

Bligh of the Bounty sails again!



Trying out *Child of Bounty*

CAPTAIN R.W. BLIGH-WARE, seventh generation descendant of Vice-Admiral William Bligh RN (of the *Bounty* mutiny and Rum Rebellion fame), visited the National Library of Australia recently to inspect his ancestor's notebook and charts.

On April 28, Captain Bligh-Ware will set off in a replica of the *Bounty* longboat to re-enact his ancestor's epic voyage from Tonga to Timor, which followed the mutiny of most of the *Bounty* crew off Tofua on 28 April 1789. Captain Bligh-Ware plans to keep a notebook similar to that of his forebear and will present a copy to the Library. From Timor the longboat will sail to Java.

With 18 loyal men, Bligh was cast adrift by the *Bounty* mutineers in one of the ship's launches, a 23 ft open boat. Their chances seemed slim, but Bligh was such a brilliant navigator that they successfully crossed three-and-a-half thousand miles of ocean.

Captain Bligh-Ware will retrace his ancestor's journey at the same time of the year and with the same minimal navigation equipment. Accompanying him will be a

crew of eight, including two film cameramen. A documentary film is planned about the journey; to be called *The Voyage of Bounty's Child*, it has already attracted international interest.

The first Captain Bligh later became Governor of Australia for a brief time, his term of office being cut short by the operations of MacArthur and his associates in the Rum Rebellion. But during that time Bligh's daughter Mary had met Lt Maurice O'Connell who later became one of Governor Macquarie's aides. So when Bligh returned to England, his daughter remained in Sydney with her new husband.

Captain Bligh-Ware is one of her descendants, a fifth-generation Australian who has served with the merchant navy and the Royal Australian Navy Reserve. At one time he was in command of hydrographic vessels charting the Barrier Reef. His work is still connected with the sea, involving the international shipping of freight — though not the breadfruit plants which caused the downfall of his infamous ancestor!

Some enchanted evening!

THE HANS ANDERSEN dinner — what a triumph it was! On March 29 Ena Noel of IBBY gave a group of about 120 people the opportunity to meet and listen to British writer Alan Garner. His is a talent so special that Hans Andersen himself would have been spellbound.

Ena Noel effectively set the scene telling us first of the time she and Alan Garner had spent together in Moscow attending an international conference on children's literature. Then she gave us a vivid description of Alan Garner's home in Cheshire and painted a picture of the man himself through the words of people who had worked with him.

Alan Garner has been capturing the imagination of older children, and adults too, with books such as *The Owl Service* and *The Weirdstone of Brisingamen* for more than twenty years. And when he spoke, he transported us all into another world, that of his

childhood and indeed his forefathers in the place where his family has lived for generations.

As a child he was stricken with major illnesses which caused him to spend several years just lying in bed, so that for him his bedroom was his entire world. But he found other worlds — his imagination took him through the ceiling into a world on the other side allowing part of his mind that might otherwise have been untapped to expand and develop. His imagination was his salvation yet through all this he did not lose touch with reality. When he heard a doctor preparing his mother to accept the death of her ailing son, it was the tremendous strength and energy of his mind and will that made him fight back, even though he was unable to communicate with them.

It was indeed an evening of enchantment for which everyone was deeply indebted to Alan Garner for being there and to Ena Noel for arranging it. It was finished to perfection by the warmth and sincerity of Maurice Saxby's words as he thanked Alan Garner for sharing his life and himself with us.



Alan Garner in Moscow with Ena Noel (left) and their interpreter

Students' action at NSW

THE EDUCATION Action Committee of the Students Union of the University of NSW organised a sit-in in the Menzies Library on 6 April — the first time since 1974 that action of this kind had been taken.

The protest, aimed at the University administration and at the government, concerned a cut in funding which had caused a loss of 30 staff positions this year.

Between 200 and 300 students were there at the beginning of the action, and more than 100 remaining until the next morning. At 10 pm the library doors were locked so that no more people could come in although any that wished to leave were free to do so. This action was taken for security purposes and authorities reported the students responded in a responsible way.

One student in the Arts faculty proposed giant lamington sales to be held regularly, with the funds going to the library. A series of events is planned in the period leading up to May 9, when the University Council meeting will decide on the allocation of funds.

Award to honour Marshall McLuhan

THE CANADIAN Commission for Unesco has recently established an Award to honour the memory of Marshall McLuhan, literary critic and media watcher, best-known for his investigation of the global village.

The Award consists of Can \$50,000 and a commemorative medal, to be given for the first time in 1983, World Communication Year, and every alternate year. It has been established in co-operation with Unesco and with the financial assistance of Teleglobe Canada, the Corporation which provides Canada's international communication services. National Commissions for Unesco in Member States have been asked to coordinate the assessment and nomination of candidates at the national level.

The purpose of the Award is to recognise any work or action that has contributed in an

exceptional manner towards a better understanding of the influence exerted by communications media and technology on society in general and in particular on its cultural, artistic and scientific activities.

Individuals or groups of people working together are eligible for nomination. Institutions, organisations or corporations are *not* eligible. Copies of the regulations are available through the LAA.

Each country may put forward up to three nominations; the Australian National Commission for Unesco will be setting up a committee to assess Australian candidates.

Nominations have to be received in Ottawa by 31 July. To give the Australian Committee adequate time to assess them, nominations must be received by the National Commission in Canberra by 31 May.