

# Congratulations Michelle Alcock

Winner of the Queensland Library Technician of the Year Award

The Queensland Library Technicians Section celebrated their annual dinner and presentation night on 10 June. Official guests, members, students and a group of technicians from the Gold Coast who traveled up by train, enjoyed an evening of fine food, wine and merriment. Guests included Colin Matthews from Queensland Library Supplies; Vicki McDonald, ALIA Queensland Branch Council; and Helen Fitzgerald from Queensland Storytellers. Helen entertained us all with amazing, funny stories from her own Irish family history. Helen's background as a children's librarian encouraged her to take up storytelling full-time.

As a section, we believe it is important that we take the time each year to give recognition to the achievements of our members, and especially to give recognition to the achievement of a recent graduate with the presentation of an award. This year, the Queensland Library Technician of the Year (recent graduate) Award was presented to Michelle Alcock of Queensland Medical Laboratory Library. Her former colleagues in Far North Queensland nominated her for the award, with a personal endorsement from her present employer and from a fellow external student. Michelle is described as an all-rounder, with skills in reference, customer service and technical skills.

Michelle graduated from Edith Cowan University in 2000 with the Bachelor of Science (Library Technology). She manages the one-person QML Library in West End, Brisbane, which serves a network of twenty-six branch laboratories throughout Queensland and Northern New South Wales. She has integrated technology with client needs by making the table of contents for electronic journals currently on subscription available electronically to the pathologists at their desktops. Her more remote clients especially appreciate the advantages of more readily available access to journal articles over the former manual circulation.

At her former place of employment, Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE, Michelle introduced a faster enrolment system for new library borrowers, redesigned library pamphlets, created imaginative and eye-catching displays and began using the Serials module of C2 for the first time in that library. In each

case, her work has served to make the library a more efficient, informative and pleasant place for both staff and students. She constantly sought challenges and widened her technology skill base by working in a variety of libraries during her study, and communicated those skills through internet classes for TAFE students.

While studying Michelle demonstrated a commitment to her fellow students by creating and maintaining a current list of external students in the Far North Queensland area, and the subjects they were studying. She co-ordinated the get-togethers of these students to discuss their work, and to draw strength from their shared goals. This was an important element of support for external students who are spread over an area from Innisfail to Ayr. Her fellow students describe her as a person who focusses on outcomes, and who gives freely of her enthusiasm, energy and support.

Michelle has been a member of the editorial committee of *Quill* for some time. Apart from her commitment to the publication, she has also had two articles published. Michelle has already made a mark as a recent graduate, and her aim is to continue to identify and develop the services at QML and Partners Library and to continue to work for *Quill*. Her commitment to ALIA and her chosen profession has been ably demonstrated, and we congratulate her on her award.

Michelle received a cheque for \$250 from ALIA Qld Branch Council, as well as \$150 and a perpetual trophy from Qld Library Supplies. We also thank Dierdre Gibbs of Library Locums, Surfside on the Beach, Kawana Waters and Chateau Royale Resort at Maroochydore for their contribution to a very enjoyable evening. ■



## Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council Library Service

Library and Information Week 2001

The Clare and Saddleworth libraries in South Australia immersed themselves into Library and Information Week 2001 celebrations.

Following the Library and Information Week theme on Wednesday 16 May, a morning tea was held for all of our volunteers and Friends of the Library to celebrate the international year of the volunteer and their vital support of the library.

Thursday 17 May was National Simultaneous Storytime with sessions held at Clare and Saddleworth

branches. Fifty children at Clare and twenty at Saddleworth participated in the sessions, which kicked off with *Edward the emu*. The sessions had an 'Emu' theme with other Emu stories told and Emu craft to take home.

Friday 18 May was National Online Day and to celebrate this Simon Gierke and Hannah Thomas from the 'Networks for you' program were available in the Clare Library to give free internet lessons.

In addition to this we had 'Celebrity librarian day' in which local personali-

ties including the mayor, councillors, St Johns representative, police officers and CFS officers all gave their time to raise the awareness of the library in the community.

The national theme days were good jumping off points for local activities and we felt that we were able to use the events to raise the library's profile in the media and in the community.

**Heather Lyburn, library manager, Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council Library Service**