

Befriend a KOALA

One of the best ways of supporting or promoting literacy in children is through reading for pleasure - it is one of our lifelong learning experiences. As part of reading for pleasure, reader's choice awards involve children in critical appraisal, give them a chance to share with others their favourite book, and then participate in their own award to their favourite book.

The Kids Own Australian Literature Award (KOALA) is the readers' choice award for NSW and ACT. It is supported by the School Libraries Section and Children's and Youth Services Section, NSW Groups. In the last 3 years over 335 000 students have voted towards the KOALA awards.

KOALA nomination forms will be available this month, through a number of venues including public libraries, for children to nominate their favourite Australian fiction book. The deadline for nominations is Easter 1990. In May shortlists for infants/primary school readers and secondary school readers will be distributed for children to make their evaluation.

KOALA awards for 1990 will be announced during Children's Week in October. KOALA nominations and evaluations should be sent to KOALA Council.

To ensure that you receive all information you can become a friend of KOALA (\$20pa). Contact the KOALA Council, c/- Liz Bowring, Teacher-librarian, Kingsgrove North High, St Albans Road, Kingsgrove, 2208, telephone, (02) 506 283 or (02) 504 034.

KOALA Winners 1989

The third annual KOALA awards were presented at a ceremony involving 200 children on 26 October 1989 in Hurstville.

The Infants/Primary KOALA

The eleventh hour by Graeme Base is a lavishly illustrated mystery book featuring outrageously presented animals. Horace, an elephant, is having his eleventh birthday, and so he invites eleven friends to a party, the feast of which will not be held until the eleventh hour.

Disaster befalls all as they find that one of the guests has helped him or herself to all the food. The reader is charged with the task of solving the

mystery from the myriad of clues scattered throughout the book.

Graeme Base is an artist and a musician, and has been involved in the production of four books. Graeme expressed his pleasure at receiving the award, emphasising the special honour of being selected by his audience as their favourite again. Graeme won the Secondary KOALA for his book *Animalia* in 1988.

The Secondary KOALA

So much to tell you by John Marsden is an absorbing diary of a girl who is terribly scarred both physically and emotionally as the result of a bitter struggle between her parents. She has been sent to a boarding school where she is encouraged to gradually reveal herself through her writing and contact with caring others.

John Marsden teaches English in high schools, and loves reading, writing and teaching. He is a keen observer, who writes from what he sees around him.

Infants/Primary 1989

1. *The eleventh hour* - Graeme Base
2. *Unreal*, Paul Jennings
3. *Uncanny*, Paul Jennings
4. *Unbelievable*, Paul Jennings
5. *The 27th annual African hippopotamus race*, Morris
6. *Hating Alison Ashley*, Robin Klein
7. *Cabbage patch fib*, Paul Jennings
8. *Where the forest meets the sea*, Jeanne Baker
9. *Animalia*, Graeme Base
10. *So much to tell you*, John Marsden

Secondary 1989

1. *So much to tell you*, John Marsden
2. *All we know*, Simon French
3. *Jodie's journey*, Colin Thiele
5. *Unreal*, Paul Jennings
6. *A fortunate life*, A.B. Facey
7. *People might hear you*, Robin Klein
8. *Games*, Robin Klein
9. *Harp in the south*, Ruth Park
10. *The green wind*, Thurley Fowler

Liz Bowring

Joint copying jeopardy

Many librarians will have been aware that in the last 2 years the future of the long established Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP) has been in jeopardy. The State Library of New South Wales, which had helped set up the project in 1945, withdrew from it in June 1988. This caused a serious financial problem, coming at a time when unfavourable exchange rates were leading to sharp rises in filming costs.

The National Library of Australia, the other senior partner, was strongly opposed to any precipitate dismantling of the AJCP, especially as several important filming projects were underway in Britain. In 1988 it appealed to other research libraries and archives for financial assistance to help it maintain the AJCP office in London for a further 5 years.

Ten institutions responded with definite commitments: the State Library of Western Australia, State Reference Library of the Northern Territory, and the libraries of Deakin University, Flinders University, Monash University, University of Adelaide, University of New England, University of New South Wales, University of Newcastle and University of Sydney.

While it had been hoped that one or two other large university libraries might have given support, the funds promised were sufficient to compensate for the withdrawal of the State Library of New South Wales. The National Library therefore decided to retain the two AJCP staff in London until 1993.

The Library is most grateful to the above institutions and also to the State Library of Victoria, the National Library of New Zealand and the National Archives of New Zealand, which continue to make a substantial contribution to meeting filming costs.

In the next 4 years the AJCP partners hope to fill some major gaps in the coverage of Australian and Pacific records held in Britain. In addition to Foreign Office and Admiralty classes at the Public Record Office, work is proceed-