

• **8/12 Qld Cataloguers section.** Christmas function including: talk by Ann Huthwaite on the International Conference on the Principles and Future Development of AACR; AGM. QUT Kelvin Grove Library Tearoom, 5:30 for 6pm, cost: free. Contact: Nathalie Schulz, ph 07 3875 5242, n.schulz@ins.gu.edu.au

• **10/12 Qld Branch.** Christmas breakfast and AGM. Heather Gordon, Sunshine Coast Uni College Librarian will speak about setting up a University Library from scratch. 7 for 7:30am, Gazebo Hotel, \$10. Contact: Jann Dowsett, ph 07 3365 5353, j.dowsett@library.uq.edu.au. RSVF 3/12.

• **10/12 Qld Public Libraries section.** AGM and end-of-year dinner. AGM at Central City Library Theatre, 5:30pm; dinner at Picasso's Restaurant, Carlton Crest Hotel, 6pm. Dinner \$20-\$25 2 courses. Contact: Anne Lovell, ph 07 3214 3214, annelovall@slq.qld.gov.au.

SA

• **5/11-4/12 SA Health Libraries section meeting.** Meetings are held at SAHC at 1pm. (5/11 — Conference report; 4/12 — AGM). To add items to the agenda or for apologies contact: Juliet Marconi, secretary, ph 08 8226 8157, or Anne Fricker, president, ph 08 8222 3224.

• **17/11 SA Library Technician section.** AGM/Dinner meeting. Semaphore Palais, 90 The Esplanade, Semaphore. 6:30pm meeting; 7:30pm dinner. Contact: Jennifer Bodey, ph (08) 8341 0244, fx (08) 8341 0793. RSVF by 1/11.

• **18/11 SA Special Libraries section.** From Gutenberg to Gates: a workshop on electronic journals. Orphanage Teachers Centre, Goodwood, Adelaide. \$55 ALIA/ACLIS members, \$100 non-members. Contact: Caryl Armstrong, DASC, 161 Greenhill Road, Parkside SA 5063, ph 08 8274 3360, carmstrong@dasc.sa.gov.au. Please make cheques payable to ALIA (Special Libraries Section) SA. Registration deadline: 11/11.

• **3/12 SA Special Libraries section.** AGM and breakfast. Chesser Cellars, Chesser Street,

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A novel, two million dollars and the professor

This story begins in 1988 with the death of despairing Kelper Hartley who overdosed believing that he had failed to achieve his life's goal. It ends in the recent publication of his novel, *The haunting of Dr McCuaig* and the creation of a \$2 million bequest.

Former Professor Hartley retired from the academic world and made his life's work the creation of a \$1 million bequest for the University of Newcastle. He lived as a recluse in a \$20-a-week hostel in Sydney's Glebe, wore clothes from St Vincents and travelled by foot to avoid the cost of the bus. This frugality was to ensure any money he had went into building the bequest. Shortly after a stock market crash diminished his savings and he lost a close friend, Hartley overdosed.

Professor Ken Dutton, director of the Hartley bequest, recalls his visit to the small room in Glebe. 'All that was left in his little room were a couple of shirts, some socks and some small items. But set out on the table just inside the door — a little tiny table — was the manuscript of an unpublished

novel ... it just said "publish me, publish me".'

Hartley's remarkable story does not end there. The bequest at the time of his death was close to \$900 000. Six months later it was \$1.2 million; and at the end of the seven-year court case that decided how it would be used, it was worth \$2 million.

Today, Hartley would be more than happy with his bequest's final outcome. In 1997 his life's work enabled four University of Newcastle French students to travel to France for six months and another to travel for three months. It also provided a \$500 award for the best performance in French, and funded the restoration of books. The French scholarships are among the most generous in the Commonwealth.

Hartley's manuscript, *The haunting of Dr McCuaig* was recently published by Boombana Publications. It is a fictional story of an academic who gets mixed up with the occult. It offers not only a great tale but some interesting asides into the academic world Hartley will always have a place in. ■

The Nobel, a Booker and Banjos

Dario Fo, dramatist and actor, has been awarded the 1997 Nobel Prize for Literature at the age of 71. Fo's work has been recognised for its brilliant depiction of and comment on the life of his society. Many of Fo's plays allow for the creative improvisation of actors without losing their author's message.

The Commonwealth's ultimate literary award, the Booker Prize, has been won by Arundhati Roy for her first novel, *The god of small things* (Flamingo). Thirty-seven-year-old Roy was already on a high — her novel

has sold 3.5 million copies world-wide, been translated into twenty-two languages and has reportedly earned its author one million pounds in advances. However, Roy worked hard for her success, taking four years to write the novel in secret and sometimes writing only seven lines a day. Roy is even more amazing for having stated that unlike many novelists she does not like to rewrite or revise her written work.

This year's NBC Banjo awards were announced at a dinner in Melbourne recently. Brian Castro's novel *Stepper* (Random House) won the Collins Booksellers



The god of small things, 1997 winner of the Booker Prize

Banjo Award for Fiction; Alan Atkinson's *The Europeans in Australia* (OUP) was awarded the Collins Booksellers Banjo Award for Non-fiction; and the Collins Booksellers Banjo Award for Poetry went to Peter Boyle for *The blue cloud of crying* (Hale & Iremonger). ■