

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Visit to Perth

One of the privileges of being President is having the opportunity to visit members of the Association throughout Australia. In March I spent a busy two days in Perth and saw many members and prospective members. I spoke to two large groups of students at the Nedlands campus of the merging WA College of Advanced Education and at WAIT and visited and talked to people at the State Library and the Universities of Western Australia and Murdoch.

The Annual General Meeting and dinner at which I gave the address was an opportunity to meet more people. Mr Ali Sharr, the retired State Librarian of Western Australia, presented the Sharr Medal to Ian McBain as the student most likely to contribute to the profession. Many Divisions now have awards which recognise and encourage the work of students in librarianship and these are a useful link between the profession and those entering it.

Mr Sharr spoke briefly before making the presentation. From his long experience in libraries he chided those who consider these to be particularly hard times and complain about them. He reminded us that, in the past, the economy has been in a far worse state and that libraries are in a better state now to cope with problems. He reminded us that it is important that librarians assess their priorities and be ruthless in cutting our services of lowest priority. If after concentrating on the matters of most pressing need some resources can be allocated to the other services well and good. This was a timely reminder from a retired leader of our profes-

sion that one of our prime tasks is the good management of our resources.

Miss Margaret Medcalf, the President, Roy Stall, the Secretary, and the members of the WA Branch Council are to be congratulated on a lively and interesting Branch AGM.

Board of Education

Many members of the Association give their time voluntarily to serve the Association in the promotion of libraries and library services, the improvement of the standard of librarianship and the status of the library profession. One of the most important of the Association's bodies is the Board of Education.

At the Board's most recent meeting in late March, the agenda showed the range and importance of activities in improving the standard of librarianship in this country. The Education Statements which delineate the policy of the Association on such matters as qualifications in librarianship, continuing education, principles of school librarianship, recognition of courses and library technician qualifications which appear in the *Handbook* have been revised and the drafts will be published in the 1982 *Handbook* for wider study and discussion.

Please read these drafts and contribute either through Division meetings or comments addressed to Sue Phillips, Secretary to the Board.

Ted Flowers is to retire from the Board of Education after six hard years' work as a member and latterly as Chairman. We owe a considerable debt to Ted and other members of the Board for their continuing work on our behalf. It is also appropriate to mention the contribution which our institutions make in sparing so many people to work in so many ways for the Association. It enriches both the institutions themselves and the Association.

Judith Baskin
LAA President

Short list for awards

THE JUDGING PANEL for the 1982 Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year and Picture Book of the Year awards is pleased to announce a short list of eight finalists in each class of the awards. The winning entries will be announced on Saturday 24 July at the commencement of Children's Book Week 1982.

Class A, Book of the Year

- BARNETT, Gillian, *The Inside Hedge Story* (Oxford University Press)
 FATCHEN, Max, *Closer to the Stars* (Methuen)
 FOWLER, Thurley, *Wait for me! Wait for me!* (Rigby)
 FRENCH, Simon, *Cannily, Cannily* (Angus & Robertson)
 MATTINGLEY, Christobel, *Rummage* (Angus & Robertson)
 PHIPSON, Joan, *A Tide Flowing* (Methuen)
 THIELE, Colin, *The Valley Between* (Rigby)
 WRIGHTSON, Patricia, *Behind the Wind* (Hutchinson)

Class B, Picture Book of the Year

- ARMITAGE, Ronda and David, *Ice Creams for Rosie* (Deutsch)
 HATHORN, Elizabeth, *The Tram to Bondi Beach*, Illus. by Julie Vivas (Methuen)
 HUNT, Nan, *Whistle up the Chimney*, Illus. by Craig Smith (Collins)
 McLEAN, Andrew and Janet, *The Steam Train Crew* (Oxford University Press)
 MOORE, Inga, *Aktiv's Bicycle Ride* (Oxford University Press)
 ORMEROD, Jan, *Sunshine* (Penguin)
 SMYTH, Gwenda, *A Pet for Mrs Arbuckle*, Illus. by Ann James (Nelson)
 TRELOAR, Bruce, *Bumble's Dream* (Bodley Head)

For further information please write to the above address, phone Robyn Collins (07) 221 8400 or contact the State Secretary of the Children's Book Council in your state.

KURING-GAI COLLEGE OF
ADVANCED EDUCATION
SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND
INFORMATION STUDIES

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Friday 14 May, 1982
Saturday 15 May, 1982

A continuing education programme designed specifically for people setting up a community information service. No previous experience of the community information scene is required. The programme covers setting objectives, issues relating to provision of services, methodology and file maintenance, day to day operation and evaluation.

Fee: \$70.00 (including lunch)

Contact:

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Margaret Stiller honoured

IN THE QUEEN'S Australian 1982 New Year's Honour List, Mrs Margaret Stiller of Darwin, a career teacher librarian/librarian was awarded an MBE for services to education and the community. This honour has not been bestowed on many teacher librarians or librarians in Australia and should not go unrecorded in librarianship circles.

Mrs Stiller holds a BA, a Secondary Teacher's Diploma, a Registration Certificate in Librarianship, and a Diploma in Educational Technology.

Her career spans 26 years of work in the NT and three years in Adelaide. During her first years in the Territory she commenced work in school libraries in Alice Springs. In 1956 she became the Teacher-in-Charge of the School of the Air, Alice Springs, and began the library for the School of the Air students.

From 1960-73, Margaret was teacher librarian at Darwin High School. While at Darwin High the library won the National Grolier Award (1969) for a secondary school library that had made the most progress in the previous year. In 1970 the library was highly commended by Grolier for its progress and in 1971 the library received the award for the library that had made the most progress in South Australia and the Northern Territory. In 1971, when for the first time the South Australian Education

Department offered a promotion position for teacher librarians, Mrs Stiller was the only person given promotion in South Australia and the NT.

In 1970 Margaret was awarded a study scholarship at the UNESCO-sponsored International Youth Library in Munich, West Germany, to study international children's literature. On the way to Munich she spent seven weeks working in and observing the Knapp Project demonstration school libraries in the USA and two weeks in a community school library in Hawaii. As a result of the time spent at the International Youth Library, a booklet, *International Understanding Through Children's Literature* was published by Mrs Stiller. It was revised in 1978.

In 1970 Margaret Stiller founded the School Library Association of the Northern Territory, the first professional organisation for teacher librarians or librarians in the Northern Territory. She has been a committee member ever since, except 1975, and in 1976 was made a life member of SLANT.

Since 1970 Margaret has been reviewing books each month, mainly during her own time, for the benefit of teacher librarians. A monthly list of these reviews go to all NT schools under the title, *What's New?* She