

# Meet your mentor: a memorable night

Debbie Mulholland, QUT graduate diploma student in library and information studies

Queensland University of Technology's (QUT) lecture rooms buzzed with nervous excitement on Friday 26 July, as a group of unusually well-dressed students tried to prepare each other for what was to come — our 'blind dates' with mentors that we had never met before, but who could well change the course of our careers.

Kelly Meaney, the QUT organiser of events, explained that the scheme is a joint venture between QUT and ALIA. This is the first time that ALIA has permitted students to participate in its mentoring scheme.

Gillian Hallam, our lecturer, had matched each of us with an appropriate mentor, after taking into account our interests, personalities and areas of residence. As preparation for participating in the program,

we discussed our hopes and fears about the scheme.

Many students hoped that the scheme would give them some extra volunteer work experience, others welcomed the change to have someone to ask all those 'silly' questions of, while some students simply wished that the program would give them contacts to use for their university case studies.

Students came up with many creative methods to keep in contact with their mentors, such as telephone, e-mail, fax, coffee-shop meetings and even smoke-signals if necessary!

After our information session, it was time to meet our mentors face-to-face. What had begun as such a nerve-racking evening quickly became very relaxed as students and mentors shared their backgrounds, plans and ideas for the future.

A highlight of the evening

was the unveiling of the new Community Zero ALIA (Q) Mentoring Program website. This online community allows students and mentors involved in the scheme to conduct lively discussions, add links to websites of interest and even display photographs in the image gallery.

At the conclusion of the evening, the consensus among the students was that it had been a wonderful opportunity for us to explore career options, network with professionals in our field and voice all the questions we had been longing to ask of 'real' librarians.

We would like to extend a big thank-you to all the mentors who are giving up their valuable time to guide us in our professional development — we hope that you will gain as much from the mentoring scheme as we do! ■



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supper provided. *RSVPs essential:* Tricia Murray, ph 03 9925 2063, patricia.murray@rmit.edu.au (e-mails preferred)

• **18/9–20/11 Specials Libraries (Vic).** *General meeting.* Swets Blackwell, 4 Bennetts Lane, Melbourne, 5:30pm. 18/9, 16/10, 20/11. *RSVP:* Traci Webb, twebb@au.swetsblackwell.com

**23/9 CAVAL training activities.** *Information audit.* one-day workshop is conducted by Sue Henczel. CARM Center, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora. Cost: \$396 CAVAL/ALIA members, non-members \$440. Contact: Eve Cornish, [evc@caval.edu.au](mailto:evc@caval.edu.au), register online at [http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego\\_form.html](http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego_form.html)

• **October Special Libraries (Vic).** *Special Library visit.* Further details: tba.

• **1/10 Vic Library Technicians.** *Committee meeting.* Meet in the Library foyer at Deakin University, Burwood Campus. Everyone is welcome, no charge. Light supper provided. *RSVPs essential:* Kerrie Kelly, ph 03 8664 7128, [kkelly@slv.vic.gov.au](mailto:kkelly@slv.vic.gov.au)

**3/10 CAVAL training activities.** *Web resources for cataloguers.* CARM Center, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 1:30–4:30pm. Cost: \$132 CAVAL/ALIA members, non-members \$110. Contact: Eve Cornish, [evc@caval.edu.au](mailto:evc@caval.edu.au), register online at [http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego\\_form.html](http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego_form.html)

**4/10 CAVAL training activities.** *Cataloguing non-book materials.* CARM Center, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 9:30–12:30pm. Cost: \$132 CAVAL/ALIA members, non-members \$110. Contact: Eve Cornish, [evc@caval.edu.au](mailto:evc@caval.edu.au), register online at [http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego\\_form.html](http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego_form.html)

**10/10 CAVAL training activities.** *Introduction to metadata.* CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 9:30–12:30pm. Cost: \$110 CAVAL/ALIA members, non-members \$132. Contact: Eve Cornish, [evc@caval.edu.au](mailto:evc@caval.edu.au), register online at [http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego\\_form.html](http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego_form.html)

**10/10 CAVAL training activities.** *Hands-on metadata.* led by Bruce Mcleod, Spirit Consulting. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 1:30–4:30pm. Cost: \$198 CAVAL/ALIA members, \$220 non-members. Contact: Eve Cornish, [evc@caval.edu.au](mailto:evc@caval.edu.au), register online at [http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego\\_form.html](http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego_form.html)

**15/10 CAVAL training activities.** *Kinetics document delivery.* CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 9:30–5pm. Cost: \$198 CAVAL/ALIA members, \$220 non-members. Contact: Eve Cornish, [evc@caval.edu.au](mailto:evc@caval.edu.au), register online at [http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego\\_form.html](http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego_form.html)

**16/10 CAVAL training activities.** *Kinetics web hands-on.* CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 9:30–12:30pm. Cost: \$110 CAVAL/ALIA members, \$132 non-members. Contact: Eve Cornish, [evc@caval.edu.au](mailto:evc@caval.edu.au), register online at [http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego\\_form.html](http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego_form.html)

**17/10 CAVAL training activities.** *Government information on the web.* CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 1:30–4:30pm. Cost: \$110 CAVAL/ALIA members, \$132 non-members. Contact: Eve Cornish, [evc@caval.edu.au](mailto:evc@caval.edu.au), register online at [http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego\\_form.html](http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego_form.html)

• **19/10 Schools Victoria.** *Committee meeting.* Santa Maria College Library, Northcote, 9:30am. All ALIA members are warmly invited to attend. For further information

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## Aurora news

Aurora Foundation not suborned — scorns porn

Recently the Aurora Foundation for Library Leadership received an e-mail from an organisation fighting for truth, justice, and the Australian way. Apparently our name, Aurora Foundation Ltd, is similar to that of another organisation which specialises in more salacious activities than training library leaders. We were warned that access to our website had been blocked by this government agency's filtering software. After pondering the implications for what must have been seconds, we have decided against a name change. Silliness, anyone?

Registrations open for Aurora 6

The sixth Aurora Leadership Institute, again led

## AURORA FOUNDATION

by John Shannon and Becky Schreiber, will take place at Thredbo between Friday 7 February and Wednesday 12 February 2003. Places are limited to 32, and nominations are now open.

First Aurora recall

The first Aurora Recall meeting for Aurorans and Aurora mentors will take place on an island near Auckland between Saturday 22 and Tuesday 25 February 2003. Again, places are limited, and nominations from the Aurora community are now open.

Further details on both events may be gleaned on our website <http://www.alia.org.au/aurora/>.

Ian McCallum, secretary, Aurora Foundation Ltd

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