

CAPL Progress

The CAPL (Commonwealth Assistance for Public Libraries) National Co-Ordinating Committee advises that their campaign is going well.

The submission on Multicultural Library Services has been prepared and a lobbying firm, Canberra Liaison Pty Ltd has been employed for an initial period of 3 months to examine the submission and make any alterations they think would make it a more palatable political document. Draft copies of the submission will be circulated to selected ethnic community organisations and other parties for comment and support. The firm has also been asked to comment and make any necessary adjustments to our suggested timetable.

The submission on multicultural Library Services has proposed two measures be adopted in providing Commonwealth financial assistance.

Development Grants

This would total \$4 million over 2 years.

They would be:

- administered by State and Territory Library Authorities
- available for use on materials and staff
- allocated on a per capita basis, depending upon how many overseas people each State has (\$2.00 per capita)

Recurrent Grants

These would total about \$1 million each year.

They would be:

- allocated at 50c per capita
- on a \$ for \$ basis
- based on overseas-born population

- available for use on materials and staff.

Such grants are to be additional funding for public libraries.

The National Co-Ordinating Committee meets with Peter Sekules of Canberra Liaison Pty Ltd in mid February, to discuss the campaign strategy further, but they believe that the proposal is sound, not greatly expensive and that it should attract strong support from outside and inside Parliament. It seems likely that if the National Language Policy recommendations are adopted then a pilot programme could be undertaken.

Alumni and prizes at RMIT

On Friday March 21, all graduates, former staff and friends of RMIT's Department of Information Services (nee Librarianship) are invited to renew acquaintance at the Annual Alumni Dinner and Prize Giving.

During the dinner four awards will be made to students who completed the Department's courses in 1985: the Borchardt Prize for the best paper in the field of Australian bibliography; Fabinyi Awards for the most outstanding written work in the Graduate Diploma and Undergraduate courses; and the Departments' Staff Award to the graduating student who has demonstrated academic excellence and the potential to make a significant contribution to the profession. The 1986 Jean Hagger Librarianship Research Support Fund for research assistance will also be presented.

Several previous winners of the Borchardt Prize have gone on to have their works published. The 1984 winner, Truda Olson, pre-

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pared a guide to the life and works of Phillip Adams for which the subject presented her with a large bouquet of roses. Truda's work will be on sale from RMIT's Co-op bookshop from March 1986.

The after-dinner address will be given by Margaret Cameron, Chief Librarian of Deakin University. Margaret Cameron chaired the Department's Course Advisory Committee from 1981 to 1985 — a period which has seen a number of significant developments in the area of education for information work.

Enquiries and bookings for the dinner can be made with Pam Kealey at RMIT (03) 660 2313. Cost for the dinner will be \$25. Bookings should be made by March 14.

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