

ALIA ACT Branch in 1995

ACT Branch's main aim for 1995 was to provide leadership to enable the development and delivery of quality library and information services.

With the ACT election in February, the Branch lobbied the candidates, organised and prepared letters to the media and participated in radio interviews. Following the election the Branch arranged meetings with some of the successful candidates. Preparations are under way to lobby ACT Federal government candidates before the next election.

The Branch also met with community groups, the ACT government and the ACT Public Library Service in efforts to influence the development of library and information services in the ACT.

Australian Library Week

Australian Library Week in May saw ALIA up in lights on the Jolimont Centre in central Canberra. The launch by the ACT Minister of Urban Affairs was particularly well attended and was the occasion for the Minister to announce public access to the ACT Heritage Collection, a project of particular interest to ALIA after the strong lobbying activities relating to the ACT elections. Much of the program was organised by a joint committee of the ACT Public Library Service and ACT Branch. In addition there was an interview on the ABC and a range of library quiz questions for a radio show. Many of the special libraries also ran programs of visits and demonstrations.

Collaboration

Collaboration with other library and information agencies within the ACT

was promoted through a joint executive meeting and agreement on further cooperative action, such as the sharing of minutes and development of joint activities. The Breakfast with Andy MacDonald, Chief Government Information Officer, was jointly supported by ACT and ACLIS ACT.

Fostering professional interests

A major highlight during the year was the Winter Dinner and Awards Night, held at the Green Herring Restaurant. The warm and happy occasion to recognise achievements of our colleagues was supported by the participation of ALIA President, Jan Gaebler, and the Chair of ALIA's Board of Education, Kay Poustie.

The inaugural ALIA ACT Merit Awards were presented for the implementation of ALIANet to Linda O'Brien, Kerry Webb and Ivan Trundle, who have worked to create a special service which will have significant benefits, not only to ACT members, but to ALIA members all over Australia. An ALIA ACT Merit Award was also presented to Tony Barry for his leadership in the use of electronic information. A new award offered by the University of Canberra, the Doreen Goodman Award, was presented to John Brudenall for his rendering of significant and special services to the program.



ACT Branch awards night dinner: Merit award winners Kerry Webb and Linda O'Brien (on left) with ACT Branch president Joye Volker and ALIA president Jan Gaebler

Student awards were also presented to Linda MacFarland and to Patricia Woods from the University of Canberra. The Leanne Harvey Ford Award went to Sally Alexander and Robert Morrison received the John Balnaves Award.

Janine Schmidt, University of Queensland librarian addressed an enthusiastic group of members on *Quality library service* in May. The President met with both CIT and UC students as well as with many ALIA ACT Sections and Special Interest Groups during the year.

And thanks to the workers!

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the time, imagination and commitment of our Branch Council members for their part in making 1995 such a splendidly successful year.

*Joye Volker
President*

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