

and the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre. The original aims and objectives are under scrutiny, now that other publishing houses have also taken up the work of Indigenous writers and artists. Other issues under consideration include the need to publish material judged as culturally important, but which might have limited appeal in terms of the number of books which might sell. Sales of the backlist must be pushed, and priorities determined, such as whether to focus more on the Kimberley area.

Says administrator Suzie Haslehurst: 'Given increasing competition in the industry, the financial reality of arts-based, government-funded activity, and the fact that Magabala has just entered its fifteenth year of operation, it's timely to define our mission and vision and set achievable objectives for the next 15 years.'

She goes on to speak of making sure the organisation's infrastructure is strong, to guarantee survival beyond the involvement of current staff. In the past, she says, Magabala has encountered difficulties when long-standing staff members have left. 'Succession planning and risk management will play an important part in the review process,' she says. Policy development, financial management and the use of information technology will also be vital considerations.

Magabala plans in future to attend international book fairs such as Frankfurt in Europe and the Book Expo in the United States, to increase awareness of its titles and boost sales. Another focus will be school curricula around the country.

If all these initiatives are focused on 'the business end' of the organisation, staff are not losing sight of the main reason they're there. Haslehurst calls

it the 'cultural heart' of the organisation: 'preservation of Indigenous cultures and heritage through publishing the stories of our Indigenous people. We need to grow and develop to do this,' she says, 'and to make the rest of the world aware of the work we do.'

Magabala has published a *Basic Guide to Copyright*, 'in plain English', about rights and responsibilities in relation to Indigenous writing and art

DIANA GIESE also interviewed Carol Tang Wei (Magabala management committee member) and Kevin Fong (Broome Shire President, and head of Goolarri Media Enterprises) while in Broome, for the Library's Oral History Collection



## 100th Birthday BookSearch

In 2001, our anniversary year, the National Library invited all Australians to help us uncover the whereabouts of key items not yet in our Collection. The 100th Birthday BookSearch, conducted with the support of *The Australian* newspaper, resulted in a wide range of material being received.

One of the Library's wishes came true with the generous donation of a rare publication, *I zoi en Australia* (Sydney, 1916), cited in G. Kanarkis' *Greek Voices in Australia* (1987) as being the first Greek-language title published in this country. Designed as a reference work for Greeks in Australia, the book is encyclopaedic in scope. Most of its 10 000 copies were given gratis to Greek authorities in Australia and overseas.

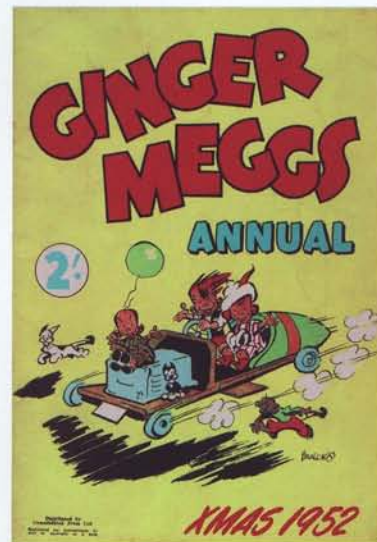
Well before the year had ended, the Library also received missing issues of a number of journals and magazines, such as *Better Homes & Gardens*, *The Australian Way* and *Village Voice*; it also received items of sheet music, including 'Australia: Grand March in Commemoration of

the Federation, 1901,' by Ezra Read.

A request for menus likewise resulted in an extraordinary response, with contributions covering a wide range of occasions—including official functions and menus relating to various shipping lines. Most of these menus cover the period 1939 to 1963. Of particular interest was the menu for a 'Dinner in Honour of the Right Honourable Sir Robert Menzies and Dame Pattie Menzies, Parliament House, Canberra, Thursday 17 March 1966'—the official farewell function for Sir Robert.

Children's books generated a great deal of interest too, and the Library was fortunate to receive a 1952 edition of the *Ginger Meggs* annual. (These annuals are very difficult to locate and the Library now holds the 1952, 1953 and 1956 editions.) Collector Robert Holden donated a rare copy of *Happy Ever After* by Australian-born P.L. Travers, author of *Mary Poppins*.

The Map Collection received donations of Queensland maps:



The recently donated 1952 edition of the *Ginger Meggs Annual*

cadastral ones (from 1908) and showing stock routes (1921) and the Rabbit Proof Fence (1919).

Material continues to be offered to the Library as a result of BookSearch. The Library thanks the many donors for supporting its role as the collector and preserver of Australia's documentary heritage.