

Presentation of Metcalfe Medallion to Kylie Lau

At a special lunch on 18 May, the 1992 Metcalfe Medallion was presented to Kylie Lau for her outstanding paper on user fees in public libraries. The presentation was performed by Anne Hazell on behalf of the ALIA Board of Education. Kylie completed her Graduate Diploma with first class honours at the Department of Library and Information Studies, University of Tasmania, last year.

Present at the lunch were members of the Department of Library and Information Studies, the University Library, the ALIA Tasmanian Branch and Twila Herr, who had worked closely with Kylie on her paper.

Congratulations to you, Kylie, and good luck for your career in librarianship.



Kylie Lau (left) being presented with the Metcalfe Medallion by Anne Hazell on behalf of ALIA, with Peter Conlon, President of the Tasmanian Branch.

SA Branch demonstrates a commitment

Irene Dorskatsch was there at the public meeting

Late last month the SA Branch convened a public meeting to draw attention to the funding crisis facing all types of libraries, which is eroding access to information. We particularly wanted to highlight the cuts in the opening hours of the State Library of SA. With a State election imminent, it was an opportune time to publicise our dissatisfaction that the State Library has the most limited operating hours of any major Australian library.

We also wanted to emphasise that underfunding one major library deleteriously impacts on other

libraries that are themselves overburdened and under resourced.

The public meeting received much media coverage and attracted an attendance of almost two hundred. The meeting started on a musical note. Pat Wilson, librarian by training but now star of radio and stage, sang three songs she composed especially for the meeting. Then the Hon. Diana Laidlaw, representing the Opposition, promised that if elected the Liberal Party would ensure that the State Library stays open until 8pm for an extra 4 nights a week. The Minister, Anne Levy, believed that informa-

tion technology would solve most access problems...

What did the meeting achieve? We passed resolutions calling for longer opening hours for the State Library, and an assessment of the resources available for the library services in SA. We believe that the meeting succeeded in placing the issue of library funding on the political agenda and gave media exposure to the plight of our libraries.

The resolutions passed by meeting will be distributed to all politicians and pressure will be maintained to ensure that the Minister acts on them.

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