

# News from the Divisions

## SCHOOL LIBRARIES SECTION (WA GROUP)

The Anzac Day weekend saw a notable first. The English Teachers' Association of WA, LAA School Libraries Section and the Reading Teachers Association of WA held a very successful conference on Life in Literature, Literature in Life. The conference was opened by the Director General of Education in WA, Dr R. Vickery, who made a plea for input from participants to the Beazley Committee which is investigating education in WA.

The keynote speakers, Ian Reid from Deakin University and Maurice Saxby from Kuring-gai CAE, re-affirmed the importance of literature in the development of whole people and the need to depart from traditional methods of teaching to allow for growth.

After the keynote addresses, discussion groups convened to formulate questions which were then presented to the speakers. Many participants commented on the success of this strategy as it resulted in pertinent questions being asked.

The afternoons were devoted to workshop sessions where participants had the opportunity to explore their own particular interests. It was very hard to choose which workshops to attend when all the offerings promised to be of value, and later conversations revealed the satisfaction experienced by those attending. Several people expressed the wish that workshop sessions could be repeated at evening meetings.

A book of readings from the conference containing keynote addresses and reports of the workshops will be sent to all conference participants.

The success of this conference can be measured by the expressed wish of many of those present for more of the same, and the eagerness of the organisers to get together in the near future to start planning for 1984.

Audrey Foley

## PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND AUTOMATION

The NSW Public Libraries Automation Group has commissioned a study into public library automation in NSW. The study is funded by a grant from the Library Council and the report is planned to be available in November.

Any person or organisation wishing to make a written submission on any aspect of this matter is invited to do so. Copies of the terms of reference are available from either **Mr Richard Nichols at the State Library of NSW** ([02] 240 4428), or from **Mr Gordon Undy, Information Sciences of Australia, Box 784, Woden ACT 2606** ([062] 86 4671), the consultant commissioned to undertake the study.

Intent to make a submission should be notified to the consultant prior to 31st May, and submissions made before 15th July. Any submission may be published in part or as a whole in the final report unless specifically tendered on a confidential basis.

## CATALOGUERS SECTION (NSW GROUP)

### LAA Cataloguers Section National Cataloguing Seminar

The NSW Group of the Cataloguers Section is combining with the Information Science Section (NSW Group) to organise the annual cataloguing conference in Sydney this year. The theme chosen was OPACS – On-Line Public Access Catalogues – and this was due in part to the interest generated by papers in this area given at the last LAA Biennial Conference.

OPACS, although in their infancy in Australia, are a fact of life throughout libraries and library networks in the United States.

It is hoped that this conference will serve to bring together Cataloguing, Reader Services and Systems Librarians to exchange information and expertise on the content, design and problems encountered with OPACS, as well as being of interest to library administrators from the point of view of costs and future planning.

Major topics covered include OPACS: their background and development; users and OPACS; OPACS from a Reader Services point of view; what OPACS packages are available to Australian librarians; planning for OPACS in Australia; library administrators and OPACS.

It is also hoped to include an exhibition of the major OPACS packages available in Australia.

Keir Kirkby

## SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION VICTORIAN GROUP

Two general meetings have been held this year and both attracted over 60 people. The March meeting starred LAA President, Mr Barrie Mitcheson, who gave an overview of LAA executive activities. A lively discussion followed, the major issues being voucher only memberships of the LAA and the allocation of funds to Sections. Pam Millist and her staff hosted this meeting.

On April 26 we visited the *Herald and Weekly Times*, to hear Mr Brian Perkins (their Communications Development Manager) talk on 'Being Informed: We've got the answers, what's the problem?'. After this excellent address Barbara Flett and her staff conducted visitors through the *Herald and Weekly Times* library and gave us a quick look at the new automated editorial system now being used by HWT. This was a combined meeting of the Medical and Special Libraries Sections.

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## NEWS FROM MILDURA (NW VICTORIA)

Public and school librarians in Sunraysia (NW Victoria/SW New South Wales) have been active with joint activities and meetings over the last few months.

On March 23 library staff from public and school libraries throughout Sunraysia gathered for an evening meeting at Mildura City's venerable Carnegie Library (1908).

The latest reference works acquired by the Regional Public Library Service were shown and discussed, eg **PINPOINTER** on Microfiche, and the Group heard reports on regional gatherings of school librarians, amongst other activities.

On Tuesday 19 April, 28 library staff members with spouses and partners gathered at the Mildura Country Club to entertain professional story teller Kym Lardner of Adelaide who was in the midst of a week's programme of story telling in Mildura and District schools plus workshops for teachers. Kym, who is from Adelaide, had been brought to Mildura with funds provided by the (Victorian-Sunraysia) Regional In Service Education Committee. Additionally the Mildura group of the School Library Association (SLAV) of Victoria very generously funded two public appearances and performances by Kym Lardner in the Mildura Regional Library Services Mildura City (Carnegie) Library. Kym's appearance at the public library attracted audiences of about 80 children each time, some with parents.

Regional library staff are most appreciative of and grateful for the co-operation of their school colleagues and in particular the generosity of the Mildura SLAV group in financially supporting Kym Lardner's public performances.

Future meetings of the Group are planned at the new Sunraysia College of TAFE Library and the library of Merbein High School in June and July. Coincidentally, the Library Council of Victoria *Jolly Jumbuck* multi-media van has also been in the Mildura area at the same time. From 11-22 April the *Jolly Jumbuck* crewed by Trevor Primmer and John Scully visited the public libraries at Irymple, Merbein, Red Cliffs and Mildura City (Carnegie). A total of 28 schools sent nearly 1000 children to see performances in the *Jumbuck* and to visit the libraries.

It has truly been a memorable period for children's activities at the libraries and schools in Sunraysia. Library co-operation in Sunraysia is alive, well and flourishing.

Bruce Turner

Regional Librarian

Mildura Regional Library Service

## ABN subcommittee formed

THE ABN Network Committee has formed a subcommittee, based in Victoria to advise it on 'methods of co-operative conversion of retrospective serial files in AACR2 within the context of ABN.'

The Co-operative Serials Subcommittee have devised a questionnaire to discover what work has already been done on AACR2 conversion, with both machine readable and manual records. The questionnaire also explores possible approaches to co-operation in order to undertake the mammoth task of conversion.

The Subcommittee is anxious to contact as many interested parties as possible and would appreciate prompt replies. The questionnaire is available through AACOBS Regional committees or Helen Livingston, Deakin University Library, Deakin University, Victoria 33217.