

Dr David J Jones retires

Dr David J Jones MA (Oxon), DipLib PhD (UNSW), FALIA retired from the State Library of NSW on 2 April 2008. David started work in the State Library of NSW on 16 November 1970. During his 37 years of service David made a very significant contribution to the State Library and to the library profession generally as is detailed in the ALIA citation presented when David was made a Fellow in 2003.

In 1989 David established the State Library's Building and Planning Advisory Service and in the period up to 2007, consulted on over two hundred and fifty library projects, the majority of which were in NSW.

David's influence on the development of public library infrastructure (buildings), especially in NSW, has been enormous. His expertise, dedication and professionalism meant that David was widely admired and respected throughout local government public library circles, and beyond.



Dr David J Jones

David was the driving force behind the development of building guidelines for NSW public libraries, and thus public libraries nationally and internationally. He had oversight of the development of *People places: a guide for public library buildings in New South Wales* in 2000 and its revision in 2005.

While David's contribution to the State Library of NSW and the NSW Public Library Network is clearly recognised today, Dr David J Jones will in the future be regarded as one of the significant influences of his time. We look forward to David's continued contribution to the library profession as an active retiree.

Libraries in the Tropics

While on a private visit to Vanuatu, Jayshree Mamtara, ALIA Local Liaison Officer for the Northern Territory, took the opportunity to catch up with friends and former colleagues from the Vanuatu Library Association (VLA). Instrumental in setting up the VLA scholarship fund in 2001 Jayshree is a Friend of VLA and had been invited to address a special meeting of the Association held at the Port Vila Public Library. There she spoke to members about ALIA, the role of the Association and outlined some of the activities carried out by the ALIA Top End Group.

Jayshree also took the opportunity to update and invite members to ALIA's biennial conference, *dreaming08*.

There was interest shown in *dreaming08* and it's focus on Indigenous issues was particularly noteworthy as librarians in Vanuatu deal with similar issues such as the provision of library services to remote communities, and communities with low rates of literacy. They also live with the duality of English or French as a second language quite apart from the cultural dimension.

However, as always, whether VLA will be represented at *dreaming08* is dependent on funding. Unless their employer can cover the costs, or a donor is found, then their attendance will remain just a dream.

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proACTIVE

The ACT's ALIA newsletter, proACTIVE is now available in BLOG format. Starting from February 2008, all future issues of proACTIVE will be available from the ALIA proACTIVE blog located at <http://www.alia.org.au/groups/active/proactive/> If you wish to submit an article please go to the proACTIVE blog site or email one of the editors sheila.rasanen@ato.gov.au or dianne.walton-sonda@alia.org.au

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