

# Hollywood stars support 'next epic' Aussie sci-fi franchise



Priscilla Presley to act in movie based on book series that was 20 years in the making

HOLLYWOOD stars including Priscilla Presley, US actor Cliff Simon (aka Stargate's Lord Ba'al) and Bruce Logan from team Star Wars, have thrown their support behind the work of Hunter Valley author A.J. Cootes, who will officially launch the first book in the Almythea franchise in Australia this November.

Almythea has been 20 years in the making and excitement is building worldwide for what is being touted as the next epic franchise in the sci-fi fantasy adventure genre.

The main launch will be at Supanova in Brisbane from November 8-10, following other book launches in the Hunter Valley on November 3 and on the Gold Coast on November 7. A percentage of proceeds will go to Beyond Blue to help fight anxiety, depression and suicide.

Priscilla Presley will play Petelia (Queen of the 'fleafs' – pixie-like creatures that act as her messengers and spies, when they're not messing up) in the upcoming films and Cliff Simon will play Grey Paw (a rebellious, smouldering, immortal Obi Wan Kenobi type). He has also written the foreword for the book.

A.J. Cootes began writing after his best friend, Greg Wilson, was involved in a near-fatal motorcycle accident.

Greg's ensuing battle with depression inspired the pair to co-author the artist's biography, *My Brush with Depression*, in the hope it would help others facing similar problems.

Growing up, A.J. loved movies and stories that encouraged his imagination and altruism.

His favourites are the Star Wars films, *Dune* by Frank Herbert, *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain and other books by Charles Dickens and Ernest Hemingway.

The story of Almythea begins with: "In a world ruled by evil, it will take an outcast to save the people."

For centuries, Almythea has been ruled by the tyrannical alien overlord The Lost One and his duplicitous, seductively-sinister lieutenant, Raven Weaver. The once peaceful planet, now enslaved, wastes away as it is mined and stripped of rare refractive crystals.

When Little Hawk, a young warrior, confesses to a crime he didn't commit to protect Broken Arrows, the woman he secretly loves, he is exiled to the Badlands. Formidable creatures force him to battle not only for his life but also against his inner demons. On the brink of death, Little Hawk encounters the mysterious and rebellious shaman, Grey Paw – changing the course of Almythea's future..."

A.J. Cootes writes from his secluded farm in the Hunter Valley and is a director of the Greg Wilson Studio. He resides with his wife, Joyce, and inseparable friend and business partner Josie Wilson (collectively known as the Hippies on the Hill).

He is happiest when he is writing, playing with his dog, Hemingway, and tending to his hens, led by Princess Layer, in the Cluckleberry Inn coop.

There will be six instalments in the Almythea franchise *The Chronicles of Almythea – Rise of Wingtar*; *The battle for our souls*; *The New Kingdom*; *Three will fall and one will rise*; *Battle of the Ancients* (prequel part one) and the 1,000 year war begins (prequel part two).

Numbers will be limited at the book launches on the Gold Coast and in the Hunter Valley, which will be hosted by nearby resident Channel 7's Better Homes and Gardens host Johanna Griggs and 'Media Queen' Aldwyn Altuney, from the Gold Coast.

For event details, book sales and more information, visit [www.almythea.com](http://www.almythea.com)

ENDS

Media contact only: For advance copies of the book, interviews with A.J. Cootes or celebrities involved, contact project manager Lynn Santer on 0410 513 009 or marketing manager Aldwyn Altuney on 0409 895 055.

## Contacts

Aldwyn Altuney  
61409895055  
mailto: [aldwyn@aaxpose.com](mailto:aldwyn@aaxpose.com)