

ALIA recognises achievement and excellence

On 4 December 2003 Brisbane City Council Chambers were the venue for a ceremony where former Brisbane City Mayor, James (Jim) Soorley was presented with the Association's Redmond Barry Award, and the University of Queensland Cybrary, Ipswich Campus was recognised with an ALIA Award for Excellence. Also in December, at the ALIA Victoria group Christmas party, David Tan was presented with the Association's first Associate Fellowship.

Redmond Barry Award — James Gerard Soorley

The Brisbane City Council Library Service was one of many key areas with a community focus to benefit from James (Jim) Soorley's term as lord mayor of Brisbane City Council.

Early in his term as mayor (1991 to 2002) Jim demonstrated his commitment to improving the Brisbane City Library Service when he commissioned a review of the library's services. The review findings were less than impressive — with the library service labelled as Australia's worst metropolitan public library service. In response, the Council began a decade of reform, backed by generous funding allocations — and just as importantly — Jim Soorley's committed support and belief in the value of libraries. Ten years later, with new buildings, new services, and innovative practices, the library service is seen as one of the best in Australia — if not the world.

Jim is a man of vision who saw the big picture and delivered policies and resources to implement those visions. He recognised, placed trust in and supported people who could deliver on his goals.

As a leader with an innate social conscience, Jim ensured that public library services would be available to all — he wanted the whole population of the City of Brisbane to have easy access to high-quality library services.

In the last few years of his office, Jim continued his commitment to the public library service by providing funding for many innovative programs. The *One Book, One Brisbane* initiative, for example, allowed the library service to promote the enjoyment of reading, engage the community and attract new members to the library service.

More than just an elected figurehead, Jim was a consistent and outgoing advocate of city library services throughout his decade as lord mayor. He has given outstanding service to the community of library users and the library profession through the Brisbane City Council Library Service. He has set a high standard for local government public library services to the community. The benefits of his excellent contribution and leadership will live on well into the future and stand as testimony to what can be achieved in public office, and to which others should aspire.

ALIA Excellence Award — University of Queensland Cybrary, Ipswich Campus, for excellence in the field of library building design and service delivery

The University of Queensland Ipswich Campus Cybrary is the inaugural winner of the ALIA Excellence Award. The award recognises excellence in any area, field or aspect of practice in the library and information services sector. The Cybrary is a centre of excellence thanks to the drive, enthusiasm, determination, and imagination of Janine Schmidt — a former recipient of the ALIA Manager of the Year Award — and her dedicated team.

Traditionally libraries have been seen as buildings filled with books. Now, with the availability of electronic forms of information, a new type of library — or 'cybrary' — is developing. The University of Queensland Cybrary is a gateway for clients to access electronic resources any place, and any time. The 'cybrarian' is a navigator and guide, and the 'cybrary' is the window on the world of knowledge. The Ipswich Campus, opened in 2003, library reflects this contemporary view of libraries.

Teaching and learning facilities at the University of Queensland reflect the move to more student-centred learning and the new forms of educational interaction supported by information and communication technologies. A high-quality learning environment that provides opportunities for students and staff to meet, exchange ideas and engage in the learning process is essential. A social environment that supports interactions beyond the classroom is of great benefit.

This dynamic building provides a range of study spaces to users, which provide a variety of ways to interact with information and people: group and individual study areas, casual seating, and seminar rooms all contribute to this dynamism. The Ipswich Campus Cybrary contains more than 180 computers, and 40 wireless laptops are also available for loan.

The University of Queensland Ipswich Campus Cybrary is a place which attracts and retains people: it welcomes rather than intimidates. The building has all the hallmarks of a place that has been designed as a result of research into best practice, not just in libraries but in service delivery, as well.

ALIAVic celebrates

first Associate Fellow — David Tan AFALIA

ALIAVic's Christmas function was a special festive event for David Tan when he became the first member to be admitted as an Associate Fellow, ALIA's newest category of membership. Director Angela Bridgland presented David with his Certificate of Associate Fellowship, congratulating him on his achievement.

The associate fellow category, a self-nominating category of membership open to Associate and Library Technician members who meet specific criteria, was introduced as a means of recognising experienced practitioners, who over a period of time, demonstrate a commitment to the profession as members of the Association, to ongoing learning and to further development of their professional expertise. For this reason an important condition to retain membership of the Associate Fellow category is ongoing membership of, and compliance with the ALIA CPD scheme.

David has been an associate member of ALIA since 1990, joining shortly after he completed his Graduate Diploma in Information Services at RMIT. Throughout his career, which began with a contract at the State Library of Victoria to his current position as resource centre manager at Coles Myer, David has undertaken many developmental activities to further his professional skills and knowledge. The professional expertise he has gained as a result, has been recognised in his receiving the ALIA Award for Innovation (Special Libraries) on three occasions from 1998 to 2000 (the only person to have been recognised for this award on three different occasions).

Over the years David has maintained his commitment to self-development and development of the profession as a whole. He was one of the first members to join the ALIA CPD scheme when it was introduced in 2000, and has, since then, met all requirements of the scheme to demonstrate his ongoing learning. Beyond his own learning, his willingness to develop a series of workshops on innovation and on business competencies for his colleagues amply indicates his ongoing commitment to furthering the profession as a whole. His professional expertise and further potential has been recognised by his nomination to take part in the Coles Myer Business Leadership Development Program.

Since entering the library and information profession, David has consistently sought to update his knowledge and skills and share his learning with colleagues so that, like himself, they too will have an opportunity to increase their professional expertise. Congratulations to David — a worthy recipient of the distinction of Associate Fellow!

More information about Associate Fellowship including criteria for membership of the category and the application form is available from Marie Murphy, marie.murphy@alia.org.au. ■