



Books bridge gaps

Throughout Australia Children's Book Week will be celebrated from 23-30 July. This year's theme, linking with World Communications Year, is 'books bridge gaps'.

This issue of *InCite* will be published a few days too soon for the announcement of the 1983 prizewinners, but we can tell readers about some of the many different activities taking place in some parts of Australia during Children's Book Week.

As South Australian branch of the Children's Book Council is also at present the federal body, the 1983 Awards will be presented there at a dinner on Friday evening. The results will appear in the next issue of *InCite*.

The official opening of the Week in SA will be an extravaganza of a display in Rundle Mall on Sunday July 24. In keeping with the theme, the ceremony will be on the bridge across Rundle Mall, by Mr Terry Hemmings, Minister for Housing and Local Government. Along the Mall will be a series of 'islands', each representing different ways in which books bridge gaps - between different ethnic groups and different age groups, introducing crafts, allowing children to get to know and understand animals, and so on. There will also be a folk band, folk dancing, opportunities to hear stories in different languages and children wearing national costume. A number of children's writers, including South Australia's own Christobel Mattingley, will be there. A special display will be a bark painting of Dick Roughsey's *Rainbow Serpent*.

In New South Wales, the Week will be officially opened by Mrs Jill Wran at the Exhibition Hall at Sydney Opera House on Saturday July 23 at 1pm.

Twenty-two publishers will have special displays in the Book Fair which runs from 23-26 July at the Exhibition Hall, and there will be a prize for the publisher whose display most successfully illustrates the Week's theme.

The Pied Piper Jazz Band will play and there will be special appearances by Paddington Bear (who celebrates his 25th birthday this year), the Muddleheaded Wombat and C: ab.

On Monday July 25 the Lady Cutler Award will be presented at a luncheon at the Opera House, the recipient being someone who has given 'distinguished service to the cause of children's literature in NSW'.

Special activities will take place throughout the Week, including a film entitled *The Power of Stories*, which gives fascinating insights into children's responses to nursery rhymes, chants, fairy stories, folk tales ...



Children listen intently to the storyteller. A scene from *Teaching Reading*, made by the South Australian Film Commission. Photograph by Lenman Connell.

Babies Need Books and *Cushla*, by Dorothy Butler will be the highlight of another function, which will also include a storytelling session.

Children's Book Week will open in Queensland with a dinner at the Court Terrace Restaurant in Brisbane. In the northern regions, the Education Department is organising special displays in all the major shopping centres, and along the Sunshine coast there will be fancy dress parades.

Most of Queensland's major towns will have special activities including visits from some well-known children's authors. Storyteller Anne Pellowski will be conducting workshops on 30 and 31 July.

Western Australian activities include displays at the Perth Concert Hall as well as at various public and school libraries.

This year's guest author will be Joan Pipson, who will be in Perth from Wednesday July 27. She will spend six extremely busy days visiting schools and libraries, addressing public meetings and talking to visitors at the Concert Hall display.

Efforts were made to obtain news of events in the rest of Australia but the Bad Fairy intervened and would allow no more!

To obtain more information about Children's Book Week, the following contacts would be useful:

NSW Lady Cutler Luncheon: June Smith (02) 635 9459

Other activities: Rosemary Moon (02) 221 1388

SA Marjorie Williams (08) 293 4774

Vic Dr Jack Morris (03) 589 4638

Qld Robyn Collins (07) 221 8400 Ext 227

Carnegie Medal for New Zealander

THE 1982 Carnegie Medal has gone to New Zealand writer Margaret Mahy for her book *The Haunting*, published by Dent.

The Carnegie Medal is awarded annually by the Library Association (UK) for excellence in children's books, and commemorates Andrew Carnegie, the Scot who, having made his fortune in USA used some of it to build libraries in Britain.

Margaret Mahy was born in Whakatane, and from the age of 7 was writing stories and poems, some of which were published in the local paper. She has twice won the New Zealand Esther Glen Award. Formerly Chief Children's Librarian at Canterbury Public Library, she now lives near Christchurch and is a fulltime writer.

Announced at the same time was the 1982 Kate Greenaway Medal winner. This award is for the artist who has 'produced the most distinguished work in the illustration of children's books' and the award went to Michael Foreman for *Long Neck and Thunder Foot*, written by Helen Piers and published by Kestrel, and *Sleeping Beauty and Other Fairy Tales*, translated by Angela Carter and published by Gollancz. The two books demonstrate the wide range of feeling and quality conveyed in Michael Foreman's illustrations, within an immediately recognisable style.

This year's selection panel was chaired by Liam Parker, Assistant Chief Librarian of Belfast Public Libraries.