

What are libraries without staff?

The presentation of the 1994 Library Technician of the Year Award to Janelle Thoms was celebrated in fine style, following directly on the heels of the launch of Australian Library Week by the Hon Peter Collins MP at a gala cocktail party hosted by the ALIA NSW Branch on 17 October. It was a fitting time to acknowledge the enormous contribution library staff make to the quality of life.

Beth McLaren read the citation which tracked Janelle's outstanding career in the library and information sector. Members of the Association will already be aware of Janelle's contribution to the Library Technicians Section through her involvement in conference organising committees, the National and NSW groups of the Section and also on NSW Branch. Janelle has ensured that the interests and aspirations of library technicians are heard.

A full report of the very successful Australian Library Week launch will appear in the next issue of *inCite*. ■

Victorian Parliamentary Library cadet

In recent years, we have agonised how we might assist the many new graduates who approach the Parliamentary Library in the hope of getting work to gain some experience. Some offer to be volunteers. Not having any additional resources, we decided to designate an existing but unfilled Librarian Class 1 position as a training position for a newly-qualified librarian.

At the end of the 1993 academic year, contact was made with the two Melbourne-based librarian schools, each of which supplied the names of four recommended students. The students were invited to visit the Library and then apply for the position. All applicants were interviewed and Ms Kerin Priddle was appointed Victorian Parliamentary Library Cadet for 1994. The position is a term appointment for one year only so that a new graduate can have the same opportunity next year.

During the year Kerin had a real job indexing newspapers in the Reference and Current Information Section.

She also had the opportunity to gain in-depth experience in all facets of the work of the section including online searching, CD-ROM searching, database management and all aspects of reference work. We took every opportunity for Kerin to attend external and internal training sessions and she was encouraged to attend professional activities out-of-hours.

Kerin has recently taken up a position with the Law Library of Arthur Robison and Hedderwicks. Her new appointment is a necessary outcome of the cadetship and completes a most successful initiative. We will be contacting the Victorian library schools in order to repeat the process in 1995 and we hope this can be an example for other organisations who have not done so, to establish similar arrangements enabling young people to obtain relevant professional experience.



Kerin Priddle

Bruce Davidson

School libraries: Learning for your future

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This 30-page kit has been developed by the Australian Council of Library and Information Services/Australian Library and Information Association Lobbying Sub-Committee and the School Library Association of Victoria.

The kit is designed to assist school communities in their efforts to improve funding and staffing of school libraries.

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- Statistical information regarding the appropriate staffing and collection size in school libraries.
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