

TIP-OFF: News from the Executive Director

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WEEK (ITW) has been held annually throughout Australia since 1979. The Australian Computer Society and the Federal Department of Science and Technology are sponsoring the fourth ITW from 15-21 August 1982. Previously the LAA has been involved in a number of activities during ITW at varying levels. Some Divisions have been active in promoting ITW by organising displays and seminars, however to date this has depended largely on the initiative of the Division.

This year the Association has endeavoured to become more involved in the planning for ITW and has been liaising with the National Secretary of ITW. All branches have been circulated with the name of their state co-ordinator in the hope that closer links will be established at the local level.

The Futures Committee is preparing an article on behalf of the LAA to be submitted to *The Australian* newspaper for inclusion in the supplement to appear promoting ITW. The LAA Head Office will also act as a distribution point to libraries of the ITW posters, brochures and the publication *Technological change - Impact of Information Technology, 1982*. When the availability of this material is known a note will appear in *InCite*. Libraries are encouraged to use these materials as the basis for displays and other activities.

The aims of ITW are:

- to promote greater awareness in the community of the potential and impact of information technologies as they relate to people in their workplace and in their leisure activities;
- to provide the community with the opportunity to interact directly with the technologies through education, participation and practical demonstration;
- to encourage informed debate within the community on the need to prepare for these developments.

It is very important for the LAA to become more actively involved in this area as the impact on libraries of information technology is assuming greater significance in our daily operations.

The ITW State Committee members come from the educational, governmental and business sectors of the community, areas where the major ITW thrust occurs. To fully achieve ITW aims, the committees have the assistance of as broad a representation as possible from organisations which utilise new information technology in the provision of goods and services.

To increase your own involvement and awareness take part in ITW and encourage your colleagues to do so. Your local press will list activities; take note of these; help the LAA become involved.

Susan Acutt
Executive Director

Mildura meeting

MONDAY, 24 MAY saw 24 library workers from schools, public and other libraries throughout Sunraysia (North West Victoria/South West NSW) meet at the Library of the CSIRO Division of Horticultural Research at Merbein, near Mildura.

Rosemary Wren, Librarian of the Division, gave a brief outline of the history of the Merbein CSIRO Library, its place in the Horticultural Division in particular and the CSIRO Library system as a whole. The subject specialisation and holding of the library were explained. The final part of the evening was a demonstration of an online search accessing Lockheed-DIALOG via Midas.

This was one of the group's most successful meetings. Other meetings are planned and it is hoped some functions can be organised in conjunction with colleagues in the South Australian Riverland and with libraries from far West/Broken Hill, New South Wales.

Further enquiries to Leeanne McEwan or Bruce Turner on (050) 23 5011.

Sincere apologies to Blackwells

The last issue of *InCite* included an item on the memorial chair, designed by Tom Clarke, that was commissioned as a tribute to the late Richard Blackwell.

Unfortunately an error was made so that the heading said 'Blackwoods' instead of 'Blackwells'. We apologise!

Prize for illustrators of children's books

THE NOMA CONCOURS for Children's Picture Book Illustrations aims at encouraging talented illustrators who have difficulties in publicising their work outside their own countries.

To commemorate receiving the 1974 International Book Award, Mr Shoichi Noma, Honorary Chairman of the Board of Kodansha Publishers, and Vice-President of the Asian Cultural Centre of UNESCO (ACCU) donated 20 million yen to ACCU. A Noma International Book Fund and Managing Committee were set up, and it has been decided that, for the time being, the annual interest of the Noma Fund should be used for the promotion and development of children's picture-books.

Illustrators who are nationals of UNESCO Member States in Asia and the Pacific (excluding Japan), the Arab States, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean are invited to participate in the Concours.

Entries should be original artwork prepared for picture-books and illustrated books for children since 1977. Illustrations for a book published outside the country of the illustrator are not eligible, nor are the works of illustrators who have already received top international awards.

The deadline for entries is 30 September 1982 and further information may be obtained from Mr E.L. Fisher, Secretary, Australian National Commission for UNESCO, Dept of Education, PO Box 826, Woden ACT 2601.

Public librarians meet the premier

THE ANNUAL LAA Public Libraries' deputation to the Premier, Mr Neville Wran, took place at 2 pm on 7 June 1982. The meeting had been postponed from 24 May by the Premier's Department.

Preparation for the deputation began in January with regular meetings of a sub-committee of representatives from LAA NSW Branch; LAA Public Libraries Section NSW Group; the Metropolitan Chief Librarian Committee and members of the 1982 deputation.

The sub-committee canvassed public librarians throughout the state for their views on the content of a written submission. Many hours of preparation and funding from MCLC assured a professionally written and produced document, which was sent to the Premier before the meeting.

The submission urged that the State Government:

- Restore the per capita subsidy to public libraries to a realistic level in the next budget and thenceforward index the subsidy according to rises in the CPI
- Continue and extend the system of special grants; and
- Maintain and expand the system of interest subsidies using funds separate from those supplied for special grants.

The argument for these three measures was based on figures showing the decrease in the State Government's real level of support for public libraries, to such an extent that the New South Wales Government's expenditure per head on public libraries now stands at the lowest in Australia. Other factors mentioned included the accelerating demands being made on public libraries and the way in which library costs have escalated well beyond recent inflation rates.

Members of the 1982 deputation were Mr Marea Terry, President LAA NSW Branch; Dr Chris Henderson, Chief Librarian, Lane Cove Public Library; Mr Gary Wilson, Chief Librarian, Lake Macquarie Municipal Library; Ms Helen Lawson, President LAA Public Libraries' Section, NSW Group.

The Premier was sympathetic to the view expressed by the submission, indicating that he will assist public libraries if it's possible. He wanted to know what public libraries would be unable to do if funding did not increase. Mr Wran felt that the level of library service in NSW was good and expressed an interest in equalising services throughout the state.

Other topics discussed were the need for print collections in public libraries, video cassette services, computers, videotext etc. Mr Wran indicated that he was totally against charges (user-pays) in public libraries.

The Public Libraries Section, NSW Group, will request a further appointment with the Premier for 1983.

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