

ALIA Letter of Recognition

Bernice Burgess BA, ALAA

The ALIA General Council has awarded a Letter of Recognition to Bernice Burgess. It was presented at the Association's Annual General Meeting held in Adelaide on 20 July 1989, and is reproduced below.



CATALOGUERS' SECTION (National Group)

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now called for the following four national officers of the Cataloguers' Section:

- National President (1990-1991)
- National Secretary (1990-1991)
- National Treasurer (1990-1991)
- Member of the Australian Committee on Cataloguing (1990-1992)

The President, Secretary and Treasurer, together with the Editor of *Cataloguing Australia*, constitute the National Executive of the Cataloguers Section. There is no requirement that these officers be from the same state, and in fact they have been drawn from different states since 1986. The Executive communicates as necessary by correspondence and telephone conferences. Typical issues dealt with by the National Executive include broad oversight of the arrangements for *Australia*, liaison with ALIA Head Office, and promotion of communication between state groups of the Section.

The Australian Committee on Cataloguing is composed of representatives of ALIA, ACLIS and the National Library. It is the primary Australian forum for discussion of cataloguing issues and for representation of Australian views on cataloguing matters to international bodies. Each ALIA representative on the Committee is elected for a three year term by members of the Cataloguers Section.

All financial members of the Section are entitled to nominate candidates for any of the four positions above, or to be nominated themselves. Nominations can be made by sending a brief letter (signed by the nominator and the nominee) to: Warwick Cathro, President, Cataloguers Section, c/- National Library of Australia, PARKES ACT 2600.

A seconder is not required.

Nominations must reach the above address by 6 October 1989.

'Bernice Burgess has made a significant contribution to Technical and Further Education (TAFE) libraries in Australia over the past 20 years.

'She completed the Preliminary and Registration Certificates of the Australian Library and Information Association, formerly the Library Association of Australia, and has been a member for more than 25 years.

'Bernice retired from the New South Wales Department of Technical and Further Education in March 1988, having joined the Department in 1966 as part-time Librarian-in-Charge at Gympie Technical College. By 1974 she was the first Illawarra Regional Librarian.

'In 1983 she took up a 3-month secondment to purchase resource materials in the field of multiculturalism for the Multicultural Access Centre and other colleges. This followed her research project: "Report on the delivery of library service to students of non-English speaking backgrounds enrolled in vocational courses in TAFE" (1984). The bibliography she compiled, "Multiculturalism in TAFE: a resource list" (1983), has been used as a selection aid by many college librarians.

'Bernice's commitment to library services in TAFE, however, has exceeded the level required of persons in such senior positions. Believing a national focus was necessary both for cooperation between libraries in TAFE and because of increasing Commonwealth involvement in the States' and Territories' responsibilities in TAFE, Bernice worked vigorously towards the establishment of a TAFE National Section within ALIA.

'In 1983, she was instrumental in the formation of ATLS (NSW), a State association of TAFE library staff. It was this Association that organised the petition and gained the approval of General Council (29-30 March 1985) for the formation of the ALIA TAFE National Section. Bernice played a leadership role in the Interim and Executive Committees as its foundation President. She believed that one of the first priorities was to engender a national perspective so that objectives could be set on a national basis. She proposed a national conference to help in achieving this, and to open up communication across State and Territory boundaries. Cooperation towards common goals was necessary, because until this time TAFE library services in the various States and Territories were working independently.

'It was Bernice who undertook the planning, negotiating and motivating so necessary for a worthwhile conference. Other members of the Committee were spurred on by her confidence in their abilities and her example of com-

mitment, ideas and tireless organisation. It is due in large part to her contribution that the First National Conference of the TAFE National Section, "Halfway there: between Kangan and 2000", was held within 2 years of formation of the Section. The conference was a success, and the proceedings were a sell-out.

'Response to the Section's Newsletter has also been positive with no shortage of contributions locally and overseas. The Section itself has proved a success, and its existence has brought new members to the Association.



'The ALIA TAFE National Section was formed in recognition of the need for a national voice for TAFE libraries, a unified approach, and a positive image for TAFE libraries, whose staff often work in geographical isolation and have a different clientele to academic libraries. Bernice was the prime motivator in attempting to meet these needs. She was the backbone of the Executive Committee. She was always alert to issues in politics, government, education and librarianship that would affect TAFE library services. Her skills of persuasion contributed to the quality of speakers and delegate support at the conference. No doubt her commitment also influenced them. Bernice has worked vigorously to promote TAFE libraries, to establish the ALIA TAFE National Section, to organise the conference, to improve library service to students of non-English speaking backgrounds, and to draw out the best in those who work with her.

'Bernice Burgess' personal contribution to TAFE libraries in Australia has been both significant and special. She is a most worthy recipient of this Letter of Recognition, awarded by the General Council of the Australian Library and Information Association by resolution passed at its meeting on 17 and 18 March, 1989.'

(Signed)
President
Executive Director

3 Bernice Burgess, Letter of Recognition Award winner, accepting a bouquet of native flowers from ALIA President, Averill Edwards, at the ALIA AGM in Adelaide, 20 July 1989.