

## CYSS looking for Alibrandi?

Childrens' and Youth Services Section (CYSS) NSW launched their activities for 1995 with a theatre party attending *Looking for Alibrandi* on 10 February. More than 30 librarians mingled with a capacity audience at the PACT Youth Theatre in Erskineville to witness Melina

Marchetta's CBC award winning novel brought to life by a young and vibrant cast.

PACT Youth Theatre initiated and produced the theatre adaptation, a process that allowed Melina Marchetta the opportunity to adapt her work into a stage play. *Looking for Alibrandi* is on the NSW HSC

list and the audience included at least one coach-load of Year 12 students. Their comments, reactions and obvious enjoyment of the play helped make it a night to remember.

For details of other CYSS (NSW) activities contact June Brennan on (02) 777 7900 or Mylee Joseph on (02) 821 9446. ■

## Of bibliometrics, Australian journals, and library research

The sight of academics poring over volumes of citation indices is one familiar to all librarians. Academics use citations from the Science and Social Science Citation indices published by ISI to estimate the worth of their work. How accurate is this? Citation data is being used increasingly as a performance indicator, for example by grant-giving bodies and for promotion. Is this fair? There are reports that Australian science is on the decline. Is there hard evidence for this assertion?

These, and similar questions, are the subject of current bibliometric and scientometric research carried out at La Trobe University by Dr Pamela Royle, library, in collaboration with Professor Ray Over, psychology, and Associate Professor Garry Davis, mathematics.

For example, analysis of publications listed in the research reports of three Australian universities shows that only 27 per cent of journal articles authored by academics in social sciences are captured by the ISI database, in contrast to 74 per cent of journal articles generated by academics in science disciplines. Using a performance indicator based solely on ISI source indexes will thus provide a distorted view of the research output of Australian academics, particularly in the social sciences.

Another recent finding is that Australian journals cited overseas journals at a significantly higher rate than they were cited by these journals, and Australian journals are cited predominantly by other Australian journals.

This work forms part of the research activity of staff at La Trobe University Library. As they are academically equated, librarians are encouraged to apply for research funds, which are allocated to the library from the University's central

fund. The library has a research committee which meets regularly to evaluate proposals, and also organises lectures by librarians from other institutions who have recently completed projects. Topics investigated by La Trobe University Library staff have included a study of pricing and supply by vendors on a file or monograph orders, and an analysis

of monograph interlibrary loans to see whether the items borrowed should have been in the library's collection.

For further information about the library research activities at La Trobe contact Beverley Forsyth, Secretary to the library research committee, phone (03) 285 5371 or e-mail b.forsyth@latrobe.edu.au. ■

## Real live writers: How to host a successful author tour

Author tours have become an increasingly popular supplement to the hard work teachers and librarians put into spreading the love of books and reading among children and adults alike. The tours are a relatively new venture that have proved incredibly successful, none more so than those organised by Kate Veitch, the National Book Council author tours co-ordinator.

Operating on a shoestring budget and the odd miracle or two, Kate has organised tours in every state and her authors have thrilled audiences from Broome to Burnie and back again. Now Kate has put together a handbook based on her experiences, and those of the authors

she has worked with. It's more than just do's and don'ts for librarians, teachers and the authors themselves; it uses anecdotes, 'real live' stories and even horror stories to illustrate just how to maximise the benefits of bringing authors to schools and libraries, and how to organise a visit that will prove inspirational to all concerned.

*Real live writers: how to host a successful author tour* (rrp \$7.00 inc p&xp) was launched at the Canberra Word Festival. To order your copy please contact Kate Veitch, Tours Co-ordinator, National Book Council, Suite 3/21 Drummond Place, Carlton Vic 3053, phone (03) 633 8655, or fax: (03) 663 8658. ■

## Award for academic achievement

The 1994 winner of the UCRLS (WA) award for academic achievement was Colleen Gagen, of Booval Queensland. This award is for the highest aggregate mark for the units 'Information retrieval' and 'Collection development' achieved by a completing Graduate Diploma student at the School of Information and Library Studies at Curtin University of Technology.

Colleen was formerly a primary school teacher and has worked with

the Charters Towers Public Library and the Tropical Weeds Research Centre, Lands Department, also in Charters Towers.

Colleen completed the practicum component of her course at the newly created Ipswich Global Information Centre (formerly the Ipswich Public Library).

As the winner of this award, Colleen Gagen receives a cheque for \$100. UCRLS (WA) congratulates Colleen on her outstanding work. ■