

IN THE NEWS

Running a book on the Braille Award

Braille readers are taking a sporting interest in the outcome of this year's Braille Book of the Year Award. The short list of seven titles from which the Award will be chosen by the library's 3000 borrowers has excited great interest among them — even to the extent of some literary wagers being laid. The titles chosen by the Literary Panel are:

- *The Auschwitz poems* — Lily Brett
- *Winter in Jerusalem* — Blanche d'Alpuget
- *The well* — Elizabeth Jolley
- *Julia Paradise* — Rod Jones
- *A riverman's story* — EM 'Mick' Kelsall
- *George Johnston: a biography* — Garry Kinnane
- *Plankton's luck* — Mungo MacCallum

Commenting on the selection, Barrett Reid, a Literary Panel judge, said all seven titles would appeal to a wide variety of readers of all ages.

'The high quality of the novels entered for this Award is reflected in the selection of the d'Alpuget, the Jolley and the Jones, which are of international quality and come close to what could be called compulsive reading,' he said. 'Biographies are also well represented, with one "sleeper" — a little known title reminiscent of Albert Facey's *A fortunate life*. I refer to *A riverman's story* by EM Kelsall.'

Furniture for disabled users

Many libraries have in recent years become aware of the needs of people with disabilities. Much attention has been given to making buildings physically accessible and developing collections of audio and large print books.

Libraries in Tasmania are now being given assistance in solving the problems faced by some disabled people once they are inside the building and have found resources they want to use.

Funded by the Rotary Club of Clarmont, the Derwent Regional Library has recently acquired specially designed furniture to help people with disabilities better utilise the library's facilities.

Comprising a chair with extended legs, an adjustable library table, a reading light and a trolley basket, the furniture is manufactured in Tasmania to specifications provided by Barbara Sattler, founder of Hear-a-Book and member of the State Advisory Committee on Library Services to the Disabled.

Further information may be obtained by writing to Barbara Sattler, PO Box 557, Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7005.

Sci-tech number six

The sixth edition of *The McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology* will be available in Australia in May.

The new edition has been substantially revised and has expanded from 15 to 20 volumes. Not only has new material been included but as Tim Edwards, McGraw-Hill's Manager for Professional Books comments 'much of the material covered in the fifth edition has undergone extensive and in many cases, total revision.'

McGraw-Hill is offering the new edition at a special pre-publication recommended retail price of \$2150 until 30 June, 1987. On 1 July the US price will rise to US\$1600 and from this date the Australian recommended retail price will be \$2450.

Enquiries regarding *The McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology* should be directed to Tim Edwards at McGraw-Hill Book Company Australia (02) 406 4288.

A toast to Hans!

Gourmet food, fine vintage wines and possum magic will be on the menu at IBBY's Hans Christian Anderson Dinner. One of Australia's best illustrators, Julie Vivas, of *The Tram to Bondi Beach* and *Possum Magic* fame will be guest speaker.

The celebratory dinner is being held on 24 March at Len Evans Wine Cellars, 18 Bulletin Place, Circular Quay commencing with pre-dinner drinks at 7.00 pm. The cost is \$28 pp (including dinner and wines) and cheques should be made payable to IBBY Australia and sent to IBBY c/ PO Box 194 Edgecliff NSW 2027.



To help you celebrate on 2 April, the day Hans turns 182, IBBY has posters and bookmarks for sale. As this year's birthday is being sponsored by the Russian section of IBBY, the poster comes from Russia (of course!) and costs \$6 (\$8.50 posted). Australian bookmarks illustrated by Sandra Laroche cost \$6 (\$7.50 posted). Orders can be placed by writing to IBBY or phoning (02) 32 5075.

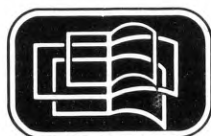
Three Fellowships

The Council of the National Library of Australia intends to award three Harold White Fellowships at the National Library for the calendar year 1988. These fellowships are to enable established scholars, librarians and writers to work for periods of between three and six months on the materials in the Library's collections. This is with a view to the publication of original research based on these materials or a description or listing of them, or of a study of the methods and techniques used in acquiring, listing, cataloguing, arranging or using the materials.

Fellows are expected to work at the National Library during the Fellowship. The Fellowship will cover travel costs to Canberra and include a grant-in-aid towards living expenses in Canberra. Fellowships will not normally be awarded to candidates who are working towards a higher degree. Applications close on 30 April 1987.

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