

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGYBiennial General Meeting, 21 November 1969SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since the Inaugural Meeting of this Society held on 24 October 1967 the Executive has met on 15 occasions to conduct the business of the Society. The average attendance at Executive meetings was 6 members present in person and this was supplemented by the appointment of proxies when interstate members were unable to attend. Thus the constitutional requirement for a quorum of 7 was always met.

Membership of the Society has steadily increased in the two years of its existence. At the end of 1968, our first year of operation, we had 175 members. Just under 15% of these did not renew their membership in 1969, but this loss has been more than compensated by the admission of new members this year and the total membership now stands at 181. Members of the Society include: judges, magistrates, lawyers, psychiatrists, psychologists, senior police officers, prison administrators, probation and parole officers, forensic scientists as well as university teachers of criminology and students working toward their Diploma in Criminology. Almost exactly 50% of our members reside in Victoria and we hope that this imbalance between States will be reduced as the Society becomes better known throughout Australia and New Zealand.

The Society was instrumental in arranging two public meetings in 1968, addressed by Professors Norval Morris and Rupert Cross and Mr. C. H. Rolph, and, following a number of false starts, this is the first meeting arranged for 1969. It should be possible in the future to arrange more meetings of the Society and this will be made easier after State branches have been formed.

The Society is a constituent member of the Australian Crime Prevention, Corrections and After-Care Council, and hence members of the Society are able to attend the biennial conferences of the Council, the most recent one of which was held in Perth in August of this year. We see the Society and Council as having complementary, and not competing, roles.

The most solid achievement of the Society in the first two years has been the publication of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology. This is the first scholarly journal of its kind in this region of the world, and it has already received wide recognition. Seven numbers of the journal have been published so far and the eighth (Number 4 of Volume 2) is expected to appear within a fortnight. The undoubted success of this venture is largely due to the zeal of the journal's editor, Dr. Allen Bartholomew, who has worked untiringly to produce an edition every three months. In paying this tribute to Dr. Bartholomew I must also record the Society's appreciation of the work of the assistant editor, Dr. Duncan Chappell (who is currently overseas), the book review editor, Mrs. Deidre Greig and the other members of the Advisory Editorial Board. The printers of our journal, Southdown Press, with whom we have a five-year contract, have been most co-operative in all of our dealings with them.

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Some members of the Society may possibly feel that they have gained little from their membership beyond their subscription to the journal. This is, to a large extent, true at this stage of our development, but if we did not have a reasonably large membership it would not have been possible for us to establish a journal as we would not have been in a position to negotiate a favourable contract with any printers as earlier attempts had shown. It is hoped therefore that members take some pride in the fact that their support has made this venture possible.

With increasing interest being shown in criminology, both within Australia and overseas, this Society may look forward to an increasingly active and worthwhile future.

David Biles
Hon. Secretary