

Author! Author!

ALIA CYSS members enjoy a great AGM and conference



(Clockwise from top) Eleanor Spence, Christobel Mattingley, Hesba Brinsmead and Jean Chapman

A GROUP OF lucky participants had the pleasure to meet Eleanor Spence, Hesba Brinsmead, Jean Chapman and Christobel Mattingley at the ALIA CYSS (NSW) one day conference *Author! Author!* at the State Library of NSW in April. For many of us this was a chance to meet authors we had grown up with as they talked about their experiences and their work.

Eleanor Spence began writing in the 50's in England. When working as a Children's Librarian she became aware of the shortage of stories set in Australia. She talked of the inspiration for her books and examined some of the changes that have occurred during her time as an author—noticing particularly the change in style of writing. We now have lots of action, shorter books and books that are easier because children are used to getting information in short grabs.

Hesba Brinsmead spoke of the difficulties of being an author back in her early days when writing wasn't really considered a 'proper' job. She amused us with tales of how she managed to successfully and innovatively balance the demands of her life.

Jean Chapman, with her strong background in traditional literature, encouraged us to make folk tales 'our own' in order to keep them vital and alive, while still keeping honest to the plot. Jean feels children

should be exposed to as wide a variety of books and storytelling as possible.

Christobel Mattingley could have been given the brief *Where do you get your ideas?* as she gave us some intriguing glimpses into her early childhood experiences which had grown into stories to materialise as novels later on.

Storyteller Peter Hall entertained the audience after lunch with the story *The Crown of God* as well as involving the participants in developing their own story.

In all, a wonderful day. Participants left keen to read or re-read the works of these four charming and fascinating authors and to enthusiastically pass on the word to their young readers.

Looking for volunteers

The ELISS (Education for Library and Information Services Section) National Section will hold its Annual Meeting at the ALIA '92 Conference in Albury-Wodonga. Currently the National Section is also the Victorian ELISS Section.

ALIA's suggested role for National Sections is to:

- be a forum for communication between Section Groups;
- take on a major lobbying role on issues of national importance to the Section;
- be a major source of information and advice to ALIA National Office and General Council on issues relating to the Section;
- provide additional support, if required, when a Section Group is lobbying on local issues;
- be responsible for future directions of the Section as a whole;
- supervise or undertake the production of journals, newsletters etc.

The National Section has an Executive Committee consisting of President, Secretary and Treasurer and a number of Committee members. Members of the Executive Committee may come from different States or Territories, or the National Section may rotate among active Section Groups, commonly for a period of at least two years.

Individuals interested in being on the National Section Committee, or ELISS Section Groups interested in becoming the National Section, are invited to contact the current President, Jennifer Evans, by phone (03) 813 1925 or fax (03) 882 4274, or by letter to: C/-Freelance Library and Information Services Pty Ltd, 27 Kasouka Road, Camberwell, VIC 3124.

Australian Library Week

Philippa Middleton reminds you it's coming (first week in October) and asks some questions that need your feedback

DO YOU AGREE with the leftover theory of library promotion that it's something that happens after everything else is done?

We want to hear your thoughts about library promotion, to be part of the August issue of *inCite* as a prelude to Australian Library Week, 2-9 October.

What should we promote? Is it possible to have a common message that all types of libraries can use?

The Australian Library Week Committee (consisting of ALIA, RAECO, Library Promotion Committee and school sector representatives) have developed two strands for 1992:

- 'Book Magic'—designed primarily for the school and public library sector. The RAECO promotional products with this theme will shortly be available.
- 'Communication'—This is aimed at the profession itself, though this could easily be adopted as a plank of an Australian Library Week activity. 'Windows of Opportunity' has been suggested as a

slogan that could be used to integrate any or all of the *Book Magic*, *Windows into Worlds* or *Communication* themes.

Australian Library Week 1992 will be launched at the end of the Albury/Wodonga Conference. What are your plans for the rest of Australian Library Week?

Whose responsibility is library promotion? Who, if anyone, should coordinate it?

Should it be local or national, or both? Should we attempt to do different things in different library sectors or is cross-sectoral library promotion possible? Do you remember *Information for the Nation*?

I have had the easy job of asking all the questions, but you have got the fun and challenge of providing some opinions and answers.

As well as sharing your thoughts with all our *inCite* readers, the issues raised will form part of the agenda for a Library Promotion seminar during the Albury/Wodonga Conference (details in future issues).

You have until 24 July to get your pearls of wisdom and wit to *inCite*.