

IN THE NEWS

Lane Cove Public Library releases its first Local Studies Publication

Lane Cove Public Library released its first Local Studies publication in December. Written by Miss Merrilee Roberts, it is entitled *Roads to the River: Prelude to a Municipality - 1884*.

Residents of the area will find it a fascinating view of the history of the locality before its establishment as a separate municipality. Original photographs of the 1880s illustrate the text.

Miss Roberts is a third generation resident of the area and her grandfather Jeremiah Roberts was the first Mayor of Lane Cove.

The book costs \$4.50 and is available from Lane Cove Public Library. Enquiries to (Dr) Chris Henderson, Chief Librarian (4275194).

Have you read this?

InCite readers who have been paying attention will recall Anne Ruffell's article (Vol 3, No 13) about teenagers often not finding books they could enjoy because they are placed in the children's section.

The Memorial Library, Armidale have attempted to solve this problem by having a small *Have you read this?* area in the adult fiction section as display/storage shelving for novels which staff members feel would be enjoyed by both teenagers and adults.

They have also put two paperback stands just inside the archway to the junior library. Easy to see from the main area, they carry a wide range of paperbacks which seem to appeal to older children and young adults.

Saving our trees

School libraries throughout Australia are supporting the National Tree Program by distributing the educational poster, 'Nature's Boarding House'.

Published by the Commonwealth National Tree Program Co-ordination Committee and the Northern Territory Conservation Commission, the poster reveals the many living communities of a typical native Red Gum.

The poster clearly shows the ways trees provide food and shelter for insects, birds, animals and other wildlife. Activities for children are suggested on the 'flip-side' of this colourful poster.

Of the 20,000 posters to be distributed by the National Tree Program, more than 10,000 will go directly to government and non-government school libraries.

A major objective of the National Tree Program is to halt tree decline through promotion of a wider general awareness of the value of trees.

Distribution beginning in February, will be to government school libraries in all parts of Australia. Additional posters are being mailed directly from Canberra to non-government schools. For further information contact Rasjad Moore, National Tree Program Task Group (062) 46 7321.

Act now!

Orders are now being taken for that indispensable guide, the *LAA Handbook*, 1983 edition.

Everything you always wanted to know about the Library Association of Australia is contained in a single volume. The constitution, membership directory, policy statements, information on courses for librarianship, they're all there - and lots more.

This limited edition will make its appearance in March. Order your copy now!

Retail price is \$15, with special LAA members price of \$10. Send your order to LAA 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007.

An English librarian in the State of Victoria

INCITE READERS may remember a request early last year from an English librarian. Barbara Jones, to swap jobs for a month with an Australian librarian.

In September we reported that negotiations had been successful and that Barbara Jones would exchange jobs with Stephen Due, librarian at Colac Technical School.

Barbara spent September in Australia, and has sent the following report on her stay here

I have always wanted to visit Australia. After a friend had spent a year on a teaching exchange in America, the idea of a job swap with an Australian colleague came to me. I sent off an enquiry to *InCite*, which appeared as an eye catching item in March 1982. I received four answers from people in Victoria, the first one from Stephen Due, librarian of Colac Technical School, with whom I eventually arranged a job swap for a month.

I spent September 1982 in Victoria. A month was not long enough, but it was the longest period I was allowed to be away from my own job (and that after a considerable struggle).

I visited primary and secondary school libraries, city and rural public library systems, institutions involved in training librarians, and people and organisations concerned with children's literature. By the end of the month I felt I had just about grasped the administrative and organisational differences from school and public libraries in Britain and had discovered topics which would have been interesting to investigate in detail.

In Victoria the education is administered and funded at state level and public libraries at local municipal level. Consequently it was difficult to describe my own job which is a result of cooperation between education and library services administered at the same level. I am employed by a public library to operate a library service for schools.

My impression was that in Victoria public libraries are the poor relations of school libraries, particularly in terms of staffing. The reverse situation applies in Britain. I was shocked by the poor ratio of professional to non-professional staff and lack of specialists in public libraries, but impressed by the range and level of services offered. I was green with envy at the staffing level of teacher-librarians in schools, but I was rather dubious, at times, about the quality of librarianship I observed.

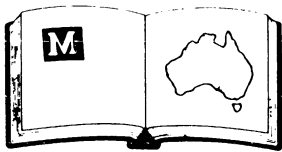
I would like to have had more time to investigate the teaching research skills in school libraries. In my authority we have formal teaching programmes on how to use a library, use books, make notes and on special reading techniques. In Victoria I gained the impression that these skills are taught on an ad hoc basis or integrated into subject teaching.

In the field of children's books I found a wealth of Australian originated picture books, a lot of worthy Australian novels for older children and a dearth of home produced novels for younger children.

It was beneficial for me to have first hand experience of being located in a school library after supplying support services to schools.

Australia surpassed my expectations. I found the landscape stunning and the domestic architecture charming; all those cast iron and carved wood verandas and balconies. What affected me most was the kindness, friendliness and hospitality I met with everywhere. I am truly grateful to everyone who gave up their precious time to answer all my questions.

No doubt readers would also be interested to hear of Stephen Due's reactions after his stay in England. How about a report from you, Stephen?



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