



Left to right: Lady Jean Brodie-Hall (widow of Sir Laurence Brodie-Hall after whom the award is named), Bernadette Waugh, Neil Turner.

ABOVE AND BEYOND THE BRODIE HALL AWARD 2014

It was lovely to be present at the recent Western Australian CSIRO Alumni Brodie Hall Lecture and to see one of our best known, and friendliest, retired special librarians, Bernadette (Bernie) Waugh awarded the Brodie Hall Award for 2014.

The Brodie Hall Award was established in 2011 by the Western Australian Chapter of CSIRO Alumni. It represents the highest acknowledgement and recognition of outstanding achievement by CSIRO staff (administrative, technical and scientific) in Western Australia, in recognition of service and contribution beyond that for which the recipient would be rewarded by normal process.

Bernadette first trained as a geologist at the University of Western Australia and it was during this time that she met her husband Russell. Bernie was appointed Librarian-in-Charge at the CSIRO Floreat site in May 1985, at the beginning of the revolution in information technology.

Times were difficult as budgets were slashed and staff numbers in the library had been continually reduced. Bernadette was an outstanding librarian, ensuring that the library kept up with the latest technology, assisting staff through the rapid changes in information management, and leading several changes to CSIRO's national library network. She was proactive in instructing scientists in the value of computer searches, interlibrary loans and, later on, about online searching.

This was the time when the scientific literature was expanding exponentially. Bernadette's efforts, skill and understanding of science greatly benefitted scientists in CSIRO in Western Australia.

As CSIRO grew in Western Australia, Bernadette established libraries at the new sites of Waterford and Bentley. This involved staff appointments, establishing the library systems, organising the physical relocation of Floreat stock, and merging this material with other collections for these new sites. Conversely, some divisions of CSIRO relocated to the Floreat site and the merging of collections was again cheerfully overseen by Bernadette.

Bernadette has mentored numerous library students throughout her career with her willing participation in the practicum placement of students at CSIRO from the three West Australian institutes offering library studies. She was an active member of ALIA and was recognised by the Association as Special Librarian of the Year in 1993.

All of the letters of support for Bernadette's nomination for the Brodie Hall Award also highlighted her active and vibrant ('bubbling enthusiasm' was one description) contribution to life at the Floreat site, mingling with research, support, administrative, workshop and ground staff. She contributed to the social aspects of the site, such as the Christmas party and Melbourne Cup lunch, and one year organised an exhibition for Library Week, titled *Where Art Meets Science* and featuring artworks by staff at Floreat.

Since retiring from CSIRO in 2007, Bernadette has continued to serve CSIRO well as an active member of the CSIRO Alumni, serving on the committee of the WA Chapter, interviewing former CSIRO staff for oral histories to be deposited in the Battye Library, and bringing her engaging personality to alumni functions. She has also recently joined the ALIA Retirees WA Group and will no doubt be kept busy with some of their planned activities.

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With thanks to Neil C. Turner, Chair, WA Chapter, CSIRO Alumni, and former colleagues from CSIRO