

KOALA off to a flying start

The KOALA Council has pleasure in announcing that its first year of operation has been an outstanding success. Readers of *InCite* will now know that a children's choice award, the KOALA Award, was instituted in NSW and the ACT during 1986. Children in schools and public libraries nominated their favourite Australian books. Short lists for primary and secondary readers were then compiled. Short-listed books were read between March and August 1987 and children rated them on a four point scale. An outright winner from each list was determined from the 140,000 votes received.

Universal Children's Day, 28 October 1987, was chosen for the presentation ceremony with the venue, Sydney's Taronga Zoo. The program included music by the Connell's Joint Public School Band, readers' theatre by Marion Robertson and Barbara Poston Anderson, and storytelling by Pam Lloyd. The highlight of the proceedings was the presentation of the award to the winning authors by Richard Morecroft. Robin Klein's *Hating Alison Ashley* won the secondary readers vote and *Possum Magic* by Mem Fox and Julie Vivas was chosen by the primary readers.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the KOALA Awards this inaugural year, especially the School Library Association of NSW who provided the funding for prizes. Thanks are also due to NSW Branch Council for the financial support which enabled our interstate winners to come to the ceremony and for Mem Fox and Julie Vivas to visit some country participants in the Cowra district.

Thanks to each member of the Council for the enthusiasm and tireless effort which has been vital for KOALA's success. I look forward to our future activities.

Janet Sorby
President, KOALA Council

MATLAS

The RMIT Libraries, the Melbourne CAE, the Victorian College of Pharmacy, the Victorian AE and, in 1988, the Victorian College of Agriculture and Horticulture, have purchased the GEAC library system. The resulting network, to be known as MATLAS (Melbourne Allied Tertiary Library Automation System), will commence operation in January 1988.

MATLAS will provide all colleges with online catalogues, loans, acquisitions and serials systems. The controlling computer will be located on the RMIT campus.

Sue Moore, Associate Librarian of the RMIT Libraries, is chairing an implementation committee representing all colleges. Working parties of this committee are currently examining the various modules of the appropriate formats. Delivery is expected this month and it is hoped that the first two modules will be operational by late December. Loans and OPACS will be operational in the Central, TAFE Sector and Family McPherson Libraries of RMIT and at the Melbourne CAE at the beginning of the '88 academic year. Other colleges will be operating shortly after this. Acquisitions and serials modules will be added later in the year.

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CSR Infoservices (CSR Corporate Library and Information Service) will cease operation on 28 November 1987.

Any interlibrary loan enquiries for sugar related material only should be directed to: Librarian, CSR Sugar Division, 70 John Street, Pyrmont NSW 2009, (02) 692 7528.

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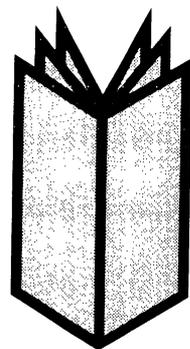
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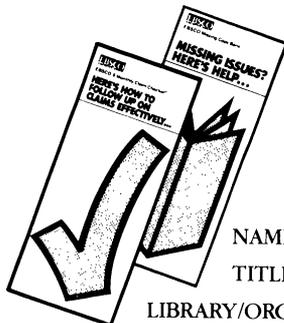
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