

Eminent personages and outrageous women...

Apart from exposure to some of the coldest and wettest weather I have ever experienced, the NZLIA/ALIA Conference provided a unique opportunity for ALIA Board of Education members to meet with educators and practitioners from both countries to discuss areas of mutual concern.

I benefited personally from the IT and information justice sessions, both of which were stimulating and offered suggestions for consideration in the workplace. The public library discussions highlighted great differences between systems in Australian States and New Zealand. However, we all shared mutual concerns relating to service provision, resource sharing and responding to changes in the local and government sector. New Zealand public librarians were eager to learn about the centralised systems in Western and South Australia.

On a lighter note, I have pictorial evidence of interaction between an eminent personage and an outrageous woman in a tinsel wig and battery-operated earrings at the Black and Gold Dinner. Any offers to purchase these?

Kay Poustie

IBBY award at the conference

The Annual General Meeting at the NZLIA/ALIA 1994 Joint Conference saw the beginning of a new era.

It was here that the inaugural Ena Noel Australian IBBY Encouragement Award for Children's Literature was presented.

The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), based in Switzerland, actively works towards improving the quality of books written for young people; the creation of international understanding through such books; the development of reading; and the eradication of illiteracy.

The cover of this issue shows the winner, Arone Raymond Meeks proudly holding his award and a copy of his book *Enora and the black crane*.

This award is to be presented biennially to a young Australian writer or illustrator for young people. It is to be made

for a book, either fiction or non-fiction, which must have been published within the two years prior to the closing date for entries. The winner must be under 35 years of age and may win the award once only. The judges look for talent, potential, literary and/or artistic merit, originality and innovation.

Enora and the black crane is a story of creation and the loss of innocence, taken from Aboriginal mythology. It is magnificently illustrated with Aboriginal figures against the background of a lush rainforest, teeming with native birds, animals, foliage and tropical fruits.

Arone was delighted to be the inaugural winner of this award and asked that his thanks be recorded:

'It begins one day, remembering a story my grandfather told me a long time ago. We are all as one, and through his wisdom I am able to share Enora with you. I would like to thank IBBY for the award; my publisher Ashton Scholastic, and ALIA. It is with great honour that I receive this award.'



At the ALIA Stand in the Trade Exhibition, Arone Meeks (l) with Virginia Walsh and Ena Noel (r)

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