

Outstanding achievement recognised

ALIA Library Awards — Northern Territory

On Monday, 17 May, at the Darwin City Council the ALIA NT Branch held their library awards presentation as part of the celebrations to mark Australian Library Week 1999. This is the second year that the branch has presented the awards and they are already proving to be a popular yearly event.

The minister for communication and information services, Daryl Manzie, presented the awards in three categories:

- Northern Territory Librarian of the Year Award;
- Northern Territory Library and Information Service Community Award; and
- Northern Territory Library and Information Organisational Innovation Award.

The awards consisted of a certificate and a cheque for \$500.

Recognition of exceptional service

The Northern Territory Librarian of the Year Award recognises the exceptional contribution of an individual's service to a library or libraries by way of a specific project, event or research; or for demonstrating excellence in customer service over a period of time.

This year, there were four nominations in this category: Barrie McIntyre, Iris Beale, Lorraine Vass and Frieda Evans. Frieda Evans was the winner. Frieda's many years as librarian at the Supreme Court have gained her the respect of colleagues and clients. She has been an ALIA member since 1975, and has served on many of the NT ALIA committees. Frieda was instrumental in getting the Special Librarians Section started in 1980 and since 1982 she has been president of the NT Division of the Australian Law Librarians Group. A memorable time was when she was on a sub-committee helping organise the 1986 ALIA biennial conference in Darwin — whilst being on maternity leave.

Frieda also had a large part in the compilation of the *List of libraries and resource centres in the Northern Territory* which was launched in 1982. More recently Frieda has been responsible for the development of the first *Directory of court libraries in Australia*.

Frieda has enhanced her skills by graduating from the Northern Territory University in 1995 with a law degree.

Promoting a service to the community

The Northern Territory Library and Information Service Community Award recognises an individual's outstanding contribution to the promotion and delivery of library and information service to

the Northern Territory community by way of a specific project, event, or research; or for demonstrating such service over a period of time.

There were four nominations for this category: Carol Banks and the staff of the Katherine Public Library; Robin Hempel; Barrie McIntyre; and Lorraine Vass.

Lorraine Vass won this category for her work, as ALIA representative, on the board of CREATE Northern Territory from 1995 until 1999. There were two major achievements for the library industry during Lorraine's term as a board member, one was the development of the first national competency standards for the industry, and the second was the review of those standards. In particular, she advocated for increased resources be allocated for professional development and for culturally-appropriate entry-level training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Lorraine served as deputy chairperson and chairperson of the CREATE board. Her time and participation on the board were valued for her professionalism, her generosity of time and knowledge, her mentoring of younger board members, and her negotiating skills.

Organisational innovation

The Northern Territory Library and Information Organisational Innovation Award recognises organisational innovation by a Northern Territory library in a particular area of management and/or operational practice. There were three nominations for this award: Barrie McIntyre; Taminmin Community Library; and Robin Hempel.

The winner was Robin Hempel from

Taminmin Community Library. The nomination was put forward for her demonstrated outstanding ability in the management of special projects at her library which have greatly benefited her two major client groups — the public of the Litchfield Shire and the staff and students of Taminmin High School.

In 1997, Robin's submission *Hyper highway to Humpty Doo* was awarded \$50 000 by the Commonwealth Government's Online Public Access Initiative Program, resulting in the first internet access points in this semi-remote rural community. Robin has secured the project's future by successfully negotiating it to be included in Taminmin High School's new technological system.

More recently, Robin has successfully attracted \$15 000 in funding for a local history project, *Preserving our past* in partnership with the Litchfield Shire Council, the *Litchfield Times*, the Northern Territory Archives Service and the Northern Territory Historical Society.

Robin is valued by her library community and admired by her colleagues. She inspires others by her energy and innovative ideas.

The judging panel for the awards included: Naida Tattersal director of Human Resource Development, OCPE; Ted Ling director of the Australian Archives Darwin; and Theresa Jude, NT branch president.

The NT Branch Council congratulates all the nominees and especially the award winners, and thanks all those who put in nominations. ■

ALW and student volunteers

Cindy Bukbardis and Jill Kerr

As with any profession, the need to make yourself known is very important, as is the need to promote your library's services. In an effort to address these needs the Queensland Libraries Promotion Council (QLPC) developed the Student Volunteer Scheme (SVS). The purpose of this scheme is provide a helping hand for libraries in their promotional activities and to introduce students to future employers and colleagues.

QLPC placed six students in 1996, in 1999 that number had grown to thirty-six students. The majority of students involved in the Scheme have come from the QUT librarian course and the Morningside TAFE library technician course. This year we also received interest from a student studying externally through Charles Stuart University. The students were placed at a variety of different libraries, ranging from public through to TAFE and special libraries. With the growing success of the student volunteer scheme Queensland students and libraries can look forward to a bright and happy future. ■