

IN THE NEWS

Bess Thomas award

Entries closing 5 pm on 31 May 1990 for the Bess Thomas Award 1990 are hereby invited.

An entry for the Award will be a piece of Australian writing in the field of library work with children or young adults by not more than two authors, published within 2 years immediately preceding the closing date for applications.

Entries must be accompanied by an official application form obtainable together with further information from E.M. Nelson, 151 Oakleigh Road, Murrumbeena, Victoria 3163, telephone (03) 567 3653.

Community information

Melbourne City Libraries has recently published two community directories in Chinese and Vietnamese for residents of the City of Melbourne. The directories are substantial publications of about fifty pages and had a print run of 2000 per language. Translations, typesetting, design and printing are of professional standards. They are part of a regular program of producing non-English directories. Other languages covered have been Italian, Spanish, Turkish and Arabic.

Information about Melbourne City Council services and other community services is included. They were compiled after extensive consultation with relevant local community groups, and organisations such as tenants' groups, community health centres and neighbourhood houses. Workers directly involved with the Chinese and Vietnamese communities were also consulted. The purpose of the consultations was to ensure that the directories were as relevant and useful as possible for local Chinese and Vietnamese speaking residents.

The directories were produced by the Ethnic Services Librarian and the Community Information Librarian. A new edition of the Spanish directory will be produced later this year. If you would like more information please contact Melbourne City Libraries, 12-18 Meyers Place, Melbourne, Victoria 3000, or telephone (03) 650 5622.

Welcoming Overseas Students

'International students' have been welcomed by the Queensland University of Technology Library. The importance placed on giving excellent service to these students resulted in an International Student Liaison Librarian being designated. This has enabled good communication with Counselling Centre staff and with international students leading to improved orientation programs and relevant library staff training.

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Incoming international students are given a 1/2-day orientation to the library, working in groups of about five with a librarian. Hands on experience is emphasised. Students also meet staff from Lending Services, Photocopying and the Computer Based Education Facility. This has personalised the library for these students with positive results even to the point of Photocopying staff receiving presents from departing students.

Opportunities have been provided for library staff to increase their cultural sensitivity. Several Reference staff have attended workshops provided by other Brisbane libraries and in-house professional development has included a lunch time seminar and workshops for all public contact staff. The aims of the short in-house workshops were to increase people's awareness of their own feelings towards other cultures; awareness of possible culture shock among students; understanding of communication differences; and practical skills in cross cultural communication. Staff have valued these workshops highly.

Feedback from both international students and library staff indicates that positive feelings abound both ways, but there is still much scope for future development. Having stimulated staff interest in cultural differences, perhaps in the future, training sessions could focus on specific cultures such as the major student groups, Chinese and Fijian. Input on Vietnamese culture would also be worthwhile to give understanding of Vietnamese migrant students. This is an excellent opportunity to experience multiculturalism at work.

Julia Leong

Northcote basics

Adult Literacy classes are currently on offer free of charge in day or evening sessions, at the Northcote Library. Classes are for beginner readers and writers; for those who want to brush up their skills; and for those who want English for work or further study. Numeracy classes are also available.

Advanced students may enrol in Year 11 or Year 12 English (Adult HSC) also offered at the library.

Classes offered in 1990 include: General Literacy, Basic Education, Magazine Group, Reading Group, Writing Styles, Literacy/Numeracy, and are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For further information on the free literacy classes or other adult educational courses (from Computer Confidence to Fulfilling Relationships) contact Vivien Achia, telephone (03) 481 9550 or Jenny Ruffy, telephone (03) 481 9552.

Lane Cove launch

Question: What do Desiderius Orban and Lloyd Rees have in common? Answer: They were both residents of Lane Cove and feature in two new publications of Lane Cove Public Library.

Close to one hundred invited guests attended the launch of two new publications in the Local Studies Monograph Series of Lane Cove Public Library. Both books celebrate the wealth of creative talent in the Municipality.

Artists of Lane Cove by Judy Washington, with a Foreword by Dr Lloyd Rees, gives biographies of well known artists such as Lloyd Rees, Roland Wakelin, Desiderius Orban, Reinis Zusters and Brett Whiteley. It also provides valuable information on the Sydney Impressionists - the Northwood Group - and Margery Dennis the only Australian naive artist to be included in the *World encyclopedia of naive art*.



Judy Washington signs copies of *Artists of Lane Cove* as artist Reinis Zusters who launched the book looks on.

Catalogue of the Desiderius Orban research collection in Lane Cove Public Library by Clare Dempsey, is a bibliography of the Orban bequest of books and catalogues to the Library. The collection contains works in eight languages and will provide art historians and researchers with an invaluable documentary source of the influences on and interests of Dr Orban.

The Orban Catalogue was launched by Max Taylor of Delmar Gallery, Sydney, who regularly exhibited Orban's work.

Both books are available from Lane Cove Public Library: *Artists of Lane Cove* for \$19.95; *Catalogue of the Desiderius Orban research collection* for \$6.00.

B McLean

Launching an epic

The Ministry for Planning and Environment in Melbourne has launched its new automated library system. The system, running on the Ministry's mainframe, is using the VAX version of INMAGIC software.

The Ministry for Planning and Environment Library serves both the inner Ministry and the Environment Protection Authority of Victoria. The staff of about 700, includes town planners, architects, engineers, environmental scientists and biological scientists. The collection comprises 16000 books and 500 current journal titles on the following subject areas: town planning, environmental management, environmental protection, regional planning, pollution, urban design, heritage and public administration.

The system has taken about 6 months to implement and includes databases for the catalogue, journals management, journals accessioning and loans. For clients of the library the main feature is Environment and Planning Information Catalogue (EPIC). EPIC is an online public access catalogue which can be accessed either in the library or from any VAX terminal linked to the mainframe. This means that staff in the Ministry's Regional Offices (e.g. in Ballarat, Geelong, Traralgon or Wodonga), can also log into the library's catalogue.

Library staff have been actively promoting the system and have arranged training sessions for Ministry staff. The training has been conducted in small groups of about six people with each person having 'hands on' access to a VAX terminal. Response from Ministry staff has been very positive and many are now proficient users of the system.



Jane Simmons, Librarian, (left), Clare Dempsey, Acting Library Manager and the Minister for Planning and Environment, Tom Roper.

Writers' tours

The Writers' Tours program organised by the National Book Council (NBC) is looking to elevate its profile and widen its focus. The program sends writers, usually two at a time and usually for a week, to places which are 'disadvantaged by distance'.

Writers' fees, fares and accommodation expenses are paid by the NBC, but considerable interest and local organisation by a variety of community groups is necessary for a successful tour. If you think your area would be suitable, please write to Kate Veitch, Writers' Tours Coordinator, National Book Council, Suite 3, 21 Drummond Place, Carlton, Victoria 3053.

Young Readers' Book Award

The West Australian Young Readers' Book Award, established in 1980, was the first young people's own choice reading award in Australia. The committee publishes two lists of up to 50 titles in each division: primary years 4-7 and secondary years 8-10, of English language novels published worldwide within the past 5 years.

The lists are compiled from suggested titles submitted by young readers and published in February of each year. Evaluation forms for each book, measuring each reader's preference, e.g. terrific; good; okay or awful, are received by the committee throughout the year. Final computing of evaluations are completed in October, when highest ranking authors and their titles are announced at an official presentation ceremony.

The following titles gained the highest rankings in 1989:

Primary

Dahl, Roald *Matilda*
Award Certificate Highest Ranking
Australian author:

Ball, Duncan *The ghost and the gory story*

Secondary

Mazer, Harry *When the 'phone rang*

Award Certificate Highest Ranking
Australian author:

Jennings, Paul *Unreal!*

For further information contact Audrey Foley, telephone (09) 295 1116 (a/h) or Christina Priest (09) 295 2750 (all hours).

Long Memories Needed

Can any Association member recall the name of a quarto size (about 140mm x 200mm) periodical published in Victoria in the 1950s and early 1960s which had a black cover back and front.

On the front were two small right-angle triangles back to back forming an isosceles triangle, one half yellow and the other red. There was no printing at all on the cover.

The publication was in the area of finance, public administration, government, political science, investment, taxation and like areas of considerable interest to Premiers.

My family want some details of particular work I did, like preparing papers for Premiers to take to Premiers Conferences and Loan Councils, which I attended on a number of occasions as part of the Premiers supporting staff. I remember that some of these papers were based on articles in the periodical I am seeking.

Would any person with a super memory contact Les Stewart 3/25 Waruda Street, Kirribilli, NSW 2061.

Les Stewart

Serial celebrations

The National Library of Australia has added the 100 000th listing of serial holdings to its ABN network. This is not only the result of regular cataloguing of new and changed titles, but also several conversion projects.

The Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN) is a service provided by the National Library of Australia to the Australian library community and other appropriate users. The principal goals of ABN are to assist libraries in minimising the costs of developing and controlling their collections, to enhance the national document delivery system, and to foster cooperative collection development.



The original members of the Serials Control Unit at the National Library celebrate the 100 000th listing.

Staff in the National Library's Serials Sub-section first began cataloguing on ABN in April 1981. Eight years later, the Sub-section is celebrating the addition of 100 000 serial holdings to ABN.

My place wins

The National Book Council, on behalf of the Order of Australia Association, announces that the judges of the first Order of Australia Book Prize (Gough Whitlam AC QC, Geoffrey Serle AO, Rosemary Wighton AO) have selected Sally Morgan's *My place*, published by the Fremantle Arts Centre Press, as the first winner of this prize - valued at \$15 000.

In commenting on the winning book the judges have said:

'Sally Morgan's *My place* tells the story of the author's discovery of her Aboriginality and her growing understanding of her family's past and of their reluctance to tell her about it. The forcible separation of children from their Aboriginal parents and a long history of neglect and exploitation form the background to this powerful and moving story of what it is, and has been, to be an Aboriginal in white Australian society.'

The next prize will be awarded in January 1993. Eligible books will have been published between 1 October 1989 and 30 September 1992.

New voice

Print handicapped readers will be able to skim through talking books thanks to a new voice indexer installed in the Royal Blind Society Library in Sydney. The system is the first of its kind to be used in Australia and has been developed by a Canadian researcher in conjunction with the Royal Blind Society.

One of the limitations of a book recorded onto cassette, is the difficulty in quickly skimming through it the way a sighted reader can flip through a print book. It also requires a trial and error method of finding specific sections.

The voice indexer takes the guess-work out determining where you are on a tape when it's being fast-forwarded. As the narrator comes to a chapter or section heading, they simply push a button and read it as normal, but it's here where the magic of technology takes over.

A computer stores those words and while the narrator continues reading the following text, the computer releases the heading very slowly, at a

subsonic frequency. This means there are actually two things being recorded at the same time, but at normal playing speed, only one is audible.

The hidden message only becomes apparent when the tape is wound through at high speed, using the cue facility which is found on most tape recorders.

In 1990 the Royal Blind Society hopes to equip all its studios with voice indexers.

Bill Byrne

Director of Library Services
Royal Blind Society



Talking Book Production Assistant Nicola Stanbridge, using the new voice indexer in the Royal Blind Society studio.

Not at a loss

A group of Sydney librarians, whose libraries collect in social science subject areas, meet every 2 months to exchange ideas, information, and offer mutual support. The group is called Libraries of the Social Sciences (LOSS). Librarians working by themselves will find the group particularly useful, as a means of making contact with other professionals. Not all members work in small libraries. Over the current 26 members, collection sizes run from 360 books to 100 000 books.

Member libraries exchange serial lists and offer other member libraries free interlibrary loans. Informative speakers occasionally address the group.

New members are always welcome. Membership is free. Contact Mary Schmidt on (02) 287 2274 or John Schembri on (02) 716 2278 if you would like to participate.

IASL commendation award

At the 18th Annual conference of the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL), the Board of Directors decided to give recognition to outstanding and innovative projects,

plans or programs which could serve as models for replication by other school librarians. The award will be given for the first time at the Annual IASL Conference in Umea, Sweden, in 1990.

All associations that are members of IASL can submit one or more entries for consideration. The association should have previously reviewed the project and given it a qualitative approval.

What kinds of projects can be submitted? The project should be innovative, well documented and should have already been successfully carried through or at least be already in progress.

Entry forms and further information are available from Dr Sigrun Klara Hannesdottir, IASL Vice-president, University of Iceland, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland. The closing date is 1 June, 1990.

Conference criminal

The 7th Criminal Justice Librarians' Conference, organised and hosted by the Australian Institute of Criminology, will be held in Canberra, 29-31 May 1990.

The aim of the conference is to foster communication and cooperation between criminal justice libraries. Personnel from the following organisations are particularly welcome: police departments and colleges; adult and juvenile correctional departments; law courts; law teaching departments; and government law departments.

For further information contact John Myrtle, Librarian, Australian Institute of Criminology, PO Box 28, Woden, ACT 2606, telephone (062) 83 3841.

Achieving excellence

The next national Special and Law Librarians' Conference is planned for the National Convention Centre, Canberra, 1-5 September, 1991. The theme is 'Achieving Excellence'.

A team of Canberra people has started the planning work. Plenty of help will be needed - interested volunteers could contact Rosemary Bell on (062) 61 2965 or Pat Stone on (062) 66 2258 to find out about the next planning meeting.

Ideas and suggestions for the Conference are invited. Please write to Brian McKinlay, Parliamentary Library, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600.

Plan now for Canberra, in September 1991!

The fun we had

The stories and images which occupied our childhood holidays can be rediscovered in a small exhibition, *The Fun We Had*, in the foyer of the National Library of Australian until 9 April.

Old favourites such as Blinky Bill and Snugglepot and Cuddlepie are on display with Phantom comics, Dolly fiction, a soft Teddy Bear book, the Kylie Minogue Photo Album, Frankenstein and holiday snaps.

Mobility map

The 1990, 20th edition of Melway Melbourne Street Directory, in which the Melbourne City Council's *Mobility map: Central Melbourne* is included for the first time, is now available.

The *Mobility map* provides information about accessible routes in Melbourne's streets, that is, those routes which are free from permanent obstacles and can be negotiated by people in wheelchairs, with prams or other mobility limitations. The *Mobility map* shows the location of street ramps, accessible toilets, multi-access public phones, 'disabled' parking bays, steep gradients, public seating and other relevant information.

Melbourne City Libraries manages the *Mobility map* on behalf of the City of Melbourne. This includes the updating of information, coordinating input from user groups with regard to the Map's design and negotiations with Melway.

The Melbourne City Council invites telephone calls to its City Libraries office on (03) 650 5622, from people pointing out errors in the *Mobility map* or suggesting improvements.

IBM be-Stowes award

Stowe Computing Australia has won the prestigious IBM Marketing Contractor of the Year award for South Australia.

A director of Stowe and the company's General Manager - Local Government, Steve Howe, said the award particularly recognised the company's Local Government, Library, and Application Solutions divisions.