

News from the Divisions

NSW BRANCH

ON 18 June the NSW Branch held an informal meeting when Jim Dwyer, LAA President, met members and answered questions.

Jim spoke about his aims as President and some of the crucial issues currently facing the Association. Extending the lines of communication through the membership is an overriding aim of Jim's activities as President.

He stressed that the concerns of the Association were those which were generated by the members not those imposed by its Executive. In this respect he listed several issues facing the members of the Association: the effects of the 'Razor Gang' cuts on libraries and information services, formulation of the South-West Pacific policy, continuing education, freedom of information, copyright, education for librarianship, members in isolation, publications and library technicians. The insufficient number of head office staff to serve a membership of 8000 was cited by Jim as being a significant problem within the LAA.

He also felt that at times members were too parochial in their attitude to the Association. A broader national scope of thinking was sometimes required.

The informality of the meeting enabled the evening to evolve as a pleasant, informal occasion.

Hazel Vickers

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES

UCLS (ACT Group) will hold its annual seminar on Friday, 24 July from 9am to 5.30pm at University House, ANU, on the 'Management of Change'. The seminar is specifically aimed at middle management level but all interested are invited to attend.

Speakers will include G.N. Vanthoff, First Assistant Commissioner, Public Service Board; Judith Hill, Industrial Officer, LAA; Bryan Yates, Assistant Director-General, National Library of Australia; Richard Anderson, Blackwell's Australia and Alan Bunsell, General Treasurer, LAA.

Cost: \$35, \$25 LAA members, includes lunch. Cheques payable to LAA UCLS (ACT Group). Enquiries and registration: Colin Steele, ANU Librarian (062) 49 2003 by Monday, 20 July at the latest.

MEDICAL LIBRARIANS

THE office-bearers for the new Medical Librarians group are – President: Brenda Heagney, Westmead Centre-AMA Library, Westmead, NSW; Secretary: John Holgate, Royal Hospital for Women, Paddington, NSW; Treasurer: Sue Brockway, HOSPLAN, Foveaux St, Sydney; Committee: George Franki, Frances Cawthorne, Shirley McGlynn and Douglas Hunt.

MIDAS – THE GOLDEN TOUCH REACHES OUT

A SECOND birthday lunch for MIDAS was organised recently by the Canberra On-Line User's Group and the Information Science Section. Brian Callaghan of the Overseas Telecommunications Commission (OTC) spoke about what MIDAS has done, since its launch in April 1979 opened up the vast files of the US information services to users all over Australia.

In those early days, not long past, easy access to Lockheed and SDC's ORBIT seemed magical. However, MIDAS now extends to some European countries (UK, Switzer-

land, Austria, Italy and Sweden) and is looking at quite new types of service for the business user as well as for information retrieval. Growth in usage is following the healthy trend already established in its first year of operation.

The link with Canada has opened up QL Systems, with over 40 databases covering Canadian law, water-related environmental data, fisheries, mining technology, energy and others. The Dvorkovitz database offers what is claimed to be the world's largest compilation of licensable technology, with abstracts in up to five languages and details of licensing terms etc. Medical analysis systems provide X-ray dosage and kidney treatment calculations.

Business systems include library applications: on-line ordering, branch ordering, order status checking, inventory and accounting. More generally, other service packages cover the fields of cash management, financial modelling, and commodities/futures/stocks.

A big development is likely to be in computer-conferencing, with access to Notepad, Planet, Edunet/Educom and the Electronic Information Exchange Service. Electronic Mail services are offered by COMET (Computer Corporation of America) and Telemail. Among other services being investigated are two-way calling, videotext, digitised voice and electronic blackboard.

Progress in these first two years has been remarkable. Clearly the diversification which has already been achieved, and the imaginative plans for future developments, will make MIDAS not only a more valuable and exciting tool for information retrieval and exchange, but also a more challenging vehicle by which Australian information providers can reach out to the world.

Peter Judge

Drug dependence group

IN May 1980 a seminar was held in Canberra with the purpose of forming a group to improve services and co-operation in the area of drug and alcohol information.

The group, known as ADDLIS (Alcohol and Drug Dependence Libraries and Information Services), will endeavour to create maximum access to information for all workers in the drug and alcohol field. It is hoped that this will be achieved by means of a newsletter *ADDLIS News*, by resource sharing, the development of computer-based cataloguing services and the formation of a new, specialised data base.

Persons interested in belonging to ADDLIS should contact Carol Major (02) 411 4099 or Meredith Cootes (02) 264 1161.

Barbara Marsh

CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE YEAR

PLAYING BEATIE BOW by Ruth Park has won the Children's Book Council of Australia's 1981 Children's Book of the Year Award. Published by Nelson it received a Literature Board Award of \$1300.

Other Awards were: Highly commended: *Darkness under the hills* by Bill Scott (OUP), Literature Board Award of \$600; Commended: *Jandy Malone and the nine o'clock tiger* by Barbara Bolton (A & R), Literature Board Award of \$300; Commended: *The seventh pebble* by Eleanor Spence (OUP), Literature Board Award of \$300.

Picture book of the year: No award; Highly commended: *Marty moves to the country* by Kate Walker (Methuen), Visual Arts Board Award of \$1500 to the illustrator, Bruce Treloar; Commended: *Mr Archimedes' Bath* by Pamela Allen (Collins), Visual Arts Board Award \$1000.

Borrow a plant



'AN EPACRIS LONGIFLORA, madam? Certainly. But be sure to return it within a week'.

This could be a typical conversation at Dubbo West Primary School, NSW, where a Plant Library is being set up.

The staff at Dubbo West believe that the concept will give students the opportunity to study and care for plants.

The Plant Library has been made possible through a grant from the Orana Education Centre.

LASIE

... presents ...

MANAGING THE MICRO

a day for information professionals deciding about micros for home, office or library

Experts to hear: micros to play with

Saturday, 5 September 1981
College of Law Chandos Street,
St Leonards, Sydney

Fee: \$45, \$35 (members)

Contact: Arne Pedersen
LASIE Australia Co Ltd
PO Box 602 Lane Cove 2006
(02) 427 2181 or (02) 218 9362

Small miscellaneous advertisements are accepted at the rate of \$5 per line, \$15 minimum.

For Sale 2 microfilm cameras. Regiscope model 'L' suitable for photocharging. No reasonable offer refused. Frankston City Library, Central Park, Frankston, Vic 3199, (03) 783 1839.