

# Letter of Recognition

## Christine Goodacre BA Dip Lib MEdAdmin ALAA

Christine Goodacre has made an extraordinary contribution to her profession, as a teacher, as a writer, and more recently, as a tireless and energetic campaigner for the restoration and maintenance of school and public libraries in Tasmania. She has also been active on the national stage, playing a major role in the affairs of the Australian Library and Information Association.

She has been employed in a number of professional roles, but it is as a teacher of librarianship and information management at the University of Tasmania, that she has excelled. She has taken an active role in the development of courses and programs aimed at inducting often naive students into the complex intersection between librarianship and the computer. Her courses, while not lacking in intellectual rigour, have offered a sympathetic and congenial context within which a student could move, with confidence, into the world of database and online searching.

She is also an active writer and publisher in this field, with a major text in progress, and a number of landmark articles to her credit. She is an active reviewer of monographs, an art to which she brings a sharp and critical eye.

Within the University of Tasmania, she is highly regarded by her immediate colleagues, and within the wider university. She has taken an active role in such matters as the place of women in the University, and has been closely involved with the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing Science in the development of undergraduate courses on aspects of information management.

She has been both President and General Councillor for the Tasmanian Branch of ALIA, and in each capacity she has made a significant contribution to the



aims and objectives of the Association. As President of the Tasmanian Branch, she set an example by her commitment and energy to the professional and public objectives of the Branch. As an active and committed General Councillor, she has completed a number of tasks for the Association. In 1989, she was given responsibility for presiding over the reconsideration of the ALIA position on free library services; at the time, there was a strong feeling that ALIA, under the influence of the Australian Libraries Summit debate, would have to modify its long-held position and accept a compromise on the issue. Nevertheless, after considerable, and often spirited deliberation, the Working Party over which she presided recommended that there be no change in the ALIA position.

This was potentially a divisive issue in the Association's affairs, and that it proved not to be so is a characteristic testimony to Christine Goodacre's maturity, professionalism and discretion. Her capacity to consider the totality of library services, and not just one segment of them has also enabled her to build a close relationship with the Tasmanian Teacher-Librarian's Association. This has been a particularly welcome development in the Tasmanian context, where departmental reorganisation has resulted in the creation

of a single department with jurisdiction over both school and public library services.

Over the last two years, school and public library services have come under considerable financial pressure as governments have sought to reconcile the strictures of the Commonwealth Grants Commission, but also to enforce reductions in the State's centralised system of public library services. Prior to, during and after the State election of 1989, Christine Goodacre, as Branch President, wrote to, harangued, waited on and interviewed many of the erstwhile candidates for office. She also targetted key members of the bureaucracy, including the major public service unions. To this mixed, diverse, and sometimes unsympathetic community, she effectively represented the need for strong public and school library services. She held press conferences, wrote letters, and at the same time, encouraged and supported those of her colleagues, who locked inside the public service, saw themselves as unable to argue their own case.

Her close involvement in the recent Cresap Review of the Tasmanian Department of Education and the Arts is a reflection of ministerial recognition of her skills and talents as a negotiator and conciliator. It is fair to say that due to her efforts, the State Library fared relatively well in the Review. That this is so reflects Christine Goodacre's skills as a negotiator, conciliator and lobbyist. Her special contribution as a teacher and an activist in Association affairs makes her a most worthy recipient of this Letter of Recognition, awarded by the General Council of the Australian Library and Information Association by a resolution passed at its meeting on the third of October, 1990. □

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Sue Orchard is the International Sales Manager of IPI/UMI, based in the United Kingdom. She has been at the forefront of

introducing the company's range of CD-ROM products to the European and Australian markets. The seminars will take place on 8 April, Melbourne; 11 April, Canberra; 15 April, Sydney and 17 April, Brisbane.

Bookings can be made by contacting Maureen Orchard, or Moira Holt at Aldis on telephone (03) 647 9724, fax (03) 647 9799. □

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