

MAJOR LAA AWARDS CONFERRED

The General Council of the Association has conferred three major awards for 1988. The H.C.L. Anderson Award has been conferred on Warren Horton, the Redmond Barry Award on Kathleen Marcelle (Marcie) Muir, and a Fellowship goes to Michael Ramsden.

Warren Horton assumed the highest position in Australian librarianship when he was appointed Director-General of the National Library of Australia in 1985. Prior to that he had been State Librarian of Victoria, and Deputy State Librarian of NSW.

He has held numerous positions in the Library Association of Australia, including President in 1984, President of the NSW Branch in 1971-3 and 1981, General Councillor for NSW in 1971-72.

As President of the Association he set an exemplary model, travelling extensively to speak to and meet the members of the Association and giving support and advice both to the membership and to the Head Office staff.

During this time, he was responsible for bringing about some major changes to the Association. Under his leadership General Council established the Corporate Plan and Review Committee, of which Mr Horton was Chairman. As a result of the Committee's report to Council in 1986 the Association has a new name and objects, and there has been a major review of its services and activities.

A notable achievement of Mr Horton's presidency, was the organisation and chairing of the Document Delivery Summit held in Canberra in November 1984. This paved the way for the development of more effective national services in this important area. He has made a major contribution to the lobbying efforts of the Association by preparing lobbying policy papers and by voicing the concerns of the Association at every available opportunity. He has been a strong advocate of a national information policy. Mr Horton is a member of the IFLA 1988 Conference Committee and has promoted the conference actively in Australia and overseas.

Warren Horton was appointed to the staff of the Public (now State) Library of NSW in 1957 and he was promoted to the position of Deputy State Librarian in 1975. He made several major contributions to the State Library, playing a dominant part in the Sheldon Award which established a clear professional structure for librarians and a separate career structure for para-professionals. As Chairman of the LERN (Library of NSW: Enquiry into Role and Needs) Committee, in 1974 he produced a wide ranging report which outlined future directions for the Library.

In August 1981 Warren Horton was appointed State Librarian of Victoria. In the four years of his appointment he was responsible for a complete organisational restructuring of the Library, for the recruitment and development of a cohesive and effective management team, introduced new services and was instrumental in promoting a major program of planning a new State Library building.

In July 1985, Mr Horton took up the position of Director-General of the National Library of Australia. He is an eloquent and committed advocate for the Library to government, the public and the profession. He has been a member of the AACOBS National Council since 1981, and was Chairman of the Australian Libraries and Information Council. It is through his efforts, primarily, that the Aus-

tralian Council of Libraries and Information Services has been formed.

He is the instigator and Chairman of the Australian Library Summit which will be held in October 1988 and which will address key issues in librarianship and identify preferred alternative structures for library and related information services for the future.



Mr Warren Horton, NLA Director-General and recipient of the H.C.L. Anderson Award.

Marcie Muir — her bibliography has become 'an essential reference and research tool, for both Australian and overseas libraries'.



Redmond Barry Award for Marcie Muir

When Marcie Muir began work on her *Bibliography of Australian Children's Books* in the late 1950s, the large libraries, in common with those overseas, had been collecting children's books in a haphazard way for several generations. In most cases, however, these books had not been identified as children's literature. Therefore before any serious research could be carried out it was necessary to produce a bibliography of the nation's output.

With the publication of Volume I of the *Bibliography* in 1970 and of Volume II in 1976 Mrs Muir identified and listed some 6,000 Australian children's books, many in variant editions. This work was achieved by searching the catalogues of the major libraries and by examining the books individually. In addition, Mrs Muir studied antiquarian catalogues produced in Australia and overseas and also visited the homes of private collectors. Over the past 12 years she has identified a further 2,000 items.

Mrs Muir's bibliography has become an essential reference and research tool for both Australian and overseas libraries. It has led to informed collecting of Australian children's books by large libraries and by private collectors. It has encouraged the preservation of the books, many of which might have been lost to posterity. It has, furthermore, widened the scope of research required for the study of Australian children's literature. Research workers and students now have a wide, rich field to study and no longer need to base their findings on a few books which they happened upon. Australian children's literature today is regarded as a legitimate subject for postgraduate study.

The importance of Mrs Muir's pioneering work in Australian bibliography has been recognised by her being awarded a research grant from AACOBS to compile a further volume of the *Bibliography*. She is currently working on this.

Mrs Muir has been a tireless leader in promoting international awareness of and interest in Australian children's books. This has been assisted through her years of book-

selling experience with her husband, Harry, at the Beck Book Company in Adelaide. Her personal acquaintance with many overseas publishers and booksellers has helped to ensure the publication and recognition of her work internationally.

More recently, her contributions on Australian children's literature to such works as *The Oxford Companion to Australian Literature* and *Australians: A Guide to Sources* have confirmed her reputation. It is now possible to find illustrations from previously little-known Australian books appearing in histories on other subjects. Mrs Muir's original research on individual children's authors and illustrators has added a new dimension to the field.

The painstaking, thorough work of this bibliographer and author has provided an incomparable foundation for the study and appreciation of Australian children's books both now and for the future.

Michael Ramsden, BA, MSocSc, FLA, FLAA

Michael Ramsden has made a distinguished contribution to the theory and practice of librarianship through his research, his scholarship and publications, particularly in the area of classification and indexing, and in his contribution to the development of education for library and information studies. He has an internationally recognised reputation for his work in the areas of classification and indexing. His books are used as standard texts throughout the world, and the workbooks published by RMIT have been made available to schools of library and information studies in many countries.

Michael Ramsden has researched and made major contributions in other areas. In the 1970s he was responsible for significant pioneering research in the area of standards and performance measures for libraries. His work with public libraries in Victoria has become a landmark study. He has a record of sustained high achievement and leadership in the field of librarianship. His work experience has seen him progress through public library positions in the UK and then levels of academic institutions, first in the UK, and then in Australia. In his position as Head of RMIT's Department of Librarianship (now Information Services) he carried through a major reorientation of both the Department's teaching program and its role in the Institute. The Department's membership of RMIT's Information Technology Division represents major recognition of this reorientation.

After declining to apply for the position of Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Michael Ramsden was then invited to do so. The fact that he then gained this position is an indicator of the high esteem in which he is held in his institution.

Michael Ramsden has been an active member and office holder in the Library Association, the Australian Society of Indexers and FID's Commission for Asia and Oceania. He has been on the Editorial Boards of two international journals and been involved in education for library and information studies in China and East Africa. He has been a professional member of the Library Association of Australia since arriving in Australia in 1971. He was General Councillor for Victoria in 1976/77, and a member of the Standing Committee of Council, President of

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by AACOBS and ALIC members to an interim national council which had its first meeting, chaired by the Director-General, on 26 February 1988. That meeting co-opted four more members from constituencies not already represented. The interim National Council met again on 9 April. A principal task of the interim National Council, whose term expires on 30 September 1988, is to prepare a formal constitution and arrange for elections to a new National Council. However it is also picking up ongoing projects from ALIC and AACOBS and the latter has made part of its remaining funds available to ACLIS. Until ACLIS has been fully established all present AACOBS and ALIC members are regarded as members of ALIC. Arrangements are in hand for a vote of AACOBS members to wind up that organisation.

A prominent theme in the discussions leading up to ACLIS has been the need for the library community to have a higher profile nationally and regionally. To assist towards this objective the National Library is supporting a senior appointment of Executive Officer for at least three years as well as providing secretarial support. It is assumed that the AACOBS structure of Working Parties and State/Territory Committees will continue though probably in modified form. Membership, which will be by subscription, will be open to a similar range of bodies as was eligible to join AACOBS. ACLIS, however, will not claim formally to represent archives; it recognizes that this is the function of the Australian Council of Archives.

In addition to getting itself established and continuing the projects taken over from AACOBS and ALIC, ACLIS intends to: emphasize the significant contribution which libraries can make to economic recovery and the Government's educational goals; ensure that libraries have policies and services which contribute to economic recovery; interact with the Summit Steering Committee; support efforts to develop information policies at state level and to identify the essential elements of a national information system; identify issues as they emerge and develop position statements and select suitable channels for publicizing them; place special emphasis on research and development; develop working relationships with organizations with related interests.

The high profile and more pro-active stance which ACLIS has been established to assume will require the support of the community of libraries throughout Australia. If ACLIS is to be successful it will need resources far beyond the \$36,000 or so which was subscribed to AACOBS by its members. The National Library has offered strong support to launch ACLIS but cannot be expected to continue to do so without tangible evidence that other libraries consider ACLIS of sufficient importance to warrant substantial support.

Libraries have a high degree of mutual interdependence and ACLIS is the vehicle for cooperation among all libraries at national and local levels. Its success will enrich the information resources and services available to the Australian community.

Derek Fielding

President, ACLIS Interim National Council

InCite is published 21 times a year by the Library Association of Australia, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo, NSW 2007. Phone (02) 692 9233.

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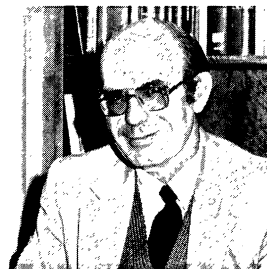
Editor: Kathy Husselbee

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the Victorian Branch in 1974, and Secretary of the LAA Biennial Conference Committee for the 1975 Melbourne conference.

Michael Ramsden is a strong advocate of continuing education. He has conducted regular indexing programs for the Australian Society of Indexers, PRECIS workshops for RMIT, and two series of travelling workshops for the LAA on the new edition of AACR which were held in all capital cities and Townsville in 1979.

Michael Ramsden has been very active in the area of course development and course design, and led major course redesigns at RMIT, including the early introduction of computer familiarisation subjects. Since 1984 he has been heavily involved in utilising information management software packages in both teaching and research programs. He has always been very generous in giving his time and expertise to others in the interests of furthering the development of librarianship and in education for library and information



Michael Ramsden — 'a distinguished contribution to the theory and practice of librarianship.'

studies in particular.

Fellowship of the Library Association of Australia will be conferred on Michael Ramsden at a function to be hosted by the Victorian Branch at RMIT on 6 July. The H.C.L. Anderson Award will be presented to Warren Horton during the IFLA/LAA conference. The Redmond Barry Award will be presented to Marcie Muir in Adelaide in November, in conjunction with the meeting of General Council.

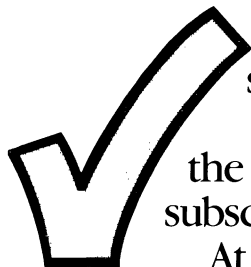
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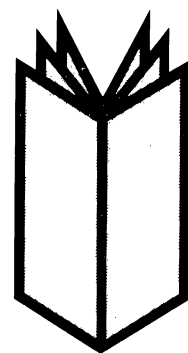
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