

# In the News

## Audio books and talking books

### National Audio Book Award 1990

The 1990 National Audio Book of the Year Award was a tie. The judges declared two winners: the 'Hear a Book' Service (Tasmania) production of *Gone to Earth* by Mary Webb narrated by Anne Fraser, and the Royal Blind Society of New South Wales production of *The Great World* by David Malouf narrated by Bill Conn.

The National Library of Australia established the Audio Book Award in 1988 with the aim of improving the quality of production of spoken word publications

### KOALA — Kids Own Australian Literature Award

Our story on the KOALA Awards in *inCite* 19 last year spoke of the 'National results', which was a misunderstanding of the NSW press release. Our fault, not theirs. Beatrice Fincher, the President of the Young Australians Best Book Award (YABBA) Council, has written to correct us. She says, "Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales have each established annual children's book awards that continue on a State by State basis. The Northern Territory also has recently re-established this activity as KROC ('Kids Reading Oz Choice') Awards. YABBA attracts a small amount of attention from other states, as may also KOALA. The YABBA Council did propose an Australia wide collation of voting as a Bicentennial activity but received lukewarm support, so this did not proceed. YABBA is unaware of any move to make KOALA the national award." ■



for people with disabilities.

'Hear a Book' Service (Tasmania) has produced over 5700 audio books since 1972. The books are recorded specifically for people with a print disability and are distributed through the public library

system in all States. Copies of these titles are available for purchase. Anne Fraser has been a voluntary narrator since 1974.

The Royal Blind Society of New South Wales started producing audio books in 1954. They have 6700 titles available in their recreational collection and 4000 in their student collection. Their audio books are available through any library serving blind and print handicapped people in Australia and in other English speaking countries. Bill Conn, a professional actor in the theatre, on radio and in educational programs, has narrated 13 books for the Society.

### 3M Talking Book of the Year Award winners

This award is organised by the Royal Blind Society of New South Wales.

The 1990 winners were *The Road from Coorain*, written by Jill Ker Conway and narrated by Jan Oxenbould, and *The Blue Chameleon* by Katherine Scholes and narrated by Stephen Boyle. The latter won the inaugural Variety Club Children's Talking Book Award. ■

## Tenth birthday for NT State Reference Library

In 1980 the State Reference Library of the Northern Territory opened with one staff member and no publicity on the first floor of a Darwin building whose street frontage was a betting shop. Ten years later, boasting 17 full-time staff, a much higher public profile, and having taken over all three floors of the building, its progress was seen as something worth celebrating.

The Tenth Anniversary celebrations were held during the week 4-10 November, beginning with a 2-page supplement in the *Sunday Territorian*. Among the week's highlights were:

- The launch of four new titles in the library's Occasional Papers series by the Territory's Chief Justice Austin Asche.
- Two exhibitions: 'The Art of the Book: An Australian Perspective', selected from the James Hardie Collection courtesy of the State Library of Queensland, and 'Mapping Australia and South East Asia', a display of original printed maps from the

16th century to the early 19th century held by the library.

- A lunchtime lecture by Paul France, the Territory's only antiquarian and rare book dealer, entitled 'The Gathering and Protection of Old Books in the Top End'.
- A Couchman-style debate featuring Territory personalities and members of the public.
- 'Vision Splendid or Dreadful Prospect', an evening of readings from Territory books, diaries, letters, newspapers, poetry and Hansards.
- The Eric Johnston lecture for 1990 delivered by Dick Kimber, with the title 'The End of the Bad Old Days', about European settlement in central Australia up to the 1880s.

The week ended at sunset in the Darwin Botanic Garden with a tree planting ceremony: a Banyan, the library's symbolic Tree of Knowledge. Long may it grow.

Jenny Saunders ■

### UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

FOR SALE BY TENDER NO.082  
The Library Systems Section has for sale by tender the following items:-

Three ROM IV Microfilm Readers

For further technical details and to arrange an inspection. Please ring Mr David Fraser on (002) 20 2206 between 9.00am and 4.00 pm Monday to Friday.

Tender envelopes should be marked Tender No 082 and deposited in the tender box at the entrance to the University Administration Building or by mail to PO Box 252C Hobart 7001 by 2.00pm Friday 1 March 1991.

The highest or any tender not necessarily accepted and all items in the above tender are sold "as is, where is"

Authorised by R M Easther University Accountant  
PO Box 252C Hobart 7001



## Australian ephemera directory

Mark Roe, Legal Deposit and Ephemera Librarian at the State Library of NSW is in the process of compiling a directory of Australian Ephemera. The directory will include details of ephemera collections in libraries, museums, historical societies, local studies collections as well as details of dealers in ephemera and collectors of ephemera with specific interests.

Information sought is name, address, phone, fax, brief description of the collection, and area of interest.

Mark can be contacted at the State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000 on (02) 230 1627, fax (02) 233 2003 or on ILANET MLN200004.

The deadline for contributions is 30 June 1991. ■

## Standing Committee for long term strategies

### Inquiry into Australia as an information society

Up to mid-January, the committee had received 90 submissions with more expected. At least nine of these were from the Association and its separate Divisions, including Tasmania, Queensland, NSW, Asia Pacific Special Interest Group, South Australia, Victoria, Special Libraries Section and Northern Territory.

The committee has so far conducted seven public hearings. Representatives of the General Council of ALIA, the Asia Pacific Special Interest Group and ACLIS appeared before the committee and gave evidence at a public hearing conducted on 12 December.

Several libraries have expressed interest in the activities of the committee. These include: Parliamentary Libraries, the State Libraries of SA, Queensland and Victoria, and the State Libraries Council, Northcote Library and Information Services, Geelong Regional Library and the Tasmanian Regional Library.

Submissions have been received from Commonwealth Government Departments, State Governments, academic institutions and interested individuals. Examples of the different areas that the committee has received submissions from are: Land Information Council, Community Information Network, Records Management Association, Computer Companies — ICL, Australian Computer Society, Australian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, Women's Electoral Lobby, Council for Adult Literacy, Women's Legal Resources Centre, and the Australian War Memorial.

The committee plans to hold hearings in Sydney and Wollongong in late February, in Canberra and Perth during March, and again in Melbourne in April.

Ian Dundas

Secretary, Standing Committee ■

## New Zealand Science restructuring — what about the research libraries?

Many Australian librarians have heard that DSIR (the New Zealand equivalent to the CSIRO) is to disappear, and wonder what will happen to its library services. *inCite* asked Monica Hissink, the Chief Librarian of DSIR, to comment. She writes:

The Minister for Research Science and Technology, in late November 1990, confirmed the Government's intention to restructure DSIR, MAF Tech, Forest, Forest Research Institute and the Meteorological Service into Crown Research Institutes (CRIs). They will be Crown owned corporate bodies broadly based on the Companies Act 1955, thus providing them with commercial powers. They will also be expected to focus on providing research for the benefit of NZ.

Between now and the end of April, there will be an extensive consultation process by the Task Force to flesh out details such as the number, size and

constitution of the CRIs, which will be considered by Cabinet 30 June 1991. All CRIs must be operational by 30 June 1992, but this does not preclude earlier establishment. The DSIR will cease to exist on 1 June 1992.

This major restructuring follows reforms of the former Labour Government which established that Departments compete for a portion of their funds, and earn significant commercial revenue.

At this stage it is difficult to foresee what impact the restructuring will have on research libraries, until the size, nature and distribution of CRIs is decided in June 1991. It is heartening that research scientists have been vocal in raising their concerns for the maintenance of libraries. Libraries and library network services such as those provided by the DSIR Library Centre are on the Agenda for discussion with the Task Force. ■

## Australian Feminist Book Fortnight

6-22 September 1991

The AFBF is a decentralised organisation that seeks to foster interest in and knowledge of women's books. It is particularly concerned to develop an interest in all kinds of Australian women's writing.

There will be national promotion of feminist literary events around the country, including all capital cities and regional and rural centres. If you can participate, AFBF will help with publicity as well as providing you with an Ideas Kit, posters and catalogues. Contact AFBF at 308 Victoria Street, Brunswick, Vic 3056, telephone (03) 387 7436, fax (03) 387 1249. ■

## Orana

### Journal of school and children's librarianship

Volume 26, number 4,  
November 1990

- Editorial
- Letter to the Editor
- 'We have been interested to read your manuscript', by Barbara Ker Wilson
- Spiit MacPhee — Australia's Tom Sawyer, by Michael Stone
- Western Perspectives
- 'What a nice job, reading all those lovely books', by Judith Phillips
- Children's Book Week in Armidale
- The Family Award is 3 years old!, by Maureen Crago
- SLANT wins prestigious award
- In memory of Vonnie Young
- News ... Coordinated by Rhonda Bracey
- Book Reviews — Coordinated by Pamela Whiteford-Hey
- Have you seen these? Anna Jermolajew and Val Noake

## Locum of the Year and Client of the Year for 1990

It takes a special kind of person to be a professional temp and librarians are no exception. In recognition of the valuable contribution that temporary library staff are making to information management, Library Locums is instigating an annual award for the most outstanding temporary employee and the most outstanding manager of the year. This is the first year of the award and is an important development in the alternative career path of temporary work.

Antoinette Fail was named as the inaugural Locum of the Year at the Library Locums' Open Day in December. Antoinette was selected in recognition of her outstanding success in 14 demanding and sometimes difficult assignments in the past 2 years.

Beth McLaren, Librarian at the NSW Department of School Education, received the 1990 Client of the Year award. Her citation commented: 'Beth takes a lot of trouble to look after her temp workforce. She plans and prepares the tasks for locums, she clearly explains what she wants done. She has made her library a friendly and efficient place to work.'

Marion Nicolson ■

## In Brief

In 1991, Butterworths Australia will commence publication of *Halsbury's Laws of Australia*, an encyclopaedic statement of Australian law.

The publishing program begins in January 1991 with the new *Australian Current Law*, and will progressively build to 30 looseleaf volumes. For further information contact Anita Sibrits, Butterworths Pty Limited, telephone (02) 805 6242. ■

# ALIA 1992 walkthrough #1

The 1991 Conference Committee held the first of its three planned 'walkthroughs' in Albury-Wodonga on 17/18 November last. This was an opportunity to explain the role, objectives, progress and future plans of each sub-committee, allow time for some discussion among the committee members, and brief members of the ALIA Riverina Regional Group and the NSW, Victorian and ACT Branch Councils. The weather was fine, the arrangements efficiently managed by the local Convention Bureau, and the



above From left: Sue King and Carol Mills, Treasurer and President respectively of the Riverina Regional Group, receive a cheque for a special grant from Judy Engall, Treasurer of NSW Branch.

left: From left: Bev Kirby, who will be ALIA President in 1992; Max Borchardt, Publicity; Roy Sanders, Chairman of the 1992 Conference Committee.

facilities that we toured promise to make an interesting and 'different' environment for the conference. A couple of snapshots confirm the happy ambience in which 2 days' hard work by a group of dedicated people produced valuable results. ■

## What conferences are to be managed by national office?

At the September General Council meeting the council passed the following resolution:

*'Resolved that General Council supports the principle that all ALIA National Conferences, whether generated by Divisions of ALIA or from within the National Office, be managed by the ALIA Conference Manager.'*

This resolution requires some interpretation and expansion. It is not intended that all conferences, seminars etc. be managed by National Office. A national conference is one which includes a majority of interstate members in its intended delegates, and an attendance of more than 100 delegates. It would not be economical to manage from Canberra a meeting in Perth for 80 delegates, most of whom were from W.A.

There are some other vital factors. A conference funded by National Office must be managed by National Office. If the income is budgeted to be over \$20 000, the conference must be managed and financially controlled by National Office. Under no circumstances is an outside professional conference manager to be employed to manage any ALIA conferences.

Regardless of the size or complexity of a conference, potential conference organisers should talk to me as soon as possible and certainly before any plans are implemented. Even if a small conference is not to be managed by National Office, I can give sound advice, particularly on finance, and contacts which could save delegates and Divisions money and make the conference trouble free. If it is not economical for National Office to manage a conference I will advise the Division and assist by providing an action plan for the conference committee.

Any Divisions planning a conference are asked to contact me. Conferences should be set in motion 2 years out, therefore please start thinking about 1992 and 1993 so that a sound plan and budget can be implemented. It is also not too late to ask advice for 1991 conferences.

Happy conferencing,

Barry Hewish  
Conference Manager ■

## • Press Release • Press Release •

### Especially for you?

Globe Subscription Agency has pleasure in announcing the establishment of a scholarship to assist the attendance of librarians and library technicians at conferences, meetings, seminars or short study courses at overseas locations.

This is a national award for which librarians and library technicians employed in special libraries or by clients of Globe Subscription Agency are eligible to apply. ALIA membership is essential.

Applications for this award will be sought by advertisement in *InCite*.

The first scholarship(s) will be awarded in 1991.

For further information contact David Hawkins, c/- Library, NSW Agriculture and Fisheries, PO Box K220, Haymarket NSW 2000. Telephone: (02) 217 5006, Fax: (02) 217 5382.

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