

CSU celebrates the 30th anniversary of its library education programs

On 12 November 2005, the School of Library and Information Management at Charles Sturt University hosted a dinner on campus to celebrate 30 years of library and information studies at CSU. Growing from a first intake of around 30 students in 1975, enrolments reached over 1400 in 2005, making it the largest source of library graduates in Australia and a significant player in a number of overseas markets, including Hong Kong and Mauritius. Celebrating this growth, current and former staff and students joined with invited guests to acknowledge the achievements made, reminisce over the good – and the not so good – times and socialise with former friends and colleagues.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Professor Joyce Kirk, pro vice-chancellor (Students) at RMIT and former lecturer at CSU when it was known as the Riverina–Murray Institute of Higher Education and Riverina CAE. Joyce provided a wide-ranging talk, covering her involvement with CSU and its predecessors and her memories of various characters and incidents over that time. She concluded with a tribute to the late Anne Clyde (another former staff member), acknowledging that Anne's forward thinking approach to distance education had played a vital role in developing the teacher-librarian program at CSU.

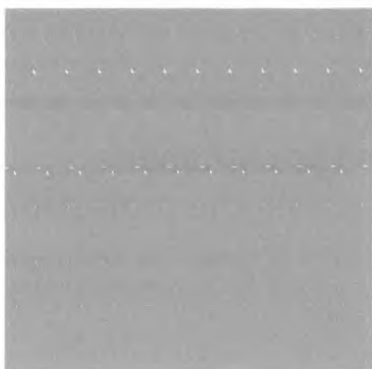
Other speakers included Roy Sanders, a senior lecturer at the School and second-longest serving staff member (over 25 years) who foreshadowed the establishment of an active alumni program and Jake Wallis, the newest staff member – he has been at CSU (and in the country) for only 3 months.



Professor Ross Harvey (CSU), Professor Joyce Kirk (guest speaker) and Damien Lodge (CSU)

Guests at the dinner included the foundation Head of the School, Edward Reid-Smith, Margy Burn from the National Library of Australia, Joan Ruthven (the first student enrolled in CSU's Doctor of Information Management) and Brian Plummer (a graduate from the first class and now co-ordinator library IT services, Riverina Regional Library).

Around 50 people enjoyed the evening, which left everyone feeling that the School, with its healthy enrolment figures, including the rapidly growing number of higher degree research students (currently numbering about 30) and increasing focus on research, had indeed a bright future. ■



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