

NLS2 will discuss the key points and ideas they gained from this conference. Further details will be posted the ALIAQLD e-list closer to the date. Contact: Joy Goldsmith, ph 0410 723 975, joy_goldsmith@hotmail.com

• **16/2 Qld Library Technicians'** *The Free Trade Agreement and Copyright — implications for libraries*. Presented by Tom Joyce, UQ Cybrary. Drinks and nibbles at 5:30pm for 6:00pm start, gold-coin donation. UQ Cybrary Conference Room, Duhig Building, No 2. Contact: Jennifer Parker, ph 07 3244 6464, jennifer.c.parker@det.qld.gov.au

• **24/2 ALIA Quorum**. *NER*D for Online 2005*. Participants of the Online 2005 conference will discuss the key points and ideas they gained from this conference. Further details will be posted on the ALIAQLD e-list closer to the date. Contact: Joy Goldsmith, ph 0410 723 975, joy_goldsmith@hotmail.com

• **25/2 National Acquisitions Group**. *2nd Australian Artists' Books Forum*: a one-day conference on artists' books and the book arts held in Mackay, QLD. Presentations by artists, curators, scholars and writers from around Australia. Contact: Jennifer Emmett, ph 07 4957 1722, jemmett@mackay.qld.gov.au, http://www.artspacemackay.com.au

• **12/3 Qld Library Technicians'** *Asking the right questions*. Angela Vilkins is conducting a reference/question workshop. Brisbane City Council Central City Library Theatre, 9:00am. Limited to 20 attendees. Cost: \$10 ALIA members, \$15 non-members [GST incl]. Contact: Jennifer Parker, ph 07 3244 6464, jennifer.c.parker@det.qld.gov.au

• **22/3 ALIA Quorum**. *General meeting*. The events planned for April, May and June, and review the events from January and February. Watch the ALIAQLD e-list for more information. Contact: Joy Goldsmith, ph 0410 723 975, joy_goldsmith@hotmail.com

• **6/4 Qld OPAL**. *General meeting*. Hosted by Helen Gambley, Hoopgood Ganim. Venue/time: tba. Contact: Helen Gambley, ph 07 3024 0391, h.gambley@hopgoodganim.com.au

• **14/4 ALIA Quorum**. *NER*D — Queensland Public Libraries Association 2005*. Participants of the QPLA conference will talk about the key themes and ideas from the conference. Further details will be published to the ALIA QLD e-list closer to the date. Contact: Joy Goldsmith, ph 0410 723 975, joy_goldsmith@hotmail.com

• **23/5 ALIA Trivia Night and Queensland Library Achiever of the Year Award**. Start preparing your team for the trivia night. The Library Achiever of the Year Award winner will also be announced at this event. Further details will be published to the ALIA QLD e-list closer to the date. Contact: Joy Goldsmith, ph 0410 723 975, joy_goldsmith@hotmail.com

• **1/6 Qld OPAL**. *General meeting*. Robyn Sanders, Qld Corrective Services. Venue/time: tba. Contact: Robyn Sanders, ph 07 3406 6429, tdc.library@dcs.qld.gov.au

• **11/6 ALIA CPD workshop**. *This workshop will be held for current and prospective members of the ALIA CPD scheme*. Further details will be published to the ALIA QLD e-list closer

continued next page...

Making news...

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

Read all about it

Courier Mail, 8 January, by Belinda Weaver
Belinda Weaver, former *inCite* columnist, reviews AllYouCanRead.com which links to a vast store of online magazines and newspapers. Almost 23 000 magazines and newspapers from more than 200 countries are linked from the site, and if you plan to use the site regularly, you can customise it so that it features only the publications that you want to look at regularly. Belinda recommends that for those looking for Australian papers and journals, the National Library of Australia's comprehensive list of newspapers at <http://www.nla.gov.au/npapers/>, or their Australian Journals Online service (<http://www.nla.gov.au/ajol/>) are better bets.

The books of 2005

The Australian, 1 January, by Murray Waldren

Murray Waldren surveys what we can expect to see on bookshop and library shelves in 2005. He covers everything from Australian fiction, international fiction, non-fiction, to biography and memoirs — something for everyone!

Word wars — no easy answer

The Mercury, 20 December, by Margaretta Pos

Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training, Brendan Nelson, has promised a national inquiry into literacy in 2005, which will examine how reading is taught and tested, as well as how teachers are trained. Tasmanian optometrist, Bryon Harrison, is very critical of the way children are taught to read in Australia. He is an advocate for the phonic method which teaches children to read letter by letter, syllable by syllable. Harrison is known for his research into visual attention span — VAS — in relation to literacy.

Bagging teachers is counter-productive

Sunday Herald Sun, 19 December, by Matt Price

Literacy was a big issue in December 2004 after Federal Minister for Education, Science

and Training, Brendan Nelson announced a national reading inquiry. Matt Price slams the Minister for mis-representing the findings of a QUT study into teacher training and knowledge. Price argues that while Nelson has some good instincts and intentions on schools — uniform school terms and admission ages, for example — he should stop highlighting the negatives in education.

This article also appeared in the *Sunday Tasmanian* under the headline 'Plain-speaking Nelson', and in the *Sunday Telegraph* with the headline 'Nelson's cheap shot at teachers'.

Reading Tassie the riot act

The Mercury, 18 December, by Margaretta Pos

Still in Tasmania, this article looks at the fight between those educators who would like to see the teaching of phonics increased, and those who believe that the status-quo should be maintained. Brendan Nelson quoted some disturbing figures: at least one child in twenty in Tasmanian primary schools has difficulty reading.

Top marks

Home Hill Observer, 16 December

An international survey of 15-year-olds from 41 countries has shown that Australia ranks fourth in reading and sixth in science. Students in the Australian Capital Territory, Western Australia and South Australia were the best performers, but students in all states and territories performed well above the international average. The survey results also indicate that the 'achievement gap' between children of high and low socio-economic backgrounds is closing.

Google turns a new page in library project

New York Times, 15 December, by John Markoff and Edward Wyatt

In December 2004, Google announced an agreement with Oxford University and some of the leading American research libraries to begin converting their holdings into digital files which would be freely searchable over



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the web. The goal is to expand the web beyond its current valuable, if eclectic, body of material and create a digital card catalogue and searchable library for the world's books, scholarly papers and special collections. We will watch developments with interest!

Library 'heavy reading' a risk

Daily Telegraph, 13 December

A number of larger, quarto, books have been removed from the shelves at the Burwood Central Library amid fears that the volumes could fall from the shelves and injure patrons and staff. The books were removed under OH&S regulations after three 'minor' incidents with the cumbersome books. The books are still available, but only over the counter.

Illiteracy landing children in hospital

Dpa English, 13 December

Ken Rowe, from ACER, has discovered that for many children in the hospital system, their main complaint is that they cannot read. 'Hospital ... clinics are being filled with kids who are being referred for things like attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHA)', Rowe told the *Sydney Morning Herald*. 'But once the paediatricians sort out the children's literacy problems, the behaviour problems disappear.' A quarter of all children admitted to the emergency department at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, were diagnosed as having non-medical conditions like ADHD and other behavioural problems.

A novel idea to have pictures in books

Kalgoorlie Miner, 10 December

Graphic novels are now gaining acceptance as an alternative source of reading material. While some dismiss graphic novels as just comics, a high level of visual literacy is often required to 'read' the pictures as well as the text.

Better beginnings

Armadale Examiner, 9 December

As part of the State Library of Western Australia's 'Better beginnings' literacy program, eve-

ry child born in Armadale in the next twelve months will receive a free book and activity kit. The books and kits will be distributed through the Community Health Centres and Community Nurses. 'The Better Beginnings program is about setting children on the path for developing a love for books that will last a life-time' said Patricia Walker, city manager of Library and Heritage Services.

Give the gift of reading to a kid in need

The Weekly Sunshine Coast, 8 December

Maroochy Libraries organised a 'Books 4 kidz' book drive as part of their Christmas celebrations. Library patrons were encouraged to purchase a children's book, wrap it and tag it with an approximate age group and gender, and hand it in at any Maroochy Library branch. The books were then distributed to local charities in time for Christmas.

Attack on Aussie books

Wollongong Advertiser, 8 December,

by Amanda Garard

The Federal Government has refused to renew a grants scheme which provided funds to schools to purchase Australian books, both fiction and non-fiction. The scheme began in 2000, after the introduction of the GST. Shellharbour Public School librarian, Margaret Cooper, said that the loss of funds would mean that she could only purchase approximately 350 books a year, not the 500 books that she could purchase with the funding.

One Book Project launch

Merredin-Wheatbelt Mercury, 8 December,

by Joanne Roach

The State Library of Western Australia, public libraries in the state, and the UWA Perth International Arts Festival have joined forces to run the One Book Project. One Book is based on a reading promotion project started in Seattle and which has been successfully run in Brisbane for the past three years. The title for 2005 is *Rhubarb*, by Craig Silvey. ■

to the date. Contact: Joy Goldsmith, ph 0410 723 975, joy_goldsmith@hotmail.com

- **21/6 ALIA Quorum.** Meeting to review the events held in April, May and June, and plan the events planned for the remainder of the year. Further details will be published to the ALIA QLD e-list closer to the date. Contact: Joy Goldsmith, ph 0410 723 975, joy_goldsmith@hotmail.com

- **14/7 ALIA Quorum. NER*D — HERDSA 2005.** Participants of the HERDSA conference will talk about the key themes and ideas from the conference. Further details will be published to the ALIA QLD e-list closer to the date. Contact: Joy Goldsmith, ph 0410 723 975, joy_goldsmith@hotmail.com

- **26/7 Qld OPAL. General meeting.** Jill Rogers, ANTA. Venue/time: tba. Contact: Jill Rogers, ph 07 3246 2314, rogersj@anta.gov.au

- **1/9 ALIA Quorum. NER*D — International Conferences 2005.** Participants of the IFLA, ALA and Engaging Communities conferences will talk about the key themes and ideas from the conference. Further details will be published to the ALIA QLD e-list closer to the date. Contact: Joy Goldsmith, ph 0410 723 975, joy_goldsmith@hotmail.com

8/9 Australian Copyright Council. 3 sessions: Introduction to copyright \$70; Libraries: text and images \$100; Libraries: internet and digital licensing \$100. Presented by experienced ACC lawyers; meet the people you speak to on our hotline! Contact: Customer service, ph 02 9699 3247, info@copyright.org.au, http://www.copyright.org.au

VIC

- **10/2 Vic ALIA Library Technicians' Committee meeting.** RMIT Library, Level 5, Building 8, Swanston St Campus at 6:00pm, everyone is welcome, no charge, light supper provided. *RSVPs essential to:* Patricia Murray, ph 03 9925 3110, patricia.murray@rmit.edu.au

- **10/3 ALIA Victoria. Digitalisation and the press.** More information closer to the day. Contact: Cheryl Walker, ph 0412 743 866, cherylw@myaccess.com

- **26/2 Vic Library Technicians' Mornington Branch library visit,** meet at 10:30am for a tour of the newly built Mornington Branch Library and hear about the planning and building processes. Lunch to follow at delegates' own expense, everyone welcome. *RSVPs to:* Linda Notley, ph 03 8664 7212, lnotley@slv.vic.gov.au

10/3 Australian Copyright Council. 3 sessions: Introduction to copyright \$70; Libraries: text and images \$100; Libraries: internet and digital licensing \$100. Presented by experienced ACC lawyers; meet the people you speak to on our hotline! Contact: Customer service, ph 02 9699 3247, info@copyright.org.au, http://www.copyright.org.au

- **18/3 Vic Library Technicians' Hot off the press:** the day long event will follow a new item from the publisher to the library shelf. We will see the work of vendors and the acquisitions/cataloguing teams. Also included is a visit to Raeco and a look at end processing. Details of costs to follow later. Contact: Kerrie Kelly, ph 03 8664 7129, kkelly@slv.vic.gov.au

continued next page...



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