

A.A.S.E. President's Report

I anticipated that I would not be writing this column, as it was my intention not to seek re-election at the 1981 A.G.M. Events have proved different and the 1980/81 executive have been requested to extend their tenure for an interim period until the completion of the A.G.M. which was adjourned in August. The business of the meeting, including the election of Officers, will be completed on the 18th and 19th of January, 1982 at Burwood State College in Melbourne.

A milestone was achieved in Melbourne in August, when the Council accepted and passed by a substantial majority, a new constitution for A.A.S.E. This new structural basis for the Association will allow us to operate at 3 levels: National, State and Local. All members will be united under a single constitution with a single set of aims and objectives. There remains ample flexibility to respond to local needs through branch structures, and state needs through chapter organization. The PERSONAL affiliate groups from each State may choose to remain as such, but will be required to reaffiliate annually.

The great potential of the new organization is in its ability to respond with a wider capacity as events or issues require the weight and support of the State, or National organization. I believe that this will prove a major benefit in the next decade. If the provision of Special Education is to be systematic and logical, across the need areas of the country, it will become increasingly important for each organization to respond on a Whole-of-Nation basis where necessary, or at State level, or where appropriate, at a local level only.

There will be a period of adjustment for existing State Organizations in which some important and far-reaching decisions will need to be made. I urge you to become involved in those decisions whenever possible. Please make an effort to understand the new constitution so that you can contribute in a logical and objective manner to the decision-making process. I trust that the potential of A.A.S.E. in the next 20 years will not be hampered by parochial and narrow thinking to serve short-term goals.

(J. A. BURGE)
President,
A.A.S.E.