

12:30–2:00pm. Host: Helen Gambley, heg@hopgoodganim.com.au

22/10 Planning and goal setting workshop. *Satisfaction: getting and giving what you need.* Geraldine Barkworth, career and life coach for library professionals. The Polo Club, Brisbane. \$55, prepayment by 6/10. 8:45am–12:30pm. For a registration form ph 02 6685 1917, vision@norex.com.au

• **20/11 Quorum Group.** *General meeting.* Brisbane City Council Central Library Theatre, 5:00pm for 5:30pm. A gold coin is requested to cover the costs of light refreshments. Contact: Joy Goldsmith, joy_goldsmith@hotmail.com

• **23/11 Qld Library Technicians.** *Tech's xmas breakfast.* Time, venue and cost to be advised. Contact: Anna Johnson, ph 07 3864 4639, a.johnson@qut.edu.au

• **5/12 ALIA New Librarians Symposium 1.5.** *Join us again for a day of personal and professional development for new librarians — and celebratory cocktail party.* Find out all the details on our website. \$125 ALIA members, \$165 non-members, \$110 student/concession [GST incl]. Carlton Crest Hotel, Brisbane Contact: Robyn Gattera, ph 07 3403 2592, twq@brisbane.qld.gov.au, <http://conferences.alia.org.au/newlibrarians2003/>

• **11/2/2004 Qld Library Technicians.** *General meeting,* guest speaker and venue to be advised. Drinks and nibbles at 5:30pm for a 6:00pm start. Gold coin donation appreciated. Contact: Jennifer Parker, ph 07 3244 6464, jennifer.c.parker@det.qld.gov.au

• **27/3/2004 Qld Library Technicians.** *Visit to UQ Ipswich Library* and possibly Ipswich Hospital Library and Ipswich Library followed by lunch. Contact: Jennifer Parker, ph 07 3244 6464, jennifer.c.parker@det.qld.gov.au

SA

• **20/10 SA Library Technicians.** *General meeting.* The Left Bank, 165 Pulteney St Adelaide, 6:00pm, all welcome. Contact: Fairlie Sampson, library@tauondi.sa.edu.au

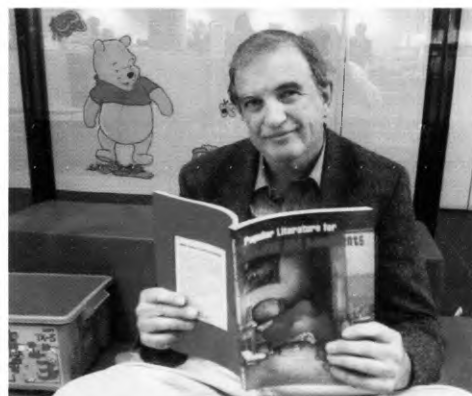
21–22/10 APESMA: short course. *Negotiation skills and dispute resolution.* Adelaide. Cost: members \$650, non-members

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A louse in the locks of literature

Tennyson, when he wrote of 'a louse in the locks of literature', could have been describing the way many teachers and librarians think of popular literature for children and adolescents. At the launch of his latest book, *Popular literature for children and adolescents*, John Foster suggested that a lot of parents, teachers and librarians disapprove of books and television simply because they are popular. The important thing about books such as the Harry Potter series, however, is that kids are reading. What is more, they do not continue reading these books forever, but move on to others. Even toilet humour is not a bad thing, according to Foster — bum jokes are just a sign of rebellion, and kids do outgrow them (eventually).

Popular literature is the fifth in the series, 'Literature and literacy for young people', published by the Centre for Information Studies, Charles Sturt University. John Foster, who teaches children's literature at University of South Australia, launched his book in Wagga Wagga City Library earlier



John Foster at the launch of *Popular literature for children and adolescents* at Wagga Wagga City Library.

this year, at the invitation of the Centre for Information Studies, Wagga Wagga Writers Writers and the English Teachers Association, and included workshops for teachers and Year 10 students in his brief and illuminating visit to Wagga.

Stuart Ferguson, Centre for Information Studies, Charles Sturt University

Celebrating success

The National Policy Congress in 2003 had the theme 'Celebrating success'. In keeping with this theme, over the next few issues we will highlight some of the many successes of ALIA's groups for 2003.

ALIAWest [<http://alia.org.au/members-only/groups/aliawest/>]

ALIAWest was formed from two groups: WA Forum and KISWA [Knowledge and Information Services WA], two groups which were diminishing. The new group is now moving forward to greater things.

The group is operated by a small committee and one of the benefits is that there are no longer conflicting events being offered to the professionals in Perth. It was agreed to keep the best of both groups and move forward to bigger and better events and professional activities.

Participants voted to hear the WALS Down South Weekend and National Library Technicians Group EmployLT at the National Policy Congress.

WA Mentoring Group [<http://alia.org.au/members-only/groups/mentoringwa/>] Pub Mentoring is an informal learning group where participants learn from each other. The group operates in clusters and is totally inclusive, attracting attendees from the ranks of students, managers, technicians and records managers.

The group meets at a different hotel each time, making it accessible to people from different areas of the metropolitan area. It is cost-free — participants choose whether to drink or not — and requires no commitment ahead of time as there is no need to organise catering or book the venue.

Each session has been

a great success and each attracts a greater number of participants.

Academic and Research Libraries WA [<http://alia.org.au/members-only/groups/arlwa/>]

Student awards: As part of this group's commitment to offering opportunities to support and promote research and professional development, it sponsors Student Awards. The awards encourage excellence in student achievement and student involvement in the profession.

Recent graduates of Curtin, Edith Cowan University and TAFE library and information studies schools have presented research papers to a meeting of the group. Prizes are sponsored by DA Books and Blackwells. The students then feel welcome in the group and they often continue coming to group activities through the year. ■