

TASMANIAN LIBRARY BOARD SIR JOHN MORRIS MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIPS

The Tasmanian Library Board has instituted a scheme of Fellowships funded by the Sir John Morris Memorial Fund for which applications for 1985 are now invited.

The Fellowships are intended to enable established scholars and librarians to work for periods between three and six months on materials of Tasmanian interest housed either in the State or elsewhere in Australia.

Principal repositories within Tasmania include the definitive Tasmanian Collection, the Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts, and the W.L. Crowther Library (all housed in the State Library of Tasmania), the Archives Office of Tasmania, the University of Tasmania (including the Royal Society of Tasmania Library and the University Archives), the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, and the Queen Victoria Museum in Launceston.

Each Fellowship will cover travel costs to the collections researched and supplementary costs associated with study materials; in addition, a daily grant-in-aid may be negotiated.

RESEARCH PROJECT ON PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN TASMANIA

The Tasmanian Library Board invites applications from suitably qualified and experienced researchers to undertake a research project which will examine in detail and report to the Board upon public library services to children in Tasmania. Library services to children have been an important and integral part of the total public library service since the establishment of the State Library of Tasmania in 1943.

The purpose of the research project is to review the administrative support — both material and human — given to public library services to children in Tasmania, and to make recommendations on the future development of these services. Travel costs and an appropriate stipend will be provided from the Sir John Morris Memorial Fund.

Prospective applicants should write to:

The Secretary
Tasmanian Library Board
State Library of Tasmania
91 Murray Street
Hobart, Tas. 7000.

for application forms and further particulars before submitting applications, which close on 30th September 1984.



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BOOK REVIEWS

A further selection of reviews by children

The Mechanic. Noelle McCracken. Sugar and Snails Work Series 1982. ISBN 0 9598465 7 3.

I liked this book because it shows how many different jobs a mechanic does, and how many different things can be repaired.

The air-conditioning mechanic learns how to service, repair and install air-conditioners. They are run by electricity, gas or oil.

An optical mechanic makes the lenses for glasses or spectacles. There are hundreds of different shapes and styles of glasses.

A meter mechanic tests new electricity meters at the factory before they are installed in houses, shops or factories. Most motor mechanics work at a garage or workshop on cars.

This book is very interesting because it shows various occupations people can do when they become a mechanic.

Scott Turner (aged 10)
Peakhurst Public School

Mr. Poppleberry and the Milk Thieves. Hilarie Lindsay. Ansay Pty. Ltd. 1983. ISBN 0 909245 50 9.

This book is No 2. in the series of adventures of Mr. and Mrs. Poppleberry.

It tells how Mr. Poppleberry came out one morning to collect his milk, found that the bottle had been knocked over and the milk was lying in a puddle on the path. This happened morning after morning even though he had the milk man put the milk in a different spot. I'll catch that thief if it's the last thing I do, he said. Famous last words for Mr. Poppleberry as it very nearly is the last thing he does!! Who or what is stealing the Poppleberrys' milk? Read this exciting adventure of how Mr. Poppleberry tracks down the thieves.

Hayley Harradine (aged 9)
Peakhurst Public School

Doctor Hunger and Captain Thirst. Meredith Hooper. Methuen, Australia, 1982. ISBN 0 454 00364 1.

The book *Doctor Hunger and Captain Thirst* by Meredith Hooper makes interesting reading for those who enjoy descriptive and exciting books — and who doesn't? It should be of interest mainly to those in the 10 to 15 years age group, but would be enjoyable for anyone interested in Australian history.

The book is basically about early explorers of the Australian continent and the endurance and determination which they all possessed. It renders absorbing accounts of the journeys by heroes such as Sir Thomas Mitchell, Captain Charles Sturt, John McKinlay, Lieutenant George Gray and others.

The reader sees through the explorers'

eyes the dangers, hardships, tragedies and successes — described clearly, and at times vividly, by the author who has enhanced her writings with extracts from the original diaries of the explorers. These extracts bear out the intensive and extensive research Meredith Hooper has undertaken in collating material for the book. The inclusion of many dates seems to reinforce the reader's perception of the events as factual, when one may otherwise be inclined to regard them as fictional. The reproductions of the excellent paintings of the era add greatly to the enjoyment of the book and provide an added measure of authenticity.

The main criticism of *Doctor Hunger and Captain Thirst* is that many of the dangers and hardships appear to have been skimmed over, without due emphasis. The simplicity of the statements when dealing with these privations appears to be in marked contrast to other aspects of the explorations which have been vividly described. If it had been vice versa, I feel it would have fired the imagination of the reader more profoundly.

Despite the criticism, this book is of a high standard and should have wide appeal, especially for the young reader with an awakening sense of pride in the achievements of our early settlers, as it provides a factual insight into the civilization of Australia — a land unknown — at the time when these courageous explorers were leaving their footprints not only on the land over which no other white man had ventured, but in the pages of our history books.

Craig Carroll (aged 14)
Waverley College

Journey of 1000 miles by Ian Strachan. Methuen & Co. 1984. ISBN 0416 46510 2.

Journey of 1000 miles is a story of a family escaping from the war in Vietnam. With 35 other people crowded into a nine metre fishing boat, they got out of the harbour at night, watching out for guards, on their voyage to Hong Kong. On the way they met another boat just like theirs, both boats traded food to the other. One night the two boats were caught in a terrible typhoon, the other boat sank, most drowned, five survived. Once pirates caught up with them, since one man on the boat was very smart he lifted up the floorboards and put all the young girls down there before the pirates would take them. The pirates threw all the remainder of the kerosine overboard, they took anything they could find. They had many adventures some which everyone thought it was definitely the end of them. The ending of the story is very good.

The story was told through the eyes of a 12 year old boy named Lee. The story was written very well and the best part was kept till last. This book takes a bit to get into but once you start to get into it is worth reading. I would recommend this book to boys and girls 12 years old right up to 20.

Kristian Braune (aged 12)
Waverley College

Mortimer's Cross. Joan Aiken. Illustrated, Quention Blake. Jonathan Cape. 1983. \$17.95. ISBN 0 563 20176 2.

This story is about a raven called Mortimer. He gets up to all kinds of mischievous things that will make you laugh, laugh, laugh.

He sets very bad examples, for example he makes himself a nuisance to Aunt Olwen by make silly noises with the clock. The clock went Tick Tick and then Mortimer went nevermore nevermore.

He keeps up his hilarious antics and makes himself loveable to everybody that reads this fiction book. And then there's the time when Aunt Olwen gave him a bath. But when Mortimer was accused of eating the missing books of the library Arabel was determined to find the real guilty person who turned out to be Mr Beeline. But Arabel had a few adventures of her own. When she rescued Naughty Modge a popstar from a gang of thiefless bandits.

Everybody will love this story that has made itself wanted by children of the world.

I think people are crazy not to want anything so good and close to comedy with its own special design of humour.

Anon.

Hurstville South Primary School.

Night of the Muttonbirds. Mary Small. Illustrated by Robert Ingpen. Methuen Australia Pty Ltd of Richmond Victoria. ISBN 0 454 00229 7.

I enjoyed reading *Night of the Muttonbirds* because I like stories on birds, and I find reading Australian stories interesting.

The part of the book that I didn't particularly like was the description of the cutting of the birds in chapter eleven.

However I did find interesting the relationship between the professor and Mathew. I felt that *Night of the Muttonbirds* was written for a person 12 to 14 years old, because I found quite a few difficult words in the book.

Night of the Muttonbirds is a short book and

A helping hand for Ultimo Public School



The principal of Ultimo Public School, Mr Bob Lavender (left), as he receives a cheque for \$500 from Mr Warren Horton, President of the LAA. The Executive Committee decided to make the donation following the recent fire at the school which destroyed the library.

most people could read it in a couple of days. I believe Mary Small, the Author, was successful in writing *Night of the Muttonbirds* with a style that I really appreciated. The characters in the story were real to life and I found it easy to relate to them. Anyone who enjoys a story about family relationships, birds and their adventurous moments would enjoy this book.

Phillip Zoumis (aged 11)
Waverley College

The Miser Who Wanted the Sun. Jürg Obrist. Methuen & Co. 1983. ISBN 0 416 4600 3.

This story is about a miser. All he wanted was the sun.

The beginning of the story is when he goes to a tailor and asks for a golden robe, at first he disagrees but when he offers anything

from his treasure room he does. When the miser went home he was scared that the tailor would take a lot. So he puts all the treasure in different rooms except a golden thimble in a large chest. Tim the boy was angry when he saw that that was their pay. Lily had an idea. So they lifted the chest home.

A few days later they went back to the miser and made a deal that if they captured the sun they could take anything they could hold. They tricked the miser by putting the chest on the hill and when the sun set it looked like the sun was going into the chest. The children chose the golden robe.

Next morning the Miser was furious.

The pictures in this book are like paintings. This book I think would be about 50 years old. I think I would have enjoyed it more if I was younger.

Guy Higgins

Hurstville South Primary School



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