

## Librarians, be in it! the quest for our National Word!



Judith Wright, the originator of the National Word competition. Phrases will not do — just single words that say it all.

**'WORDS, WORDS, words, I'm so sick of words' sang Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*. Perhaps she might have felt differently if finding just the right word would have won her — not Professor 'Enry 'Ig-gins but a leather bound, gold blocked, thumb indexed version of the Macquarie Dictionary in a rose-wood presentation case.**

The magnificence of the volume is completed by its fine green leather cover (formerly worn by a goat in Madras who probably couldn't understand a word of English and had never heard of Australia).

And how does one obtain this remarkable piece of craftsmanship? Should be simple

for a librarian — by coming up with the National Word.

It's all part of the fun leading up to the National Word Festival, which will take place during the long weekend of Canberra Week, from March 19-21 at the ANU.

The contest was suggested by Judith Wright, who, when asked to take part in the National Word Festival, wanted to know — 'what is the national word anyway?'

Judith Wright will be joined on the judges' panel by Dr Bill Ramson of the ANU, and expert in Australian English, and Ian Warden of the *Canberra Times*.

Further information about how to enter is given on page 9 of this issue of *InCite*. So start thinking, wordsmiths; you have until February 28 to come up with the national unit of speech usually regarded as the smallest isolable meaningful element of the language, or, to put it another way, WORD!



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### Anne Pellowski to visit Australia

THAT DISTINGUISHED American author and storyteller, Anne Pellowski, will be visiting these shores during July, on her way to Papua New Guinea.

She plans to stay in Australia for about a month and during that time is interested in doing lectures and storytelling programs in universities, schools, libraries, museums etc.

Her fee is \$100 per program, and she has prepared a number of alternatives:

An International Family Story Hour, which includes stories from all parts of the world such as an African thumb piano story, a story cloth from India, an origami story ect.

The History and Practice of Storytelling, a lecture suited to college and university students.

Locating, Selecting and Using Children's Books in other languages — suited to librarians and library school students.

Made to Measure: Children's Books in Developing Countries, a lecture with slides and examples, suited to colleges, universities and libraries.

Author-in-the-School Program, a morning visit to a primary school with two large assembly sessions. Those interested in this are asked to write for an information sheet.

To make bookings or obtain further information, contact Anne Pellowski, 639 West End Avenue, Apt. 6D, New York NY 10025, USA.

## Your 1983 membership fees are now due!