



ALIA MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

**Nominations are now being
called for the 2001 award**

The ALIA Manager of the Year (previously *Library Manager of the Year*) award recognises and encourages exceptional management practices within the library and information sector. Nominees may be a personal member responsible for managing a library service or individual library, or responsible for a significant service or project within a larger organisational unit.

Entries should be sent to ALIA National Office,
PO Box E441, Kingston ACT 2600
phone 02 6285 1877, fax 02 6282 2249
e-mail awards@alia.org.au
URL <http://www.alia.org.au/awards.html>

Nominations close 1 June 2001



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LIBRARY TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

**Nominations are now being
called for the 2001 award**

This award promotes the role of library technicians in library and information science, and the role and image of the library technician.

Nominees must be a personal member of the Library Technician Section and hold a library technician qualification recognised by ALIA. Members should note that any nomination for the award must be made in strict confidence.

Entries should be sent to ALIA National Office,
PO Box E441, Kingston ACT 2604
phone 02 6285 1877, fax 02 6282 2249
e-mail awards@alia.org.au
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A job well done — Faye Pattinson

Kerrie Kelly, president, Victorian Library Technicians section

Faye Pattinson, the first library technician member of ALIA, recently retired as chief cataloguer at Holmesglen Institute of TAFE Library.

Faye started her years of study at Box Hill TAFE in 1975 while working in a small research library at the then Petersville Research. She had been there for a year without any library training and was bungling her way through with an abridged Dewey on a wing and a prayer. At the same time she was doubling as secretary to the building manager — all in twenty hours a week.

Six weeks after Faye started the technician course, she was one of several staff to be retrenched. At that time, to study the library technicians' course in Victoria, it was necessary to be in employment. Fortunately Faye was offered a position as a cataloguing assistant at Caulfield Institute of Technology (now Monash University). She was placed under the tutelage of cataloguers Joyce Romuld and Jean Tindall, who imbued in Faye a love of cataloguing and gave her an excellent grounding for a career as a cataloguer. In 1979, colleagues suggested she accompany them to a library conference in Canberra. Faye had joined the Library Association a year before as an associate member.

Faye well remembers that conference. There were only about half a dozen library technicians there, and Faye was the only one of that number who had graduated. The library technician course had just been accredited in Victoria, and the conference delegates welcomed Faye as the first library technician member of the Library Association. It was a great thrill for her!

For Faye that conference was almost a disaster from the outset! Travelling in the bus to the opening reception, she sat next to a young Tasmanian librarian. They got along famously, until Faye mentioned that she was a library technician. A look of absolute horror crossed his face and he recoiled into the leather of the bus seat muttering: 'Don't hold with library technicians — we don't need them in libraries'. To his obvious relief the bus reached its destination and, with a furtive glance to see if any librarian had seen him actually *talking* to a library technician, he scrambled out of the bus and scuttled away. He spent the rest of the conference avoiding Faye and she spent her time recounting the story to more tolerant librarians.

The Library Association as it was then, and ALIA as it is now, has been a

constant source of stimulation and interest to Faye. She has gained much from the Association in terms of friendship and professional support and encouragement. On her return from that first conference in

Canberra, she became the Library Technician representative on Victorian Branch Council, and president of the Library Technicians Victorian section. Over the years Faye has held many positions in the Library Association, including minute secretary to Victorian Branch Council for four years and branch councillor-at-large for two years in 1985–86. She was honoured with an ALIA Victorian Branch Merit Award in 1997.

Faye also undertook several overseas assignments in Fiji, Thailand and Indonesia. The most memorable was in Fiji, where she spent three months cataloguing a backlog at the University of the South Pacific for its campuses in Fiji and surrounding regions. There they did not much care about the Dewey or subject headings one assigned as long as the punctuation was correct on the catalogue cards!

Throughout her career, many people have been Faye's mentors, advisers and supporters. She is sure that you know who you are and her warmest appreciation goes to you all.

Faye finds it gratifying to see today's library technicians filling such a rewarding role in libraries, as technology can provide so much scope for their skills. She feels we have come a long way since the early 1970s when this new breed of library personnel was seen more as a threat than a worthwhile member of the library fraternity fulfilling a special role.

Faye is proud to have been offered a variety of opportunities, and to have been able to use them to promote library technicians. To work in a career she loved, to be involved with so many aspects of the library world and along the way to make so many good friends — Faye Pattinson counts herself very fortunate. ■



John Brudenall, LAA president, presents Faye Pattinson with the first Library Technicians certificate, 1979