

FEEDBACK

PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION AND CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES SECTION — NSW GROUP

The response to the one-day seminar organised on 24 June, jointly by the Public Libraries Section (NSW Group) and Children's Libraries Section (NSW Group) was overwhelming. The State Library of NSW was the venue for the seminar on the topic 'Young adult services in public libraries'.

The first speaker, Liz Maher, made an assessment of the ongoing services and looked at the future. Liz emphasised that adolescence is a dynamic and challenging period: a time for decision making and becoming independent, a time when the need for information is critical.

Liz mentioned the good pilot projects that had been undertaken and the need to follow them through. She also talked of the unfortunate lack of consistency in the way young adults are being catered for in Australian libraries. She talked of the necessity to define the groups to be served and establish their specific information needs. The need to look to contacts outside the library such as the Council's Youth Advisory Committee and the need for young adult library users to become involved in such groups and to promote the services among their peers were put forward.

Liz strongly emphasised the importance of encouraging active youth participation in the library as a means to gaining their support and assessing their needs. Only then could the public libraries offer a relevant and effective service to young adults.

Barbara Anderson, Kuring-gai CAE, examined the arguments for and against the inclusion of light fiction in the library's collection. She went on to look at different aspects leading to the popularity of light fiction. It was argued that the exclusion of light fiction would imply discrimination against some readers and that libraries are not catering only for an elite but should encourage reading in a broad sense.

Linda Briggs, Children's Libraries Film Circuit, NSW, gave a breakdown of the films the Circuit had available for adolescents. She highlighted the problems associated with selecting films for young adults, eg the rapid change in trend. Linda pointed out that a large degree of television programming is aimed at this age-group so the Circuit's selection committee had to offer something different, challenging and, above all, entertaining. 'Why'd the Beetle Cross the Road?' and 'Looking for Space Things' were screened on the occasion as examples of such films.

Prue Borthwick, *Streetwise Comics*, explained how comics began in NSW as a source of legal information presented in a way accessible to adolescents. The comics are now distributed nationally and are broader in scope, covering issues such as contraception and AIDS prevention.

It was put forward that comics are more useful for adolescents because they use language and situations which the young adult can relate to. The comics format ensures, Prue argued, plenty of pictures thus helping those with reading problems, and, special low literacy issues are also published. Research is undertaken in consultation with some 200 adolescents to ensure the comics are realistic.

In the following session, several librarians shared their experiences in working with young adolescents. The final session involved suggestions from the audience on suitable topics for young adult programs and a plan of action for organising these programs.

Susan Pescud

CATALOGUERS SECTION NSW GROUP

Cataloguing for posterity?

Philip Bryant, Director, Centre for Bibliographic Management, Bath, will deliver the next lecture in the Mollie Thomson occasional series at the request of the Cataloguers Section, NSW Group. The lecture will take place in the

Mitchell Wing, State Library of NSW on Wednesday, 31 August at 6.30 pm. Every one is welcome and should be at the State Library at 6.00 pm.

Philip Bryant is head of a team well-known for its research into optimal methods of organisation, formats and contents of catalogues of various kinds. Mollie Thomson visited the Centre (then called Centre for Catalogue Research) in the University of Bath during a trip to the UK. The title of the lecture 'We are cataloguing for posterity — are we?' is a quote from Mollie Thomson when she visited the Centre.

At the time of her death, in October 1980, Mollie Thomson was Deputy Librarian, Macquarie University, Sydney, but had worked at the National Library of Australia, Monash University and the Vancouver Public Library. Past speakers Harrison Bryan, Susan Martin, Susan Acutt, E.H. Wilkinson and Michael Malinconico have laid emphasis on Mollie Thomson's interests, other than cataloguing.

Eugenie Greig
President

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES SECTION — VIC GROUP

So much to tell you

Some 40 people attended the young adult literature seminar at the Balwyn Library, recently. Pam McIntyre, from Melbourne CAE, gave an overview of the situation in the US, the UK and Australia stressing the characteristics and the development of adolescent literature. John Marsden, author of *So much to tell you*, shared his fascinating interpretation of literature and revealed how he uses the whole spectrum of novels in literature programs. He spoke of his techniques to shape adolescent reading habits and improve their reading skills through browse boxes and reading aloud.

Suzette Boyd, teacher-librarian, Vermont High School, shared her views on promoting libraries and young adult literature, not only for the benefit of teenagers, but, also for school staff. Their best books lists are a marketing achievement, and programs of story reading and literature camps are popular. Children's Book Week is a major event giving some students the opportunity of reviewing all short-listed titles. Suzette's enthusiasm was contagious and she showed how her work can be applied to the public library situation.

The final session consisted of a panel of librarians. Betty Shelly, Young Adult Librarian, Nunawading, gave details of her work at Winlayton Girls Home. Pru Menzies, Malvern Library, dealt with the controversial issues relating, in particular, to the library's comic collection. And Donna Mathews, a US librarian on exchange at the Central Highlands Library, Ballarat, pointed out the similarities between points raised in the discussion and the current situation in her country.

Pru Menzies

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SIG

Election of 1989 Committee

The Government Publications SIG is seeking nominations for all office bearers for 1989. Most of the present committee have served for three years since the group was formed. Due to work and study commitments, most will be unable to continue next year. Nominations will be accepted for the positions of Convenor, Treasurer, Secretary and three committee members. up to 30 September 1988.

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LIBRARY TECHNICIANS SECTION — SA GROUP

Balancing the 3 R's

The Section recently held two interesting and informative meetings at the Adelaide College of TAFE. On 20 June, Jennifer Redding presented the topic 'Balancing the 3R's in your life: routine, relationships and relaxation'. Organisation, forward planning and self-discipline were discussed as beneficial ways of reducing stress in busy routines. Positive ways of handling personal conflict in relationships were emphasised as well as the need to always leave time for relaxation. Interaction and participation from the audience were encouraged and many ideas and suggestions were put forth.

Safety standards

On 25 July, Brian Vasey, Officer-in-charge from the Occupational Health and Safety Research section of the Department of Labour, spoke on hazards in the workplace. Briefly describing the structure of the SA Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act, 1986, Brian explained how the Act provides for basic safety standard regulations and illustrated how accidents primarily arise from unsafe and unhealthy organisation. The discussion was preceded by a short address by Anne Hazell on the activities of the LAA.

*Alison Potts
Secretary*

On the road

In late June, Sue Kosse, the Executive Director, visited the Blue Mountains City Library to discuss issues of importance to public libraries which had emanated from NSW State discussions on the Australian Libraries Summit.

The Blue Mountains City Library is a relatively young library service, having been established 12 years ago, with the enthusiastic support of its local community and the Blue Mountain City Council. The library's main branch is located in Springwood in a new building, with its local history collection being housed in the beautifully renovated federation-style residence, 'Braemar'. The other branches, seven in all, are spread over 70 kilometres and support the operations of this community-oriented library service.

The library's program of visits to Branch locations by chief librarians, Drusilla Wendoloski and John Merrieman, and its use of the BOOKS automated system, assist it in overcoming the distance and isolation problems experienced by libraries in similar situation.



Sue Kosse and Drusilla Wendoloski, Librarian, Blue Mountains City Library, inspecting 'Braemar' built in 1892 and restored in 1988 with the support of Bicentennial funding and the Heritage Council. As well as housing the local history collection the building is the home of the Springwood Art Gallery.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION QLD GROUP

Needs of the disabled

On the evening of 5 July, Val Moon, Special Needs Consultant at the State Library of NSW addressed a group of librarians in the new State Library, Brisbane. Public librarians and reference library staff were present.

Val spoke on library and information needs of the disabled, giving us a colourful insight into her background and experience. She has been primarily responsible for the development of special services at the State Library of NSW. Val has overseen, at the State Library, the establishment of a Special Needs Centre equipped with a Kurzweil Reading Machine, a braille printer and special telephone devices for the deaf.

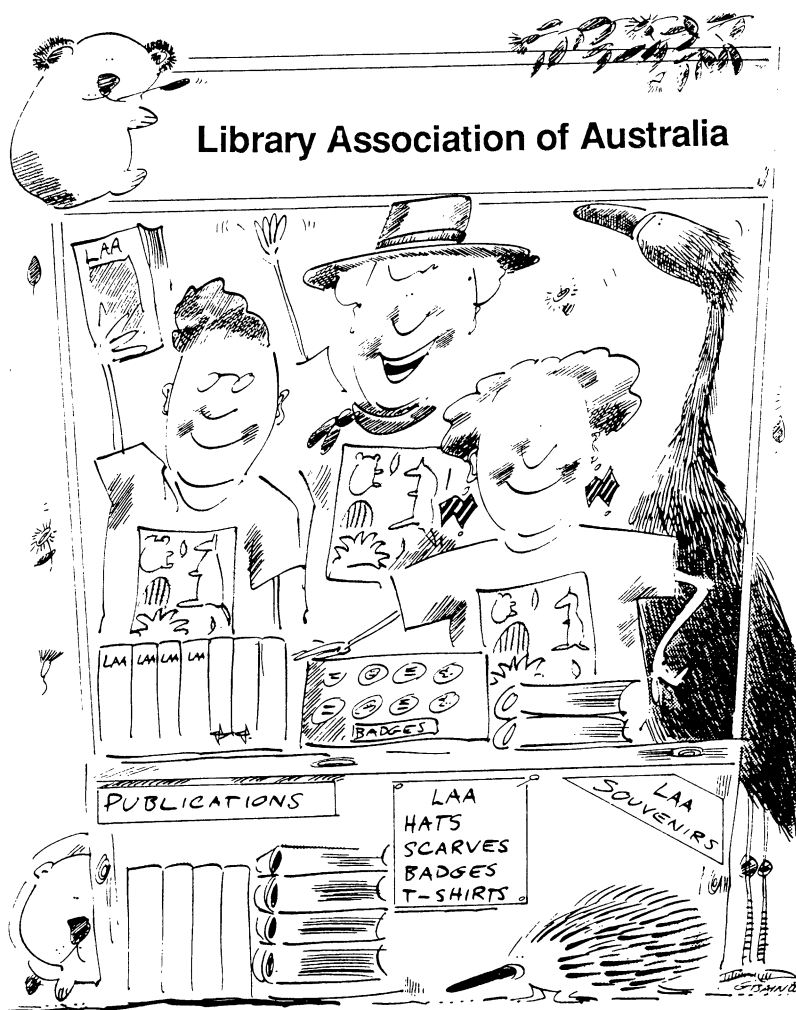
The librarians present at the talk discussed the various technological developments and the changing attitudes of librarians towards the disabled.

Laurelle Johnstone

LIBRARY TECHNICIANS SECTION — NSW GROUP

The Section wishes to call for nominations for the 1989 Division office bearers. The term of office for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, in addition to eight other committee members, is one year. Please send nominations for the above listed positions, by 20 September, to Marian Morgan, PO Box N250, Grosvenor Street, Sydney, NSW 2000. For further information call (02) 250 0310.

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