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(I-r) John Bartholomaeus, NSW branch president; Eugenie Greig, fellowship recipient; and John Shipp, ALIA president-elect, celebrate after the presentation on 11 March 1997

Teamwork the key

Jo-anne Fuller, NSW branch local presence officer

Sixty-four members and friends attended the ALIA New South Wales Branch Annual General Meeting and awards presentation on 11 March 1997 to celebrate the conferring of the distinction of Fellow of the Association on Eugenie Greig.

Under a perfect autumn sky, guests chatted on the terrace atop the State Library of New South Wales, and more than one was heard to whisper about the novelty of brushing shoulders with so many of library-land's legends, including Harrison Bryan, Eoin Wilkinson, Jack Nelson, Hans Arns, Barrie Mitcheson, Bob Langker, Ted Flowers, Mairead Browne, Margaret Trask, Neil Radford, Joyce Kirk, Diana Oliver, Jeanette Knox, Enid Roberts and Janet Hine.

The citation was read by ALIA vice-president (president-elect) John Shipp, who began by reflecting on his introduction to mainstream librarianship and Eugenie, having encountered both at about the same time in meetings about the development of an automated catalogue at Macquarie University. From the start, he said, he was impressed by Eugenie's professionalism and calm demeanour and so considered it a great honour to be involved in the celebration.

In her thankyou speech Eugenie focussed on the cataloguer in context and said that there could be no greater honour than recognition by one's peers. She said simply that 'teamwork is the key', and stated that she sees the awards as honouring all the teams in

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which she has worked. She made particular mention of her colleagues at Fisher Library, Macquarie University Library, within the Cataloguers Section of ALIA, her counterparts in the American Library Association and IFLA and her colleagues overseas and within Australia — particularly whose at ABN who had done much to foster a strong sense of community and common purpose among Australian librarians.

Eugenie said that she considers herself enormously lucky in having found a profession that had such clear and virtuous goals. She noted that as professionals, librarians (especially cataloguers) are very much dependent on the work that has gone on before them. She also sees, however, a positive future for this sector of the industry because she believes that effective bibliographic organisation is the key that allows end users, no matter how close or remote, to help themselves effectively.

She thanked everyone present for their support over the years and said that ALIA had greatly enriched her professional interests and friendships, with a special mention for her family, whom she described as generous in their support and tolerance.

She ended by thanking her former bosses — whom she referred to as teachers, leaders, mentors — for their humour and balance. They had each, said Eugenie, been personal members of ALIA and had each encouraged her professional explorations and aspirations.