

Redmond Barry Award



Roxanne Missingham, ALIA President, Bruce Davidson, former Parliament of Victoria Librarian, Paula Chamberlain (holding the Redmond Barry Award) and the Hon Robert Smith MLC, current President of the Legislative Council, Parliament of Victoria

The Hon Bruce Chamberlain AM (1939–2005) was honoured posthumously in a ceremony at the Victorian Parliamentary Library on 3 September with the presentation of the Redmond Barry Award for his outstanding contribution to the promotion of library and information services.

The Redmond Barry Award is ALIA's premier award for non-librarians.

Distinguished previous recipients of the Redmond Barry Award include Ian Renard, Kenneth Baillieu Myer, the Hon EG Whitlam and the Hon Barry Jones.

Bruce Chamberlain was the former Member of the Parliament of Victoria for Dundas, then Western Province, and former President of the Victorian Legislative Council and Chairman of the Parliamentary Library Committee. He was an effective and passionate champion and leader on behalf of libraries for almost thirty years. His dedication to libraries went far beyond his public roles and responsibilities as a parliamentarian.

The ALIA National Awards Panel stated that 'Bruce Chamberlain is an outstanding exemplar of support for the library profession and for public and parliamentary libraries'. Bruce took every opportunity to emphasise the importance of the Parliamentary Library as an integral element of parliamentary democracy. He believed that only with an effective library and information service can government and the executive be called to account.

Bruce was Chairman of the Victorian Parliamentary Library Committee for ten years, and his lasting and positive legacy includes the implementation of new technology both in the parliament and in the library. He was elected to the Hamilton City Council in 1969 and in that role took on the chairmanship of the Glenelg Regional Library Service in 1970. He went on to chair the Glenelg Regional Library Service for a further 16 years even after he became a Member of the Parliament of Victoria. Bruce's continuing chairmanship highlighted his commitment to and belief in public libraries as fundamental to healthy rural communities.

Sir Redmond Barry is regarded as the founder of the State Library of Victoria and served as the chairman of the Trustees of the (then) Public Library from 1853 to his death in 1880. More information on the award is available at <http://www.alia.org.au/awards/redmond.barry/>.

Jane Hardy
Assistant Director
Strategy and Advocacy, ALIA

Who's where

Wendy Heale has taken up the role of manager of Glenelg Libraries in Victoria.

Jane Long, previously Science Librarian at the University of Western Australia Library, is now CSIRO Major Library Centre Manager (WA/SA) based at the CSIRO Floreat site in Perth.

Madeleine Lefebvre has been appointed Chief Librarian of Ryerson University Library in Toronto.

Vanessa Little, previously General Manager of Victoria's Hume City Council's Learning Community, has recently been appointed as Director, ACT Library and Information Services.

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