

New committee for the Technicians Group

At the neXt 2005 Conference, held in September, the new National Library Technician Group's Committee was announced. Members of the new committee are: convenor, Kevin Dudeney; deputy convenor, Tania Barry; secretary, Matthew Griffiths; treasurer, Trish D'Arcy; New Graduate representative, Michaela Shepherdson and representatives from each state's library technician group.

Building upon the work done by Rebecca Evans and the previous committee over the last two years, the National Library Technicians Group Committee is introducing some new programs. One program that has already started is the monthly Online Chat sessions. This involves using the

ALIA Technicians chat room to engage with active and not so active members to discuss relevant issues or just network and have a chat.

A regional and remote mentoring program will commence early this year. Through the use of technology, mainly e-mail, it is hoped that members will be able to assist other members in dealing with issues, whether they be professional, skills based, career planning, study help or just another person to communicate with.

As well as this, we will also be implementing a library technician new graduates program, encouraging them to participate in the many activities offered by ALIA either in their state or nationally.

In addition, National Library Technician's Day will be held on the Tuesday in Library and Information Week in May and the National Group would like to support and encourage other groups in developing and implementing activities for this day.

The awarding of the all-important and peer-nominated Library Technician of the Year will again occur in 2006. If there is someone you think should be nominated for this award now is the time to start the nomination process.

An important source of information for library technicians is the aliaLIBTEC e-list. To subscribe to the e-list go to <http://alia.org.au/alianet/e-lists/> and follow the aliaLIBTEC link.

Kevin Dudeney

Children's Peace Literature Award 2005

Psychologists for Peace is a group dedicated to promoting peace and preventing conflict. The 2005 winner of their biennial Children's Peace Literature Award is Kirsten Murphy's *The King of Whatever*. This award recognises authors who promote peaceful resolution of conflict in their books.

The King of Whatever (Penguin Books Young Adult Fiction) was chosen from a field of more than 70 entries. The shortlisted finalists were *Being Bindy*, Alyssa Brugman (Allen & Unwin); *The Ballad of Cauldron Bay*, Elizabeth Honey (Allen & Unwin); *The Spare Room*, Kathryn Lomer (UQP Young Adult Fiction); *Catland*, Ruth Starke (A Puffin Book).

Kirsten Murphy grew up in Melbourne. Her first novel, *Raincheck on Timbuktu*, was published by Penguin in 2001. Kirsten then returned to study a Diploma of Education while continuing to write. *The King of Whatever* is her second novel.

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ALIA's excellence awards

Nominations are now being called
for the following excellence awards of the
Australian Library and Information Association

National Excellence Award

The National Excellence Award recognises excellence in any area, field or aspect of practice in the library and information services sector. This award is peer- or self-nominated. Nominees may be: a personal member of ALIA or the nominated ALIA representative of an institutional member; a group comprising personal members or the nominated ALIA representatives of an institutional member; or an institutional member.

Metcalf Award

The Metcalf Award recognises high achievement by a personal financial member in their first five years of practice in libraries and information services. Achievement would be commensurate with experience and should show a contribution beyond the normal requirements of the nominee's employment. This may include but not be limited to initiative, a commitment to innovation in practice, and leadership. This award is peer-nominated.

Nomination forms

Nomination forms and further information:

<http://alia.org.au/awards/>

ALIA National Office, PO Box 6335, Kingston 2604
awards@alia.org.au 02 6215 8235

Nominations close 1 August 2006