

ALIA membership a winner



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Clare Aitken was nominated by the Council of the University of South Australia for the 1997 UCRLS (SA) award which is presented annually to the most outstanding student completing the Graduate Diploma in Information Management. Following are excerpts from Clare's acceptance speech.

'I was going to use this talk as a platform to campaign to get myself some work experience in the library area. [But] I'm pleased to be able to report that I'm now employed as a librarian! It is a great opportunity and I have to thank them for giving me the chance — the constant chicken and egg situation of "no experience = no job" / "no job = no experience" was getting very frustrating.

'And it has been my membership of ALIA that has led to this position. And this is the message I wanted to bring tonight — students must be encouraged most strongly to join ALIA from the very beginning of their studies. Not afterwards — that is too late. In this very competitive job market it is keeping in touch with what is happening through ALIA that makes the difference.

'I think the library school should be promoting ALIA membership more, particularly to external students. As an external student I felt extremely isolated at times, and it wasn't stressed to me that it was a good idea to get involved in ALIA. It was only with the encouragement of the librarian at CSIRO Human Nutrition, Leanne Griffiths, that I got involved in ALIA activities. I cannot thank her enough for her unfailing help and advice. I know that ALIA is trying to encourage the concept of mentoring, and I'm here to say that it is an excellent idea.

'I know I have a lot to learn. The phrase "trained in the theory of everything and practised in the art of nothing" comes to mind. The practice side is where ALIA really comes into its own. In a small library, a network of contacts is essential. I have been highly impressed with the continuing training and support that ALIA members offer to each other — this isn't something I've encountered in my "former career". And there is an excellent opportunity at the moment, while there are changes occurring at the library school, for ALIA members to give some input into what they require from graduates of the school.' ■

And the books to listen to are...

The National Library of Australia is proud to announce the winners of the 1997 TDK Australian Audio Book Awards and the Trish Trinick Prize for the Best Narrator, which represent first-class audio productions of outstanding literary works. The awards were presented in Canberra on 11 November by one of Australia's foremost writers, Elizabeth Jolley.

The award for the best work of unabridged fiction was given to the Christian Blind Mission International for their production of Steve Lawhead's charming children's book *Brown ears at sea*, narrated by Robert Grubb.

The Abridged Fiction Award was won by ABC Enterprises for *Eating out and other stories* by Natalie Scott, narrated by Ruth Cracknell. ABC Enterprises also took out the Abridged Non-Fiction Award for their production of Jan Ruff-O'Herne's moving autobiography, *Fifty years of silence*, poignantly narrated by the author.

The Unabridged Non-Fiction Award was won by Bolinda Audio Books for a production of Mary Durack's famous family biography, *Kings in grass castles*, narrated by Jenny Seedsman.

The Trish Trinick Prize for the Best Narrator was won by James Wright for his narration of a Louis Braille Books' production of *The fiftieth gate*.

Audio books have made literature accessible to diverse groups of people. Listening to audio books is no longer confined to people with print disabilities as others are finding they can increase the amount of time they have for reading by listening to audio books while doing other things such as driving.

Students and other 'readers' also discover that texts they find impenetrable in print — Shakespeare's *Hamlet* or James Joyce's *Ulysses*, for instance — become accessible when read aloud.

The principal aim of the TDK Australian Audio Book Awards is to promote high standards of audio book production in Australia. The entries are rigorously assessed for quality of narration, sound and editing and preparation of the text for audio, packaging, and announcement quality. ■

• **21/2 NSW Branch Council meeting** 10am–4pm. Sumitomo Room 3, Level 11, State Library of NSW. Observers welcome. RSVP: Jo-anne Fuller 02 9906 6000 jojo1@ozemail.com.au.

• **24/2 NSW Special Librarians section.** *Does the virtual library have a future?* 5.30pm Venue: Sydney Campus, Central Queensland University, Level 6 Imperial Arcade, Castlereagh Street. Cost: \$5, nibbles provided. Information/booking: Ilana Cohen 02 9385 4682, i.cohen@unsw.edu.au.

• **24/2 Electronic Public Library Seminar.** Penrith City Library 9.30–4.30pm. Cost: \$60. Guest speakers on electronic commerce, electronic resources and service delivery. Supplier product demonstrations. Bookings/enquiries: Lorraine Stacker, ph 02 4732 7886, fx 02 4732 7540, lstack@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au.

• **25/2 NSW Special Libraries section.** Librarians' Libations and Networking. Everyone welcome! Join us at the Wentworth Hotel, Garden Court Bar — Level 5, 5.30pm onwards, for networking and drinks. Host: Yasna Palaysa 02 9228 5107.

QLD

• **16/2 RAISS (Qld).** *Tour of the Queensland Parliamentary Library.* Meet in foyer of Parliamentary Annexe, Alice Street, Brisbane, 5.30 for 6pm. (free). RSVP: by 11/2 Vivien Nash ph 07 3365 2933, fx 07 3365 1552 v.nash@library.uq.edu.au.

• **3/3 ABN Inquiry Training.** QUT Library. Contact: Barb Ewers ph 07 3864 5183 fx 07 3864 1823, b.ewers@qut.edu.au.

• **4-5/3 ABN Supersearch Training.** Contact: Barb Ewers ph 07 3864 5183 fx 07 3864 1823, b.ewers@qut.edu.au.

• **6/3 InterChange Internet Workshops.** *Resources for library professionals, the Internet in reference.* (half day each). One PC per person. Cost: \$120 per workshop. Discounts: ALIA members/full-day attendance. Venue: 82 Ann Street, Brisbane. Bookings essential: 07 3892 5495, interchange@uq.net.au.

SA

• **20/2 Local Studies National section.** Launch of Timekeepers: Forging Links in Local Studies. For further information please contact Jenni Woodroffe, ph/fx 08 9367 4759, jenni@omen.com.au.

• **13-14/3 SA Library Technician section.** 3rd SA Library Technicians workshop — Tools of the trade: skills for library technicians. Chateau Yaldara, Lyndoch, Barossa Valley. \$150 ALIA members, \$170 non-members. Contact: Marion Fielke, ph 08 8384 0655, fx 08 8382 1232. RSVP by 28/2. *continued next page...*