

# Whitley Librarian Wins ALIA Award for Collection Services

*by David Noble*

Kerrie Hunter, Senior Librarian at Whitley College, the Baptist College of Victoria, was recently awarded the inaugural ALIA YBP/Lindsay & Howes Research Award. This will assist her to compile a bibliography of Australian Baptist writings as part of her research into the management of geographically distributed special collections. The award was presented through the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), the peak library and information body in Australia.

Kerrie has been compiling a comprehensive bibliography of literature produced by Australian Baptists, from Masters and PhD theses to children's novels. The contribution of Baptists to the life and culture of Australia far outweighs their proportion within the population, and Kerrie is keen to ensure that the body of literature produced is recorded, accessible and preserved. From renowned author Frank Boreham, to the contemporary contribution of Tim and Peter Costello, Baptists in Australia have contributed significantly to the ingenuity, culture and spirit of this country.

In making the award, ALIA's Research Committee noted that Kerrie's work has the potential not only to generate a bibliography of Australian Baptist literature, but the methodology Kerrie develops will be applicable to distributed special collections in almost any category of literature.

This is Kerrie's second award for this project.

Earlier this year the Melbourne College of Divinity awarded a small grant which has enabled Kerrie to visit each Baptist Theological College in Australia to conduct research to identify and document Baptist literature within

their libraries. She notes in her Master's research proposal that she hopes her research "...might encourage members of the various Australian Baptist organisations to consider collaborative projects that would advance the purposes of all Baptist institutions...". This may take many forms, including the establishment of a dedicated website with links to the various collections throughout Australia.

Kerrie plans to publish a comprehensive and accessible bibliography

which may be used by academic researchers and lay church people alike. At the same time, important documents that may be in danger of destruction or disintegration will be identified and flagged for conservation and possible digitisation. Kerrie is a keen advocate of accessibility, and this project is born of this passion.

Much of the literature produced by Australian Baptists sits unidentified on shelves in individuals' homes as well as in libraries. Kerrie is keen to hear from anyone who may be aware of Australian Baptist publications. She may be contacted at the Geoffrey Blackburn Library at Whitley College by phone on 03 9348 8020 or by email at [khunter@whitley.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:khunter@whitley.unimelb.edu.au).

The ALIA YBP/Lindsay & Howes Research Award for Collection Services recognises the contribution made by library professionals in the areas of collection management, acquisitions and cataloguing. The biennial award, awarded for the first time, aims to increase a recipient's professional knowledge and experience; and offer him/her the opportunity to investigate and research a particular aspect of the development of collection services that will inform and advance practice in collection services and management.

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