

# IN THE NEWS

## Vigorous organisation

Australian Writers' Guild Executive Officer, Angela Wales, has announced her intention to leave the Guild in December. Angela has been with the Guild since 1979, and was appointed Executive Officer in 1983.

### Greater profile

David Williamson, Guild President, says 'Angela will be a great loss to the Guild. In her 10 years with us she has not only run an efficient and increasingly vigorous organisation, but she has also helped give Australian film and television writers a much greater profile. We will miss her enormously, for her skills and experience, and as a

friend. She will be extremely difficult to replace.'

Angela plans to marry in December, and will make her home in the United States from January 1990.

The Management Committee of the Guild has formed a search committee to seek a suitable replacement.

For information about the Australian Writers' Guild, contact Geoffrey Atherden on (02) 32 4585 or (02) 398 6759, or Laura Jones on (02) 437 6544.

## Lucky librarian

### Travel bursary

The health librarians of Australia and New Zealand meet in Auckland for the ALIA Biennial Health Libraries Conference, 13-17 November.

The ALIA Health Libraries Section (NSW Group) executive was concerned that the high cost of travel, as well as scarce hospital funds, would prevent some librarians from attending. Supported by matching funds from the Association, the Section sponsored a bursary — advertised, and subject to open competition — to cover travel to the Conference. Most of the applications were of a high standard, and amply demonstrate the regard in which

the Conference is held.

### Congratulations Glenda

After much thought, the selection committee awarded the bursary to Glenda Browne, recently appointed Librarian of Blacktown Hospital, Sydney. We congratulate her on the award.

*Ian Stubbin*  
Secretary

Health Libraries Section, NSW

## Expert systems

In his forthcoming study leave in the first half of 1990, Dr John Weckert, of the School of Information Studies, Charles Sturt University, Riverina, will visit a number of universities in the United Kingdom that are major centres of research and development in the area of expert systems in libraries.

### Problem areas

Expert systems offer a further development of the application of computer technology to assist with difficult problems in areas such as acquisitions, cataloguing, retrieval and referral. They are well-known in the areas of medicine, agriculture and finance, but very few applications have been introduced into libraries.



Join us to celebrate the  
**10th Annual 3M Talking Book of the Year Award Dinner**  
at the  
*Sebel Town House, Sydney*  
on

Wednesday 15 November, 1989 commencing at 7pm  
*presented by 3M Australia in conjunction with the Royal Blind Society*

**Winning Author: Elizabeth Jolley for: My Father's Moon**

**Winning Narrator: Mary Haire**

\$45 per person includes a 3 course dinner with drinks

Phone to book: Leah Rayner, Royal Blind Society Tel: (02) 747 6622

**Major conference**

Dr Weckert has been instrumental in planning a conference on the use of computer expert systems to improve library operations, to be held at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, 22-24 July 1990. It is believed that this will be the first major Australian conference on the topic. It will provide a forum for ongoing interest in the rapidly evolving computer technology for systems developers from all over Australia.

Negotiations are underway with leading researchers from the United States and the United Kingdom, who are actively involved in the development of expert systems for libraries and who have published extensively in this area, to deliver keynote addresses. A workshop in conjunction with the conference will provide a hands-on introduction to expert systems and their library applications. A trade display will also be staged.

Calls are now being made for expressions of interest in the conference, including indication of willingness to present papers. Indications of interest from the trade would also be welcome. Please contact Dr John Weckert, School of Information Studies, Charles Sturt

University, PO Box 588, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650.

From 2 ...

**Progressive Library**

Construction work is progressing at the T.L. Robertson Library, Curtin University of Technology, Perth. It is expected that the new extension will be completed in October 1990 and will be fully operational by the beginning of the first semester in 1991.

The extension includes approximately 2500 square metres (or 40%) of space for library use and 3700 square metres for general teaching facilities. It will permit an increase in library seating space from the present level of 1000 seats to approximately 1500. With Curtin University enrolments for 1990 projected at 15 000 students, the library will retain a student-to-seat ratio of 10:1.

Visitors to the ALIA 1990 Conference will have an opportunity to view our progress.

sector. The lack of resources and support for teacher-librarians and for their students will rebound on the tertiary and the public sectors. They will have to cope with the increased demands for resources, as well as deal with people less able to use a library or to deal with the demands of tertiary education.

All Branches should be aware of, and be monitoring, the situation of the central school library services in their State or Territory, and should be prepared to take action to support their colleagues when necessary. ALIA must do all it can to ensure that school libraries have the resources they need to train the new generation to use libraries and information resources — not just now, but throughout life.

Averill Edwards  
President, ALIA



**"I believe that at least half of the currently available, white authored, 'historical' accounts of what is termed Australian settlement and analysis of contemporary Australia, is fiction."**

Sykes, 1988 (in 'Connections')

*"Since (this) book is authored by Aboriginal people, who speak for themselves and do not make sweeping statements about 'history', it may be seen as a personalised counterbalance to both popular myths and academic analysis of Black-White contact history"*

Hercus & Sutton, 1986 (in 'This is what happened')

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