

## Looking lively



Public libraries across Australia are partners in this year's Books Alive campaign, the Australian government initiative that aims to encourage all Australians to experience the joys of reading. *The 2006 Books Alive Great Read Guide*, released in July, lists 50 'remarkable' books, and public libraries will be armed with plenty of copies for borrowers. Some public libraries will host visits by an author of one of these remarkable books. But best of all, by tracking the popularity of these books amongst their clients, public libraries will be helping Books Alive shape future national campaigns.

Late last year, Public Libraries Australia (PLA) executive officer Lynne Makin saw an opportunity to expand the impact of Books Alive beyond bookshops to public libraries. As Lynne and other librarians know, many people in the community rely on public libraries to supply them with good reading and campaigns that focus only on bookshop clientele run the risk of missing a significant proportion of the nation's reading population.

Public libraries are well placed to promote campaigns such as this; by monitoring loan records, they can readily collect data showing campaign impact. Public libraries will track the 50 'great reads' for six months, before, during and after the campaign (Great Read month is August). This data, drawn from libraries in all types of communities across the nation, will be given to Books Alive for use

in evaluating this year's campaign as well as planning future activities. More than 140 public libraries accepted the opportunity to be involved this year, and are enjoying Books Alive promotional material and the chance to host an author visit in return for the data they will collect.

The phenomenal response from public libraries wanting to be involved in Books Alive comes as no surprise to those who know public libraries. It is a clear demonstration of the power and potential of the public library network. PLA and ALIA will be working with Books Alive over the coming months to capitalise further on this potential. And you can be sure that Lynne Makin will be pointing this out to all in attendance at the Australian Book Industry Awards Dinner, where Books Alive 2006 will be launched on August 10.

(If you're looking for a good read, a free copy of *The 2006 Books Alive Great Read Guide* will be in the August edition of *The Australian Women's Weekly*. It will also be available from 26 July on the Books Alive website at <http://www.booksalive.com.au>.

**Niki Kallenberger, PLA/ALIA Project Officer**

## Library Technology graduate wins University Medal

As first semester ends, the Library and Information Science staff of the School of Computer and Information Science (SCIS) at Edith Cowan University applaud an outstanding recent graduate's success. Donna Barber was awarded the University Medal, the University's highest award, for her undergraduate results. Donna was an exceptional student, graduating with a Bachelor of Science (Library Technology). Throughout her course, Donna was a consistently high achiever, always presenting work based on sound research and thoughtful consideration. Her participation in on-campus discussions and online forums was always constructive and supportive of fellow students.

A full-time student, Donna was employed at Aranmore Catholic College for two years after a work experience

placement early in her course. When her partner completed his PhD, the couple moved to Christchurch, New Zealand. Donna completed her final year of study as an online student. Since her final examinations, Donna has been employed at the University of Canterbury Library, where she is responsible for providing maintenance, support and training for the library's integrated library system.

Donna was also awarded the Faculty of Computing, Health and Science's highest award, the Faculty Medal, and the Australian Library and Information Association award for the Bachelor of Science (Library Technology). The three awards are recognition of her outstanding commitment and academic performance. Donna's dedication and ability have been inspiring to students and staff who have been privileged to study and work with her. We congratulate her on her wonderful achievements.

**Judy Clayden, Undergraduate Library Courses Co-ordinator, School of Computer and Information Science, Edith Cowan University**



*l-r: Judy Clayden with University Medal winner Donna Barber*

