

Australian Library Promotion Council Awards

THE WINNERS of the ALPC's 1980 Public Relations Awards and Primary School Library Awards were announced at the official opening of Australian Library Week held in the State Library of New South Wales on 19 September.

Public Relations Award winners – Printed publications: Footscray Institute of Technology Library for two booklets – *Libraries of Melbourne* and *Libraries of Sydney*. Audio-visual: Wollongong City Library for a 16mm film *Alice's Adventures in Library Land*. Single event or activity: Frankston City Library for a display to mark Frankston's 125th Anniversary. Public relations program: Argyle College of Technical and Further Education Library, Goulburn, for a general program.

Primary School Library Award winners – National: Gulmare Primary School, SA; Award: Lynwood Primary School, WA, and Corpus Christi School, Vic; Commended: Norton Summit Primary School, SA.

Last, but not least, of the ALPC's Awards is the Alfred McMicken Award. This year it was presented to Allan Horton, Librarian at the University of New South Wales. This national award may be conferred on either a librarian or a layman 'who in the opinion of the judges of the Australian Library Promotion Council has made an outstanding contribution to library promotion in Australia ...'



Alan Bundy, Chief Librarian at Footscray Institute of Technology Library, receives the ALPC's Public Relations Award from the NSW Premier's wife, Mrs Jill Wran. ALPC President, Dulcie Stretton, who announced the awards, is at the microphone. Photograph courtesy State Library of New South Wales.

CROW'S EGGSHORTATION!

TOMARK the beginning of Australian Book Week (10-17 October), a South Australian group called CROW (Concerned Citizens of the West) sent duck eggs, fertilised and illustrated to selected politicians, including the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser.

Arthur Mortimer, Liaison Librarian, Social Studies and Accountancy, SAIT, and a founding member of CROW says that 'the idea was to remind politicians they have been "sitting" for too long on the Horton Report.'

The 1976 Horton Report proposed that the Federal Government spend \$20m on improving libraries in Australia.

The eggs were delivered along with a covering letter which said 'The people of Australia are sick and tired of you poli-

ticians "sitting" on the Horton Report into Public Libraries in Australia without any results so far. CROW therefore demands the prompt implementation of the modest proposals of the Horton Report – regardless of which political party is returned – as Federal Aid is urgently needed for the survival of many of our libraries, public and state, throughout Australia.'

Mr Mortimer says that 'CROW believes in the idea of the individual in Australian society growing in strength and power as his access to ideas, inspiration and information becomes greater and a strong national network of public libraries is essential for this purpose'.

Caricatured are Prime Minister, Mr Fraser; Senator Don Chipp; Bill Hayden; Mr Ellicot and Senator Sue Ryan.



Research grant to look into failure

THE AUSTRALIAN Research Grants Committee has awarded a research grant of \$12,240 to Dr N.A. Radford, Librarian of the University of Sydney for a research project entitled 'Failure in the Library'.

The aim of the project is to study the extent to which library patrons fail to find wanted material, the reasons for failure, and to develop strategies for improvement.

Failure in the library is of two kinds. The library itself may fail (eg by not acquiring a wanted item, by not cataloguing it adequately, by not re-shelving it promptly), or the patron may fail (eg by not knowing how to use the catalogue or how to find his way in the collection). If the extent of these failures can be measured and the reasons for them defined, steps could be taken to reduce them.

The study will explore failure at both the catalogue and the shelf in the Fisher Library. Several thousand patrons using the catalogue and searching at the shelf will be interviewed to ascertain their requirements and their successes and failures in identifying and retrieving the items they seek. Their failures will be examined and analysed, with a view to arriving at conclusions as to the reasons for failure and the measures which could be taken by the Library to reduce the incidence of failure.

The Flinders University has recently installed a telex facility, and the Library is now able to make use of this for its inward and outward inter-library loan messages, instead of using the facility at the State Library of South Australia. The University's number is 89624, and the code is FLINDU.