

# In the News

## Banjo Awards for Australian Literature

To help with greater public access to new Australian writing, the National Book Council is this year involving public libraries in its NBC/McPherson Banjo Awards for Australian Literature by a unique pre-order offer which guarantees supply of the six short-listed books immediately following their announcement in Melbourne on 31 July. Banjo Award book orders will arrive in public libraries together with posters and other promotional materials at the same time that booksellers receive supplies.

The Banjo Winners in both fiction and non-fiction categories will be announced in Sydney on 11 September.

## ABPA Design Awards

The Australian Book Publishers Association has announced the winners of its annual book design competition. Although over 270 books were submitted, the judges were unanimous in deciding the major award winners.

For the first time in its history, ABPA has made an Award of Honour. This was given to Alison Forbes in recognition of her outstanding and continued contribution to Australian book design and production.

The Weldon International Young Designer's Award and the Joyce Nicholson Award for the Best Designed Book of the Year went to Susie Agoston-O'Connor for *John Coburn—paintings*, and the Griffin Press Award for the Best Designed Illustrated Adult Book and The Australian Award for the Best Jacket Design of the Year to Maureen MacKenzie for *After 200 years*.

Other major awards went to Alison Lester for *Rosie Sips Spiders*, Meridith Parslow for *The Best Picture*, Josie Semmler for *Ca Bouge*, Leonie Stott for *Donnini's Pasta*, Tina McDonald-Smith for *Art Attack* and to Lynda Patullo for the *Mobil Team Pack*. Highly commended for the best designed illustrated adult book was April Briscoe for *A Big Country* and, for children's books, Graeme Base for *The Eleventh Hour* and Donna Rawlins for *Digging to China*.

The judges were particularly impressed by the vitality in the work of the young designers and of the overall excellence of

many of the productions. Virtually all the awarded books broke new ground and, in the view of the judges, book design in Australia is therefore in for a healthy decade.

## Parliamentary Library to go online

A contract worth about \$400,000 has been signed with Geac Computers for the automation of the Federal Parliamentary Library.

The Geac Library Information System will provide the staff and users of the Parliamentary Library with online access to all of its current materials, now housed under the one roof for the first time in 20 years. The system will run on the Series 9000 multi-processor computer, to which access will be gained through the 44 kilometres of cabling installed in the new Parliament House.

The Parliamentary Librarian, Mr Hallis MacClean, said at the contract signing that the Bibliographic Control System would provide the Library with a highly developed cataloguing and authority system to control its collection of some 150,000 volumes and more than 9000 serial titles. The Acquisitions, Serials Control and Circulation modules would provide a highly efficient system with strong financial and reporting systems to assist the Library's Program Managers, he added.

Geac—a Canadian company—has supplied library systems to many other libraries in Australia and throughout the world.

## AVA needs librarians

Since the Australian Volunteers Abroad (AVA) program began more than 25 years ago, more than 2000 people have been part of the scheme, and today there are 250 Australians working in Asia, Africa, and the Pacific.

The Overseas Service Bureau (OSB) which administers the AVA program, regularly receives requests for librarians, including those with book restoring skills, to work in libraries, schools and universities in developing countries.

Volunteers earn the equivalent of a local salary and are enriched in terms of experiencing a different lifestyle and culture. Applicants must be qualified in their trade or profession and have a minimum of two years work experience. Further information from the OSB on (03) 419 1788.

## Pioneering library service

West Torrens Library in South Australia has been chosen to initiate a new service for the deaf and hearing impaired. The

library was chosen because of its easy access for disabled people, its central location and good public transport facilities. The library's twelve staff have begun sign language classes and the project will have the benefits of a telephone typewriter with printer, a portable audio loop, a television and video recorder with a Rane teletext decoding device and a wide range of subtitled educational, documentary and feature videos.

## A fine reference for a foremost festival

The Macmillan Company has donated the world's best-respected and authoritative music reference work the *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* to the 1990 Adelaide Festival. In accepting the twenty-volume work, the Artistic Director of the Festival, Clifford Hocking said the new *Grove* would be invaluable to those working on the Festival programs for many years to come, particularly for references to works venturing beyond the mainstream of musical interests.

## Australian Research Network mooted

A national academic and research network linking higher education

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Know someone who's worthy of a

## LETTER OF RECOGNITION?

The General Council may on the recommendation of the Honorary Awards Committee present a letter of recognition to a person or an institution or organisation who/which has rendered a significant, specific service to a library or libraries, to the ALIA or to the promotion or development of libraries or library science or who has over a period demonstrated significant services well over the call of duty in these fields.

Nominations for Letter of Recognition may be made at any time, and will be considered at the first available meeting of the Honorary Awards Committee.

For further information and/or nomination forms contact: the Membership & Divisional Services Manager, Australian Library and Information Association, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007, (02) 692 9233.

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institutions in Australia and New Zealand is being initiated by the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC) and the Australian Committee of Directors and Principals (ACDP).

The computer network will enable participating institutions to share resources, control communication costs, increase productivity and improve access to other research bodies and groups nationally and internationally. It will be similar to other networks such as Janet in the UK and BITnet and NSFNet in the USA. An AVCC/ACDP Joint Working Party on Networking has recommended that the proposed network serve as a base for the migration to OSI (Open Systems Interconnection) protocols.

The new network may lead to enhanced library services through: provision of links with the Australian Bibliographic Network; provision of access to relevant bibliographic data and to the increasing number of monographs, journals and other materials produced in electronic form; rationalisation of library holdings; and provision of immediate interlibrary loan facilities.

### Peace research journal

The Institute for Peace Research at La Trobe University in Melbourne has published a new journal which looks at peace issues from the point of view of different disciplines. This journal will be an excellent resource for the increasing number of secondary schools, colleges and universities which have introduced peace studies courses.

*Interdisciplinary Peace Research* will be published twice a year and subscription details can be obtained from the Institute,

La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria 3083.

### A good deal from Blackwell

Blackwell's North American office is currently making the latest (20th edition) *Dewey Decimal Classification* (4 vol set) available at \$US 212.00 (nett), including airfreight to Australia. This new edition, published in January, takes account of the widespread changes in recorded knowledge over the past decade. Orders may be placed either directly with Blackwell North America via electronic mail: ALA1786, or through Blackwell's Australian and New Zealand office's ILANET mailbox: MLN208350 (NBLAC).

### Digital paper

ICI has announced a revolutionary new data storage material called digital paper. The discs and tapes made from this new storage medium can hold unprecedented amounts of data, e.g. a 73m reel of tape can store 600 Gb (600 000Mb), or the equivalent of 1000 compact discs. The cost of storage (with an archival life of 15 years) will be reduced to as little as 0.5 cents per megabyte. However, the future of the digital paper depends on the development of new disc and tape storage drives. ICI hopes to have a prototype of a 5.25 inch disc drive by the end of this year and to integrate it with computers by autumn 1990.

### Minister comments on Tasmanian Library Service

In a recent letter to the Hobart Mercury, Peter Rae, Tasmanian Minister for Education and the Arts, outlined the

## LIBRARY TECHNICIANS ONLINE ADVANCE WORKSHOP

One day workshop for library technicians and library assistants who wish to 'build on' existing skills and experience with automated library systems.

- Choosing new material for the collection
- Acquisitions routines
- Using ILANET for interlibrary loans
- Using CD ROM for Continuing Education
- Keyword searching on the OPAC
- Copy cataloguing online

**Cost:** \$75 ALIA members  
\$95 non-members

**Date:** Friday, 19 May, 1989.

**Time:** 9.00am-4.30pm.

**Venue:** Cumberland College of Health Sciences, East Street, Lidcombe 2141.

For further information contact: Centre for Continuing Education, Cumberland College of Health Sciences, (02) 646 6343 (24 hrs).

policy of the State Government in relation to the introduction of fees in the State Library service. He pointed out that, at the Australian Libraries Summit Conference in Canberra last October, the resolution of major library authorities was that although basic services should remain free to the general public, some add-on services, e.g. the reservations fee, may need re-introduction. He indicated that the State Liberal Government had a firm commitment to the provision of quality library services throughout Tasmania, including the purchase of four new bookmobiles, the opening later this year of a major new regional library at Rosny Park and a new branch library for the Zeehan community.

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**James Bennett Library Services**

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