

Robert D. Williamson Award goes to Neil Speirs



Neil Speirs receiving the 1982 Robt. D. Williamson Award for Information Science from Enid Williamson in Melbourne last month. The presentation was attended by representatives of the LAA and other professional bodies.

NEIL SPEIRS, editor and publisher of the *Australian Business Index*, has just won the 1982 Robert D. Williamson Award.

The award commemorates the late Bob Williamson and perpetuates his commitment to information systems development. The judging panel has two main criteria: to recognise outstanding contribution to the development of information science in Australia; and to encourage people with the potential to make such a contribution.

Last year's Award, to CSIRO's Jim Gilmore, recognised Jim's substantial positive

influence on the course of information science in Australia. Speaking at the presentation ceremony for the 1982 Award, Enid Williamson made the point that Neil's enterprise in establishing the *Australian Business Index* qualified him for the prize.

The *Index*, to date 30,000 records, covers items of business, financial and economic interest published in the Australian business press. It began in 1981 and is available as a hard copy index, or as a database on AUSINET where it complements the index to the *Australian Financial Review*.

Neil Speirs, on the other hand, began much earlier as a copy boy on the *Sydney Morning Herald*. He progressed through finance reporter to freelance journalist and in 1973 published a book showing the exact ownership of every property in Sydney's central business district. In 1974 he similarly catalogued Melbourne's CBD.

More recently Neil found his research hindered by the lack of an up-to-date business and finance newspaper index. So he produced one – and won the Award!

Worth \$500, the Award is financed from sales of the *Recipe Book Service of Online Searching*. The *Recipe Book*, produced by Bob's widow, Enid Williamson, covers all publicly available online bibliographic and other systems, and is used as an authoritative reference by more than 200 subscribers.

able from the Australian Government Publishing Service. A fourth edition will be available in May 1983.

Since the Program's inception seventy-four End of Grant Technical Reports on research projects have been completed by grantees. Several Workshop Reports and Consultancy Study Reports have also been produced. These reports are made publicly available from the Department on microfiche and in hardcopy to help ensure that research results from projects are disseminated widely to assist other researchers and potential users of the results.

The reports cover a broad range of energy R,D&D topics including fuel resource assessment, coal mining and beneficiation, coal utilisation, synthetic fuels, solar and wind en-

Conditions of Entry National Word Competition

The National Word competition is organized and conducted by the National Word Festival.

1. The National Word Competition is open to people of all age, colour, creed, political persuasion, etc., from all over Australia.
2. Up to three single word entries will be accepted from each entrant. (Phrases will not be accepted).
3. Entries should be addressed to:
National Word Competition
P.O. Box 508,
CIVIC SQUARE, A.C.T. 2608
and must reach that address by last post on Monday, 28th February.
4. The judging panel will include Mr Alex Buzo, Dr Bill Ramson, Mr Ian Warden, Dr Judith Wright.
5. The National Word for 1983 will be announced in The Canberra Times on 15th March 1983, and notification will be forwarded to your organization on that date.
6. The prize for the competition is a Macquarie Dictionary worth \$1000. It is one of a limited edition of 750, and is rosewood-boxed, leather-bound, gilt-edged and beautiful – a fitting prize for that perspicacious person who identifies the National Word for 1983.
7. Official presentation to the prizewinner, if he/she is available, will be made at The Canberra Times National Word Festival Literary Dinner, which is to be held at University House. 7.30pm on the 19th March 1983.
8. Any enquiries about the National Word Competition, or the National Word Festival itself, should be directed to the National Word Festival office, Ph. (062) 49 7068.

Energy Program reports available

Over \$97 million has been committed up to 1982-83 by the Commonwealth Government in the form of grants for energy research, development and demonstration under the National Energy Research, Development and Demonstration (NERD&D) Program since its inception in 1978.

Details of energy research projects funded under the Program are provided in the Compendium of Australian Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Projects. The Compendium is an annual publication which incorporates summaries of most energy R,D&D projects being undertaken in Australia. Copies of the Compendium are avail-

ergy, energy conservation technologies and economic, social and environmental issues.

A brochure giving information and costs on End of Grant, Workshop and Consultancy Study Reports to November 1982 and other publications related to the NERD&D Program is available by writing to the Assistant Secretary, Research Policy and Programs Branch, Department of National Development and Energy, PO Box 5, Canberra, ACT, 2600, Australia or by phoning Bernie Collins on (062) 45 3891.

Please note that the address for LAA22 is now:
c/- Mrs A. M. Hazell,
62 Coromandel Parade,
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