

IN THE NEWS

Bumper edition

The bumper 25th anniversary edition of *Orana* is to be launched at a function jointly organised by the Schools Section, WA Branch, and the Westralian Library Foundation at the Alexander Library Building, Perth, on Monday 26 February at 6 pm, by Wendy Birman, a most appropriate person to launch this anniversary edition.

Wendy was instrumental in establishing children's library services in Western Australia and her involvement in children's librarianship goes back to the late 1940s. At that time she offered advice and assistance to small suburban groups keen to organise children's books which (fortuitously) had Perth as its last port of call.

Wendy's overriding philosophy has always been that library services must start at the beginning - if we catch children young enough - start at the beginning and help to foster a love of books - they will be library users for life. Wendy has been a long time ALIA delegate to the WA Library Board and more recently edited the IBBY Loughborough Conference Papers.

Orana's 25th anniversary edition is one to watch out for.

Judi Jagger
Publicity Officer
School Libraries Section
WA Branch

The Vonnie Young Memorial Award

The Vonnie Young Memorial Award, to assist in the professional development of a NSW public librarian or library technician, was launched in September last year. The fund now totals \$2782 and donations are still coming in. Applications for the one-off Award will be invited early this year.

A committee of members of both the Association of Local Government Librarians in NSW and the Public Libraries Section, NSW Group, will be responsible for selecting the successful applicant. For information please contact Diana Oliver, Sutherland Shire Council, telephone (02) 521 0353.

Signs of life

His Excellency, the Honourable Bill Hayden, AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia took time off from his end of year break at home in Ipswich to launch the videotape, *Signs of Life: Australia's Deaf Community* at the State Library of Queensland on Tuesday, 19 December 1989.

The video was produced at the Brisbane College of Advanced Education for their Deafness Resources Project. It features the deaf community of Australia and aims to banish some of the stereotyped attitudes surrounding deaf people.

Their Excellencies spent an enjoyable hour on the river terrace talking with members of the deaf community after launching the video.



Their Excellencies, the Governor-General and Mrs Hayden, with Dr John Trace, (left) Chairman of the Library Board of Queensland and Dr David Fraser, Chairman of the Brisbane College of Advanced Education Council at the launching of *Signs of Life: Australia's Deaf Community*.

Another Chapter

More than fifty librarians, library technicians, and information workers in the West have been preparing chapters for a book, tentatively titled *Library and information services in Western Australia*, to be published in association with the ALIA 1990 Biennial Conference being held in Perth in September. The deadline for submission of contributions was 31 December, which effectively ruined the holiday season for many contributors! However, the editors, Bob Sharman and Anne Clyde, have been delighted with the material supplied, and with the response they have received from their colleagues.

Many of the chapters represent a considerable amount of original work, and provide information that can be found in no other published or readily-available sources. Taken as a whole, the book will provide an overview of the whole range of libraries, information services, and professional activities in Western Australia, while individual chapters will highlight aspects of our

profession, recount our history, discuss current issues, or describe particular libraries or information services.



Kerry Smith, Publicity Chair, ALIA 1990, sits among the Christmas decorations writing, writing...

The right to read

The National Library of Australia will present a major seminar, *The Right to Read: Publishing for People with Reading Disabilities*, in Melbourne 17-18 May 1990.

To mark International Literacy Year 1990, the National Library is organising this significant interdisciplinary seminar, to stimulate the creation of books and other reading materials for people with language and literacy problems.

The right to read seminar will be of particular interest to publishers, authors, illustrators, special educators, speech pathologists, social workers, librarians, and people with disabilities and their families.

The written word is the basis for communication in our society, but very little reading material is produced for people with literacy problems deriving from an intellectual or learning related disability, from deafness acquired before language development or from brain damage. People with such disabilities need 'high interest/low vocabulary' materials, that is, materials relevant to their interests, age and recreational and information needs written in clear, simple and easily understood language.

Speakers from Australia and overseas will present papers exploring the effect of specific disabilities on language and literacy skills, the range and suitability of existing reading materials, overseas developments in writing and publishing suitable materials and the writing and publishing of high interest/low vocabulary materials in Australia.

For further information and a copy of the brochure please contact: Disability Services Section, National Library of Australia, Canberra ACT 2600. Telephone (062) 621 605, TTY only (008) 02 6372, Fax (062) 57 1703.