

## People in Profile

### — Bernice Burgess



Bernice Burgess, the first President of the LAA TAFE Section, has been a member of the LAA for over 25 years.

After 6 years at Newcastle Public Library, she joined the NSW Department of Technical and Further Education (TAFE) in 1966 and has been Librarian-in-Charge at Bankstown, a south-western suburb of Sydney, for the last 5 years. She has been appointed by the Minister of Education in NSW to the College Committee as the elected representative of non-teaching staff.

Since 1983 the pressures of students from non-English speaking backgrounds (NESB), needing both language skills and vocational education, have increased dramatically at her college. In providing a library service to these students, Bernice has developed her interest in multicultural library services, which stemmed from the direction she took in her degree and her Adult Literacy course.

At this time the Department was developing multicultural policy, so Bernice applied to the Multicultural Education Unit for a research project to enquire into library service to students of NESB in TAFE vocational courses. (Report on the delivery of library services to students of non-English speaking backgrounds enrolled in vocational courses in TAFE Bankstown Technical College, 1984.) After that, the Unit invited her to take up a month secondment to purchase resource materials in the field of multiculturalism for the then proposed Multicultural Access Centre for libraries in the multiculturally 'significant' colleges. Her bibliography, *Multiculturalism in TAFE: a resource list* (Sydney: NSW

TAFE Multicultural Education Unit, 1983) was issued in 1983 and has been used as a selection aid by many college librarians. Bernice has also organised 'Cross-cultural communication for librarians', a staff development course, and spoken at reader education workshops for students of NESB.

Co-operation between libraries has been another of Bernice's interests. As the first TAFE Regional Librarian in the Illawarra she was a member of a committee of librarians in the area involved in the Library Technicians Course held in Wollongong, a rationalisation of serials holdings in the area and reciprocal borrowing arrangements. Her commitment to library services in TAFE colleges is demonstrated by her role in the formation of ATLS — the Association of TAFE Library Staff (NSW) and the LAA TAFE Section. She has been Chairperson and now Secretary in the former and was one of those who organised the petition to have the TAFE National Section formed.

Bernice believes strongly that the library has a contribution to make to the teaching-learning program of the college and enjoys this educational aspect of library work. She feels that librarians in TAFE can have a positive impact on all students to enable them to jump educational hurdles.

Bernice has a client-centred approach to library service, with the emphasis on communication and personal relations skills.

She hopes to meet many LAA members at the inaugural National Conference proposed for Sydney in 1987 by the LAA TAFE Section.

Sue Stenning

## Young Australians' Best Book Award

The Young Australians' Best Book Award (YABBA) was launched on Sunday 27 October 1985 and it is planned to announce the first award on the same day in 1986 — Universal Children's Day. The scheme gives all young Victorian readers the opportunity to nominate the best Australian books they have read.

A short list of the most popular will be prepared and one vote per child for the best book on the short list accepted up to 1 October 1986.

After the vote count the winning book will be announced at a ceremony to honour its author. An Australian fiction book of any date, one of 3 categories — picture story, junior novel, senior novel — is eligible for the 1986 award.

Publicity material about YABBA, including nomination and voting forms, will be distributed through book shops and school and public libraries. Enquiries to Beatrice Fincher, Chairman/Convener of the Young Australians' Best Book Award Council on (03) 861 9169.

The YABBA Council was formed of representatives of a number of Victorian organisations interested in the promotion of Australian Children's Literature, and children's reading, which have combined to sponsor the award. They include LAA Vic. Schools and Children's Sectional Groups, School Library Association of Victoria, Victorian Association for the teaching of English, Australian Reading Association (Melb.), Australian Bookellers' Association (Vic.), National Book Council (Vic.) and a number of interested individuals.

## Guidelines for the Young Australians' Best Book Award (YABBA) 1986

- Victorian readers from year 1 to year 9 at school may each nominate one Australian fiction book, and later lodge one vote.
- The Australian book nominated may be picture story, junior fiction or senior fiction.
- Books accepted as Australian are those written in Australia, written overseas by Australians or with Australian themes or content.
- Publications of any date may be nominated for YABBA 1986.
- The published official form, or photocopies of it must be used for all nominations.
- Each nomination must be countersigned by an adult.
- May 1, 1986 is the closing date for nominations.
- The voting list compiled from the nominations and the voting papers will be distributed in June 1986.
- October 1, 1986 is the closing date for votes.
- Awards will be made to the authors of the winning books during the week October 20-27, 1986.

## 6th Australian Computer Show Sydney 12-15 March Complimentary Tickets

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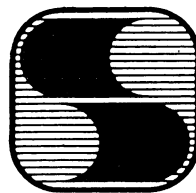
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