

IN THE NEWS

UNESCO supports IFLA/LAA

Thanks to UNESCO and its Participation Program Fund Librarians from a number of countries will be able to join in IFLA/LAA 88. UNESCO has allocated US \$15,000 so that librarians from Fiji, the Philippines, India, New Guinea and Indonesia can attend. This also benefits Australian librarians who will now have the opportunity to meet and share perspectives with colleagues from near and not-so-near countries.

Nutcote update

Events have been moving fast with regard to 'Nutcote' May Gibbs' house and garden in Neutral Bay, Sydney. Firstly the Heritage Council has approved plans to renovate the house put forward by the developers. These renovations are not in keeping with preserving the house as a museum.

A major breakthrough is that North Sydney Council will be willing to resume the land and to help financially. A plan put forward by Mayor, Ted Mack, is that the May Gibbs Foundation and the Council should contribute one sixth each financially and that the NSW Government and the Federal Government should contribute a third each of the money required to buy the property outright.. All that needs to be done is for everyone possible to stress the importance of Nutcote to

our politicians.

Neil Shand, the Chairman of the May Gibbs Foundation, is asking for everyone interested in preserving this important part of our heritage to write to the Federal Minister for Heritage, Senator Richardson, and for people in New South Wales to also write to the NSW Premier, Mr Nick Greiner. Donations to the fund the Foundation is raising for its part of the finances will be welcome and should be sent to the May Gibbs Foundation, P.O Box 500 Drummoyne NSW2047.

It is ironic that it is possible to go into nearly any supermarket and see May Gibbs' characters adorning one product or another yet the opportunity to see original works in a unique and historic setting, a much more fitting tribute to a famous Australian is such a struggle. Voice your support and don't hesitate this may be the last chance to save Nutcote!

Temping in London

On a recent trip to London, Marion Nicolson, Manager, Library Locums, visited offices of Task Force Pro Libra, an employment service for librarians. The managers of both companies discussed the employment market for librarians in the USA, UK and Australia. The strong demand for skilled employees across the job market in the UK and the USA, including the library and information industry, was emphasised. In London, the demand for skilled library staff is particularly strong in the temporary employment sector. This should be good news for Australian librarians considering working on their holidays in the UK.

So for these librarians tempted into temping, further details can be obtained by contacting Susan Hill, Task Force Pro Libra, 76 Park Road, London NW1 4SH. But don't forget that a working holiday permit is required and can be obtained from the British Consulate either in London or in Canberra.

And the winners are...

Delegates to IFLA/LAA who registered before 1 August were eligible for a special prize. The winners of the free tickets to a conference function are: Lynne Carmichael of Adelaide; George Miller of Canberra; and Alla Kamaralli of Sydney. Go to it and mingle!

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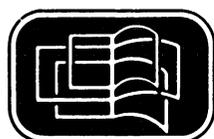
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