

Editorial

The 6th Biennium of the Australian Society of Archivists concludes at the Biennial General Meeting and Conference to be held in Perth 21-24 April 1987. With co-operation from all parties, including the printers and binders, we plan to have this issue ready for distribution by then. This issue also brings to an end my term as editor for five years and ten issues. They have been most fulfilling and interesting years, of hard work and often frustration, but above all, the experience has enriched my life. The enrichment has come from the consciousness that difficulties have been there to overcome, problems have been there to solve and objectives have been there to be achieved; from the sense of creating a 'thing of beauty' the finished journal; and above all the friendships made through the interaction with other workers for the Society.

I have been on three Councils, corresponded and mostly met any number of sub-editors, authors and correspondents and many other people. Whenever a Council meeting has been held in any city, the local Branch has been sure to meet for dinner. What is so very striking is the youth of the members of this Society. Far from the old public image of archivists as dry as dust elderly custodians of historical manuscripts, the Australian archivist today is mostly in his/her thirties, is well educated, primarily a manager or up-an-coming executive, vigorous and full of fun and laughter. A sense of purpose prevails, encouraged by the activities of the Society and the excellent archives administration course at the University of New South Wales and their lecturers. Attendance at this course has obviously been a bond between many of the keenest members of the Society, and while this weights the membership in one capital city, the quality of the archival profession has been considerably enhanced.

It is pleasing to note that three people have nominated as editor for the next biennium and it was the confidence that this would occur and thus allow new ideas to be tried, that firmed me in the resolve to not re-nominate. Life loses its enrichment as soon as one activity begins to dominate it for too long. Four years (two bienniums) is an ideal term, anything shorter is probably not enough. This is not to say that longer terms are not acceptable — in the days when archivists were in very short supply, the fewer were obliged to do more.

One of my last activities on Council has been to assist with drawing up a new publications policy. It is no longer possible for a single editor to oversee all the Society's publications, let alone the distribution and subscriptions. Like the Secretary's job (even more onerous) it has been necessary to delegate to other willing workers. Apart from *Archives and*

Manuscripts, the *Bulletin*, Conference Proceedings and promotional pamphlets, the occurrence of one off publications such as *Our Heritage*, should increase, and indeed *Keeping Archives* is imminent. Not that this editor has been involved in anything more than the two serial publications, but some co-ordination is necessary if the Society is to be seen as a reputable publisher. And what we publish is our image. The Biennial General Meeting will rule on the recommendations.

It remains for me to give sincere thanks to all those who have assisted in the editing production and distribution of *Archives and Manuscripts* and the *Bulletin* — the Section editors: Paul Brunton, Maggie Shapley, Don Brech, Ann Pederson and Barbara Reed the hardworking Secretary who produces the list of Publications Received as well as Council or Executive Notes for each *Bulletin*; the Presidents and other members of each of the three Councils on which I have served, who have all been so very supportive; the various Branch sub-editors who change quite frequently and are too numerous to name; the maintenance of the membership and subscription lists and consequent production of labels for both publications has been by Tim Godfrey at the Archives of Business and Labour and more recently by Ewan Maidment; Jenny Hill of Confidential Print and Copy Centre, our printers, has been of tremendous assistance in planning the layout of each of the ten issues; the numerous authors who have spent time researching and writing articles, without which we would have no journal; above all the Perth team, Ann Archer, Susan Byrne, Cathie Clement, Kandy Jane Henderson, Stephen Howell, Tom Reynolds and Lise Summers, have suffered my sporadic demands for assistance in assessing, editing, proofreading, enveloping or the ghastly task of stapling the *Bulletin* with efficiency, goodwill, patience and good humour. To all the above, my grateful thanks.