

## IN THE NEWS

### Music to the ears

'The importance of library resources cannot be overestimated. Librarians invariably respond more quickly to the needs of their serious patrons than any other public servants, all over the world, in my experience'. This praise was broadcast to ABC listeners via the Ockhams Razor program on 27 March. Professor Hunt, a visiting Canadian environmental health academic, was responding to the question 'What are the necessary resources for a successful resolution of the difficult environmental health problems we face today?'

### Nutcote news

Neil Shand, President of the May Gibbs Foundation, reports that 'Nutcote', the home of May Gibbs in Neutral Bay, Sydney has been placed on the Interim List of the National Estate. This includes the garden as well!

Last year's fundraising events were successful. But there is no time to relax as the Foundation is busy planning further promotion and fundraising activities. Volunteers willing to organise events or give general assistance are welcome. The Foundation would also like to hear from people who bought items at the Nutcote auction in 1970 as well as from people

with May Gibbs memorabilia so that they can be added to the records.

Membership of the Foundation is available for \$50. Tax deductible donations can be sent to The May Gibbs Foundation, PO Box 500 NSW 2047.

### Best wishes

The LAA's best wishes go to Peter Dawe, Past President, on his retirement from his position of Acting Manager, Information Resources Unit at CSIRO. Victorian colleagues organised a special dinner in Peter's honour at the Melbourne Cricket Club on 12 May and around 90 people attended. Speeches were given by friends and CSIRO personnel including Jean Conochie, Peter Judge and John Thawley. The LAA presented him with a special bottle of port.

### PD at RMIT

Interested in advanced online searching, conservation and asset management or library services for children? If so, you might be able to gain a place in elective subjects offered by RMIT's Department of Information Services from July-November in 1988.

Fees are \$360 for four hours of classes per week for 14 weeks. There is an additional charge for computer connect time in the advanced online searching course. Enquiries to Patricia Owen, RMIT Department of Information Services (03) 660 2313.

### ACLIS arrangements

Averill Edwards is filling the position of Executive Officer of ACLIS while the position is being advertised and an appointment made. Staff will include a Librarian Class 2 to provide professional support, an Administrative Officer to handle financial matters and a keyboard officer. ACLIS' physical location will be on the first floor of the National Library.

Marion Newman who has ably served as AACOBs Secretary will be winding up affairs until 30 June, after which she will transfer to one of the operational areas of the National Library.

ACLIS has taken over the projects formerly

the responsibility of AACOBs and ALIC and any enquiries relating to these or to other matters of interest to ALIC should in the first instance be directed to Averill Edwards, Acting Executive Officer, Australian Council of Librarians and Information Services, PO Box E202, Queen Victoria Terrace, Canberra ACT 2600 (062) 62 1200.

### Child Care Facilities at Kensington for IFLA/LAA

Delegates to IFLA/LAA who require child care facilities close to University of NSW should contact Isabella Trahn, University of NSW Libraries, PO Box 1, Kensington NSW 2033, before 30 June. It may be possible to arrange day-time care (for children up to 5 years only) using the Randwick Family Day Care Centre at Bundock Street, a reasonable walk from the campus. Rates will be approximately \$2.50 per hour per child over 18 months, \$3.50 per hour per child under 18 months and double these charges on weekends. A limited number of night-care (4.00pm to midnight) vacancies may be available for children to 12 years at Kunga's House in Barker Street, next to the University.

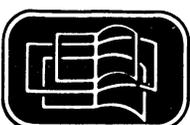
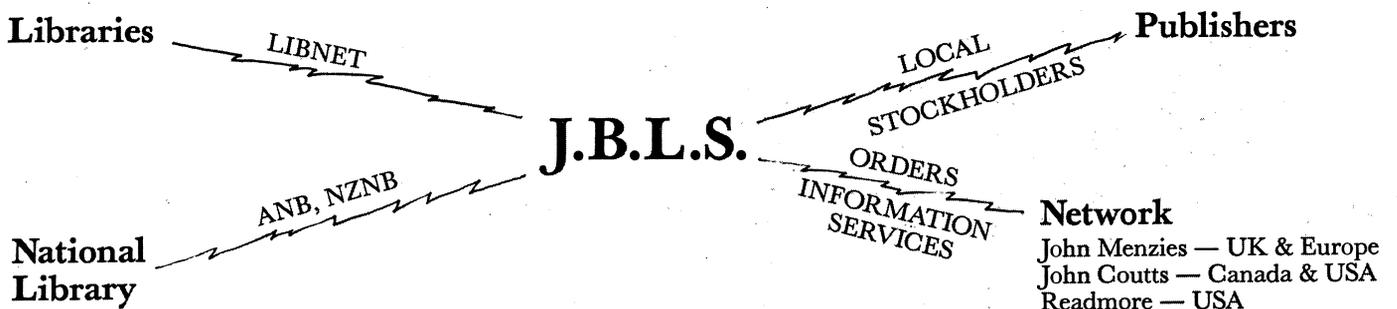
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of the existing Library Council of Victoria are separated. Some of the definitions used in the Bill need tightening up and it is possible this can be achieved by amendment.

As for the State Library building it is now time to get behind the Government's plans to redevelop the State Library/Museum complex as no new building will be forth-coming. With the expertise of architect Ken Woolley and the undertakings the Victorian State Government has given about the time frame, consultation, functional space, etc. we must be optimistic. Another generation of librarians can take up the issue of a new building for the State Library of Victoria, with another government, in another century!

*Bruce Davidson*  
President, Victorian Branch

## James Bennett — At the Centre of Electronic Communication



## James Bennett Library Services

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