

## IN THE NEWS

### Kuwait calls

Calling all librarians with a penchant for the exotic and all librarian thrillseekers. The National Scientific and Technical Information Centre (NTIC) in Kuwait needs librarians.

With a staff of 40 the centre functions as a Division of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research as well as developing and providing scientific information services on a national level. The collection contains a large number of monographs, periodicals and technical reports. The catalogue and union serials are online. Professional librarians, especially those with experience in staff training, are required. For further information contact the JAA Head Office or Ferial Al-Freih, Director, National Scientific and Technical Information Centre, PO Box 24885, 13109 Safat, Kuwait, Tel KISR 22299.

### Books to go

The Literature Board of the Australia Council and the Australian Library Promotion Council have put together eight Travelling Book Exhibitions. The exhibitions, one for each state and territory, are available free to libraries, schools and community groups. The aim of the exhibitions is to make people more aware of books produced in Australia by Australians. For more information contact: Jennifer McLellan, Executive Director, ALPC, (03) 663 7194.

### ACHLIS Progress

The Australian Clearing House for Library and Information Science (ACHLIS) has recently published the 1986 volume of Australian Library and Information Science Abstracts (ALISA).

There have been some problems in getting ALISA 86 out due to the volume of material received in the year but with nearly 1,000 fully abstracted entries it is the biggest volume yet. ALISA 87 should be out in May 1988, well in time to show overseas IFLA delegates that Australia has a more comprehensive and systematic coverage of its library and information science documentation than any other country!

ALISA 86 is edited by ACHLIS Co-ordinator John Gray and costs \$40. Back issues (ALISA 82 \$20, ALISA 83 \$25, ALISA 84/85 \$35) are available from Library Publications, SACAE Library, Holbrooks Road, Underdale, SA 5032.

### You gotta have friends

Realising the potential library users have as powerful friends, over the last few months the Public Libraries Branch (SA Department of Local Government) has promoted public libraries setting up community-based support groups. A register of 'Friends' being compiled reveals that almost a quarter of all public libraries in SA have established groups of these vital allies.

To aid the flow of information between the different groups a quarterly newsletter is sent out to each group of Friends and to each Chief Librarian in SA.

### A new breed

A new breed of historian is being sought by employers to write contract histories, vet policy decisions, research historic celebrations and design building conservation strategies. Monash University is gearing up to become a major centre for training these new historians with its Masters course in public history. The first of its kind in Australia, the course will be offered next year. Although the course is designed for history graduates, local history librarians, museum curators etc may find they want to experience and benefit from Monash's brave new historical world. Further information is available from Dr Chris McConville (03) 565 2203.

### 'Nutcote' fundraising to continue

The May Gibbs Foundation will continue fundraising even though the owners of 'Nutcote', the Neutral Bay home of the late May Gibbs, have withdrawn their offer to sell the property to the Foundation. 'Nutcote', 5 Warringal Avenue, where May Gibbs lived from 1926 until her death in 1969, is allegedly owned by Invergowie Properties.

The company's Managing Director, Mr Peter Skerrett, told the Foundation on 19 October that he was withdrawing his offer to sell the property to the Foundation as he now intends to live there with his family and restore the home. The Foundation is continuing discussions with Mr Skerrett to seek assurances that it will have first opportunity to buy the property should it come back on the market.

Dr Neil Shand, Chairman of the May Gibbs Foundation, says he will continue with the fundraising efforts with the same objective of acquiring the May Gibbs property. 'Until the property comes on the market again, money raised will be held in trust although some funds may be used to acquire additional May Gibbs memorabilia. This is not the end of our campaign as we will continue to raise funds so we can acquire the property when it comes back on the market and continue to acquire memorabilia for our museum', he said.

The Foundation is thinking about housing a professionally created May Gibbs exhibition in a bookmobile to travel around various regions. Libraries interested in being linked to the exhibition or who can offer any type of assistance or advice should contact Dr Neil Shand (02) 816 1612. PS The next fundraising event will be a concert by the Bergonzi Quartet on 5 December at St James Anglican Church, Turrumurra at 8.00pm. Tickets cost \$15 and \$10 for students and pensioners. RSVP to Jean Hart on (02) 957 6916.

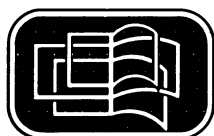
### Asbestos aloft

The discovery of asbestos in the roof of University of NSW's biomedical library will mean that it will be temporarily closed during December and January while the roof is repaired. Only access to pre-1970 biomedical library journals is affected. Inter-library loans for this material will not be possible during this period. Contact the biomedical library (02) 697 2651 for further information.

Whitaker's

## British Books In Print 1987

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