

Australia, the multi-cultural society . . . fact or fiction?

ONE OF the things about which many Australians today take pride is our multicultural society. But is this a reality or a myth?

According to the Hodja Education Resources Co-operative, it is a myth. Despite the fact that more than 42 percent of Australians were born in other countries or have parents from other countries, a survey conducted by Philip Adams into people's attitudes towards Australia's mixed society came up with the perhaps surprising result that only 19 percent of people actually favoured the present multicultural society. And almost 50 percent were unequivocally racist.

Philip Adams commented that there seemed little hope of changing the attitudes of the adults – but perhaps something can be done to make young people think differently.

And this is where Hodja comes in. (The name Hodja is Turkish for teacher and, in Islamic folklore, the Hodja Nasrettin is the wise old fool who sometimes attempts the impossible!) Hodja in Australia is a multicultural publishing co-operative – Australia's only one – and they publish multicultural and multilingual material specifically for use in schools and libraries.

The project began in 1981 because commercial publishers were not meeting the needs of multicultural education. There had been some attempts, but it had been difficult for publishers to find a commercially successful venture of this type.

Hodja was initially funded by the School's Commission as a project deemed to be of national importance, and is now registered as a co-operative with support from the Victorian Ministry for Employment and Training.

Hodja has already produced some thoroughly practical publications, such as signs in 26 languages to help people find their way around school buildings. 'Parts of the Body' and 'Alphabets of the World' posters in 28 languages, *Christmas for Children*, an *English/Vietnamese Maths Dictionary*, *The Middle East Source Book*, *A Mediterranean View of Schools* and a *Multicultural Activities Kit* have all been produced in the comparatively short time since Hodja got under way.

And they have also gone into the world of board games, believing that The Immigration Game and The Latin American Car Rally

Ausloan launched at LAA 22



NSW State Librarian Russell Doust, who is Chairman of the LAA Publications Board, is seen at the launching of LAA publication *Ausloan* at LAA 22. At the left is Dorothea Brown, President of the Library Association of New Zealand and at right is Judith Baskin, President of the LAA. This photograph and those featured on pages 6 and 7 may be ordered.



Students at the Collingwood Education Centre in Melbourne play the Immigration Game.

Game (a bilingual kit in English and Spanish) are more relevant to many children in Australia than Monopoly! Like all Hodja materials, the games were designed by teachers and educationists working with members of ethnic communities.

There are many other projects under way, including source books on Poland, Yugoslavia, Latin America, Malta and Indo-China, an international festivals book and an *Aboriginal Studies Kit for Non-Aboriginal Children*.

Hodja also runs workshops for teachers and librarians to come up with new ideas and develop existing ones.

If you would like to know more, contact Hodja Educational Resources Co-operative, 135 Church Street, Richmond 3121. Phone (03) 429 6111.

Copyright in Non book Materials

AT ITS MEETING on 20/21 August, General Council adopted the *Statement on Copyright in Nonbook Materials* prepared by the Audiovisual Services Committee. This is circulated as an insert to this issue of *InCite*.

This *Statement* formed the basis for the submission on copyright in nonbook materials submitted by the LAA to the Attorney-General. The Attorney-General's Department has now released a summary of all submissions received in the form of an issues paper. The Department is accepting supplementary submissions until 31 October.

The Audiovisual Services Committee is preparing a supplementary submission and would appreciate input from members. All State Libraries and persons/bodies who prepared submissions have received copies. A small number of copies are available from the LAA office. The paper may be reproduced in whole or in part, although it is 145 pages in length.

Could comments be sent to Mr P.T. McNally, Darling Downs Institute of Technology, Post Office Darling Heights, Toowoomba, Qld. 4350 no later than 15 October.

Susan Acutt
Executive Director

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Photographs from LAA 22 – see centre pages!