

News from the Divisions

SCHOOLS SECTION (SA)

Check it out!

A literature-based approach to the teaching of reading which encourages the use of a wide range of material has been adopted in many Australian schools in recent years. While this method is more enjoyable and effective than phonics, look and say, basal reading schemes etc, it places a great strain upon teachers and librarians who rack their brains to find suitable books.

Early in 1984, the Schools Section in South Australia decided to make its major task for the year the production of a series of annotated bibliographies of fiction for use in literature-based reading programmes. *Check it out!* is the result. At the beginning of the project, four working groups were set up, each responsible for looking at the material available for a particular age group, selecting the best 150-200 titles in a number of categories, e.g. humour, fantasy, traditional literature, family stories, and assembling the final bibliography.

The first two bibliographies of junior primary (ages 5-7) and middle primary (8-10), were launched in January by LAA SA Branch President, Maureen Nimon, at the annual Children's Literature Summer School. The other parts, upper primary (11-13) and secondary (13+), will be published early this year. The annotations are brief and practically oriented, in keeping with the bibliographies' aim, i.e. to provide helpful ideas for classroom teachers and teacher-librarians who are struggling to keep up a supply of exciting, high quality books for their reading programme.

Each part costs \$2.00 (including postage) and they are available from the LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007. South Australian orders should be sent to: LAA, PO Box 47, Rundle Mall, Adelaide SA 5000.

ACT BRANCH

The 1984 Annual General Meeting of the Branch was held on Thursday December 6. David Barron, Canberra City Librarian, spoke on 'a central Public Library for Canberra'.

The first Branch Meeting for 1985 was held on Thursday 7 February. Activities for 1985 were discussed.

The first will be the talk of Mrs Sylva Simsova on 'Research Methods used in investigating the reading of ethnic groups' at the National Library on Monday 25 February. There will be a dinner for Mrs Simsova at the Canberra Labor Club on Sunday, 24 February.

The Library Technicians are finalising work for the National Conference. The Registration deadline was extended to 28 February.

The Specials are to hold a seminar on RSI on Friday, 22 March.

The Cataloguers have begun preparations for the National Seminar 11-12 October.

A.I. Crewe

PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION, NSW GROUP

The Group's AGM was held at the library of the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens, on Tuesday, February 12 1985.

Members were treated to a lively introduction to the library by Anna Hallett, and a tour which included a specially mounted display of some of the Collection's rarer items, including a copy of Erasmus Darwin's *The Loves of the Plants*, a botanical treatise entirely in voluptuous rhyming couplets.

The AGM also saw the introduction of an enthusiastic new committee and the launching of a packed and varied programme for 1985. The Group's first meeting (see Happenings for details) will highlight some innovative projects being carried out in Sydney public libraries, including work with the unemployed, new dimensions in housebound services and community information, and the use of compact disc and in-house video productions.

Meetings planned for later in the year will cover current industrial issues in libraries; making the best use of the library dollar; and charging for reference and information services.

RARA, the Reference and Readers Advisors special interest group, is responding to the family history onslaught with an all-day genealogical workshop in June, and tours of the genealogical resources of the Mitchell Library. RARA is also planning a meeting on data

bases in public libraries.

The new committee is keen to hear from members on these and other issues. We look forward to meeting you at the above events, or please contact us direct.

Committee members. President: Vicki Esmonde-Morgan (Auburn), Secretary: Colin Gray (Sutherland), Treasurer and RARA Convener: Jenny Kena (Rockdale), Minutes Secretary: Margaret Whittaker (Bankstown), and Paul Adams (Penrith), Dianne Friend (Public Libraries Division, State Library), Diana Oliver (Sutherland) and Hilary Yerbury (Kuring-gai CAE).

IFLA Section on School Libraries

This section is currently engaged on a project entitled Guidelines for the Instruction of Teachers on the Educational and Curricular Use of School Libraries.

Its aims are:

to examine how the concept of information, and the skills required for its handling, might become a focus within the context of teacher education at initial and in-service stages;

to relate this to studies of teachers' concerns, decision making and information needs; to develop a concept of the school library within the educational process that enables an across curriculum approach to the teaching of information handling skills;

to develop guidelines for a core course or series of activities on the use of school libraries in curricula.

Membership of Working Group

Noelene Hall — Lecturer, Teacher Education Program, Macquarie University, North Ryde. 2113 (Member Standing Committee, IFLA Section on School Libraries and Coordinator of WG.)

Virginia Berkeley — Bedfordshire County Library, County Hall, Bedford. United Kingdom.

Virginia Dike — Department of Library Science, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria.

Anne Galler — Concordia University, Montreal, Canada. (Member Standing Committee, IFLA Section on School Libraries.)

Marit Helle — Hosletoppen School, 1347 Hosle. Norway. (Member Standing Committee, IFLA Section on School Libraries.)

Setsuko Koga — Oyama Gakuin University, 4-4-25, Shibuya, Shibuyaku, Tokyo. Japan.

Jean Lowrie — Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo. U.S.A. (Member Standing Committee, IFLA Section on School Libraries.)

Roger Stringer — Gweru Teachers' College, P/Bag 9055, Gweru, Zimbabwe.

Lawrence N. Wanyama — Kenya Institute of Education, P.O. Box 31231, Nairobi, Kenya.

Request for Contributions

The Working Group is interested in information, ideas, and experiences related to any aspect of the Project. In particular sample materials, course outlines and examples at the school, regional and central levels of education are needed. Please send contributions direct to Noelene Hall as soon as possible.

NAME CHANGE

From March 1 the Riverina CAE is to be known as Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education.

Announcing the change the Principal, Dr C.D. Blake said that, as well as reflecting the new status of the College, the name 'Institute' would help to avoid confusion with technical colleges and developing senior high schools.

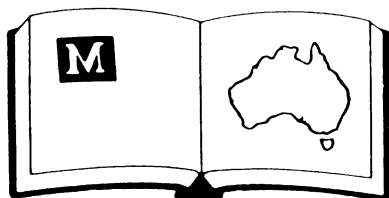
Dr Blake said the Institute was confident of providing a whole new range of educational opportunities for southern NSW and northern Victoria.

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