

Bess Thomas Award 2006

The aims of the Bess Thomas award are:

- to encourage and support the development of innovative and significant library services to young people.
- to promote public and professional awareness of the importance of library services to young people.
- to honour the bequest made by Bess Thomas and commemorate her contribution to Australian children's libraries.

The Bess Thomas Award is a grant of \$500 towards a project initiating or supplementing library services for young people.

2006 winner: Auburn Library in NSW for *Drawn to Auburn*. This is an innovative library program for young people, which creatively addresses a graffiti problem. The benefits of developing the self-esteem of the youth involved should not be under-estimated and the finished mural will demonstrate to visitors that the library values the cultural diversity of the community it serves. The project involves library staff in working with other sections of local government and community groups and is based on relevant research.

Highly Commended: Launceston Library (Tasmania) for *Writing Workshops for Boys*. This is an innovative idea to build on writing workshops by having student employees record the stories, making them available as podcasts. This technology adds value for the boys who write the stories, is practical experience for students who record them and enhances the image of library.

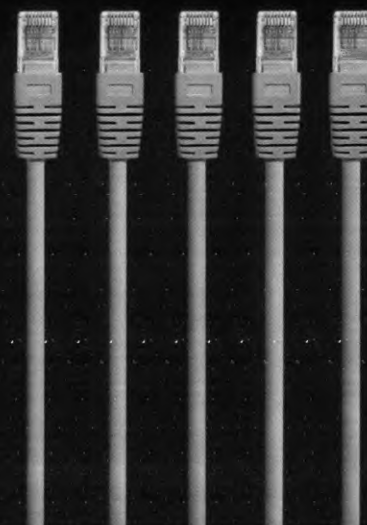
Highly Commended: Fairfield Library (NSW) for the *Junction ATLAS Library Education Program*. Libraries are for everyone and tailoring a library program for clients with special needs is to be commended. Helping these young people become independent users of the library is a great achievement. This program can be adapted for other groups and is not dependent upon the expertise of just one staff member but can be delivered by other staff. *

New Groups Liaison Officer

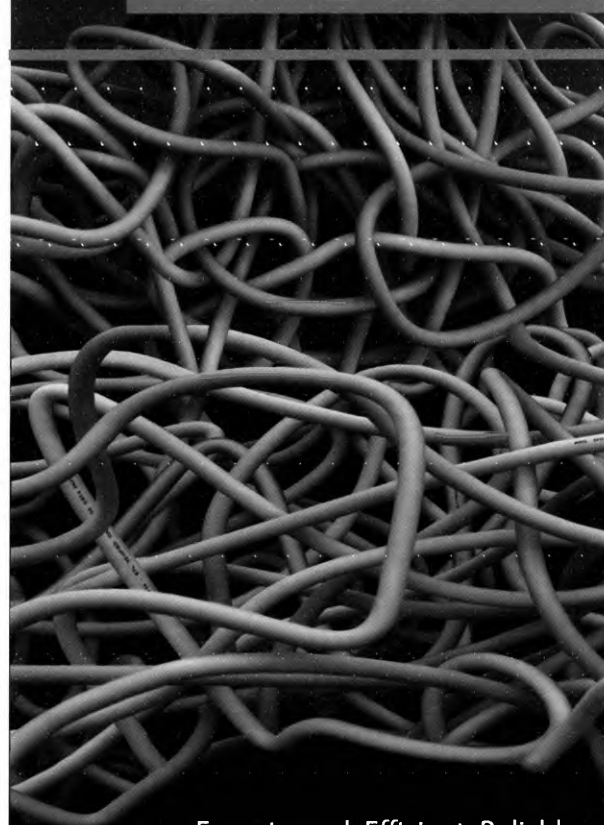
We are pleased to announce that Robyn Ellard has joined ALIA National Office staff as the ALIA Group Liaison Officer. Initially appointed on a four-month contract, Robyn will be revising the ALIA Group Office Bearers Guide and the ALIA Group Budget Guidelines in time for groups planning activities and budgets for 2007. She will also be developing training workshops for ALIA office bearers. Contact her by e-mail at robyn.ellard@alia.org.au.

Robyn has written for *inCite*, is active in the New Graduates Group, ALIA South Australia, and was on the organising committee of the second New Librarians' Symposium in 2004. We are very pleased to welcome her to Canberra. *

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