

TIP-OFF: News from the Executive Director

On the 7 February there was a significant migration of Australian librarians across the Tasman, the occasion being the New Zealand Library Association (NZLA) annual conference held in Auckland from 9-12 February. Following a precedent set in Christchurch hospitality excelled, from the weather to the social events. Not to mention of course the intellectual content of a well-organised program.

The LAA was represented at the conference by Judith Baskin (President), Barrie Mitcheson (Vice-President) and myself. Scheduled with the conference was a meeting of the Joint LAA/NZLA Standing Committee. This Committee was established following the highly successful Christchurch conference, to discuss areas of common interest. A meeting was held in September, with the next to be at LAA22 where there will be a considerable contingent of New Zealanders.

Several of the many items on the agenda deserve special mention. Obviously, an area of joint interest relates to librarianship in the Pacific region. New Zealand was successful in gaining funding for librarians from Fiji, Tonga and Samoa to attend the NZLA conference. This is a practice the LAA should investigate further. The NZLA is circulating the LAA statement on Relations in the South West Pacific in the hope that they might adopt a similar policy.

The feasibility of initiating exchanges for staff in both association offices is being investigated. We have developed strengths in different areas, so this could provide some useful initiatives.

The NZLA and LAA are both writing to IFLA in an attempt to provide more input on IFLA committees from corresponding members. In some cases it might be more efficient to have a joint representative. The NZLA is interested in our proposed confer-

ence in 1988 being a joint LAA/NZLA/IFLA venture. As yet, however, logistical implications have not been fully defined.

Of course a major item for discussion was the joint LAA/NZLA Conference to be held in Brisbane in 1984. Helen Tait, Deputy Librarian, Canterbury Public Library has been named Convener of the New Zealand Committee. As such Helen will receive copies of all correspondence etc. to ensure that the communication lines are successfully kept open. The conference will have special reference to the Pacific and the Joint Committee is looking at the possibility of having a COMLA activity prior to or after the main conference. It is hoped that this would attract a wide range of librarians from Commonwealth countries.

From an LAA point of view it was interesting to notice the large number of members that attended the NZLA AGM held on one of the mornings of the conference. Also, the immaculate style and decorum with which the meeting proceeded. Shades of things to come perhaps!

In all respects it can be said that the five-day trip was very worthwhile. Ties with the NZLA are certainly growing closer - I hope we can offer the same hospitality at LAA22.

Susan Acutt
Executive Director

Latest news from IBBY

THE FOLLOWING BOOKS submitted by Australia will be awarded the 1982 Hans Christian Andersen Honour Diploma. Congratulations to Ruth Park *Playing Beatie Bow* (Thomas Nelson) for writing and Heather Philpott *The Rainforest Children* (OUP) for illustration. These prestigious awards are now known as The Little Nobel Prizes for Children's Literature.

There are, to date, 53 in the Australian delegation to the 18th IBBY Biennial Congress to be held in Britain at Cambridge University 6-10 September 1982. At the moment no more places are available.

The IBBY International Multicultural Collection of books mounted for the International Year of Disabled Persons is now in Australia. It will soon commence its journey around the country. It will go on display in Sydney from 29 March to 2 April at Overseas Telecommunications Headquarters, 32 Martin Place.

The launching of the IBBY publication *Able to Enjoy: Books and the Young Disabled* will take place at the close of the above exhibition at 6.00 pm at Overseas Telecommunications Headquarters. These are the proceedings of the conference held at the University of Sydney and organised by Australian IBBY for IYDP. The book will be launched by Professor John Ward, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, The University of Sydney.

To be launched at the same time is the *Bibliography of Books by Australian Authors in which Disabled Young People Play a Role*. The launchings will be followed by the Hans Christian Andersen Dinner to celebrate International Children's Book Day and the birthdate of the great master. (See *Happenings*).

The poster for the 1982 International Children's Book Day has been designed by the sponsoring nation Cyprus and the message written by the Cypriot writer Kika Pulcheriou. It comes in six languages. The poster and message may be purchased for \$5 (includes postage and packing).

The 1982 Australian Bookmark for International Children's Book Day is much simpler in form and therefore more suitable for children. It carries a charming illustration

by Pamela Allen, author and illustrator of *Mr Archimedes' Bath*. With each pack of 100 bookmarks comes an explanatory sheet for librarians and teachers. Cost is \$5 per pack of 100 bookmarks (includes postage and packing).

International IBBY has published a leporello *Bears of the World*. It consists of ten bears drawn in colour by some of the world's most famous illustrators including Maurice Sendak and Suikichi Akaba. Each frame measures 12 cm by 20 cm. It may be used as a frieze, mounted separately or used as greeting cards. It is available from Australian IBBY for \$9 (includes postage and packing).

All inquiries to IBBY Australia, PO Box 194, Edgecliff NSW 2027.

Monitor Group

AT THE GENERAL COUNCIL meeting in November 1981, Council appointed a small group to monitor developments in inter-library lending within Australia. For practical purposes, it was decided that the group should be based in one city, and current members of the group are Christine Crocker and Barbara Paton from the University of Queensland, Janice Rickards from Q.I.T., Ann Clarkson from M.I.M., Margaret Lynch from Queensland State Library and Pixie Crook from Brisbane C.A.E.

The group will meet frequently and will report regularly to members through *InCite*. Formal reports will be submitted to General Council meetings throughout the year.

The group will be establishing contacts with librarians all over Australia, but invite comments, suggestions or information from any interested member. They are particularly keen to hear of any developments you may know of, or have noticed in the current inter-lending system, and would also welcome information on any inter-library loans surveys, studies or special projects. Comments to Christine Crocker, Thatcher Library, University of Queensland, 4067; phone (07) 377 2410.

New office for LAA

It is with a certain amount of trepidation and also hidden excitement that I relate the following news to the members of the LAA. In the first issue of *InCite* for 1982 the present state of LAA accommodation was discussed. Since November last year when General Council ratified the decision to look for alternative accommodation, considerable time and effort has been spent looking at potential office space. Certain parameters were adopted in this search. Basically we were looking for something that will accommodate the future growth of the Association and in the interim surplus space would be leased to generate income.

On the 25 January, the Executive met. I had been able to identify two potential office blocks, one in Surry Hills, the other at Ultimo. Valuation and building reports were obtained on both buildings. After considerable discussion and inspection the Executive decided that an offer would be made for the purchase of a building at 376 Jones Street, Ultimo. The building is freestanding, consisting of two floors covering an area of approximately 8,000 sq. ft. I am happy to say that the vendor accepted our offer of \$235,000 and it is hoped that settlement will take place before the end of March 1982.

The LAA anticipates using the first floor for its own purposes. This area alone is almost twice that of our present accommodation, and will accommodate all staff, provide a meeting room/library and an area where members can view all of our publications in comfort. The bottom floor will be leased, although in the future it is anticipated that the LAA would use this, thus providing a seminar room suitable for the holding of General Council meetings and small seminars.

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