

Opportunities for employment

The South Australian Public Sector Graduate Program

At the first meeting for the 2002 ALIA Group Mentoring Program on Tuesday 12 February at University of South Australia City West campus, the guest speaker was **Helen Hennessy**, principal consultant of the Public Sector Management Act Policy and Advice Unit for the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment (OCPE). The theme for the night was *Investigating opportunities for employment*.

Helen spoke specifically on the South Australian Public Sector Graduate Program, and the role it plays in giving recent library and information graduates the opportunity to utilise their skills. The graduate program is based on a twelve-month placement in a government department. Successful candidates are encouraged to seek ongoing, permanent employment within the public sector.

Graduates bring a vast range of skills, knowledge and experience to the government, and this is beneficial to the public sector as well as to the graduate. 'They bring a fresh pair of eyes to the department', Helen said, which allows other employees to gain something from the graduate. In turn, the graduate gains experience in the field by hands-on work, and from the vast experience, expertise and knowledge of the fellow staff. Graduates are encouraged to attend various meetings, conferences and other gatherings where they can network with librarians from various fields and continue to learn.

The only pre-requisite to apply for the program is a minimum three-year degree or diploma from a university. In relation to graduate librarians, Helen said the OCPE,

which manages the program, look for a diverse range of skills and knowledge, such as information management skills as well as library background. Applicants should gain as much background on the organisation as possible, for example searching the web, looking at annual reports, and asking people in the field. This will help applicants better prepare for the interview by having questions to ask the panel, which Helen said is important and shows planning and professionalism. Rehearsing the interview can also be beneficial, and help calm nerves and gain confidence for the interview.

Recent as well as past graduates are encouraged to apply, no matter when you completed your study, your age or cultural background. The public sector encourages diversity as their client base is often diverse itself. At least twelve State government departments use the graduate program. Helen also spoke of the importance of a professional resumé with specific details of experience, and reliable referees, who should always be contacted by applicants to ensure they are prepared.

The graduate program allows library students to utilise their referencing capabilities, gain experience in such elements as cataloguing and classifying, report writing, customer service, communications and other skills. The program is an invaluable resource in gaining an exciting and rewarding career in the public sector, and one which all current and former students should investigate.

Further information on the program can be found at <http://www.graduate.sa.gov.au>.

Warren Winship, OCPE graduate librarian

articles and reports. Camberwell Vic. Cost (incl GST): \$132, 10% discount for ALIA members, must mention the ad, see <http://www.acer.edu.au/promo/Seek&%20YouShallFind.pdf> or phone 03 9835 7403.

WA

1/5 Trimagic Software. *DB/TextWorks introductory training.* To register please contact: Tara Lord, ph 02 9880 8666, tara.lord@trimagic.com.au

2/5 Trimagic Software. *DB/TextWorks advanced training.* To register please contact: Tara Lord, ph 02 9880 8666, tara.lord@trimagic.com.au

3/5 Trimagic Software. *DB/TextWorks webpublisher training.* To register please contact: Tara Lord, ph 02 9880 8666, tara.lord@trimagic.com.au

13/5 City of Joondalup Libraries. *Environmental art workshop for children:* Jenny Abbott, a local environmental artist, will be working with children to help create an environmental mural using natural objects such as leaves, twigs and much more. Whitford Library, 4:30–5:30pm, ph 08 9401 8222.

14/5 City of Stirling Libraries. *Jack the Ripper in Western Australia.* What does Jack the Ripper have to do with WA? Come along to this talk with Dr Charles Eadon-Clarke and find out! Inglewood Library, 1:30–2:30pm, ph 08 9370 5366.

• **14/5 WA Library Technicians.** *General meeting.* Discussion Room, Level 4 (next to the library), Curtin University, Graduate School of Business Building, 78 Murray Street, Perth (near Miss Mauds), 5:15 for 5:30pm start (building is locked at 5:30). Meeting will be preceded by a tour of the Murray St Library. All welcome, RSVP to: Brenda Ellen, bellen@sro.wa.gov.au

20–24/5 City of Stirling Libraries. *The libraries have organised a series of talks on a variety of topics.* There should be something for everyone! Contact the library to book your place. Check out the fascinating display of "Famous Faces Favourite Reads" at each of the libraries. Find out what local and interstate celebrities enjoy reading.

20–24/5 City of Stirling Libraries. *The City of Stirling 2002 Student Literary Award* will be launched during this week. Categories range from Year 4–5 to Year 11–12. The theme is "Guess what?" For more information contact: Joanna, ph 08 9345 8816.

20–24/5 City of Joondalup Libraries. *Giant crossword:* Margaret Brooker, librarian, has put together a book related giant crossword. Come in, read the clues, write in the answers and contribute to the finished crossword. Available all throughout Library and Information. Joondalup Library, ph 08 9400 4707.

20/5 City of Joondalup Libraries. *Seniors technology workshop:* presented by Amanda Emery, librarian, will guide people through the use of technology available in the library, including use of the online library catalogue, the photocopier and the self issue machines. Duncraig Library, 9–10am, ph 08 9447 9533.

20/5 City of Stirling Libraries. *C Y O'Connor, engineer:* find out more about this important Western Australian with Dr Charles Eadon-Clarke. Mirrabooka Library, 10–11am, ph 08 9344 5474.

20/5 City of Joondalup Libraries. *Environmental art workshop for children:* Jenny Abbott, a local environmental artist, will be working with children to help create an environmental mural using natural objects such as leaves, twigs and much more. Whitford Library, 4:30–5:30pm, ph 08 9401 8222.

20/5 City of Stirling Libraries. *Reiki with Barbara Jones.* Scarborough Library, 6:45–7:45pm, ph 08 9341 1744.

• **21/5 WA Library Technicians.** *National Library Technician's Day breakfast.* Venue: tba.

21/5 City of Joondalup Libraries. *How to set up*

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