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AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE LIBRARIAN: the results are in!



Jae Rolt

AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE LIBRARIAN



To meet Australia's favourite librarian, turn to our extended interview on page 43.

Bernadette Royal

NORTHERN TERRITORY'S FAVOURITE LIBRARIAN



Why do you love working in a library ?

I love working at CDU Library because of the people – the students, the academics, and my work colleagues. We do some pretty exciting things with a limited number of staff and a small budget. We get to know most of our students by name, so it is a really supportive and friendly environment. At CDU we are also lucky enough to have an Executive who encourages Staff Development, so I have been able to attend ICML in Brisbane, ALIA Biennial in Sydney, and the EndNote Masterclass for a number of years.

What makes your library community special ?

My library community is special because realistically it is small in comparison to other academic

libraries. Our internal students study in an environment where we get to know them by name and our external students can contact us via email or phone as required. Our facilities may not be as spacious and technology not as up-to-date as other larger universities, but we still come up with some innovative orientation programs and exciting initiatives for both internal and external students.

What do you think about being one of our winners ?

Being one of the winners of the ALIA Favourite Librarian promotion is very exciting. I was nominated by a CDU student and my liaison colleagues swung into action promoting my nomination across the campus. We had posters, Facebook and Twitter mentions, as well as t-shirts printed. I was really flattered and very humbled by the attention. To win the NT section is so amazing and a large part of the win is due to the fantastic people I work with. Our job descriptions are quite diverse and very busy, but extremely rewarding, challenging, and so much fun.

Catherine Jordan

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY'S FAVOURITE LIBRARIAN



Why do you love working in a library ?

I get most satisfaction from helping clients to find often elusive information and to discover the wide range of information resources available to them. I love working with diverse material – from the latest scientific journal literature delivered electronically to historic publications from the 1800s containing the first descriptions of newly discovered species, botanical illustrations, maps,

and archival collections of our institution which is now more than 40 years old.

What makes your library community special ?

What makes this library community special is its diverse client base. Among our staff we have horticulturists, research scientists, curators, educators, scientific editors, communications and public relations officers, and administrative and management staff. In addition there's a large pool of volunteers and a very active Friends organisation. We all feel a strong connection with 'place' too: the beautiful botanic gardens site here in Canberra.

What do you think about being one of our winners ?

I am thrilled that a small and specialised library service in a government department has gained this level of recognition. It's a great opportunity to promote the diversity and value of library services. I am very grateful for the support of the Australian National Botanic Gardens staff and volunteers, and the Friends of the ANBG. And, of course, it is nice to have one's efforts acknowledged!

Dominique Ward

WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE LIBRARIAN



Why do you love working in a library ?

During my studies, I originally thought I would work in a specialist scientific library, but on my first practicum at my local Melville Public Library I fell in love with working with the wide range of people and families that walked through the door each day.

I love working and speaking to new

parents about the Better Beginnings program, sharing the amazing research behind a baby's brain development and the impact reading to a baby has on its life. I love the joy and laughter involved in running Baby Rhyme Time programs to parents and toddlers, sharing my love of literature and inspiring stories during Storytime sessions with toddlers, pre-schoolers, and lower primary children. Finally, I love being part of a public library that helps to enrich lives each day in so many ways.

I just love being a part of the amazing and diverse community that lives in our city.

What makes your library community special ?

I think the most special aspect about my City of Melville library community is exactly that – the sense of community, the connections within, and the diversity of residents – from all ages, backgrounds, nationalities, and from every stage of life.

What do you think about being one of our winners ?

I feel very honoured to have been nominated and selected – but I also feel that this is not my honour alone – that I could not have been selected without the huge support and encouragement that I receive each day from City of Melville staff and especially the A.H. Bracks library team. I feel that I am really accepting this honour on behalf of them, and on behalf of every library officer and librarian in Western Australia – in public libraries, school libraries, State and University libraries, all who make a difference and help to enrich the lives and connect with people every day.

Jason Goodwin

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S
FAVOURITE LIBRARY OFFICER**



Why do you love working in a library?

I mostly enjoy the large variety of tasks that comes with working in a library. Meeting patron requests and helping them to find exactly what they are looking for is always quite rewarding.

What makes your library community special?

Victor Harbor is a very close knit community, a place where everyone knows everyone. We offer a modern venue for both locals and travelers alike and do our best to cater for their diverse range of requests and needs.

What do you think about being one of our winners?

I'm grateful to everyone that rallied support on my behalf and owe a mention to my fantastic co-workers and library patrons for this win.

Lyn Broomhall

**TASMANIA'S FAVOURITE
LIBRARY TECHNICIAN**



Why do you love working in a library?

Libraries are such inclusive places. I enjoy the potential of each day. You never know if you will be helping a child with a project, a retiree with email, the joy of a new kitchen plan, a 'my sister told me to' read, or a patron who just wants to tell someone of their day.

What makes your library community special?

The people: they are the heart of any library. My patrons are generally members of the same small town and surrounds with its various connections and associations. Though not everyone knows each other, there are so many discussions, catch ups, reviews, recommendations, and, as always, much laughter.

We are physically a very small, or as one patron describes us, a 'boutique library', but because of the way LINC Tasmania is structured we have free and equitable access to all 46 libraries across the state. Small, but mighty :)

What do you think about being one of our winners?

I was so touched that someone had nominated me in the first place. That someone enjoyed the library that much was great, that other patrons went on to voted for me was humbling. In my mind, it's just the job I love to do in a great community in a wonderful space.

Narelle Stone

VICTORIA'S FAVOURITE LIBRARIAN

We had a very close race in Victoria and have two winners as a result.



Why do you love working in a library?

It may sound trite, but I like helping people. I like engaging people in conversation, asking questions, trying to help them find the answers and giving instructions, and I try my best to make the library a welcoming and inviting place where users feel comfortable to ask for help. These traits must be fairly self-evident (or else I must have "Ask me, I'm a librarian" indelibly tattooed on my forehead) because total strangers frequently stop me in the street and ask for directions or shopping advice even when I'm away on holidays! I love working in a library where I am allowed to be flexible and creative. I enjoy setting up displays, coordinating events, liaising with staff in other departments and units across the Institute, reading aloud to classes of English language students, and conducting the occasional storytime for children and students of Children's Services at BRIT Beginners Children's Centre.

What makes your library community special?

Our library has often been described by our users as being the 'heart', learning and social 'hub' of Bendigo TAFE which is very gratifying because I believe libraries are central and essential to education. In the current climate of reduced government funding, many of us working in Victorian TAFE libraries have had to face recent cutbacks. Despite this, the library team has remained resilient and continues to provide friendly and professional help to our users to the best of our ability, as we have always done. We also maintain good relationships and partnerships in the wider community with our library colleagues at other Victorian TAFE institutes and locally with staff at the Heyward Library, La Trobe University Bendigo, and the Goldfields libraries

What do you think about being one of our winners?

I actually thought someone was playing a practical joke on me when I was first nominated, so I am very surprised, but flattered and slightly flabbergasted to be among the winners. I really thought Somers the dog would get a lot more votes than me!

Tania Barry

VICTORIA'S FAVOURITE LIBRARIAN

We had a very close race in Victoria and have two winners as a result.



Why do you love working in a library?

I love the difference that we make to people in the community, by providing access to information, programs, and creative spaces.

What makes your library community special?

I think all library communities are special in their own way, particularly to their local library. Mill Park has a large population of young families who regularly come to one of our daily children's programs. I think these are wonderful opportunities to help children discover that books, reading, and literacy are an enjoyable part of life.

What do you think about being one of our winners?

It was a lovely surprise to receive Sue's phone call. It's an honour to be regarded so highly by my colleagues and community.

Trish Richards

QUEENSLAND'S FAVOURITE LIBRARY ASSISTANT



Why do you love working in a library?

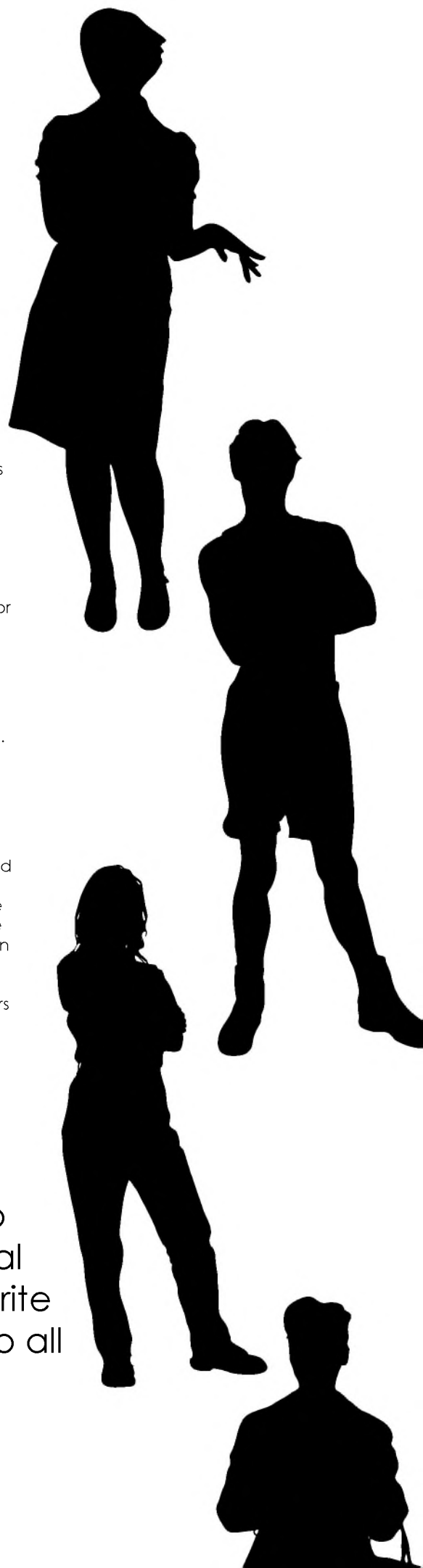
I love working with the customers and my colleagues in the public libraries of the Cairns Libraries network because our customers value and support their library service. Personally, it is always rewarding to share in the excitement of children finding a book of interest and I enjoy the interaction with customers discussing feedback on items and author preferences.

What makes your library community special?

Gordonvale Library is the hub of a close-knit rural community which treasures the varied services we provide. It is wonderful to develop a rapport with customers who visit regularly and introduce new families to the library.

What do you think about being one of our winners?

It was an honour just to be nominated and all the lovely heartfelt comments and enthusiasm for my nomination were fantastic. To win Queensland's Favourite Library Assistant and achieve recognition for Cairns Libraries' commitment to Customer Service was amazing. A huge thank you to all the supportive customers and colleagues who voted for me.



Thank you to everyone who participated in the inaugural search for Australia's Favourite Librarian. Congratulations to all nominees and winners.