

SPREADING THE WORD

Children in the Seychelles Islands, in the Indian Ocean, now have available a selection of English-language books, a recent gift arranged through the National Library.

The Australian High Commissioner to Mauritius, Mr Rod Irwin, presented the gift of 500 books to Mrs Flavie Jackson, Chief Librarian of the National Library of the Seychelles, in a ceremony on board HMAS *Sydney*. The ship was on a goodwill tour in the Indian Ocean and agreed to deliver the ten boxes of books.



The Canberra Public Library Service co-operated with the National Library to choose books for a primary school reading level. The selection included picture books, junior fiction and non-fiction titles, such as *The Book of Melbourne*, Banjo Patterson's *Illalong Children* and collections of Australian poetry, which will be read by children in the Islands learning English.

In a ceremony in New Caledonia, books on different aspects of Australian life were presented to the Bernheim Library in Noumea. Mme Colombani, the Librarian, said the books would augment both the general collection for the public, and the reference collection. Australia's Consul-General in Noumea, Mr Stuart Hume, said the gift of books from the National Library of Australia was regarded as a symbol of friendship, binding the people of New Caledonia and Australia.

Do you want to make it to the top in 1986?

Come to 'Lifestyles and Libraries', Darwin June 29 to July 4. This is your opportunity to make an impact on the future of your library. It is also a chance to come to the 'Top End' and experience the lifestyles and libraries of the Northern Territory.

Theme

Libraries are places for people. The Conference will concentrate on libraries and the role they play in meeting the information and recreation needs of a changing world. The theme will consider the role of libraries in law and society, the media and marketing, patterns of work and leisure, and business.

Venues

Don't miss the opportunity to participate in this important Conference. The program is being designed to take advantage of the tropical setting and will include outdoor venues for

VICTORIAN STOP WORK MEETING



Colin Puls, Federal Secretary of MOA.

selected sessions and activities. Visits to Territory community libraries are being planned along with visits to local libraries. Social activities include a tropical breakfast, cocktail party, sectional dinners and a mardi gras.

Exhibits

A comprehensive display by local, interstate and overseas suppliers will be staged at the main venue site. The exhibits will cover all areas of interest to library people.

'Intention to Attend'

Please send your 'Intention to Attend' form as soon as possible. Accommodation, travel bookings, tours and other planned activities must be organised well in advance. We look forward to seeing you in 1986. Further information on program activities, tours and other details will be included in future editions of *InCite*.

Elizabeth Desailly
Darwin Institute of Technology

Some 600 Victorian Municipal library staff packed Kew Town Hall on Wednesday September 18 to protest over the lack of progress surrounding their salary claim which was lodged as long ago as 1979.

It is estimated that the stop work meeting, which was called by the Municipal Officers' Association (MOA) closed most of the municipal libraries in Melbourne and some libraries in country areas.

The meeting was told that public librarians in Victoria are the lowest paid in Australia, despite the excellent service they provide. The starting salary for a librarian employed in local government after 4 years of tertiary education is only \$16,487 a year, whilst the maximum award salary for a Chief Librarian, who may administer a budget in excess of \$1 million dollars and supervise a staff of more than 50 people, is only \$27,044 a year.

The meeting voted overwhelmingly that:

- This meeting of MOA Library members expresses total dissatisfaction with the current inadequate level of salaries paid to library staff employed in local government in Victoria.
- All MOA library members express their extreme dissatisfaction with their salaries to their employers and request their respective employers to support their claim and to direct the MAV to enter into meaningful negotiations with the MOA on the library claim.
- If by the 8th November 1985, this support is not forthcoming or that the MAV continues to obstruct the satisfactory resolution of the claim, MOA library members empower the Library Liaison Committee to organise further industrial action.