

Membership at 12-year high

It is most encouraging to be able to report that the Association's membership is at its highest level since 1976.

At 1 November we had 7,676 financial members, compared to 7,300 as at 1 November 1987. We have to go back to November 1976 to beat these figures, and at that time there were 8,008 members.

Our membership record was 8,878 in 1975, followed by 8,473 in 1974 — and those were years when the LAA had its highest numbers of Registration Examination candidates.

So while we have not reached the 8,000 I hoped in an earlier *InCite*, this is a very pleasing end to what has been a very busy year for us all. Congratulations to all who have recruited new members, and particularly to the Library Technicians Section which has achieved a huge 29.9 percent increase in its membership since last year.

Let's keep up the good work in 1989.

Sue Phillips

Membership Services Manager

Details of membership as at 1 November are as follows:

Membership	1 Nov 1988	1 Nov 1987
Associates	5,158	5,014
Members	558	544
Technicians	274	211
Students	340	338
Institutions	721	646
Voucher only institutions	625	547
Total	7,676	7,300

Human Rights Week

The 4 - 10 December is Human Rights Week and 1988 is the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

To commemorate this event, a Human Rights Week Lecture by Justice Mary Gaudron will be held at the National Library on 8 December. The Human Rights Medal and Awards will be held at the State Library of NSW on 10 December.

For more information on the Week's activities contact Trish Bradney, Librarian, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, (02) 229 7600.

Talking keyboard

To facilitate access to information for the blind, the State Library of South Australia has acquired a Kurzweil Reading Machine (KRM).

The KRM, has the ability to access documents as varied as professional literature, business correspondence or even a library book straight off the shelf. It actually scans pages and converts the information into 'speech' using a synthesised module.

The machine is located in the Lending Services section where trained staff are available for user advice.

KOALA Award winners

This year's winners of the Kids' Own Australian Literature Award (KOALA) are bound to give rise to some discussion amongst educators. Some 47,000 votes from students were received and three awards were given.

The winner of the Primary School Readers Section was *Sister Madge's Book of Nuns* by Doug MacLeod and illustrated by Craig Smith (Omnibus). This book, as supposedly told by Sister Madge Mappin, is a collection of poetry containing an utterly spurious account of life behind the walls of 'Our Lady of Immense Proportions'.

The winner of the Secondary School Readers Section, *Animalia*, is an alphabet book featuring animals lavishly illustrated by Graham Base (Viking Kestrel). Perhaps not what is expected as a favourite book from sophisticated secondary students, yet they love the detail.

The Bicentennial Award went to *The Complete Adventures of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie* by May Gibbs (Blue Gum). This book is an old time favourite, nominated by both primary and secondary readers for two consecutive years.

May Gibbs (1877-1969) was an author and an artist who created the first Australian bush fantasy world. *Snugglepot and Cuddlepie*, first published in 1917, has remained a favourite with children ever since. Her work is becoming recognised as a national treasure. A May Gibbs Foundation, established to preserve her house 'Nutcote', is currently seeking funds to establish it as a working museum and tribute to her work.

For more information on the KOALA Awards contact: Liz Bowring (02) 506 283; Lyn Campbell (02) 406 5374; or Val Noake (02) 521 0452.

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