

## Victorian Branch

There have been many highlights for members of the Victorian branch this year.

We are extremely proud of our two recent ALIA fellows, Derek Whitehead and John Horacek who received their awards in September and October respectively. Both functions were very well attended by colleagues and friends honouring these two distinguished members of our profession.

The mentoring scheme continues to be a very successful initiative and with the assistance a special grant we have been able to refine administrative procedures, develop a database and run three workshops this year. At present 160 individuals are involved in the scheme and requests for infor-

mation have come from other states and overseas.

A continuing collaboration with ACLIS has been a particular highlight. In 1995 ALIA and ACLIS held three very well attended seminars in Melbourne. The first, *Information access and infrastructure*, in March included Dr Brian Lang, direc-

tor of the British Library, as a speaker. The second brought together speakers from the telecommunications industry and the library profession to discuss the *Broadband Expert Services Group report* and the third in November on *Network publishing* was attended by a number of colleagues from NSW, Queensland, ACT and Tasmania as well as Victoria. We conclude the year with a joint Christmas party on 13 December.

Amongst other



L-R: Helen Tait, ALIA Vice-president, Derek Whitehead and Jan Gaebler, ALIA Preseident, at the presentation of Derek's Fellowship

professional activities organised by the Branch were a recruitment evening for students, the launch of the ALIA *Framework for continuing professional development* and the *Lobby for Libraries* seminar in late November.

Members of the Branch executive travelled to Albury in October for a meeting organised by the Riverina Regional Group. This was attended by NSW branch colleagues and was an ideal opportunity for an exchange of ideas.

Victorian members are busily involved in planning the *Reading the future* conference and look forward to welcoming our interstate colleagues to Melbourne in October 1996.

Jo Marshall  
President



L-R: Earle Gow, chief librarian, La Trobe University, John Horacek, and Helen Tait, ALIA Vice-president at the presentation of an ALIA Fellowship to John on 10 October

## Queensland Specials 1995

Sum up 1995 in four hundred worlds or less! There is no way I could accurately reflect the activities of this energetic committee in a few short paragraphs. I hope my fellow 'specials' will forgive me if I miss mentioning any of our activities.

The first meeting of 1995, held in January, set the standard for the year with volunteers being called to fill various portfolios.

Jane Simon and Sue Hutley took on the coordination of continuing education. So far they have arranged seven internet training courses (basic and advanced), two library tours, and one visit to ISA Australia. By the end of this year we will have also offered our membership a full-day job process seminar.

Kathy Hibberd and Svea Tugby embraced their role as joint business managers. They, along with all other committee members, are to be congratulated for the preparation and

production of the *Special libraries brochure*. This valuable marketing tool has been purposely designed for use by any group of special librarians throughout Australia.

Jenny Hale and Judy Pike controlled the production of our local newsletter, *Extra special* — we are constantly encouraged by the positive feedback it receives.

Lesley Bryant, ably assisted by Di Thornthwaite, nurtured, produced and brought to life the 1995-96 edition of *Special libraries in Queensland — a directory*.

Gillian Collom (secretary) and Bill Constantine (minutes secretary) kept us 'on track', while Tracey Pickles (treasurer) made sure our cheques never bounced.

As a coordinated working group of information professionals we undertook the lengthy task of updating the *Marketing strategies for special libraries*. This document was success-

fully presented to the national specials AGM. Queensland looks forward to supporting the next national committee (WA) in implementing many of the strategies mentioned in the document.

Once again, we were proud to offer the Queensland Special Librarian of the Year award and breakfast during Australian Library Week. The coveted award brings public focus to our profession at a State level. Our congratulations go to Diana Rylatt, a worthy winner.

To the six other members of the committee, I offer my heartfelt thanks. Finally, I would like to publicly acknowledge members of the Special Libraries Section in Queensland who live and work in remote areas, your willingness to make suggestions relevant to your particular needs is much appreciated.

Beth Mayo  
President