

Your favourite Australian book

The ABC is on a quest to find the Australian book that means the most to us

In conjunction with the 40th anniversary of the Australia Society of Authors (ASA), ABC Local Radio, Radio National and ABC Online are asking Australian readers everywhere to vote for their favourite Australian book, be it non-fiction or fiction, a novel, poems or stories.

Earlier this year the ASA polled its 3000 members, which include many of Australia's most celebrated authors, to find out their favourite Australian book. Tim Winton's *Cloudstreet* came out on top. But does the Australian reading public agree?

Readers can cast their vote by visiting a website — <http://abc.net.au/book> — or posting the name of their favourite book and its author to:

'Your Favourite Australian Book'
GPO Box 9994
Sydney NSW 2001

The website includes a list of 160 titles which may be used as the basis for voting, but any book by an Australian author can be nominated. It is strictly 'one vote per person'. The website gives readers the opportunity to see what their favourite ABC presenters and well-known authors have nominated. Voters can also explain their own choice in the guestbook and read about what others have to say about the books that they have selected.

Voting opens Monday, 27 October and closes at 5:00pm on Friday, 7 November. The top books will be announced on ABC Radio National, ABC Local Radio and ABC Online on Monday, 24 November.

Further detail and conditions are available from <http://abc.net.au/book>.

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What's new?

Discounts on professional training

- ALIA has formalised its partnership with Information Enterprises Australia (IEA). The partnership provides ALIA members with discounts to IEA corporate records and information courses. The courses are designed to reflect current information concepts and incorporate practical exercises and participant experiences as an integral part of each training session. See <http://www.iea.com.au> for more information.
- The Association recently signed an agreement formalising its partnership with the Institute of Public Administration Australia, NSW Division (IPAA NSW). The IPAA NSW partnership provides ALIA members with discounts on all IPAA public short courses. The IPAA NSW website [<http://www.nsw.ipaa.org.au>] has more information.

Nominations for ALIA vice-president and three board members [p9]

- Nominations are called for ALIA vice-president [president-elect] and three positions on the Board of Directors of ALIA as incorporated under Corporations Law.

Nominations must be in writing and must be signed by two financial members of the Association and include the consent in writing of the nominee. Nomination forms must be accompanied by a 100-word current curriculum vitae which provides full details of academic and professional qualifications and a 100-word statement of professional concerns.

Nominations close at 5:00pm AEDT on 2 February 2004. See p9 of this issue for details.

Review of ALIA members' participation [p28]

- A wide-ranging and review of members' participation in ALIA that focuses on the Association's group structure has commenced. To find out more about the review see <http://alia.org.au/governance/npc/2003/engagement.html>, or contact Susan Magnay at the ALIA National Office, susan.magnay@alia.org.au, or ph 02 6215 8225.

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