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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the new issue of TechNique for September 2006. There has been enormous contribution from many people for this edition and I thank all who have generously spent time writing for TechNique.

A list of Committee contacts has been provided on the next page as a quick reference guide for those who need it. Remember, you can contact any of the Committee Members if you have some queries in relation to the National Group. The State Convenors all form part of the National Group Committee, so they may be able to be your first port of call for any enquiries.

On another note, ALIA, Queensland University of Technology and CAVAL Collaborative Solutions are conducting a research project to examine the library and information workforce in Australia - the **neXus census project**. The researchers are encouraging workers across the LIS sector to complete the survey. This includes library technicians, as well as library assistant and library officers (even retired ones!) and those from traditional libraries through to innovative information roles, as well as educators in the sector.

I encourage everyone to complete the survey, the more responses obtained by the researchers, the more detailed and accurate the information will be, thus contributing further to the development of a strong future for the library and information sector.

For more information, and to start the survey, go to <http://www.alia.org.au/employment/workforce/>

Until next time

Tania
Editor



Next year, the Victorian ALIA Library Technicians will be holding its fourth annual *Hot off the Press* event in March 2007 and it promises to exceed all expectations! Next year, this sensational event will be centred around Children's Literature and planning is now at the fine tuning stage. For more information, or to register your interest, please contact Kerrie Kelly (kkelly@slv.vic.gov.au). This event always fully books out, so make sure you register early.

Registrations for the fourth *River of Opportunities*, a joint workshop from the Victorian ALIA Library Technicians Group and the NSW ALIA Library Technicians Group, will be held at the Sundowner Hovell Tree Inn, Albury NSW, 11-12th November 2006. Registrations close soon – to book go to <http://alia.org.au/events/river.of.opportunities.html>. For more information, contact Clare Bristow (clare.bristow@deakin.edu.au) or Libby Brackenridge (libby.brackenridge@deakin.edu.au).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Group convenor

Mr Kevin Dudeney

11 Preston Road
TOONGABBIE NSW 2146
Phone: 02 9804 5448
Fax: 02 9804 5460
kevin.dudeney@dcs.nsw.gov.au

Group deputy convenor

Ms Tania Barry

Wyndham Library Service
Corner Heaths and Derrimut Roads
Werribee Plaza
WERRIBEE VIC 3030
Phone: 03 9748 9333
Fax:
tania.barry@wyndham.vic.gov.au

Group secretary

Mr Matthew Griffiths

27a Victory Street
FAIRFIELD NSW 2165
Phone: 02 9707 9743
Fax:
matthew.griffiths@bankstown.nsw.gov.au

Group treasurer

Mrs Trish D'Arcy

Australian Catholic University
McAuley at Banyo Campus
PO Box 456
VIRGINIA QLD 4014
Phone: 07 3623 7354
Fax: 07 3623 7268
p.darcy@mcauley.acu.edu.au

Group committee member

Mrs Clare Bristow

Deakin University Library
Learning Services
221 Burwood Highway
BURWOOD VIC 3125
Phone: 03 9244 3898
Fax: 03 9244 6649
rees@deakin.edu.au

Group committee member

Mr Liam Casey

Charles Darwin University
Library and Information Access
DARWIN NT 0909
Phone: 08 8946 6174
Fax: 08 8946 7022
liam.casey@cdu.edu.au

Group committee member

Ms Beth Clary

Radford College
College Street
BRUCE ACT 2617
Phone: 02 6234 2225
Fax: 02 6234 2237
beth.clary@radford.act.edu.au

Group committee member

Mrs Rebecca Evans

Tasmania Fire Service
Cnr Argyle & Melville Streets
HOBART TAS 7000
Phone: 03 6230 8679
Fax: 03 6234 6647
rebecca.evans@fire.tas.gov.au

Group committee member

Ms Michaela Shepherdson

Curtin University of Technology
Library and Information Service
GPO Box U1987
PERTH WA 6845
Phone: 08 9266 4022
Fax:
M.J.Shepherdson@curtin.edu.au



Minutes Of Fame

FAVOURITE MOVIE

Shawshank Redemption
OR Lawrence of Arabia
Anything directed by Ken Loach

ACTOR YOU WOULD MOST LIKE TO PLAY YOU?

Judi Dench - when she was a bit younger of course ;-)

IDEAL WAY TO RELAX

Bellringing (tower bells, not hand bells)
Reading - mostly non-fiction (current affairs, letters, biographies, history)
although I like my bit of "trash" - Anne Tyler, Joanna Trollope, Elizabeth Buchan, Rebus, Alexander McCall Smith (but not the African ones)
Films - mostly "art house" (yuk term but what else is there??)

CAREER WANTED AS A CHILD

Post lady - so I could ride a two-wheeler bike all day. I didn't have one at the time :-)

EMPLOYER

Eastern Health - Box Hill Hospital

CURRENT POSITION

Only library position I've ever had! Library Technician

FUNNIEST WORK EXPERIENCE

After some serious thought I'll have to say that "the politics" is often the funniest thing at work but will say no more for fear of being sacked or sued for libel!!! "Fun" though – the networking in the library world. There are some great people out there.

FAVOURITE ANIMAL AND WHY

I'm not really an animal person to be honest. The only good cat is a dead cat :-/





I work as a library assistant in the Ballarat Health Services library and was asked to find out information on The Old Operating Theatre in England for a member of staff. Knowing nothing about this, I went straight to Google for help. I discovered that the Old Operating Theatre had its own website (<http://www.thegarret.org.uk/>) and there was also a museum and Herb Garret connected. There was plenty of information available, plus pictures which the client had particularly requested. At the time I found it all very interesting.

Little did I realise at the time that several years later I would actually be visiting the Old Operating Theatre, Museum and Herb Garret in London personally. I would not have even thought of visiting this museum while I was in London last month, if it had not been for the research I had done in the library as part of my work.

The roof garret of the 18th century church of St Thomas's, near London Bridge, contains Britain's oldest operating theatre. It is the oldest surviving operating theatre in the country (dating to 1822), used in the days before anaesthetics and antiseptic surgery. The theatre witnessed the advent of anaesthesia in 1846 and was closed three years before Lister began his experiments in antiseptic surgery. Florence Nightingale founded her School of Nursing at the old hospital in 1860.

A fascinating collection of objects is on display revealing the horrors of medicine before the age of science. The museum collection is mostly 19th century and contains medical instruments used by surgeons in amputations, trephinations (operations on the skull) and instruments for cupping, bleeding, and child-birth. It is an evocative reminder of the major advances in medical treatment over the past 150 years.

The timber garret was also used by the apothecary for the storage and curing of herbs to be used in the hospital medicines. In 1822 part of the Herb Garret was converted into a purpose built operating theatre. This resulted from the fact that the female surgical ward abutted the garret. Previously, operations took place on the actual ward. Rich patients were treated and operated on at home rather than in hospital. Patients at the Old Operating Theatre were all women. The majority of cases were for amputations or superficial complaints as, without antiseptic; it was too dangerous to do internal operations. Before ether and chloroform, alcohol or opiates were used to dull the senses and some surgeons could perform an amputation in less than a minute.

I find my work extremely interesting and I am learning all the time. I really enjoy the research aspect of working in a library. I like the challenge of finding answers. So the next time you are asked a reference question, it could lead you to want to find out more. You could end up wanting to know more than your client needs to know. Hope you all enjoy your job as much as I do and the challenge of finding answers (or the place to find answers) for those who need your assistance.

**Leigh Miller
Library Assistant
Ballarat Health Services**

At work (and at home) these are seven helpful and interesting websites I like to access (in no particular order):

1. We are always needing to locate statistics.

<http://www.abs.gov.au>



I love clicking on the Australia's population link on the left hand side to see the population change every 2 minutes and 12 seconds!!

2. There are some amazing pictures and stories besides some of the world's greatest libraries.

THE RENAISSANCE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Beautiful gifts designed specially for librarians, information professionals and book lovers

<http://www.renaissancelibrary.com/index.htm>

I love to daydream!!

3. The Health Libraries Inc. website keeps me informed on upcoming events, conferences and professional development activities.

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~hlinc/index.htm>



4. This website helps make finding those "hard to locate" citations easier.

<http://scholar.google.com/>



5. My local public library – I couldn't live without it. sometimes I feel I am there more than at my own library!!

<http://www.chrlc.vic.gov.au/>



6. A fun game where you move around inside a library, guiding patrons and collecting misshelved books.



Ms.STACKMAN

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/aboutus/game/>

Good for a Friday afternoon!!

7. I love popping in to IFLA to check out what is happening internationally in the world of libraries.



International Federation of Library Associations
and Institutions

<http://www.ifla.org/>



BUSH TALK

by *RUTH BARTON*

As a new member of ALIA, and living in the bush, I was delighted to be able to combine a trip to visit family with attending an ALIA function in Melbourne. I was even more delighted to witness Tania Barry being presented with the Metcalfe Award at this function. The Metcalfe Award recognises high achievement by a personal member of ALIA in his or her first five years of practice and Tania certainly deserved it.

Everyone present was amazed and impressed when they heard Tania's list of achievements. These included being a very active member of various ALIA planning, advisory and mentoring groups, conceiving, promoting and implementing new ALIA initiatives and convening the 2005 Dunn & Wilson Scholarship panel.

While working as a library assistant at Wyndham Library Service, Tania studied by distance education through Charles Sturt University. Her brilliant results (achieving three Dean's Awards and being awarded the ALIA Award and Zenith Management Services Award as she graduated with Distinction) were achieved while juggling professional commitments and parenting three young children.

Tania's employment as Children's and Youth Services Librarian at Wyndham Library Service has given her the opportunity to apply her skills and knowledge in a practical way. She created a monthly newsletter Chatterbox for young library users, created partnerships with providers of community services and has widened the scope of library services within the boundaries of limited resources.

Although I have been involved with Tania in study and work projects, and am familiar with her unceasing energy and commitment to the profession, it was still awe-inspiring to hear her achievements listed. You can read the full transcript of the award speech at

<http://alia.org.au/awards/metcalfe.award/barry.html>

After the presentation, I spent an enjoyable evening chatting with people working in a range of libraries, from parliamentary to medical. It is easy in the public library world to become a bit insular, but membership and involvement with ALIA promises to keep me aware of the variety of library environments and ensure I am exposed to a wealth of different viewpoints and library experiences.



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MILES FRANKLIN LITERARY AWARD

by Gemma Siemensma

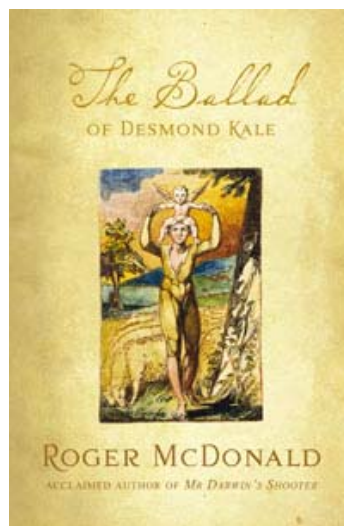
Miles Franklin
Literary Award

On Thursday August 3rd, on a cold wet wintery Ballarat night I was fortunate enough to head along to my local public library to listen to Roger McDonald speak about his book "*The Ballad of Desmond Kale*" which had just been announced as the 2006 Miles Franklin Literary Award winner.

The Miles Franklin Literary Award was established by author Miles Franklin who was concerned to see Australian literature flourish and knew first hand the struggles most authors have in Australia. The Award celebrates Australian character and creativity and nurtures the continuing life of literature based on Australia. It is awarded for the novel of the year which is of the highest literary merit and which presents Australian life in any of its phases.

It was fascinating to hear of Rogers previous works (four of which had previously been shortlisted for the Miles Franklin) and things like how he writes (first thing in the morning), where he researches, how he structures his day (with lots of coffee), who proofreads his work (his wife), his favourite authors (too many to mention) and how stories and ideas form in his mind. Like most authors – he sets out to write the sort of book that he would like reading himself – one that just hasn't been written yet!!

Living in a regional area makes attending events a hassle involving a trip to the 'big smoke' so it is so encouraging to only have to head down to the local library to hear one of Australia's best writers speak. I love listening to authors read aloud from their works in which they can evoke the characters emotions in the way that they intended them to be. Thanks must go to CAL (Copyright Agency Limited) who has sponsored the regional tour and allowing all literature lovers to gain an insight into the winning novel and to hear what it means to win Australia's most prestigious literary prize.



Well I have finally done it!! It being the completion of the last subject for the Diploma of Library and Information Services. It has taken several months for this last subject to be completed. Why you ask? Well it's quite a long and complex story.

At the end of 2005, I was under the impression that I had two subjects to complete, *Research Project* and *Preservation*. 2006 arrives and I enrol in *Research Project*, paying my fees, only to find out that this particular subject was integrated into other subjects, even though it was listed on the subject selection. Confusing, isn't it? It gets better.

I have to say that the course booklet for 2006 was even more confusing. What I usually do when I receive the booklet is go through and tick off all the subjects that I have completed after comparing it with the previous year. Some of the titles and the description of the subjects had changed, and, because of the changes, I began to wonder if there were more subjects I needed to complete before I could graduate. What I had to do in the end was write a very detailed email, to the person in charge, comparing what I had completed with what I thought it was called in 2006. After several emails, we worked out that I only had one subject to complete, and that was *Preservation*.

In first the semester, on the subject selection list, *Preservation* was not listed. Wanting to complete this course, I was not impressed with this situation and again I contacted the person in charge - by phone this time, asking what happened to *Preservation* as it was listed last year as being available. This is when I was informed that it had been decided to present this subject on-line!! Well ok, that situated me either way (post or on-line) but it was suggested that I contact the lecturer in a couple of weeks as the subject should then be completed and be ready for students.

I also discussed the situation regarding the subject that didn't exist any more, as I had paid for it. I was told the University did not do refunds but it would go towards my next subject.

So here I was, into the sixth month of the year and after several emails to the lecturer handling the *Preservation* subject, there was still no beginning (much less an end!) in sight. Again I contacted the person in charge and explained that I had been waiting quite a while to start a subject. I explained that I whilst I understood it could take a while to put a subject together, waiting 6 months was getting a bit silly. Again I was told the lecturer would be contacted and I would be informed of what was happening. Two weeks later I receive a reply. The reply? The subject would be 'ready soon'. Do you see why I was a "Soon to be LT" for so long??

So the waiting game begins (or perhaps I should say, it continued, given that I had already been waiting 6 months!) I wait and I wait and I wait. After several weeks, surprise, surprise, I received an invoice for the subject. I paid this promptly and went back to waiting. Occasionally I would check the on-line web site where the subject was to be uploaded. Finally it is there and, ironically, two days later, I receive an email informing me that I can now access the subject on-line. Of course, by this time I have already read through the material and started my research.

I have now completed the required assignment, submitted it and received a pass. I suppose I can now consider myself a Library Technician. During the whole process, from start to finish, I learnt patience, how to get my point across without getting upset, how to write an email that is direct but not offensive, met a wonderful mentor and most importantly, that I can **DO** if I want.

I look forward to the future; I'm thinking I might check out web design as my next adventure. This is not the last you will hear from me.



NEED A LOGO?



Email sovereignrepublicofrob@gmail.com

Rob Thomson

LIBRARY NETWORKING IN THE NORTH-WEST OF TASMANIA

Last night library technicians and students met for an interesting and informative presentation about networking in general, and ALIA Library Technician conferences in particular!

The presentation began with Glenyce Surtees (LMT Course Co-ordinator TAFE Tasmania) welcoming everyone and outlining the evening.

Cassie Willcox, a second year LMT student and winner of the TALIATecs Student Award in 2005 entertained the group with tales of her experiences at the Sydney Library Technicians conference held last year. She talked of the extensive networks just waiting to be discovered, her thoughts on "how to survive" a large conference as a first-time attendee and the value of the sessions she was able to attend. Cassie finished by presenting a slide show featuring the Sydney experience through the eyes of her trusty side-kick, Basil Brush.

The focus of the night then turned to how to prepare for the 2007 conference in Melbourne. Kerrie Blyth was able to pass on information concerning applications for financial assistance for those working in the library industry in Tasmania, via the Sir John Morris Trust Fund. A successful applicant is assisted with conference registration, travel and accommodation costs. On return they then share the information gathered with their work colleagues and others

through a presentation and a report to the Trust Fund administrators. Help in preparing an application was offered by library technicians who have already accessed the trust in past years.

ALIA membership offers a range of advantages for students and those working in the industry and Kerrie was able to pass on information about the Association and the benefits of being a member. Information packs and handouts were passed around and are available for anyone not able to attend the evening.

Kylie Stokes who is a 2nd year LMT student was the final presenter. Kylie has taken on the role of "Melbourne Conference Organiser and Advisor" for students and technicians in the North-West as part of her studies, particularly the "Lead a Team" unit. She presented a slide show with the research she has done so far in terms of travel and accommodation costs and options. This proved a valuable point to begin so anyone considering attending can plan their budget.

The presentation concluded with a promotional DVD highlighting the fabulous sights and sounds of Melbourne. It left everyone feeling enthused and excited about next years conference, and ensured that there was no shortage of discussion when everyone left the presentation and went out to dinner together afterwards.

**Diploma students for LIS studying
At TAFE Tasmania Devonport Campus**



**Kelli-Ann
Emery**



**Glenyce
Surtees**

**Kerrie Blyth ALIATec CP
TAFE Tasmania
Devonport Campus**



**Kylie
Stokes**

**Helen
Fergusson**

**Graham
Ratcliff**



HELPFUL HINTS



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Hold down *Control* plus the directional cursor keys.

Keeping pressing until you are satisfied.

Working with Text Boxes containing text and pictures

Do you want to copy text and pictures within a text box into another document, but only the text came across?

Try this

Click on the text box, hold down the *Shift* key and click on the picture.

Right click, go to *Grouping*, then *group*

Click away

Then click on the text box

Right click then copy and paste into new document. The text and picture will be moved together.



<http://resizr.lord-lance.com/default.asp>

ResizR is a nifty, **free** and very useful little helper. ResizR allows you to resize an image from your local computer or the web.

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Often you do not need more than just resizing an image on the fly.

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ResizR changes the game - it's much easier. Select an image - choose the width - rotate optionally.

To rotate the image click on "Image rotation...". Choose the 0°, 90°, 180° or 270° icon. Rotation is clockwise.

Hint: Do not increase the size of an image. You can, but the results will probably not be satisfying. If you want to see the initial width, check the text above the resized image.