

Library award

WHAT MAKES A good library? Certainly the building in which it is housed plays a very important part.

In order to recognise and encourage excellence in the design and planning of libraries, the Australian Library promotion Council and the Royal Australian Institute of Architects are conducting the second National Library Design Award, in 1982. Leading National library suppliers Raeco Pty Ltd are again sponsoring the Awards.

Submissions for awards are now being called for, and close on Friday 14 May, 1982. All entries are to be library buildings designed by Architects registered in Australia. The programme is open to every type of library. New buildings, converted or renovated buildings and redesigned or extended libraries are all eligible, provided they opened for use between 1 January 1979 and 30 April 1982.

A bronze medallion and up to five citations will be awarded to the most outstanding libraries entered.

It is expected that the best entries will reflect an effective working relationship between the architect and the librarian and will show a library which can operate efficiently and economically as well as being attractive to users.

Further information is available from the Executive Director, Mrs Anne Gribbin, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne 3000. Tel: (03) 63 5994.

The winner of the 1979 Library Design Award was Griffith University Library, Nathan, Queensland. Citations were awarded to Balwyn Branch Library and Frankston City Library.

National Conference

A NATIONAL CONFERENCE on libraries and manpower planning is to be held in Melbourne in November 1982. It is being organised by the Victorian group of EDLIB (LAA Section: Education for Librarianship).

The theme of the conference is 'The Library Workforce' and it aims to explore a number of facets of libraries and staffing needs and deployment.

Topics could include:

- the needs of employers for staff with training and skills; are these needs being met in times of change?
- the need for an Australia-wide plan for research
- the responsibilities of library educators: professional and paraprofessional, qualitative and quantitative
- the role of the LAA

A keynote speaker will be Nick Moore, from the Research Division of the British Library. He has extensive experience, particularly in manpower planning and research methodology.

Papers are required on the state-of-the-art, as well as the results of research.

Details on submissions and deadlines and requests for further information should be addressed to Janette Wright, Edlib Conference Secretary, Department of Librarianship, RMIT, GPO Box 2476V, Melbourne, Vic 3001.

The closing date for submission papers is 31 May.

National Library publication



Well-known poet and conservationist Judith Wright (centre) launched the National Library of Australia's new deluxe publication *Flower Paintings of Ellis Rowan* at the Library on 17 March. With Judith Wright are (left) Mrs Margaret Hazzard of Norfolk Island who wrote the book's introduction and (right) Dr Helen Hewson of Gunning NSW, who provided notes about the flowers. The book was printed by Griffin Press and costs \$78. An exhibition of Ellis Rowan paintings will be at the Library until 2 May.

National Library photography by Loui Seselja

ABN gets under way

ON 10 DECEMBER 1981 the Director-General of the National Library presided over a gathering which had the role of guiding the initial steps of the Library's newest child, the Australian Bibliographic Network. ABN was launched and the ABN Network Committee was presented with its task on behalf of Australian bibliography.

The future will perhaps wonder why no heralding of trumpets, for there is little doubt that ABN will revolutionise the exchange of bibliographic information in Australia. Why indeed? Perhaps the occasion was one of awe and the participants floundering in a flood of detail from which they are still emerging. Nevertheless, ABN is alive and well and the ABN Committee has met twice. It has agreed to publicise some of its decisions which may be of general interest to the library community.

Some of the matters agreed to at the meetings of 10 December and 3-4 February were:

- Jim Dwyer (Education Department of South Australia) was elected Chairperson.
- Arthur Ellis (University of Western Australia) was elected Deputy Chairperson.
- Flinders University, RMC Duntroon and Newcastle CAE were approved for admission as ABN members.
- The Chairperson of the ABN Standards Committee should be present at ABN Committee meetings.
- ABN is to achieve full cost recovery.
- The matter of training for ABN will have some prominence in the Committee's early determinations.

- User groups will be encouraged and their input to the Committee sought.
- An ABN Union Catalogue should be produced.

Arrangements are in hand for users to be provided with up-to-date information on the Network through an internal *ABN Daily News*. *ABN News* will also be issued as a means of dissemination of information to the profession generally. No doubt as 1982 progresses this development in the Australian library field will achieve mature status and become a major factor in our professional activity.

LAA 22 News

SPECIAL STUDIES

The inclusion of this section in the Conference will provide delegates with ample opportunity to pursue their particular interests. Special studies will be held on:

- Monday, 23 August, 2.00-4.00pm
- Tuesday, 24 August, 2.00-4.00pm
- Thursday, 26 August, 11.15am-12.30pm

Some special studies may be limited to one or two of these times. The venue will be the University of Adelaide.

In addition to studies organised by the Sections and Special Interest Groups of the LAA, some special studies have been arranged by groups outside the Association, and by individual members of the Association.