

ACT

•28/3 Asia Pacific Special Interest Group. **Library visit** – United Nations Information Centre for Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. Level 1, 7 National Circuit, Barton, 12:00 – 1:00pm. Contact Toni Smith, ph 02 6273 8200, or msexton@netspeed.com.au

•18/4 ALIA PD Workshop in partnership with CAVAL. **Negotiating e-licences**. Special rates for members. Practical one-day workshop on acquiring and licensing electronic content. ALIA House, Deakin. Register online, http://training.caval.edu.au/pdt/show_course.php?CID=217. Further information: e-mail training@caval.edu.au, ph 03 9450 5508 or email pd@alia.org.au, ph 02 6215 8216

NSW

16/3 **Best practice library and knowledge management** Key Forums Australia, one-day master class. Harbourview Hotel, Sydney. Full rate: \$1095, ALIA members 10% discount. Contact: 02 9436 4255, enquiries@keyforums.com.au

•18/3 **New Graduates** Pam Whalan, an authority on Jane Austen, speaking on Genre. Toronto Library, cnr Brighton Ave and Pemell St, Toronto, 2:00pm. Gold coin donation. Contact Narelle Bell, ph 0408 271 791, narbell3@yahoo.com

•28/3 **Mentoring NSW** Library Folk In the Pub. Madison Hotel, cnr Devonshire and Chalmers Sts, Surry Hills – upstairs in the Hippo Bar. All welcome at LFIP. 6:00pm. Contact Julian Sortland, ph 0429 470 672, julian@sortland.co.uk

•30/3 ALIA PD Workshop in partnership with CAVAL. **Negotiating e-licences**. Special rates for members. Practical one-day workshop on acquiring and licensing electronic content. Cliftons, Sydney. Register online, http://training.caval.edu.au/pdt/show_course.php?CID=217. Further information: e-mail training@caval.edu.au, ph 03 9450 5508 or email pd@alia.org.au, ph 02 6215 8216

•18/4 **Mentoring NSW** Library Folk In the Pub. Madison Hotel, cnr Devonshire and Chalmers Sts, Surry Hills – upstairs in the Hippo Bar. A week earlier due to ANZAC Day. 6:00pm. Contact Julian Sortland, ph 0429 470 672, julian@sortland.co.uk

NT

•21/3 **Top End. Meeting**. Cool Spot, East Point Road, Fannie Bay, 5:30pm. Contact Sarah White, ph 08 8935 9991, sarah.white@palmerston.nt.gov.au

•18/4 Top End. **Library Tour**: Health Library. Meet at 5:00pm for 5:30pm start. Ground Floor, Building 4, Royal Darwin Hospital. Contact Sarah White, ph 08 8935 9991, sarah.white@palmerston.nt.gov.au

•16/5 **Top End. Meeting**. Darwin Sailing Club, 5:30pm. Atkins Drive, Vestey's Beach. Contact Sarah White, ph 08 8935 9991, sarah.white@palmerston.nt.gov.au

Making news

Cutbacks on the books

Penrith Press, 9 February 2007

Libraries could disappear or opening hours be cut severely without a major increase in state government funding, the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW has said. A Penrith Council spokesman said the council agreed with the association that state government funding should be higher. In NSW, government provided about 8 per cent of Penrith Council's library budget, which is similar to libraries in other parts of the state. The Association said the NSW state government provides less to libraries (\$24.6 million in 2007) than other states. The ACT and Tasmania provide 100 per cent and Northern Territory 69 per cent.

\$340m libraries deal to aid literacy levels

Advertiser, 15 December 2006, Lauren Novak

South Australia's 144 public libraries will receive a \$340 million boost over the next five years, after an agreement was signed between state and local governments yesterday. The funding will be split between the two bodies, with the state government contributing almost \$16 million in the first year, indexed to inflation over the remaining four years. Local councils responsible for the libraries are expected to contribute about \$50 million each year.

Special day for lovers

Herbert River Express, 2 February

Love and libraries: a match made in heaven. On 14 February (St Valentine's Day), Australia's public libraries will be feeling the love – and sharing it – for Library Lovers' Day. Hinchinbrook Shire Library will host a library lovers' morning tea. Australian Library and Information Association executive director Sue Hutley said Australians were definitely library lovers.

Librarian as cult figure

Sunday Tasmanian, 17 December 2006, Christopher Bantick

Librarians are not usually the kind of people to make waves and are generally not cult figures. However, American librarian Nancy Pearl is. Her fame has spread so much that there is now a Super Librarian doll which obligingly raises a finger and says, 'Shush!' Australian audiences loved her emphasis

on the role of stories in the way we live – and, of course, the place to find stories is in libraries, which can change people's lives and enable them to live differently.

Congratulations for launch

Ayr Advocate, 7 February

Burdekin Library employees have been commended for their work in relation to the launch of digital images in the 'Picture Queensland' collection. Council received a letter from the State Library of Queensland extending congratulations on the launch of the digital images, with the State Librarian saying she was delighted to view the images in the online collection.

Guilty readers flood library with returns

Townsville Bulletin, 23 December 2006

An amnesty on overdue books in Townsville libraries was a success, with more than 3000 returned. During December the Townsville City Council wiped charges for overdue books if they were returned to the city's libraries with a tin of food. The tins were donated to the food bank for distribution to those in need over the Christmas period. Starting from 2007, Townsville City Council will do away with fines for overdue library books, instead using a series of overdue notices.

Enjoy a book with eyes wide shut

Australian, 23 January, Angus Kidman

Curling up with a good book could soon mean taking out your player and slipping on the headphones. Playaway, begun in 2006, provides audio books loaded on a sealed flash memory player, complete with headphones and battery. After listening,

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readers can either pass on the title to others or return it to have a new book loaded. The reload service costs half the price of a new title. Playaway plans to enter the Australian market, with titles likely to show up in the local library before they hit the shops. "We've already had interest from libraries and we'd probably look there, rather than to retail first," says Playaway founder Christopher Celeste.

Will the executor budge? *Canberra Times*, 9 December 2006

When a treasure trove of diaries, writings and keepsakes belonging to Patrick White was discovered last month, fans were hopeful that three abandoned works would be published. But it seems they will be disappointed. White's literary executor, Barbara Mobbs, who sold the collection to the National Library of Australia, has the final say on whether *Dolly Formosa and the Happy Few*, *The Binoculars and Helen Nell* and *The Hanging Gardens* will be published. This she is unlikely to do. The library's curator of manuscripts, Marie-Louise Ayres, says the library has the authority to provide research copies but only Barbara Mobbs can give permission to publish.

Web hit: Harry Potter and the Canberra kid *Canberra Times*, 3 February

"Dear Mr Potter, We are pleased to inform you that you have a place at Hogwarts School of Wizardry and Witchcraft ...Term begins on 1 September. We await your owl by no later than 31 July." Those words, published 10 years ago, unleashed the power of the young magician Harry Potter. And this year, at 9am on Saturday 21, July, the Potter journey will come to

an end with the simultaneous worldwide publication of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, the seventh and last volume in JK Rowling's series.

Will Harry die? Will Voldemort die? Will Dumbledore return from the dead? Rumours of the publication date have been hovering around magicspace for months; fans have trawled websites looking for clues. But one Canberra student waited with more anticipation than others. He'd just about given up on the hope of publication this year. Andy McCray, 17, of Theodore, is the founder and publisher of the Harry Potter Fan Zone. His Fan Zone is not the leading Harry Potter site in the multiverse. That title probably belongs to Mugglenet or The Leaky Cauldron.

Andy is modest about his achievements. His father, a public servant, brought home a copy of the latest Harry Potter from England in 1999. It was a hit with Andy and his brother Mark, now 15. Andy, an IT addict, quickly began to think of ways he could combine his enthusiasm for Potter with his passion for technology and the Harry Potter Fan Zone was born. Harry and Andy are about the same age; and are looking to their future. We don't know what awaits Harry (and pray it isn't a life in a dingy department somewhere fending off practitioners of the Dark Arts). Andy is pretty keen on continuing his IT adventures which are already netting the website close to \$30 000 a year.

The ACT libraries were busy yesterday with 37 people putting in their requests to read the latest volume. Libraries will only take reserves when the day of publication is known. And the bookshops have been busy too. Both Paperchain at Manuka and Dalton's in Civic took their first orders yesterday – all from adults.

And from YouTube to you

Inspired by 'March of the Penguins': if you ever attended a library conference, you should watch this! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Td92210NoDQ&NR>

A Norwegian TV sketch (with English subtitles) about a medieval monastery converting from scrolls to books. Ansgar has just called the helpdesk... <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRjVeRbhtRU>

Lastly, a song in celebration of the recent Library Lovers Day! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTYkIHU6DKM>



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•2/6 **Top End Meeting.** National Archives, Kelsey Crescent Millner, 5:30pm. Contact Sarah White, ph 08 8935 9991, sarah.white@palmerston.nt.gov.au

•6/8 ALIA PD Workshop in partnership with CAVAL. **Negotiating e-licences.** Special rates for members. Practical one-day workshop on acquiring and licensing electronic content. Palmerston Campus, CDU.

QLD

•6/3 **QUORUM Meeting.** Be a part of 2007 events! Meet at 5:30pm for 6:00pm start. 19th Floor Conference Room, State Law Bldg, cnr Ann and George Sts, Brisbane. Gold coin donation. RSVP to Merindi Derrick, 0402 080 031, merindi.derrick@deta.qld.gov.au

13/3 **Conference** for librarians, teachers et al. **Active Reading! Active Learning!** Somerset College. Re-affirming the Thirst for Knowledge. Radisson Resort Gold Coast. Contact Somerset College Library, ph 07 5530 5458, library@somerset.qld.edu.au

•17/3 **Library Technicians QLD Workshop**@ ACU. Contact Trish D'Arcy, ph 073623 7404, p.darcy@mcauley.acu.edu.au

•28/3 ALIA PD Workshop in partnership with CAVAL. **Negotiating e-licences.** Special rates for members. Practical one-day workshop on acquiring and licensing electronic content. Clifton, Brisbane. Register online, http://training.caval.edu.au/pdt/show_course.php?CID=217. For further information email training@caval.edu.au, ph 03 9450 5508 or email pd@alia.org.au, ph 02 6215 8216

•3/4 **QOPAL Meeting.** Redland Shire Council, Cnr Bloomfield and Middle Sts, Cleveland. Host: Nikki Moore, ph 07 38299 8770, nikkim@redland.qld.gov.au

•17/4 **Library Technicians QLD General Meeting.** Location TBA, 5:00pm for 5:30pm start. Contact Trish D'Arcy, ph 073623 7404, p.darcy@mcauley.acu.edu.au

•20–22/4 **QUORUM. Careers and Employment Expo.** Visit Stand 11 to find out about careers @ your library. Contact Claudia Davies, ph 0407 964 967, claudia.davies@alia.org.au

•14/5 **QOPAL Visit** to new State Library. Time TBC. Host: Bruce Monley. Contact Denise Cadman, ph 07 3840 0446, dcadman@bne.catholic.edu.au

•8/8 ALIA PD Workshop in partnership with CAVAL. **Negotiating e-licences.** Special rates for members. Practical one-day workshop suitable for all library and information professionals. Seagulls Resort, Townsville.

SA

•2/3 **ALIA South Australia Copyright:** Update on recent legislative changes. Interactive seminar by Moyra McAllister, ALIA Copyright Adviser. Venue: TBA, lunchtime, gold coin donation. Contact Fiona Butcher, fiona.butcher@alia.org.au

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