

# Warwick Cathro

## Library Manager of the Year, 1991

**W**ARWICK Cathro was appointed Executive Officer of the Australian Bibliographic Network Office, National Library of Australia, in August 1983. Since then he has had a continuous responsibility for the growth of the ABN through his positions as ABN Executive Officer and Director of the Network Services Branch.

From 1983 to 1991 ABN increased its client base almost 12-fold, despite times of economic restraint for most Australian libraries. The growth that occurred between 1983 and 1987 was the shared achievement of Warwick Cathro as Executive Officer and Judith Baskin as Branch Director. From 1987 onwards it was his sole responsibility. This growth was also achieved with great efficiency—in 1983 the ABN Office served its 94 clients with 14 staff; in 1991 it served 1120 clients with only 30 staff.

Under Warwick's management ABN has also delivered productivity improvements to Australian libraries.

For instance, the expansion of the National Bibliographic Database, from 2.8 million records in September 1983 to over 8 million in September 1991, has delivered high hit rates of copy cataloguing to Australian libraries. This has meant cheaper and quicker cataloguing for ABN client libraries, and for many of these libraries has eliminated their cataloguing backlogs.

Since 1983 there have also been extensive improvements to ABN's services. Among these have been the ABN downline loading service, which has slashed the time taken to deliver cataloguing records from 6 or 7 working days to a matter of seconds. Other major improvements have been ABN Supersearch, an extremely powerful searching system, and the Interlibrary Loans Module, which has been a boon for ABN client libraries. Warwick has also brought an innovative management approach to ABN services, introducing a new charging structure that put ABN on a firmer business basis.



Warwick Cathro was presented with his award by ALIA President Bev Kirby at the General Council dinner in March. Past President John Levett read the citation.

Warwick also has responsibility for the Library Services to People with Disabilities Section, and the Online Information Networks Section, in both of which he has made significant innovations and contributions. In all of this his honesty, fairness, curiosity, a willingness to listen to any new idea, his enthusiasm and his ability to inspire teamwork have been paramount.

ABN is not 'just there': its present position as an essential source of services to Australian libraries has only been achieved through Warwick Cathro's skilled management. □

## Hunter Harrison MBE

**H**UNTER HARRISON has made an extraordinary contribution to the profession of librarianship in the Northern Territory. He took up his position as Industrial Officer of the Professional Officers Association NT Branch, in 1981 and immediately became involved in library-related issues. He helped with industrial matters affecting librarians in the public sector, and also supported the



Hunter Harrison

profession in issues involving the community's perception of libraries and library services.

His first achievement stemmed from his involvement with the Category Review of Libraries from 1981 until 1985. Prior to 1981, efforts had been

made by a group of librarians in the Northern Territory to undertake a full review of librarian positions in the Northern Territory Public Service. His expert guidance and commitment to this review led to his successfully presenting the case to the Industrial Relations Commission and the resulting work level guidelines formed the basis of the national benchmark for category reviews in other states and territories.

Subsequently he continued to assist in all manner of ways with employer-related problems, personal grievances and with the preparation of appeals for the NT Public Service Appeals Board. He has displayed compassion, humanity and integrity in all of these dealings and is acknowledged and respected by senior government officials.

He is a Justice of Peace, sits on the Bench of the Court of Summary Jurisdiction with his fellow Justices, is a Member of the Council of the Northern Territory University and holds office in sporting and other community organisations. He has the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal and the MBE; and has the unusual honour of having a football grandstand named after him.

He is a most worthy recipient of this Letter of Recognition awarded in November 1991. □

## More awards...



Earle Gow



Eric Wainwright



Don Lamberton

**A**T ITS March meeting, General Council approved the conferring of the distinction of Fellow on Earle Gow and Eric Wainwright. Council conferred the Redmond Barry Award, for outstanding service to the theory or practice of information science by a person not eligible to be a professional

member of ALIA, on Professor Donald Lamberton, the Deputy Director of CIRCIT (Centre for International Research on Communication and Information Technologies, Melbourne). More information on these awards will be published as soon as it becomes available. □