

## QLD

• **8/6 Qld Branch breakfast.** *Dinosaurs, dead mullett and you: taking responsibility for your own learning.* Guest speaker: Ian Plowman. Chifley on George, 103 George Street, Brisbane, 7:15am. \$18.50 ALIA members, \$20 non-members, prepayment essential — send cheques to: ALIA Qld, GPO Box 134, Brisbane 4001. RSVP to: Vicki McDonald, ph 07 3403 5083, sposd@brisbane.qld.gov.au

• **8/6–14/12 Qld Library Technicians section.** 1999 general meeting dates. State Library of Queensland, Metway Theatre, 5 for 5:30pm all welcome. 8/6; 10/8; 12/10; 14/12. Contacts: Yvonne Brock, 1999 president, ph 07 3896 2229, yvonne.brock@acgs.qld.edu or Mary Harlow, correspondence secretary, ph 07 3237 1702, mary.harlow@publicworks.qld.gov.au

• **15/6 Qld Specials section.** *Mentoring seminar.* Contact: Jill Don, ph 07 3247 8669, jdon@emergency.qld.gov.au

## SA

• **3/6 SA Special Libraries section.** *Walking tour of three special Adelaide libraries.* SA Museum library (meet at the City of Adelaide lending library on Kintore Avenue, 3pm), Minter Ellison Law Library and Santos Library. 3–5pm, gold coin donation may be requested for afternoon tea. Contact: Geraldine Wardle, ph 08 8203 3630, gwardle@asc.corp.mot.com

• **8/6 SA Branch Council meeting.** *Special topic: Public libraries (6:30–7:30pm).* Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library, 5:15 for 5:30pm. Contact: Janine Tan, ph 08 8303 5225, fx 08 8303 4369, jtan@clucas.library.adelaide.edu.au

• **6/7 SA Branch Council meeting.** *Special topic: State Education Committee (6:30–7:30pm).* Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library, 5:15 for 5:30pm. Contact: Janine Tan, ph 08 8303 5225, fx 08 8303 4369, jtan@clucas.library.adelaide.edu.au

• **7/7 SA UCRLS section.** *Half-day seminar — Legal issues associated with the internet.* Contact: Carol Dungey, ph 08 8302 3413, fx 08 8302 3382, carol.dungey@unisa.edu.au

• **7/7 SA UCRLS, Special Libraries and Health Libraries sections and the Australian Law Librarians' Group (SA).** *Copyright and the internet seminar.* Keynote speaker: Annabelle Herd. Lecture Theatre Level 1. Eleanor Harrold Building, RAH, Frome Road, Adelaide, 9–1pm. \$40 ALIA/ALLG members, \$50 non ALIA/ALLG members, \$15 students. Contact: Georgia Livissianos, ph 08 8259 5367, georgia.livissianos@dsto.defence.gov.au or Janine Tan, ph 08 8303 5225, jtan@clucas.library.adelaide.edu.au

• **August SA State Branch Council meeting.** Details: tba. Branch Council meeting to be held at conference. Contact: Janine Tan, ph 08 8303 5225, fx 08 8303 4369, jtan@clucas.library.adelaide.edu.au

• **7/9 SA State Branch conference.** *Special topic: TAFE sector (6:30–7:30pm).* Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library, 5:15 for 5:30pm. Contact: Janine Tan, ph 08 8303 5225, fx 08 8303 4369, jtan@clucas.library.adelaide.edu.au

• **29/9 SA UCRLS section.** *Weak in many*

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# Barr Smith Library celebrates with style

Celebrating two million items

An exhibition of 'defining moments' was a novel way of illustrating the power of a library's collection over individual lives, at Adelaide's Barr Smith Library on 30 April.

The exhibition formed part of a gala celebration the library staged to mark the acquisition of its two-millionth volume. More than 300 people were wine, dined and entertained in the Barr's opulent Reading Room, one of the finest examples of library reading rooms in the Southern Hemisphere.

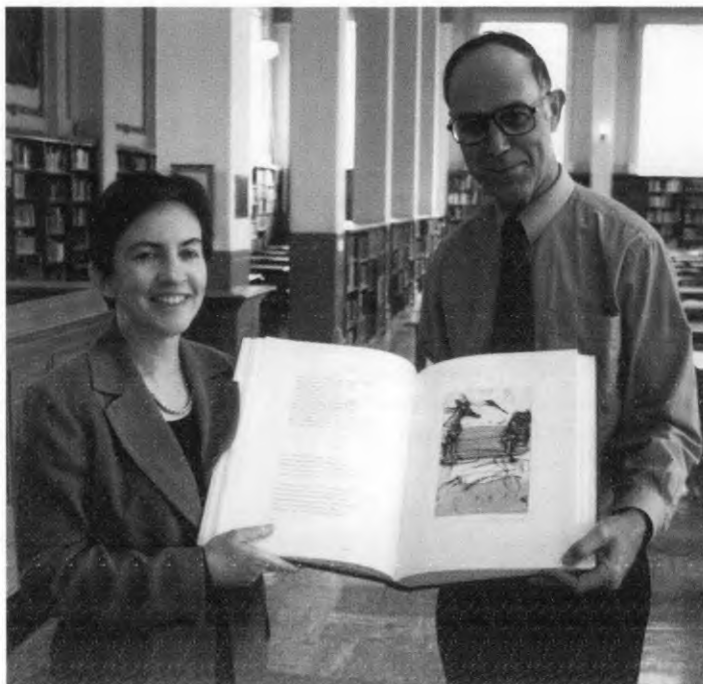
A feature of the evening was forty Adelaide celebrities sharing their 'defining moments' — a poem, novel, textbook, music score, film script — that signalled a change in their lives. Celebrities such as food identity, Maggie Beer; Harry Watt (of the George Cross & Harry Who Fashion Label); film-maker, Scott Hicks (*Shine*, *Snow Falling on Cedars*); astronaut, Andy Thomas; and Southcorp chairman, Rick Allert, illustrated the point that libraries can, and do, change lives.

On view during the evening were a selection of interesting and rare items from the library's collection, and a selection of exquisite black and white photographs, depicting scenes throughout the library.

*New York Nowhere*, the final poem of Geoffrey Dutton, who died late last year, was given the honour of being the two-millionth item added to the collection.

'It was appropriate to select this work for many reasons', university librarian, Ray Choate, said. 'It is a beautifully produced limited edition in a multi-media format, enabling us to represent the print to digitisation parallels of past, present and future. Also significant is that Dutton, a South Australian, was for some years a member of the University of Adelaide's English Department.'

A highlight of the celebration was the performance by a string quartet of an arrangement by South Australia's composer-in-residence, Graeme Koehne, who was present in the audi-



Professor Mary O'Kane, vice-chancellor, University of Adelaide with Ray Choate, university librarian

ence. *To his servant Bach, God grants a final glimpse: The morning star* was a piece inspired when Koehne read that Bach, who had gone blind, regained his sight briefly at the end of his life.

Another highlight was a short talk by emeritus university librarian, Ira Raymond, who was able to recount the experience of the library achieving its 500 000 item and one-millionth item during his productive tenure of growing the early collection.

Now the biggest library in South Australia, the Barr Smith is the first to acknowledge there are formidable challenges ahead to maintain the collection. It has launched three bequest funds covering: digitisation projects, the fabric of the building and the acquisition of new research and study materials. The Library is experiencing a steady flow of private and corporate donations earmarked for special projects within these three funds.

'There has been an encouraging response to this promotion. We are discovering that people are nostalgic about their days of 'reading at the Barr' and are willing to give back in philanthropic gestures,' Ray said.

The celebration was generously sponsored by Blackwell's UK, Blackwell's Australia, James Bennet Library Services, Primo Estate Wines, Silver Keys and Strings Music Centre, Boral Energy and catering by David Jones. ■