail rates for some journals where formerly there was a choice. The MLG meeting agreed that we should join in any protest which the SLA may make.

The present co-conveners feel that it is time for a change in those positions, after almost 18 months, and are calling for nominations. Amy Bush made the written suggestion that the present system of having 2 positions and the terms "Joint conveners" is not entirely the most satisfactory arrangement, and

that it should be altered to three positions, of Charman (or President), a Vice-Charman (or Vice-President), and a Secretary. The Vice-Charman/President would be elected on the understanding that he/she would be next in line to take the Chairmanship/Presidency on the completion of the term of the previous incumbent. As the conveners agree with this suggestion, members are asked to send in nominations for 3 positions, before the next meeting. Please check that the nominated members are eligible and interested.

The introduction of ANSTEL (Australian National Scientific and Technological Library) within the National Library of Australia has created much interest, and already MLG members have found it useful for obtaining photocopies of articles not available elsewhere in Australia. Booklets containing 10 Referral and Enquiry forms allowing a user up to 10 pages of photocopy per form are available at \$5.00 per booklet. It was also mentioned at the meeting how MEDLARS is not functioning adequately at the moment; it was suggested that the MLG write a letter stating concern about delays in receipt of MEDLARS searches.

A brief report was given by Esther Martin, chairman of the MLG Conference workshop committee. The format of the workshop has been worked out, and most of the speakers have been lined up. It is hoped that a written "Manifesto" will result from the group discussions. Esther would be pleased to hear from any members with further suggestions.

In general business, Anne McCalliard pointed out the lack of Primary care books and journals mentioned in the MLG core books and journals lists, and Jac Baillie suggested that reference books and library tools be placed at the front of the list. Revisers of the current list could take note of these points, and also allow for supplementary lists to be added to the core list.

Letters will be sent to the other state representatives of the National Medical Librarians Group, as Amy Bush, our representative, feels that the LAA Conference in August presents an excellent opportunity for all delegates to meet.

A tour of the Brownless Medical Library was then made by members who so desired. The meeting closed at 8pm.

LIST OF FINANCIAL MEMBERS (1974 - 75) AT 4th. JUNE 1975.NOTE:

Members and non-members are reminded that fees are again due in July 1975. It would be appreciated if persons interested in either attending the Medical Librarians Group (Vic. Branch) meetings, or receiving its newsletters, would pay the \$2 membership fee before the next financial year falls due.

Mrs. Jacqueline Baillie	Miss Jane Oliver
Mrs. Fay Baker	Mrs. Bronwyn Pearl
Miss Amy Bush	Miss Marjorie Pinder
Miss Tui Coto	Miss Judith Quilter
Mrs. A. Drury	Mrs. Mary Rae
Miss Jan Durkin	Mrs. Marion Rock
Miss Ann Ensten	Mrs. Patricia Smith
Miss Jean Foreman	Miss Virginia Stevenson
Mrs. Thora Grey	Mrs. Val Strantzen
Miss Anne Harrison	Miss Libby White
Mrs. Pam Hill	Mrs. Zaid
Miss Gillian Joseph	Mrs. Betty McNiece
Miss Anne McCalliard	Mrs. Jo Marshall
Miss Heather McDonald	Miss Esther Martin
Mrs. Enid Meldrum	Mrs. Beryl Miles