

VISioN—A new approach to reference networking in Victoria

Victorian public libraries have linked with the State Library of Victoria in an innovative project to provide improved reference and information services. VISioN—or the Victorian Information Services Network—was offi-

Seen any good indexes lately?

The Australian Society of Indexers Medal is again being offered for an 'outstanding' index to a book or periodical compiled and first published in Australia or New Zealand. In addition to the presentation of a medal to the winning indexer, a certificate is presented to the book's publisher.

To be eligible for the award, the index must be in print and must have been first published after 1991. It must have been compiled in Australia or New Zealand even though the text to which it refers may have originated elsewhere.

For the award, indexes are judged at the level of outstanding professional achievement, thus sufficient material is required, both in quality and quantity, for appraisal. The index should be substantial in size (as a guide, a minimum of four pages, double columned). The subject matter should be complex, requiring generally more than one category of words/phrases as index entries.

All interested persons are invited to nominate up to three indexes which meet the above criteria, and which they regard as worthy of consideration. Don't be bashful, you can nominate your own index!

Please send recommendations with bibliographic details, if possible together with a copy of the book (which will be returned) to The Secretary, Australian Society of Indexers, GPO Box 1251, Melbourne Victoria 3001, no later than Friday 16 September 1994. ■

cially launched by the President of the Libraries Board of Victoria, the Rev Dr John Scott on 23 June at the State Library. About 90 guests, including many reference librarians from the public library sector, attended the launch.

VISioN provides an express reference service, based at the State Library of Victoria, for enquiries beyond the resources of the local public library. The service is particularly relevant for small libraries and a toll free phone number is provided to assist rural library services.

The service is available during the normal opening hours of the State Library of Victoria. Other aspects of the VISioN service include a program of training for reference staff in public libraries and access to Australia-wide census data.

Ensuring that the information role of local public libraries is enhanced by offering a support service to Victorian public libraries (and not directly to library users), VISioN provides statewide access to the extensive information resources of the State Library of Victoria. A steering committee of representatives from



VISioN coordinator, Jenny Stocks, takes a reference enquiry during the launch of the project by the Rev Dr John Scott, President of the Libraries Board of Victoria.

metropolitan and rural public libraries and the State Library of Victoria ensures that opportunities for cooperation are maximised.

Funding of \$155 000 over two years has been provided for the project by the Office of Library Services, Arts Victoria. For a brochure or other information about the service contact VISioN Coordinator, Jenny Stocks on (03) 669 9919. ■

Talking books to be awarded

The short list for the 3M Talking Book of the Year Awards in both the Adult and Young People's categories have now been decided. This will be the fifteenth year of these awards and this year the winning author and narrator, in both categories, will each receive a cash prize of \$2 000. Total prize money will be \$8 000.

The awards, which are for literary works available to vision impaired readers and readers with other print disabilities, are divided into two categories—the Adult Category and the Variety Club young People's Category. Both categories are sponsored by 3M.

These talking book awards are open to any Australian author or any work with significant Australian content. They are designed to recognise the importance of re-

corded literature for people who cannot read print. The books, which are entirely unabridged, are judged according to the authors' literary skills, the narrators' interpretive skills and the quality of the technical production.

Last year's winner of the Adult Category was Marion Halligan for her novel *Lovers' knots* which was narrated by Jennifer Vuletic. The Variety Club Young People's Category was won by Melina Marchetta for her first novel *Looking for Alibrandi*. Melina's book was narrated by Sher Guhl.

The awards for the winning entries will be presented on 11 November during a dinner at the Hotel Inter-Continental in Sydney. For further information please contact Anne Gilhooly, Media Liaison Manager, Royal Blind Society, phone (02) 334 3350, fax (02) 334 3345. ■