

Outstanding Young Person of the Year award.

Fr Joe Young won the world award last year.

Carmel, whose work involves saving and preserving the lives of individuals who are in danger at sea, always had a burning ambition to be a pilot.

Her first taste of flying came in London in 1989 when her husband booked her a trial flying lesson.

This increased her appetite for more and when the family moved back to Galway, Carmel took a year of flying lessons.

While training in Cork she received two nominations as an outstanding cadet.

She joined the Search and Rescue Unit at Shannon, in May 1992 and now co-pilots the very sophisticated 26 seater Sikorsky helicopter. Carmel is the only woman search and rescue pilot in Europe and hopes to become a captain in future years.

Her achievement proves that personal improvement and accomplishment are achievable with hard work and dedication to ones ideas.

Carmel experienced many difficulties along the way including financing her very expensive training and the long periods she had to spend away from her home and family.

The fact that she is from a non-military background meant that Carmel has to prove herself more than any of the men just to be accepted as an equal.

She has been chosen as the Harveys/Sunday Independent Irish Woman of the Year.

The "Outstanding Young Person" competition allows Junior Chamber to give world recognition to ten outstanding individuals, for their contribution to society and the world.

There are three levels in the competition, local, national and international.

The ten international winners will travel to Hong Kong in November next to be honoured at an interna-

Carmel will be representing both Limerick and Ireland in the category, personal improvement and accomplishment, in the world competition.

Hunt Museum prepares for public opening

THE Hunt Museum is to be opened to the general public at its new home in the Custom House, Rutland Street, from June of next year.

A new body, The Friends of the Hunt Museum, and a new book, 50 Treasures of the Hunt Collection, have been launched by Nicholas Robinson.

The University of Limerick has been designated custodian of the collection.

Mr Robinson spoke of the necessity to break down the "barriers of strangeness" between museums and the general public.

"The task is particularly important today," he said, "since museums must serve a public bombarded with information presented in entertaining ways through television, film, video and radio."

He continued: "Some may view the strict, severe and forbidding silence of the traditional museum as antiquated."

"An effective way of breaking down these barriers is through the enthusiasm and vigour that an active Friends organisation brings to a museum."

The new book, researched and written by

Professor Paddy Doran, Dean of the college of Humanities, is illustrated with 50 selected works ranging from an early Egyptian sculpture to a Jack b Yeats painting.

It is priced at £35 and proceeds are going towards funding the Museum.

The Hunt collection is one of the great private collections put together in this century.

Embracing some 3,000 art objects, ranging from neolithic and Irish bronze age to mediaeval figure sculpture and works by Picasso, Renoir, Gauguin, and Yeats, it was assembled by John and Gertrude Hunt and has been donated to Ireland by their family.

The old Custom House, one of Limerick's finest cut-stone buildings, was designed by David Ducart, an Italian canal builder, and constructed in 1769 at a cost of £8,000, a phenomenal sum at the time.

It is now being restored under a joint design team from Limerick Corporation and the Office of Public Works.

Dr Tony Ryan, chairman of the Hunt Museum Executive, said: "The Hunt collection will be the most important collection to be permanently exhibited outside Dublin."

