

# A deserving winner

Helen Pickers awarded the ALIA Library Technician of the Year 1999

er (Story reading/telling & organisation) and Sarah Steed (Craft activities). Bathurst City Library, 70-78 Keppel Street, 1-4pm. Contact Stephen Coppins, ph 02 9715 8316, spcoppins@bigpond.com

• **20/11 NSW Library Technicians section.** *End of year celebrations.* Bathurst Leagues Club, Bathurst, 6:30pm. Contact Anne Huges, ph 02 6332 3488 (after hours), phuges@lisp.com.au

• **24/11 NSW School Libraries section meeting.** Leichhardt Public School, Joint Council Rooms, Norton Street, Leichhardt (near Shearer's on Norton), 5:30-7:30pm, all members welcome. Contact the president, Ian McLean, Ian.McLean@det.nsw.edu.au or the secretary Mary Gibbs, mgibbs@shore.nsw.edu.au

• **11/11 NSW Riverina Regional group.** Bob Usherwood will talk on recent research into 'social audit' and its relationship to public libraries. Wagga Wagga Public Library. Contact: Tim Eggleston, ph 02 6022 9103.

• **1/12 NSW School Libraries section.** *Christmas function.* All members are welcome at this function. Venue: tba, 6pm. Contact the president, Ian McLean, Ian.McLean@det.nsw.edu.au or the secretary Mary Gibbs, mgibbs@shore.nsw.edu.au

• **4/12 NSW Library Technicians section.** *General meeting/end of year celebrations.* State Library of NSW, Coles Room, Level 11, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 11am. Please bring a plate of goodies, drinks provided. Contact Stephen Coppins, ph 02 9715 8316, spcoppins@bigpond.com

• **9/12 NSW RAISS section.** *Information literacy initiatives in USA.* Speaker: Patricia Iannuzzi (ACRL/AASL). Relevant to all sectors. State Library NSW, Metcalfe Auditorium, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 6:30pm, all welcome. Contact: Linden Fairbairn, ph 02 9351 3190, l.fairbairn@library.usyd.edu.au or Philippa Stevens, ph 02 9351 3629

## NT

• **Nov Central Australian Regional group.** *AGM* — all members should endeavour to attend. Contact: Carmel Leonard, ph 08 8951 5685, Carmel.Leonard@dme.nt.gov.au

• **4/11 NT Branch.** *AGM meeting and dinner.* Venue: tba. Contact: Lisa Darby, ph 08 8922 0031, lisa.darby@anu.edu.au

• **Dec Central Australian Regional group.** *Annual Christmas dinner.* Venue: tba. For further information contact: Carmel Leonard, ph 08 8951 5685, Carmel.Leonard@dme.nt.gov.au

## QLD

• **9/11 Qld Library Technicians section.** *AGM, wine and cheese evening.* Guest speaker: ALIA Library Technician of the Year Helen Pickers. State Library of Queensland, Metway Theatre, 5 for

At the recent library technicians conference in Fremantle Helen Pickers received the ALIA Library Technician of the Year award. Following is an edited version of her acceptance speech.

*'In accepting this award I have to say, it still doesn't seem quite real. It's the kind of thing that happens to someone else — like natural disasters and car accidents. After my winning the award was announced, I was given a copy of the nomination package, which I read with growing amazement. I can remember being involved with the events described, but I was having fun, not working on some grand plan for future glory.*

*'Just recently I received a questionnaire to fill in. The subject? 'What does ALIA do for you?' Instead of just ticking the boxes and sending it off, I tried to work out clearly what I personally got out of ALIA. I realised that, superficially, membership of ALIA doesn't appear to do very much for me: I pay my membership (have since 1980); receive inCite and the newsletter of the Specials Section; automatically get to belong to the Library Technicians Section. The ALIA staff who answer the 1800 number are always very helpful if I have occasion to ring. This doesn't seem very impressive? Yet all this changes when you get involved. Your library world expands. You come into contact with people who may remain colleagues but who also become some of your best friends.*

*'My first conference on the Gold Coast was a revelation. Apart from missing the Sydney conference due to circumstances beyond my control, I have been to every one since. The enthusiasm, friendliness and sheer joy of communication with people of like interests is wonderful. It may be the corniest of clichés but you find that the more you put into the organisation the more you get out of it. If belonging to your professional organisation means you want to be petted and pam-*



*l-r: Rob Warner, manager of Co-Op Western Australia, Ursula Macdermott, Kay Bartlett, Evette House, Helen Pickers (front) and Linley Thorber after the presentation of the award*

*pered, forget it. If it means you making the effort to join in, getting involved even in small ways, speaking up even if others disagree with your point of view, then this is for you.*

*'The most important thing to remember is that this award has not been won by me alone. If there were no others involved in the various committees and projects there would be no outcomes to present. If I have achieved anything at all it is due to the enthusiastic people who have been involved with me.*

*'I have been overwhelmed by the avalanche of good wishes I have received from people in the library world. This response has made me feel very honoured. It is a great privilege to be thought worthy of being included in this special group — starting with Jean Bailey, the winner of the inaugural award in 1989 through to Ursula McDermott last year.*

*'In conclusion, I wish to offer my thanks to the Co-Op Bookshop for sponsoring the award and to ALIA for providing this opportunity; to the Queensland Library Technicians Section for nominating me; and to colleagues and employers for their input into the nomination process. I would also like to add my congratulations to the Western Australian Committee for organising this super conference. Thank you all very much indeed.'*

**Helen Pickers**

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