

# Award caps off big year for university librarian

On 6 November, the four individuals responsible for creating Australia's first prime ministerial library were awarded a Curtin University of Technology Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence. Dr Vicki Williamson (university librarian), Kandy-Jane Henderson (archivist), Lesley Carman-Brown (public programs co-ordinator) and David Wylie (archives technician) make up the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library (JCPML) Foundation Team and have been recognised for their development of a world-class research archive whose programs advance scholarship, enhance cultural awareness and provide a gateway for the community to learn about its past.

The JCPML operates as an integral part of Curtin University of Technology's Library and Information Service and is also part of the John Curtin Centre. The team's capacity for innovation has resulted in a number of new programs and services. The JCPML has become a benchmark for other prime ministerial libraries being developed in Australia.

Perhaps the most successful innovation to date has been the conceptualisation and implementation of the JCPML Electronic Research Archive (ERA) under the leadership of Dr

Vicki Williamson. The essence of ERA is the enhancement of access to records, whilst ensuring that the con-

text in which the records were created is maintained. Partnerships with national and international institutions such as the National Archives of Australia, National Library of Australia, Roosevelt Presidential Library and the Churchill Archives at Cambridge University are enabling dispersed John Curtin-related material to be added to ERA on an ongoing basis. With over ninety per cent of its collection digitised, ERA is proving to be a popular site and JCPML is recognised as a leader in industry thinking about electronic archives management.

The Honorable Gough Whitlam, JCPML Foundation Patron, paid a visit to the library to congratulate the team on their achievement.

The award caps off a particularly rewarding year for the university librarian, Dr Vicki Williamson. In April Vicki graduated with her Doctor of Education and her thesis, *Innovation and change in professional practice: A case study*, won the Australian College of Education (WA Chapter) award for excellence in post-graduate research in education. ■



JCPML Foundation Team members receive congratulations on winning the Vice-Chancellor's Award of Excellence from the Honourable Gough Whitlam and his wife Margaret. [l-r] Kandy-Jane Henderson, Lesley Carman-Brown, Margaret Whitlam, Dr Williamson, the Honourable Gough Whitlam and David Wylie

## TALIATecs successful mini-conference

Robyn Parker, publicity officer

Tasmanian library technicians united at The Grange, Campbell Town for a very successful mini-conference in October 2000.

Keynote speaker for the day was Kathy Sharrad, national president of the ALIA Library Technician Section and ALIA Library Technician of the Year. Kathy conducted a parallel session on the benefits of becoming a member of ALIA. Richard Dearden also ran a parallel session based around the recently-revised ALIA CPD kit.

Sue Owen, Tasmanian branch

president spoke on ALIA's objects which were developed during the first National Policy Congress and how the objects need to be considered in the planning of our activities. Group discussions followed.

Section president, Kerrie Blyth, congratulated all TALIATec members and students for their untiring efforts and support and looked forward to being part of the 'best ever' 11<sup>th</sup> National ALIA Library Technician Conference — *An Information Odyssey... a long and eventful journey* — to be held in Hobart this year. ■