

IN THE NEWS

Aloud in the park

Aloud in the Park is a young people's reading and writing activity which emphasises the oral presentation of good literature. It gives young people the opportunity to read their own fictional work on stage, as well as hear readings by established authors for young people.

The program was launched last November with a series of four afternoons of fun literary activity, attended by enthusiastic audiences of up to 300 adults and young people.

Now Aloud in the Park is back, with the support of Bookprint Reading 1990 (NSW Committee).

For more information on coming programs contact Nicola Robinson on (02) 660 3586, The Harold Park Hotel, cnr Wigram Road and Ross Street, Glebe, telephone (02) 692 0564.

Library and Information Studies Alumni University of Melbourne

To celebrate 35 years of librarianship studies at this site. (Melbourne Teachers College, Melbourne Secondary College, Melbourne State College, Melbourne College of Advanced, and Institute of Education University of Melbourne) it is proposed to establish an alumni for graduates of courses from 1955. Membership of this alumni would also include membership of Melbourne University Alumni and access to their activities.

The alumni would:

- facilitate fellowship
- provide collegiate support
- develop continuing education activities.

The cost of membership would be about \$30. If you are interested in joining such an association, would you please contact Fay Nicholson, Division of Library and Information Studies, Institute of Education, University of Melbourne, Parkville, VIC 3052.

IASL conference Call for papers

The 19th Annual International Association of School Librarianship Conference will be held in Umea, Sweden, 8-12 July, 1990. The theme will be Bridging the Difference: between nations; between cultures; between libraries; between information sources; and literacy around the world.

Research papers and more particularly oriented presentations on these sub themes are invited.

The post conference study tour 12-16 July will include a boat trip to Finland and a bus trip to Vasa, Tampere and Helsinki before returning to Stockholm by boat. The option of a trip to Leningrad is available. Visits to schools and museums are included.

For further information and registration forms etc., contact, Gunilla Janlert, Umea Skobibliotekscentral, Box 1007, S-901 20 Umea, Sweden.

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BOOK and BOOK Plus

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Best course

Roy Ward of Brisbane College of Advanced Education (BCAE) has developed a Computer Assisted Instruction (CAI) program to deliver OPAC instruction to incoming students. This method of user education is being trialled on all campuses this year and will be evaluated using questionnaires to measure student acceptance (attitudinal) and effectiveness (motivation, retention, understanding). A comparison will be made between the CAI and two alternatives:

- small group demonstrations (15-22 students)
- large group demonstrations (75-300 students).

Best Course of Action is a very powerful, versatile authoring program which runs on the Apple Macintosh. Once the course has been developed it can be packaged to run on either Macintosh or IBM type computers. The Mount Gravatt Campus is running the program on Macintoshes. Kedron park Campus is using a network of IBM AT level machines. Kelvin Grove is using XT's. The Carseldine Campus has had difficulty running the software on their AT level LAN.

The wide range of equipment in the computer labs has created difficulties which will probably be reflected in the evaluation. Initial indications are that the method of instruction is effective but that the software needs Macintoshes or AT level IBM's with EGA or VGA monitors as a minimum requirement. On XT level IBM clones the screen formatting is too slow. EGA monitors give marginally acceptable screen definition of text. Results look promising for this method of instruction.

Roy Ward
Information Services Librarian

Braille short list

Two collections of short stories, an autobiography, a mystery and an account of Australian mariners in the nineteenth century make up the short list for the Braille Book of the Year for 1990.

The shortlisted titles are: *The man with the suitcase*—Walter Adamson; *The puzzles of childhood*—Manning Clark; *The hanged man in the garden*—Marion Halligan; *Mariners are warned!*—Marsden Hordern; *The Tivington Nott*—Alex Miller.

These titles will now be produced in braille and cassette formats and distributed to borrowers of the Braille & Talking Book Library.

For further information contact Jan Smark Nilsson, telephone (03) 267 6022.

Community information

The 1990 National Community Information Conference is to be held in Canberra on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 September, with registration followed by a networking, 'get to know you' evening on Wednesday, 19 September.

We need to know of any issues you would particularly like addressed, either in a workshop format or more generally. Some of the ideas for workshops suggested to date are:

- databases and how to utilise them for publications
- access to information and age related issues
- access to information and geographical isolation
- low literacy — alternatives to the printed word
- what does technology do for you?
- private advertising and sponsorship
- regional information and centralised databases
- how to make your publication/service appealing to your target group
- role of paralegal services in community information.

We will, of course, also need people who will volunteer to facilitate workshops.

For further information contact Manik Datar on (062) 57 5143 or Pam Marsh on (062) 48 7399.

Bookfair bun-rush

Due to the great events of the Canberra autumn season, the Lifeline Bookfair will take place this year from 3-6 May 1990.

The Bookfair, which has been a regular event in Canberra since the early seventies, raises money each year for Lifeline Canberra. It began as a modest 2-day event, however, this year will run, for the first time, over 4 days. The Bookfair is always held at the Albert Hall, close to the city centre, bus routes and with ample parking. Early Bookfairs raised modest amounts of money, however, in recent years the total has been staggering — \$51 658 in 1988 and \$53 176 in 1989. This year it is hoped to go close to \$60 000.

Canberrans of all ages frequent the Albert Hall during the fair. It is not unusual to see Ministers of the Crown,

Departmental Secretaries and University Professors vying for books along with mums, dads and kids; it's all a bit of a bun-rush and very much 'first in first served'. The queue at the Albert Hall on opening day is usually 400-500 people. Particular attention is normally paid to items listed for the auction of rare and valuable titles, held on the Saturday afternoon of the fair. Copies of the auction catalogue are distributed throughout Australia, and to collectors overseas, who telephone bids to Lifeline in the days leading up to the fair. Copies of this year's auction catalogue will be available shortly from Lifeline Canberra Inc., PO Box 583, Canberra, ACT 2601, telephone (06) 247 0655.

The Bookfair Committee works hard throughout the year to ensure the fair is a financial success. The Committee, which comprises librarians and bibliophiles from across the Canberra community, has already sorted about

40 000 books for this year's fair. A text book fair was held at ANU during Orientation Week and raised \$2099; this was a curtainraiser for the main fair and has become an annual event to raise money and to help clear some of the thousands of textbooks already received, prior to the main fair.

Books for the Bookfair can be left at any Branch of the ACT Library Service. Volunteers then collect the books and deliver them to Lifeline's warehouse in Mitchell. The Bookfair Committee is grateful for the assistance given by the Library Service, and for the help regularly received from Wilson Removals in Canberra, the Canberra Times, and other media outlets.

If you have any unwanted books, magazines, records, cassettes, tapes, toys, sheet music, maps, postcards ... anything at all, then do call Lifeline Canberra to ensure they are delivered soon, to enable sorting to take place.

If you are interested in assisting the Bookfair in any way at all, the Convenor, Jenny Gleeson, would be pleased to hear from you. Ms Gleeson can be contacted on Canberra (06) 281 4908 (bh), or (06) 288 3594 (h), or by contacting her at the Woden Town Centre Library, Woden, ACT 2606.

People outside Canberra who wish to donate books can send them to Lifeline Canberra, c/- Canberra Railway Station. Please mark such items clearly with the Lifeline telephone number — (06) 247 0655.

Jenny Gleeson
Convenor

