

Celebrating International School Libraries Day

Mary Manning, executive officer, School Library Association of Victoria

The School Library Association of Victoria celebrated International School Libraries Day on Monday, 24 October 2005 with the theme 'School libraries: Partners in discovery, partners in ideas, partners in learning'.

The concept of partnership was put into practice as the association collaborated with the Victorian Education Channel and the Department of Education and Training to stage the Victorian WebQuest of the Year Awards. Teams of teachers and teacher-librarians from schools throughout the state were invited to develop online research activities to bring together valuable web resources to support their students' learning whilst embedding higher-order thinking skills. The winning entries, which all exemplified challenging and authentic learning activities, were announced at the SLAV International School Libraries Day Awards Dinner at the Duxton Hotel Ballroom.

The overall winners were Claire Bloom and Judy Steel of Warrandyte High School with the quest 'Whose Restaurant will Rule?' <http://www.warrandytehigh.vic.edu.au/restaurant/>. Second place went to Cherilynne Kingston, Melissa Cash and Kelly Camilleri of Werribee Secondary College who posed big questions in the WebQuest entitled 'Australian Ecosystems In Crisis' <http://www.werribeesc.vic.edu.au/home/kingstch/Ecology/introduction.htm>. Melbourne High School staff, George Marotous, Nicholas Fairlie, Kerry Smyth and Merren Ward took third place with the WebQuest, 'Heroes — The Question' narrative <http://resources.mhs.vic.edu.au/heroes/>.

In presenting the awards, Sandy Phillips, manager of the Victorian Education Channel, congratulated the teachers and teacher-librarians responsible for these WebQuests for not only creating meaningful, online learning experiences for their students but offering them up to share with and support other teachers across Victoria and the rest of the world.

A number other significant awards were presented at the dinner to teacher-librarians



Christine Wilson, Braemar College, winner of the SLAV Research Fellowship



Bronwen Parsons, Belmont High School, winner of the John Ward Award



Winner of the Webquest of the Year Award: Claire Bloom, Warrandyte High School (center) with Adrian Basile from Lenovo (Australia and New Zealand) Pty Ltd who sponsored the awards (left) and the Principal of Warrandyte High School, Glenys Pitches

who have demonstrated an unselfish dedication to education, to their own students and to their peers in their generosity and willingness to offer so much more than is required. The John Ward Award is awarded annually to a teacher-librarian who has made an outstanding contribution to learning and teaching and has raised the profile of the profession. The award takes the form of a \$2000 professional



Karen Russo (center), John Paul College, winner of the SLAV Innovator's Grant, with the award sponsors Pat Pledger and Paul Pledger of Pledger Consulting

development grant. Congratulations to this year's very worthy winner, Bronwen Parsons of Belmont High School. The SLAV Research Fellowship recognises the importance of evidence-based practice and is a \$1000 grant to provide practical support to a teacher-librarian to implement a local research project. This year's recipient is Christine Wilson of Braemar College. The SLAV Innovator's Grant award encourages innovative practices by library teams and this year was awarded to Karen Russo of John Paul College.

Congratulations to these award winners, who provide a model and inspiration for us all. ■



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