

# Library Week in the ACT

*Leanne Ford was the organising genius for a packed program*

**T**HIS YEAR the ACT Library Service and the ACT Branch of ALIA, with sponsorship from the Canberra Blind Society, the Canberra Rex Hotel and Collins Booksellers Woden, really showed everybody what celebrating Australian Library Week is all about. Due to the ACT/NSW long weekend it had to be a short week—Tuesday 6 October to Friday 9 October. Thanks to careful planning and publicity, attendance at each event was excellent and all the entertainment went off well.

## The grand opening

The Week was launched on Tuesday by the ACT Minister for Urban Services, Mr Terry Connolly, at Tuggeranong Town Centre Library. He began proceedings with a speech filled with his support for libraries, then cut a 'Book magic' cake. The occasion also launched the use of plastic bags sponsored by the Canberra Blind Society. Enthusiastic members of the Kambah High School Band provided a musical accompaniment. Fifty people attended, as well as WIN TV and representatives from several newspapers.

## Book magic breakfast

In one of the highlights of the week, well known Australian author, Frank Hardy (*Power without glory*) kept an audience of sixty-five people spellbound over Wednesday's breakfast at the Canberra Rex Hotel. His comments about the role of libraries in the community revealed his own close personal links with libraries. After breakfast, Mr Hardy happily chatted and autographed copies of his books. He toured some branches of the ACT Library Service



and talked to borrowers and staff. His energy and genuine interest in everything and everyone was truly remarkable and most appreciated.

## Readers meet writers: Alan Gould

Banjo Award winning author, Alan Gould, spoke to an informal gathering at Belconnen Town Centre Library at midday on Thursday. Besides discussing his work, he read from his poetry and answered questions. The group mingled with him over afternoon tea while he signed copies of his books.

## Literary pursuit

This event on Friday evening provided the climax to a highly successful week. The upstairs area of Woden Town Centre Library was bright and festive, decorated with 250 'Book Magic balloons'. By starting time, seventy people had registered to

*The Hon. Mr Justice Rae Else-Mitchell, Chairman of the ACT Library Service Advisory Committee, Terry Connolly, ACT Minister for Urban Services, and David Barron, Director of the ACTLS.*

test their literary skills. The program ran smoothly and by the end of the night, after healthy competition between tables, the National Word Festival group claimed victory.

This is the first time Australian Library Week has been celebrated in the ACT with such a big bang and supported so well from sponsors. David Barron, the Director of the ACTLS, is convinced of the importance of the Library Week for creating and renewing public awareness of library services. And the high attendance at the activities and comments from participants have shown the very tired members of the Australian Library Week Committee that it really was all worthwhile! ■

## Magic in Tasmania

*David Walker and Bridget Hutton succumbed as well*

**A**USTRALIAN LIBRARY Week in Tasmania was officially launched by Hon John Beswick, Minister for Education and the Arts, on Monday 5 October at the State Library of Tasmania, Murray Street, Hobart.

## Ideas into words

The theme for Australian Library Week 1992 was 'Book Magic: ideas into words', and proceedings began appropriately with an entertaining display by local magician Paul

Bromfield, who held an audience of children from the Campbell Street Primary School spellbound with his tricks.

## New technologies

The Director of the State Library, Ms Robyn Collins, then introduced the Minister, whose speech stressed the importance of the new technologies offered in libraries today, such as CD-ROMs. Dr Andy Smithies, President of ALIA Tasmanian Branch, thanked the Minister and mentioned that

Mr Beswick, whose portfolio included that of Industrial Relations as well as Education and the Arts, was responsible for a wide range of libraries throughout the state.

## Mesmeric magician

After the formalities were completed the magician continued to mesmerise the entranced audience with more of his amazing wizardry, until it was time for the invited guests to take afternoon tea in the foyer of the Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts. ■