

MEDICAL LIBRARIAN'S GROUP

( VICTORIAN BRANCH )

NEWSLETTER, JULY 1975

Minutes of the meeting held 6.30 pm. on Wednesday 23rd. July, 1975, at the Library of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

Mrs. Betty McNiece kindly provided wine, cheese and biscuits before the business part of the meeting commenced, and our thanks go to her.

Apologies: Mrs. Gay McManus, Miss Ellen O'Halloran, Mrs. Bronwyn Pearl and Mrs. A. Drury.

1. Membership Dues. 1975-76 fees are now due, and remain at the current subscription of \$2.00. A list had previously been circulated of financial members for 1974-75, but as this did not have the desired effect of reminding unfinancial members, a list of these has now been drawn up. They are asked to combine last year's subs with those of this year. It would be a help if librarians would mention this matter to their staff so that an accurate membership count could be made; at present we have no means of knowing the number of staff in many libraries,

2. Guest Speaker. We had hoped to have Mr. A.H. McDonald, from Nova Scotia, address this meeting, but unfortunately he had already begun his trip home.

3. Dinner. The C.M.L.O. Dinner for Miss Anne Harrison was most successful, and enjoyed by all who partook at the Windsor. The Group expressed its gratitude to Marjorie Pinder for organizing such a pleasant evening, which prompted Marjorie to suggest that the dinner could become an annual event. She also mentioned a discussion with Mr. Scott Henderson of Ramsays, from which it appears that that firm would be willing to give financial assistance to any worthy cause of the Medical Librarians' Group. One very "worthy cause" would be the organization of a meeting of the National Conveners of the Medical Librarians' Groups in non-conference years.

4. Drug and Information Group. Mention was made of a notice inserted by Eugenia Lovelace in the Australian Library Journal, concerning a drug and information group. Both Shirley O'Neill and Enice Meldrum contacted Eugenia and discovered that there was a joining fee of \$5 for the Group, which was mainly concerned with the dissemination of drug literature. It was decided that it was inappropriate for the Medical Librarians' Group as a body to join the Drug Group.

5. Medical Directory. A report was given by Heather McDonald who, with Dianne Friend and Judy Weaver; has taken over the organization of the Medical Directory. Four new inclusions were available to members at the meeting, and the following points were made by Heather regarding future arrangements:

- a) Amendment sheets will be mailed out with minutes of the Group's meetings - sheets should be returned to the Group, c/- Brownless Medical Library. The girls will then prepare, duplicate and distribute a master sheet.
- b) Libraries not yet included in the Directory have been contacted - their entries should soon be available.

- c) Consideration is being given to the possibility of providing an index to Special Collections held by member libraries.
- d) As printed card - stock is diminishing, consideration is being given to the possibility of duplicating on to blank system - cards, retaining the present card - stock to use as masters.

6. Consultative Panel. Next was a report by Anne Harrison on the activities of the Consultative Panel in relation to the Hospitals and Charities Commission. On May 28th., at the invitation of Dr. Race, a meeting was held to discuss the general development in the State of hospital libraries. A subsequent meeting was arranged for 18th. June, before which our panel met twice at the Brownless to formulate a 10 point statement. At the second meeting with Dr. Race, he agreed to present the statement in a submission to the Commission. Copies of this statement are available for Group members to read. On the same topic, members may be interested in reading an article in JAMA, May 5th. 1975: WEST, Kelly M. Library and Information Services for small Hospitals. pp. 505-508.

7. Meeting of National Conveners. Although Amy Bush is Victorian convener of the National Medical Librarians' Group, she will not be in Melbourne for the LAA Conference, so Fay Baker will stand in for her. Replies have come from TAS, S.A., N.S.W., & A.C.T. - Queensland is apparently not interested in forming a group, according to Dr. Boscott. A meeting is being arranged for Lincoln House, where hopefully a discussion will take place on each state's activities, and on the advantages of putting a national name on all future Medical Librarian Group submissions.

8. LAA Conference. Esther Martin gave a progress report on the Conference Workshop Committee. Group members who are not members of the LAA are still most welcome to participate in the MLG workshop on the Thursday and Friday. Professor R. Andrew will be the guest speaker on Thursday morning on the subject of the role of libraries in future professional education. This will be followed by talks of 12-15 minutes by representatives of various health service areas, finishing with a question period. On Thursday afternoon, people will break up into groups of about 10, and discussion will centre around:

- 1) management in medical libraries.
- 2) education.
- 3) services.

Interstate group leaders have been contacted, and members of our own group have been asked to act as recorders. On the Friday, Anne Harrison will chair the proceedings, bringing together all groups and hopefully drawing some conclusions. After lunch, preliminary work will start on the preparation of some form of Proceedings.

9. Nominations for Conveners. It was moved Thora Grey, seconded Fay Baker, that the Group hold annual elections for office-bearers. This meeting elected Sandra Russell (Chairman) Kerry Christensen (Vice-Chairman) and Heather McDonald (Secretary) and present co-conveners Marion Rock and Val Strantzen handed over the reins.

10. General Business.

a) Amy Bush commented again on the number of requests which St. Vincents' library receives from other libraries who do not check for locations from CMLO first.

b) The subject of fines for overdue or missing books was raised - Monash Biomedical doesn't advocate the use of fines at all. A bill sent for the replacement value of a lost book usually has the desired effect.

c) The new price of SSAL was discussed - it appears that the bill for the first year of operation of the new format will be at least \$125, but after that the annual bill should drop to \$5 - \$10.

A future project for the MLG could be to see if SSAL could run out a printout of a list of journals covered by Medlars.

The meeting closed about 8.45, and was followed by a tour of the RACS Library and the Cowlshaw collection. Thanks to Betty McNiece for allowing us to hold this meeting at the RACS.