

TOP TEACHERS

SPECIAL REPORT

Learning by the book

Karen Collins is an inspirational teacher-librarian, writes **Melinda Ham**.

Libraries without enough librarians. That's what a skills shortage in the field could mean in the near future, according to Lyn Hay, a lecturer in teacher librarianship at Charles Sturt University (CSU).

"With all the government's investment in building new library facilities, we now have a lot of libraries without librarians – in fact across Australia we will be short about 3000 trained librarians in the next few years," Hay says.

"It's a great career choice with a lot of jobs."

Hay says enthusiastic people such as Karen Collins, who works at Tara Anglican School for Girls in North Parramatta, are an inspiration for other teachers to retrain in this specialised field.

Collins, 31, is a teacher-librarian passionate about dispelling the

perception that spending your days among books is dull and boring.

"I have the best job in the school, I think," she says. "I have really tried to develop a reading culture at the school and it makes my day when some girl comes up and asks if I have just read a great book."

Collins was inspired by her year 5 teacher to train as a teacher. "She invested so much in her students that we all looked up to her and wanted to make a difference like her," she says.

After finishing her HSC, Collins completed a primary teaching degree at University of Technology, Sydney, and took electives in library studies. Her practicums included two stints in schools as a teacher-librarian.

"I thought: 'this is fantastic. This is what I want to do with my life,'" Collins says. "I got to cover all grades

and delve into all subject areas." After completing her degree in late 2000, her first job was at Norwest Christian College in Rouse Hill where she spent the next six years working in the school library with children aged between five and 18.

"It was a great learning curve," she says. "Most of what you learn in university is theory so it was a formative experience actually teaching in practice."

When she moved to Tara in 2007, Collins realised she wanted to further her education. "There was so much more I wanted to know to make more of an impact with the girls," she says.

So Collins enrolled in a master of education (teacher librarianship), an online course with CSU, graduating in April. The course gives teachers added skills and knowledge to become a teacher-



Technology upgrade ... Karen Collins assists students Olivia Ellem and Hayley Lukabyo in a digital literacy program. Photo: Marco Del Grande

librarian or adds to the skills of existing librarians.

"Everything I've learned I've already put into practice," she says. "I've discovered librarians play a big role in the ICT [information communications technology] integration in a school."

At Tara, Collins has embraced this role and assists students and teachers to build wikis (websites that allow editing of interlinked pages) and blogs, create videos and animations, take part in video conferencing and have online chats with authors.

A Herald Special Report ■ Acting editor Peter Vincent, pvincent@smh.com.au ■ Advertising William Thompson 02 9282 1351, wthompson@fairfaxmedia.com.au

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TARA

Anglican School for Girls

Tara is a Pre Kindergarten to Year 12 Day and Boarding School in North Parramatta

K-6 TEACHERS

Tara is seeking to appoint enthusiastic and experienced K-6 Teachers to join our Junior School team from the commencement of Term 1, 2011. Permanent and temporary positions are available. Experience in teaching Stage 2 and Stage 3 will be highly regarded.

Applicants must have:

- proven ability to plan innovative programs and use effective assessment strategies to meet a range of student needs
 - the ability to implement a differentiated curriculum
 - proven ability to use ICT for administration and learning programs
- a willingness to initiate and implement challenging activities beyond the classroom
- the ability to work as a team member and to relate effectively to parents.

All Tara staff are expected to be committed to the overall life of the School, willing to participate in the School's extra curricular program and supportive of its Christian ethos. Tara is a non-smoking workplace.

For more information about Tara, please visit our website www.tara.nsw.edu.au

Application, including full C.V, academic transcripts and details of three referees, should be sent to: **The Principal**, Tara Anglican School for Girls, Masons Drive, North Parramatta NSW 2151 **By Wednesday 10 November 2010**

Phone: (02) 9630 6655 Fax: (02) 9683 6297 Email: employment@tara.nsw.edu.au

Employment will be subject to a satisfactory screening under the Child Protection Act 1998



Education Consultant

The Association of Independent Schools of NSW (AISNSW) is the peak body for independent schools in NSW and provides a range of services to independent schools across the state.

Education consultants at the AIS operate in a dynamic team-oriented environment and work across the curriculum in a diverse range of schools, each with their own ethos, specialties and operational styles.

We currently have a vacancy for a Year 7-12 consultant to join our team from the beginning of 2011.

The successful applicant will have secondary specific expertise and will be willing and able to work more broadly, including in the areas of health and student wellbeing.

An understanding of contemporary teaching and learning challenges is essential, as is a thorough knowledge of student wellbeing issues.

Experience in curriculum leadership, student wellbeing and/or other aspects of school management would be well regarded.

An expanded role description and analysis can be found on the AISNSW website: www.aisnsw.edu.au

Applications must be received by close of business on 10 November 2010.

All enquiries and applications, including resumes, should be directed to:

Louise Bailey
Assistant Director, HR
AISNSW, Level 12, 99 York Street, Sydney 2000
Phone: (02) 9299 2845
Fax: (02) 9290 2274

Email: lbailey@aisnsw.edu.au

NB: NSW Child Protection legislation applies to this position

The Association of Independent Schools of New South Wales Limited



KINCOPPAL - ROSE BAY SCHOOL OF THE SACRED HEART

Kincoppal-Rose Bay, School of the Sacred Heart, is an independent Catholic day and boarding school founded in 1882 on a rich heritage of Sacred Heart Education. Located at Rose Bay in Sydney, the School caters for boys and girls from Preschool to Year 6 and girls from Year 7 to Year 12 and strives to develop women and men of integrity, compassion and learning for life in the 21st Century.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2011

Applications are invited from suitably qualified educators, capable of incorporating advanced technologies into their teaching practice, for the following full time permanent positions commencing Term 1 2011:

- Head of English (Years 7-12)
- Head of Drama (Years 7-12)
- French Teacher (Years 7-12)
- Junior School Teacher (Years 3-6)

We are also seeking the following temporary positions for the 2011 school year:

Learning Support Teacher's Aide
(0.6FTE, 8.30am-12.40pm, Monday-Friday, for 2011, and capable of supporting a visually impaired child in Year 5)

Early Learning Teacher
(Full time, for 2011, with knowledge and experience in the Reggio Emilia philosophy)

Application details for these positions, with information about closing dates for applications, can be located on the 'Staff' section of the KRB website: www.krb.nsw.edu.au

Child protection screening procedures apply.

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE ARMIDALE

PRINCIPAL POSITIONS - 2011

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced educators, who are committed to the ethos of Catholic School Education and to excellence in learning and teaching, for the following positions:

St Michael's Primary, Manilla

St Michael's Primary School is a Co-educational School catering for 70 students K-6.

Applications close 5 November 2010.

St Joseph's Primary, Quirindi

St Joseph's Primary School is a Co-educational School catering for 48 students K-6.

Applications close 5 November 2010.

St Joseph's Primary, Walgett (Readvertised)

St Joseph's Primary School is a Co-educational School catering for 170 students K-6.

Applications close 5 November 2010.

St Joseph's Primary, Glen Innes

St Joseph's Primary School is a Co-educational School catering for 193 students K-6.

Applications close 12 November 2010.

If you would like further details about these positions, or an application pack including the selection criteria and position description, please contact the Personnel Officer on (02) 6772 7388, or email l.woods@arm.catholic.edu.au

Child Protection legislation requirements apply.