

Library and Information Week in the West

LIW 2002 got off to a great start with our launch event held at the Constitutional Centre of Western Australia. Fine wine, delicious food and fantastic company ensured a wonderful night was had by all. Our guest speaker, Verity James from ABC radio, gave a passionate and entertaining speech about the value of libraries and reading, and why she loves Harry Potter! And just when we thought we couldn't pack any more excitement into the night, the special librarian of the year award was presented to Cheryl Hamill.

Our sponsor Infovision ensured that the food and drink kept us all in high spirits, which carried over into the rest of the week.

Throughout the week libraries across the State celebrated in a multitude of ways. Events ranged from internet training courses, to arts and crafts workshops, to family fun days to guest speakers on a variety of topics.

A state-wide simultaneous storytime, based on the theme of 'changes', was also held. Libraries selected their own

books based on an aspect of the theme, such as seasons or growing up.

The week concluded with a testimonial dinner for Kerry Smith. Kerry's friends and colleagues gathered to celebrate her award of a Fellowship of ALIA [see page 29 for details]. A great time was had by all as many fond memories and classic 'Kerry' memories were shared.

**Samantha Hughes, LIW co-ordinator,
ALIA WA Forum**

Congratulations to Cheryl Hamill

WA Special Librarian of the Year

A particular highlight of the WA Australian Library Week Launch was the announcement of the winner of the 2002 WA Special Librarian of the Year Award.

Judging by the roar of approval when her name was announced, Cheryl was a popular choice for bestowal of the award.

Cheryl has been an active and long standing member of both the library and health communities in WA, and currently holds the position of librarian in charge at the Fremantle Hospital and Health Service.

The award was presented by Deanne Barrett, carrying out her first official duty as a newly elected member of the ALIA Board of Directors. Deanne referred to aspects of Cheryl's career which had contributed to her receiving the award:

'...for her long and consistent contribution to ALIA; for being instrumental in founding the new national ALIA group and e-mail list for 'Health Libraries Australia', and for her willingness to impart knowledge, as evidenced by the presentation of conference papers both in library-related subjects, and also on her chosen subject speciality of health.'

Cheryl received numerous prizes for her efforts; both an individual and a perpetual trophy, an enormous bunch of flowers and a cheque for \$250.

What's so special?

Given a chance to reflect on her award, Cheryl writes:

It's a great honour to receive this award. I really appreciate being nominated (by a former mentoree) and even more, receiving the award. I've found that an unexpected spin-off has been the very complimentary things people have said, not just on the night, but in the weeks that followed as news spread. The cards and e-mails have been a great boost to my morale and self-esteem. As a health librarian, I come from a 'sub-species' of the broader knowledge and information specialists group but there are many core values, skills, and qualities that unite us in all of the many sectors in which we work as librarians. A terrific question I was



Cheryl Hamill accepts her flowers after being announced winner of the 2002 WA Special Librarian of the Year Award

asked in the interview process for this award asked where I saw myself in five years time. This is worth reflection by all of us at any time. I have worked in one position for almost twenty years now and I have not been driven particularly to change jobs as a goal, but I have always tried to stay fresh, open, and reflective in my professional practice. No matter where I work, I hope — no plan! — to avoid negative patterns of thought, to look for opportunities to innovate, to examine the relevance of what I do and be willing to ditch the ineffective, and to enjoy the working relationships with some wonderful colleagues around the country. In short — not so different from so many of my colleagues who I see working in just this way. I feel special because of this award and I think I'm lucky to work with many others who I think are special too.

So once again, congratulations to Cheryl on winning this prestigious award. Her on-going efforts have been an example to all of those involved in the library community in WA and we hope that she will display her trophy and boast of her achievements with well-deserved pride.

Lisa Kidd