

Fresh honour for ALIA Member

Kitty Peisley is ACT Woman of the Year

OUR GOOD FRIEND and colleague, Kathleen Peisley, BEc, DipEd, MBE, ALAA has just collected another honour: ACT Woman of the Year.

At the ceremony to mark this occasion, ACT Chief Minister Rosemary Follett said, 'Kitty has made an outstanding and longstanding contribution to improving the status of women in the ACT... Most of her professional life has been devoted to librarianship, and especially to advancing the role of school libraries. Kitty has also given a very large portion of her time to a range of positions on committees and with community organisations... I believe she epitomises the enterprising, caring, energetic spirit which the award seeks to celebrate each year.'

Kitty began her work for community organisations in 1935 with the Central Methodist Mission. Many of the organisations to which she devoted herself have since made her a life member in honour of her contribution. She started teaching at



Dickson High in 1963, when the youngest of her four children was seven, to help put the eldest child through university. She worked as a school librarian till 1977 when she joined TAFE as a library consultant. She has been an Associate of the Association since 1966. Her MBE in 1981 was in recognition of her community work.

A word about ALIIS...

THE INTERNATIONAL Development Program of Australian Universities and Colleges (IDP) is Australia's international education organisation. It draws on Australia's education and training resources to assist in developing overseas educational institutions and systems. A component of this mission is to identify international development opportunities which could be met using Australian expertise.

There is evidence that there is an increasing market within the Asia/Pacific region for the provision of library and information services. Some of the large projects funded by multilateral agencies, such as the World Bank and UNESCO, include components which require services within this sector. It has been noted that Australia is well placed in the region to offer its expertise to meet these needs. The export of Australian skills and educational expertise is a priority of federal and state governments.

A series of meetings between the National Library of Australia (represented by Warren Horton), the Australian Library and Information Association (Sue Kosse), the Australian National University (the Librarian,

Colin Steele) and IDP (Elton Brash and Sue Halbwirth), have been held to consider possibilities for the development of a network or an association through which Australia's capacities for the provision of training and technical assistance for libraries and information systems could be marketed internationally. The concept of Australian Library and Information International Services (ALIIS) has been developed.

During the meetings, it was agreed that State and University Librarians, as well as Heads of Library Training Schools throughout Australia should be informed of the proposal and invited to comment. To date responses received have been generally positive. Many libraries and institutions have already established contacts and activities with other countries and this initiative is in no way meant to inhibit individual enterprise. By bringing together the key players in Australian library and information services it is hoped that we as a nation will be better able to promote expertise and services in an already competitive international market. Discussions with interested parties are continuing.

Sue Halbwirth
Manager, Regional Programs, IDP

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