

Alf Mappin honoured

Alf Mappin, editor of Magpies, Papers and The Literature Base, is this year's winner of the prestigious Dromkeen Medal

The Dromkeen Medal was instituted in 1982 by the Governors of the Courtney Oldmeadow Children's Literature Foundation. It is given annually to an Australian citizen who has provided a 'significant contribution to the appreciation and development of children's literature'. In the past it has been awarded to such notable authors, illustrators and book industry leaders as Maurice Saxby, Robert Ingpen, Mem Fox and last year's recipient, Julie Vivas.

Alf Mappin has aimed throughout his professional life to encourage a love of literature in his classroom. He taught them drama and poetry, using a mix of discussions, activities and a simple joy of reading.

Through his quiet assurance, dedication and creative approach to literature in the classroom, Alf became a much sought after speaker and participant in children's literature seminars and conferences.

But it is perhaps as the tireless, creative and perceptive editor of *Magpies, Papers and The Literature Base* that Alf Mappin has had the greatest impact on children's literature in Australia and, indeed, all around the world. These three literary magazines have a truly international circulation and have succeeded in putting Australia on the world literary map.



Alf Mappin

Alf is a valued member in the Australian literature industry, in the Children's Book Council of Australia, and as a hard-working and dedicated member of the English Teachers Association of Western Australia, the Australian Reading Association and the Australian Society of Authors, and other clubs and societies.

He has put together two anthologies on Australian poetry: *Sing in Bright colours* and *Taking the Sun*, and he is the author of over forty books, including pupil texts and teaching materials for the Western Australian Education Department.

His dedication and service to children and literature can only continue to benefit the public, giving us all a better understanding of literature's place in the world. ■

CH Currey Memorial Fellowship

Historians can benefit from this award, offered by the State Library of NSW

The CH Currey Memorial Fellowship has been established by the Library Council of NSW under the terms of the bequest made by the late Charles Herbert Currey 'to promote the writing of Australian history from the original sources'.

The late Dr Currey was a well known Australian historian who was very conscious of the needs and problems of research workers not supported by grants from institutions such as universities.

The amount of the award this year will be \$12 000. However, this may be divided between two

or more applicants.

The money may be expended as the recipient sees fit, within the terms of the general intent of Dr Currey.

Examples of use might be payment for photocopies or for typing expenses, or for travel in connection with research.

Application forms are available from the State Librarian, State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 2000, and the closing date for the receipt of applications is 1 October 1994. An original plus two copies of applications should be supplied. ■

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