

ACTIVE WINTER DINNER

The ACTIVE ALIA Winter dinner was held on 4 July at the Scholar restaurant in Dickson and, along with much enthusiastic catching up between colleagues, three awards were presented by Vanessa Little, Director of the ACT Library and Information Service and past president of ALIA.

The ACTIVE ALIA award for sustained contribution was given to Gaik Khong for her many years of dedicated volunteering for ALIA and the library profession. Gaik is a quiet achiever who has contributed to ALIA locally and nationally and has long been an active participant of ALIA in many ways, including five years as treasurer, organising the mid-winter dinners for around eight years, and organising more than her fair share of seminars and events for our local group.

Gaik has also volunteered for the Special Libraries Advisory Committee for about four years, contributing to efforts to improve the visibility of special libraries within the broader ALIA community, including collaborating with the Australian Government Library and Information Network (AGLIN) in a joint exercise to provide a special libraries stream for the ALIA 2010 Conference in Brisbane. Gaik played an important role in the planning, implementation and management of this stream program. She has also been involved in arranging a variety of joint AGLIN/ALIA seminars in Canberra for librarians and others across all sectors.

Gaik's contribution to assisting in developing activities for ALIA in cooperation with other organisations has been a watchword for a number of years and many of us have benefited from her sterling contributions.

Catherine Jordan, librarian at the Australian Botanic Gardens, was voted most popular librarian of the ACT as part of the National Year of Reading celebrations. Catherine was nominated over ten times, with all of her nominators citing her extensive knowledge of her specialist library collection and the amazing service she provides for everyone who enters her library. Her winning poll does much to bring the work of such dedicated librarians like her into prominence in the eyes of the public and other colleagues.



Gaik Khong was recognised for many years of dedicated volunteering for ALIA

Karna O'Dea was awarded the ALIA Silver pin. Karna has been an outstanding contributor to ALIA over many years. She has been the ACT Group Convenor for more than five years and has worked tirelessly to ensure a range of programs occur to meet the needs of members. She is a passionate advocate for the profession who shares information and ideas. She was a major force behind the Value of Libraries symposium last year as well as organising library visits, meetings and publicity. She established the ACTIVE ALIA blog taking us into social media with gusto – you can see (and contribute to) the blog at proactiveblog.blogspot.com.au.

If you are in the ACT, watch out for details of our next social gathering, at our wonderful new Arboretum, at the end of the year. See you there.

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