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### **Professional knowledge contributes to innovative curriculum**

As school libraries around the world celebrate the International School Library Month theme, *School libraries: The big picture*, teacher librarian, Nareeda Tillman exemplifies exceptional leadership in her school community. Her professional knowledge has been put to extensive use with the development of a new unit offered to students at Mindarie Senior College, Western Australia. The Courses of Study, Workplace Learning, Unit 1A has been designed to meet the needs of a student group by providing an investigative activity which provides opportunities for employment.

The Australian School Library Association Inc. (ASLA) and Pledger Consulting Pty Ltd (LinksPlus/Weblinks) have pleasure in announcing Nareeda Tillman from Mindarie Senior College, Western Australia as the Australian Teacher Librarian of the Year for 2009. This award carries a \$1,500 cash prize from Pledger Consulting Pty Ltd and \$500 Weblinks/LinksPlus products.

Nareeda has an absolute passion for her role as a teacher librarian by encouraging information and communication technologies (ICTs) in lifelong learning, prioritising resource allocation through technology, responding to students' needs and adopting a worldwide trend towards personalised learning. She believes in a very practical application of pedagogy so that it has an immediate and beneficial effect on the information literacy and information needs, skills and interests of learners.

The college's associate principal, Rick Gendle, states that "the management of library staff hours and rosters might be a nightmare in any other school, but Nareeda accomplishes all this with ease and ensures that students are encouraged to use their library on these extended hours. In such a school, the use and nature of ICT and their role in its curriculum needs to be very flexible. Access to technology has to be accommodating and take in all students' particular course and timetable requirements; portability, multi-task IT and user training and independence have been Nareeda's focus here".

Having been involved in collaborative curriculum development since the school's conception, Nareeda has a unique view of the whole school curriculum.

For further information:

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Australian Teacher Librarian of the Year Award

<http://www.asla.org.au/advocacy/award/>