

Special librarians honoured

The Maria Gemenis Award is presented each year by the ALIA Special Libraries Section, New South Wales group, to a special librarian for their outstanding contribution to the profession. The criteria includes willingness to share professional expertise, breaking down the barriers of librarians in isolation, and successfully promoting or achieving recognition from their parent organisation.

The award was named after Maria Gemenis who served with great distinction on the New South Wales committee and who died prematurely at the age of thirty-nine in 1983. One of the things Maria was particularly remembered for as chairman was her 'Address to the brick wall' which she wrote in 1977 to encourage member participation.

The winner of the 1997 award was Angela Dunstan of the GIO library. Angela's contribution to special librarianship in New South Wales includes nine years service on the special libraries section committee, including one as president of the section. She has been an active advocate for libraries both

within her own organisation and in the wider community.

In 1998 the award was shared by Paula Smith of the Australian Taxation Office, and Jan Titcombe of Grant Samuel and Associates. Moya Lum presented Paula and Jan with their awards at a dinner on 22 July 1998.


Paula and Jan have both worked in major special libraries in the private and public sectors. Paula has served on various ALIA committees, she travels widely in Australia speaking at, organising, or attending seminars and conferences, sharing her knowledge, especially in relation to library management issues. David Hawkins, former president of the national and New South Wales committees, spoke in support of Paula and how essential she was in helping to organise the 1995 specials conference.

Jan has always demonstrated her willingness to share her expertise. She



Maria Gemenis Award winners Jan Titcombe, joint 1998 winner; Angela Dunstan, 1997 winner; and Paula Smith, joint 1998 winner at the award dinner at Christensens Restaurant

has contributed largely to the success of the LIFE group and is still active as administrator and co-ordinator of the group. Paula McLauchlan, former New South Wales committee member, spoke of Jan's input in the formative years that led to this group's successful efforts in supporting business and financial libraries. ■



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