

# In the News

## Dromkeen Medal

This year's award of the Dromkeen Medal has gone to Patricia Scott of Tasmania for her contribution to children's literature. Patricia Scott is a storyteller who works throughout Australia sharing her stories with children, especially underprivileged ones. The name Dromkeen is derived from that of a colonial residence near Melbourne which houses a collection of manuscripts, original illustrations and other historical items relating to children's literature.

## New Australian Standard mark

The March issue of *Choice* magazine reports that Standards Australia (a new name for the Standards Association of Australia) has a new logo. The new StandardsMark, as the symbol is known, was launched on World Standards Day towards the end of last year.



The StandardsMark — five white ticks on a dark background — follows a world trend towards clearly understandable symbols. It replaces the former traditional stylized lettering bearing the old SAA seal.

Spokesman for Standards Australia,

Howard Paul, said that the tick mark had been chosen as it was a universally accepted sign of approval and quality. 'We hope to raise the profile of the organisation and its important work in monitoring the quality and safety of Australian consumer goods', he said.

## New Libraries Act for Victoria

A new Libraries Act was passed by the Parliament of Victoria in December 1988. The purposes of the Act are to establish a Libraries Board of Victoria and a Council of the State Library of Victoria, to make provision for the co-ordination and organization of libraries and to make provision for land subject to library purposes trusts. Copies of the Act can be obtained from the VGPO Bookshop, PO Box 203, North Melbourne, Vic. 3051.

## ABA takes strong stand on Salman Rushdie issue

The Australian Booksellers Association has reacted strongly to threats directed at booksellers who intend stocking copies of Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses*. The ABA wrote to the President of the Federation of Islamic Councils calling on him to exert his influence to prevent violence and further threats by extremists. Members of the ABA feel strongly that it is their right to uphold the freedom of speech which is part of Australia's heritage. ABA President, Mark Rubbo, said 'it is important that extremists in the Islamic community understand that censorship by terrorism cannot be tolerated in a democratic country'.

## James Cook Bicentenary Scholarship

The University of Queensland has

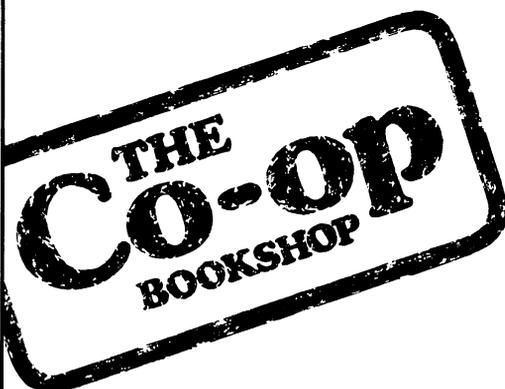
given advanced notice of the terms for this year's James Cook Bicentenary Scholarship. The Scholarship, which is worth £stg 10,750 for an unaccompanied scholar, will be advertised later this year, and is open to Australian and New Zealand librarians under the age of 45 who wish to gain management experience in an overseas library or libraries.

## Griffith University buys GEAC library system

The library of Griffith University, Brisbane, has purchased, and is currently installing, a GEAC 9000 fully integrated Library Information System. The \$600,000 system contracted for provides support for all library functions from acquisitions through to OPAC's. The system will consist of three full-function processors, with 16 Mb of memory, 2750 Mb of disk storage and a planned total 85 terminals. Twenty-five of these terminals will be public access terminals located within the library, with a further 30 ports available for remote public access via LAN or dial up. Technical services terminals will be MS-DOS microcomputer workstations some of which will access CD-ROM databases.



Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Webb (left) hands the contract for the new Griffith University library system to the General Manager of GEAC Australia, Mr Ced Bradbury, watched by the Director of Information Services, Mr Jim Cox.



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