

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

It is now some time since we sent you our first Newsletter. Now Newsletter No.2 has reached you and, as the response to No.1 has been so heartening, I'm sure our Editor will be amply rewarded for her efforts by the response to this number, too.

We realise that we have to try and get the Newsletter published more regularly, as it is the lifeline between the main events of our Association; and the conferences we organise every second year. But the work has to be done by only a few people, and we are still in the vicious circle of an age-old problem: to get things really working we need money, and to get money we need to have things working! To be honest, we still feel kind of shy of asking you to pay a membership fee, with the idea perhaps that we might not be able to give enough value for the money. But the fact that so many of you not only showed interest, but were also willing to become a member, or to renew your membership, shows us that our Association has all the potential to grow into a useful organization for everyone working in the field of zoo education. As I have stated before, many of our educational activities still stem from the pioneering phase, and I'm sure it will be a great help to all of us to have a platform from which to discuss our problems and to exchange our ideas and experiences.

It is for this reason that I'm very pleased to be able to announce that the next meeting of our Association is to be held at the National Zoo Washington, U.S.A.; September 26th -29th 1978. (Details of conference - see page 6).

We are grateful to Dr. H.T. Reed, the Director of the National Zoological Park for extending the invitation to conduct our 1978 meeting there and to Ms. Judith White, Education Officer, and her staff for all the work involved in the planning and arranging of such a conference.

Up till now conferences have been held in Europe, attended mainly by European Zoo Educators. Only a few colleagues from overseas have been able to participate in our

conferences, so I think it is high time to cross the ocean and meet on the American continent.

Our Washington colleagues are suggesting a most interesting and important program. The general theme for the conference will be: "Zoo Education - reaching different audiences through different programs". I personally feel this is not only an interesting but also a very important topic, as we are all inclined to concentrate our work on school groups. The reasons for this are obvious, but we should not forget that zoo education must serve a variety of audiences.

The conference will be opened by a talk and/or a panel discussion of the general theme, followed by a number of specific sessions that will explore some of the different programs, such as (sample topics): Family Groups, Zoo Resource Room; Elementary School Groups, Innovative Programs; General Public, getting visitors around the Zoo, ways and self-guides; High School, programs that really work; Programs for the Handicapped.

Our hosts are trying to identify speakers that they know of to give an introductory talk during the sessions. They will be most interested to hear from you if you are willing to deliver a paper on a topic connected with the general theme, or if you know of somebody who might be able to do so.

Between sessions there will be ample time for our Business Meeting, but also - perhaps more attractive! - for field trips out to other Smithsonian museums.

I'm sure that the meeting will be an important event for everyone involved in zoo education. Not only will it be the first large-scale confrontation between American and European colleagues (and we sincerely hope that other continents will also be represented!) but the conference site - the capital of the United States - is also a very promising one. Apart from the great constellation of Smithsonian museums and galleries, there are the many public buildings and monuments that will be very interesting to visit.

And.... as our Washington colleagues state: we are welcome to come and stay until the snow flies!

But there is more. The conference is planned the week after the A.A.Z.P.A. convention at the Denver (Colorado) Zoological Gardens; September 17th - 22nd 1978. This should permit those participants wishing to attend both meetings to gain several days for travel options between the west and Washington DC. Alternatively, visitors from overseas might choose a western tour prior to the A.A.Z.P.A. meeting, possible midwest stops en route and visits to other eastern cities following our conference. Reasons enough to look forward to our meeting, so I sincerely hope to see you all this coming fall in Washington:

Han Rensenbrink
Artis Zoo, Amsterdam

Mrs. Sue Josephsen - resignation

Mrs. Josephsen, Education Officer-In-Charge at Taronga Zoo, New South Wales, informed us that she resigned her position at 31st January 1978.

Consequently, she resigned her position as a member of the Executive Committee of our Association.

We wish to thank Sue for the willingness to become a Committee member and for the assistance she gave to our work. We wish her all the luck and success in her new position, lecturing in education at Macquarie University.

Her successor at the Zoo is Mrs. Nola Berglund.