

VIEWPOINT

WELCOME – and farewell! The year appears to be developing along unexpected lines with some anticipated and other ill-afforded changes in personnel at Head Office. We all realised that the loss of Brian Henderson would be hard to cover. Yet we now welcome Judith Hill as his worthy successor, confident that her background, experience, communication skills and personality will enable her to establish quickly the rapport with members so necessary in the Industrial Officer position.

At the same time we are welcoming our first Continuing Education Officer, even if only on a part-time basis. Marilyn Bryce will be well known to a large number of the membership through her active participation and leadership in the New South Wales Branch over many years, her involvement in General Council and other areas of Association affairs.

It is my sincere wish that both appointees feel welcome and that their new roles are both satisfying and fulfilling.

Unfortunately Judith and Marilyn will not have the benefit of the guiding hand of the Executive Director to assist them for more than a few weeks. As will now be known, Gordon Bower has been offered and has accepted a position in another field and takes up his new duties after Easter.



Goodbye, Gordon

Photograph courtesy: National Book Council

No doubt Gordon leaves the Association with mixed feelings. There is much tangible evidence of his commitment to the Association's policies and personnel. There are also the many firm friendships he has established within the profession.

Yet his regime has not been one of simply carrying out the instructions of Council and Executive. He has, as should a good Executive Director, forced the governing Council and successive Executives to question their roles, their policies and indeed their *modus operandi*. I believe he would agree that he has grown professionally and personally with the job and I offer him, on behalf of the Association generally, the thanks and good wishes of all members.

Undoubtedly there will be some difficult weeks in the hiatus period while a successor is found. The burden on the existing office staff will, I know, be accepted with equanimity. Nevertheless, some real understanding by the Association's membership will go a long way towards a successful bridging, particularly when it is realised that the change occurs at the very time of moving into new headquarters and becoming acquainted with new procedures.

Jim Dwyer LAA President

Toy library for the handicapped



The ages of Cubby House patrons range from three months to 21 years.

Photograph by Margaret Olah (official photographer for IYDP).

CUBBY HOUSE, the Warringah Toy Library for Children with Handicaps, celebrated its first birthday on 18 March. Situated at 12 South Creek Road, Dee Why, NSW, it is open to any child living in Manly-Warringah with a handicap – physical, intellectual, social or emotional. Manly-Warringah has a population of 220,000 and Cubby House is the only community-based library for the handicapped in the area.

During the International Year of the Child (1979) the Warringah Co-ordinating Committee applied to the Handicapped Persons' Bureau to establish a toy library. The sub-

mission was successful in that 250 toys and 30 books (but unfortunately no funding) were received by the committee in January 1980.

Although the Library collection has now more than doubled, the only grant received since then has been \$150 from the Warringah Shire Council. All financial support comes from the local community and the library is staffed and managed by volunteers. Government funding is needed if the present service is to be maintained.

For information about Cubby House contact the Co-ordinator, Mrs Pat Frater at the address above or telephone (02) 98 0735.

CATALOGUE FOR HANDICAPPED

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY of Australia has introduced a new quarterly publication, the *National Union Catalogue of Library Materials for the Handicapped*, the first issue of which is now available.

Produced only on microfiche, the catalogue provides details of braille and talking books – both fiction and non-fiction – held by Australian organisations which provide library services to visually and physically handicapped people.

The first issue contains the details of about 2700 books in the services run by the Royal Blind Society of New South Wales, the Association of Blind Citizens of New South Wales, the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind, the Braille and Talking Book Library (Melbourne) and the National Library.

The catalogue is obtainable on subscription only, the subscription for 1981 being \$15 post paid. It can be ordered from the Sales and Subscriptions Unit, National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT 2600.

IN MAY the Literature Board will decide its allocation of subsidy entitlements for fiction, drama and poetry publishing programs for the period 1 July 1981 to 30 June 1982. Applications close 1 May 1981. For more information and application forms contact Bryce Thornton or Sally Hoyle, Australia Council, Literature Board, PO Box 302, North Sydney, NSW 2060, (02) 922 2122.

LAA awards for outstanding service

THE ASSOCIATION has two awards for distinguished service. The I.C.L. ANDERSON AWARD is conferred on a professional librarian 'for outstanding service to librarianship or to the library profession in Australia, or to the Library Association of Australia, or to the theory or practice of librarianship'.

The REDMOND BARRY AWARD is conferred on a person, not eligible for professional membership, who 'has rendered outstanding service to the promotion of a library or of libraries, to the Association, to the theory or practice of librarianship, or to an associated field such as bibliography'.

General Council seeks the advice of its Honorary Awards Committee in conferring these awards. The Committee comprises the Past-President (Convener) and the General Councillor for each State and Territory. Nominations for either award may be made by any member.

If you have a nomination in mind please put it forward to your General Councillor, or to the Convener (PO Box 158, Parkville, Vic 3052). Names are required by early June in order that the Committee can make its recommendations to the July General Council meeting.

W.D. Richardson, LAA Past-President