

International Children's Book Day, 2 April

International Children's Book Day is a worldwide event organised each year by the International Board of Books for Young People — IBBY — an organisation consisting of some sixty national members. In Australia, the national member is ALIA.

Celebrated on 2 April, the birthdate of the master storyteller Hans Christian Andersen, the day aims to call attention to books for children and young people and to inspire a love of reading.

Each of the sixty national members has the opportunity of sponsoring this special day, with a message printed for all children, usually in the four official languages of IBBY — English, French, German and Spanish — written by a well-known national children's author as well as a poster designed by an outstanding illustrator of children's books. In addition, the sponsoring national member may suggest a variety of innovative activities to be carried out in schools and libraries. The message, poster and creative ideas for book promotion are distributed to all national members.

ALIA, the Australian member, has sponsored this special day on two occasions — in 1978, and again in 1988. The first occasion was financed by the Literature Board of the Australia Council, as a precursor to the 1979 International Year of the Child. The message was written by Colin Thiele, the distinguished and much-loved writer of books for young people whose prize-winning book *Storm Boy* was hailed a 'classic' by the London *Times* and as

'one of the most beautifully written books by an Australian author'. The poster was designed by Robert Ingpen, the outstanding Australian artist and illustrator who illustrated *Storm Boy* and whose works and murals hang in some of Australia's major buildings. For the poster he used a magnificent illustration of 'Storm Boy' showing the boy with his beloved pelican, their eyes glued to a book.

The second time was financed by the Bicentennial Authority as one of its projects for children in our bicentennial year. The hauntingly beautiful message, 'The Magic Carpet' was written by Patricia Wrightson, a Hans Christian Andersen gold medallist. The poster was again designed by Robert Ingpen, also a Hans Christian Andersen gold medallist, who used an illustration from his delightful children's book *The Idle Bear*.

Other countries which have sponsored International Children's Book Day include Great Britain, USA, Canada, France, Germany, Austria, Japan, Denmark, Sweden, Greece, Ghana, Brazil, Poland, Iran, Italy and the then Czechoslovakia. All member countries work to carry out the aims and ideals of IBBY, which include international understanding through books for young people, the opportunity to have access to books with high literary and artistic standards, to stimulate research and scholarly works in the field of children's literature and to eradicate illiteracy.

The sponsor country for International Children's Book Day this year is Hungary. ■

IFLA offers students affiliate membership

The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) has introduced a new special category of membership for students. This category provides the opportunity for students who are interested in issues facing the international library and information community to receive the latest information and to support the activities and objectives of the Federation.

The student affiliate benefits include: a subscription to the IFLA Journal; free registration in one of IFLA's 35 professional sections; a discount on the purchase of publications; and a standard

member discount on registration fees for the Annual General Conference.

The offer is open to students in full-time or part-time education, and is being run on a four-year trial basis to determine the level of interest in student involvement in the Federation. Applications must be accompanied by proof of student registration, in the form of a photocopy of either an institution student card or an International Student Identity Card.

For further information, and application details, contact the membership manager, membership@ifla.org. ■

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