

ALIA ACT Branch 1996 awards dinner

A celebration of excellence, by Peter Judge

The dinner, held at the Regatta Point visitors' centre on 17 July, was a great success. Over sixty ACT librarians and visiting members of the ALIA General Council gathered to honour colleagues whose achievements had been judged outstanding.

ACT Branch President Cliff Law told the audience that the aim of the evening was to publicly acknowledge the achievement of professional librarians in the ACT. The range of awards celebrates both achievements in library education and training and peer recognition of outstanding achievements by practising librarians.

ALIA ACT student awards

These awards were introduced and presented by Cliff Law. They recognise the outstanding achievement of students in librarianship in the ACT, at the undergraduate and graduate diploma levels.

The undergraduate award was presented to Sue Freeland, who obtained five high distinctions, eleven distinctions and four credits.

The graduate diploma award was presented to Fiona Bray, who obtained a high distinction, four distinctions and two credits.

The 'John Balnaves Award for Information Retrieval' was introduced by Peter Clayton and presented by John Balnaves to Anna Bryce for outstanding performance in her information retrieval studies, in which she achieved a high distinction.

The Leanne Harvey Ford Prize honours the late Leanne Harvey Ford, a graduate of the University of Canberra. Leanne was the first children's librarian at the Tuggeranong Public Library, then promotions librarian for the ACT Library Service and the initiator of the 'COOL Awards', in which Canberra children vote for their favourite authors.

The award was presented by Leanne's mother to Sandy Bigna, for excellence in the 'Services for young people' studies at the University of Canberra.

Sandy, who is currently studying for an honours degree in information management, is the third recipient. The two

previous award winners, Jacqueline Lucas and Sally Alexander, are now both practising teacher-librarians in Canberra.

The Doreen Goodman Award

Trish Milne introduced this award, which was established last year 'to recognise and acknowledge a member of the profession who has rendered a significant and special service to the University of Canberra Library and Information Studies Program'.

The award was named in recognition of Doreen Goodman's contribution to education for librarianship.

Professor Peter Putnis, Dean of the Faculty of Communication, presented the award to Michael Piggott, Director of Records Evaluation and Disposal at the Australian Archives. Michael's connection with the University of Canberra Library and Information Studies Program goes back to his 'Dip Lib' year in 1971.

Since then Michael has moved from librarianship to manuscripts and then to archives. He has been a helpful member of a number of committees, a very willing guest lecturer and an excellent role model, both in terms of his professionalism and in showing what a diverse and varied career is possible within the information industry.

ALIA ACT merit awards

These were introduced by Cliff Law and presented by ALIA president Helen Tait. Two awards were made, one to Susan Prentice and the other to Jean Geue.

Susan Prentice

The award was given in recognition of her significant contribution to East Asian library services and librarianship. Susan has formed strong and effective links with the National Library of China, and has been instrumental in initiating online services based on co-operation between the National Library of China and the Australian National University library. These include the Chinese Serials Database and the CLIRNet Project, an Australian elec-



Helen Tait presenting an ALIA ACT merit award to Susan Prentice

tronic information centre in the National Library of China.

Susan is president of the East Asian Library Resources Group of Australia. She has provided training and assistance for a number of Chinese librarians in Australia and she continues to ensure that the Australian National University has one of the finest East Asian collections in Australia.

Jean Geue

The award was given in recognition of her sustained contribution to special librarianship and pioneering work in online services. Jean was a founding member (in 1979) and first secretary of the Canberra Online Users Group, and remained a committee member until 1991. For many years she organised the annual MIDAS Lunch, held to commemorate the arrival of packet switching in Australia.

Jean was co-editor of the first automated edition of the *Directory of special libraries in Australia*, and for several years she compiled the *Directory of special libraries in Canberra*. She was also active on the federal library scene.

Her work within the Professional Officer's Association focused on improving conditions for librarians, especially in the 1981 work value case and the 1988 second-tier wage agreement for librarians. There can be few librarians in the ACT who have worked so tirelessly to further the cause of libraries and librarianship and to support ALIA activities. ■