

# Jean Arnot Memorial Fellowship 2005

Carolyn Bourke, outreach librarian, Children and Youth, at Fairfield City Library Service, was awarded the Jean Arnot Memorial Fellowship by Mrs Marlena Jeffery, wife of the Governor-General, on 29 April at Parliament House, Sydney.



Carolyn Bourke (left) with Marlena Jeffery at the award presentation

The fellowship is named in honour of the late Jean Fleming Arnot, MBE, FLAA, a former staff member of the State Library of New South Wales, who retired as head cataloguer in 1968 after a distinguished career of almost 50 years. Miss Arnot was active in women's organisations and a pioneer in the campaign for equal pay.

The Jean Arnot Memorial Fellowship is funded by a generous donation from the National Council of Women of New South Wales and the Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women's Associations as a memorial to Miss Arnot and her achievements. The fellowship is awarded to a female librarian or student of librarianship for an outstanding original paper of no more than 5000 words on any aspect of librarianship.

Carolyn Bourke's paper *Building social capital through networking: how public libraries can be more than repositories of information* can be read in full on the State Library of New South Wales website (<http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au>).

Carolyn's paper raises some important contemporary issues for public libraries: 'If public libraries are to take the issues of equity, access and representation seriously they need to rethink the way they operate their services. Not only do they need to make sure that what they purchase and subscribe to, whether in physical or cyber format, meets these criteria, but they also need to ensure that their community is both aware of, and able to make use of, those resources. Public libraries also need to look beyond the concept of librarians as "custodians of knowledge" to librarians as facilitators in a knowledge society. In communities where access to the knowledge society is blocked by illiteracy, high rates of LOTE, exclusion and poverty, librarians need to be even more creative in their facilitator's role. No matter how well-rounded, balanced, up-to-date and fair their collections may be, if large portions of their community can't access them, they are not offering an equitable service.'

Carolyn asks, 'How can public libraries ensure that their communities can access the resources and services that are available? How can they ensure that they are responsive to, and representative of, their communities' actual, as opposed to perceived, needs?' The paper then outlines various ways that library services can partner with their communities to bring about better outcomes for all, using examples of Carolyn's work at Fairfield, which is the most multicultural local government area in Australia.

In her acceptance speech Carolyn said, 'It is obvious that Jean Arnot had a dream — a dream to see women take their place in the business and professional world and be appropriately recompensed for their work. However, Jean Arnot did not simply dream, she also worked towards the fulfilment of that dream and the results of her work and that of others ... are reflected in the privileges enjoyed by my generation and those to come. One of my dreams is to see young people in our community reach their potential unhindered by prejudice, stigma, low literacy, social exclusion or anything else that could be prevented.'

Anne Hall, manager, Library and Museum Services, Fairfield City Council

inform >>> innovate >>> inspire



Australian  
Library and  
Information  
Association

## ALIA's premier awards

Nominations are now being called for the following premier awards of the Australian Library and Information Association

### HCL Anderson Award

The HCL Anderson Award is the Association's highest honour that can be bestowed on an Associate member of ALIA. It is awarded in recognition of outstanding service to the library and information profession in Australia, to ALIA, or to the theory of library and information science or to the practice of library and information services.

Applicants are required to be financial members of ALIA.

This award is peer-nominated.

### Redmond Barry Award

The Redmond Barry Award is the Association's highest honour that can be bestowed on an individual not eligible for associate or technician membership of the Association.

It is awarded in recognition of outstanding service to or promotion of a library and information service or libraries and information services, or to the theory or practice of library and information science, or an associated field.

Nominees do not need to be a member of the Association. This award is peer-nominated.

### Ellinor Archer Pioneer Award

The Ellinor Archer Pioneer Award recognises pioneering work in new areas of library and information science.

This may involve a one-off product, a new service or program or development of an existing service, but must incorporate a future-oriented approach.

Applicants are required to be financial members of ALIA.

The nomination may identify a specific group or unit within an institution. This award is peer-nominated.

### Nomination forms

Nomination forms and further information:

<http://alia.org.au/awards/>

ALIA National Office, PO Box 6335, Kingston 2604  
[awards@alia.org.au](mailto:awards@alia.org.au) 02 6215 8235

Nominations close 1 August 2005