

Victorian libraries in the spotlight

Winners of the ALIA Awards for Innovation announced

At a recent presentation evening in Victoria, the winners of the 1999 ALIA Awards for Innovation were announced by the award sponsors, Library Locums.

The Awards for Innovation are open to individuals or teams who have displayed a uniquely-innovative approach in undertaking service provision. This may include any project, event, practice or service that creates an enhancement for the organisation or its clients.

'Library Locums is proud to sponsor these awards which reward a great deal of hard work and expertise' said Regina Pietraszko of Library Locums. 'In 1999 there were a record number of entries and we anticipate even more next year.'

Winners were selected from six industry sectors and received a personal cheque for \$500 along with a citation. The 1999 winner are:

Academic libraries section — Georgina Binns and Andrew Harrison from Monash University. Georgina and Andrew co-ordinated the highly-successful Monash Lectures Online project which enabled automatic recording and dissemination of lectures via the University website.

Health libraries section — Stephen Due of Geelong Hospital and Mellita Vertigan of The Alfred Hospital. Mellita and Stephen collaborated on a marketing



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brochure, 'The future stitched up. Partnerships that work', to be used by health industry information services across Australia.

Law libraries section — Nicholas Pengelley from the Law Library at Monash University. Nicholas utilised his extensive specialised knowledge in the area of international law to produce a *Guide to researching international law*, a web-based tool for law students.

Public libraries section — Susan Orr from Campaspe Regional Library. Susan's approach to providing quality services to rural public library users was recognised by her project 'Outlying rural library service enhancements'.

School libraries section — Suzette Boyd, Methodist Ladies' College. Suzette won for the outstanding achievements of

the library and information service as a whole at MLC in Melbourne.

Special libraries section — David Tan from Coles Myer Research and Resource Centre. His second year of winning this category, David was recognised for developing and implementing Job Tracker, a comprehensive tool for monitoring requests to the research centre.

The ALIA Awards for Innovation are open to individual and institutional members. Entries for 2000 will be open early next year, so start thinking about a project in your own library or information service that deserves recognition. More information about the awards is available at <http://www.alia.org.au/awards/innovation/>. ■

Author, choir and artists...

Central Highlands Regional Library celebrates Australian Library Week

Following the Australian Library Week theme 'Explore and discover', Michelle Coxall visited the Daylesford Library and spoke about her adventures in India and life on the road as a *Lonely Planet* author. The Daylesford Library has recently been extended and refurbished so it was a good opportunity for people to see the changes to the library and have an interesting and social night at the same time.

Australian Library Week and the Year of the Older Person themes were combined at the Ballarat Library when the U3A (University of the Third Age) choir performed on the Sunday afternoon leading into the week. The choir was made up of thirty men and women all over the age of fifty (some well over!) who presented

a wide range of music. Despite one complaint from a borrower who was convinced that libraries were still supposed to be quiet places, the general reaction from people was overwhelmingly positive and we plan to ask the choir to come back around Christmas time to sing carols.

At the Ararat Library the theme was translated into a very popular activity for children involving input from two local artists. Together they designed and painted three decorative and eye catching double-sided panels following the 'Explore and discover' theme and incorporating aspects of the discovery and history of Ararat. The panels will be permanently located outside the Ararat Library. ■