

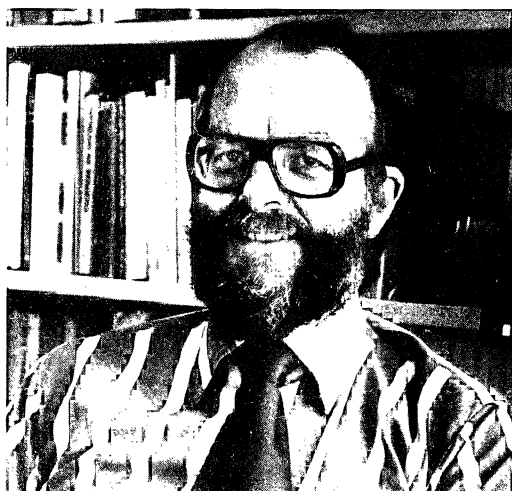
## LAA/NZLA CONFERENCE

CHRISTCHURCH HAS HAD a long and notable history of good library service, and delegates to the LAA/NZLA 1981 Conference will have the opportunity to visit a variety of libraries while they are there next year.

The Canterbury Public Library, which serves a population of 300,000, is situated in a historic building, parts of which are over 100 years old, in Cambridge Terrace. The collection comprises 250,000 volumes 1200 periodical titles, and has records, cassettes and art prints available for lending. A special New Zealand reference collection contains sets of Government publications, runs of Christchurch newspapers, rare books and a small but interesting archives and manuscripts collection. It also operates three Branch Libraries and a mobile library service. SATIS, a Government funded research service for industry and business has its premises within the library. The Public Library will be moving into a new building, located near the centre of downtown Christchurch, during 1981.

Other local authorities in the area provide library services. The Waimairi County Council operates three libraries at Fendalton, Redwood and Bishopdale to serve a population of 70,000, while the Paparua County Council also has several libraries.

Those interested in university libraries will find it worthwhile to visit the University of Canterbury located in its beautiful park setting in the suburb of Ilam. There are three libraries on the campus – the Main Library in the James Hight Building, which houses



Two New Zealanders who will be speakers at the Conference: Prof Rod Cave (the one with the glasses!) is Professor of Librarianship at Victoria University, Wellington, and Majorie Manthei, is Head, Department Art and Community Studies, Christchurch Polytechnic.



books in all subjects of the Faculties of Arts, Commerce and Law, and books in general science, botany, geology, zoology, fine arts, and music; the Physical Sciences Library, includes books in chemistry, physics, astronomy, and mathematics; and the Engineering Library, which includes books in engineering and forestry. The Library has a collection of over 500,000 volumes plus extensive holdings of microforms, and receives more than 7000 current periodicals. The University Library's major special collection is the Macmillan Brown Collection, bequeathed in 1935 by one of the foundation professors, which contains

approximately 30,000 books, journals and pamphlets, with special emphasis on anthropology and ethnology and on the Pacific Ocean and the countries surrounding. Of recent years its New Zealand section has been greatly strengthened. From March 1980, the Library has provided on-line bibliographic searches from the Lockheed DIALOG service in California.

Also in the Ilam area is the Christchurch Teachers' College, with strengths in education, psychology, teaching practice and methods. The Library is available to 2000 staff and students, and has an audiovisual collection of 10,000 items, including video cassettes, cassettes, filmstrips and slides, as well as the equipment to view, and produce AV materials. A collection of historical children's literature, chiefly 19th century, is well worth a visit for those interested in this field.

A 20-minute drive through rich rural land on the outskirts of Christchurch will bring you to the George Forbes Memorial Library on the Lincoln College campus. The Library has collections in agriculture, parks and recreation management, farm management and rural valuation with strengths in agricultural bibliographies and abstracts.

Another educational library is that of the Christchurch Polytechnic, a tertiary institution which provides continuing education particularly in technical and applied sciences and secretarial training. It is housed in an older building which has been redecorated and attractively fitted to become a busy and efficient unit in a rapidly expanding institution with a student enrolment of 14,000.

Christchurch also has many special libraries serving a wide variety of institutions and covering many subject fields. The Canterbury District Law Society, the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Army Department are but a few of the organisations which have libraries open to interested people

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## Talking book of the year award

THE FIRST AWARD of 'Talking Book of the Year' has been made to Wendy Lowenstein for her book *Weevils in the Flour*.

The award has been set up by the Royal Blind Society of NSW in line with celebrations to mark its centenary and start of its second century of service. The Society has produced nearly 2000 book titles at its Burwood studios and also has reciprocal borrowing rights with the US Library of Congress and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind which have 10,000 titles.

With the new award, the Talking Books become available to print handicapped people using public libraries as well as clients of the RBS services. A grant of \$2000 has been made by the Literary Board of the Australia Council towards the costs involved in making the award.

Wendy Lowenstein will be presented with her award by Miss Ita Buttrose, publisher of Australian Consolidated Press, Women's Publications, at a dinner on Wednesday, 24 September, at the Royal Blind Society of NSW, Enfield.



Wendy Lowenstein, winner of the Royal Blind Society's first Talking Book Award.