

# Honorary Fellow Citation for

# *Christine Mackenzie*



A profound understanding of the difference that public libraries make in people's lives has been the basis for the career of Christine Mackenzie and the outstanding contribution she has made to library capacity building projects and her leadership of the profession and IFLA.

As a library professional, Christine managed major Australian library services earning a reputation as an innovator, empowering and building skills of staff and community. She was an early adopter, embracing new technologies and introducing modern library business practices that she discovered through visits to cutting-edge libraries around the world. Christine ensured that these insights were spread widely and worked to connect colleagues across Australasia and the Pacific. Through her association work and as President of the Australian Library and Information Association, Christine's focus was on the sector working together with a united approach that could be leveraged for advocacy activities to governments and stakeholders.

Christine served IFLA as a member of the Metropolitan Libraries Section Standing Committee from 2005 to 2011, for two terms on the Governing Board from 2011-2015 and then as President-elect 2017-2019 and President 2019-2021. Her down to earth, thoughtful manner which was always respectful of others was admired. 'Let's work together' became her Presidential theme reflecting the spirit needed to connect librarians from around the world. This was never more necessary than when the COVID-19 pandemic sent societies into lockdown during 2020 and most of 2021.

As libraries rapidly reinvented their services and IFLA shared ideas and learnings, Christine spent days and nights tirelessly behind a screen in online presentations and discussions. She encouraged, mentored and supported librarians and libraries everywhere by demonstrating how libraries could make a difference during a crisis.

An exceptional achievement during her leadership and happening in this period of uncertainty was the restructuring of IFLA. With no face-to-face meetings, everything occurred by email and video meetings. A revised set of Statutes and Rules of Procedure making IFLA a more transparent and democratic organisation with increased connection to its members across all regions of the world was the outcome. These were approved by IFLA's members in early 2021.

Christine has expressed and lived up to a firm belief in the power of libraries to build communities, encourage and support learning and promote reading. Her philosophy underscores the integral role of libraries in society as vehicles to make information available to everyone. Librarians across the globe and IFLA have benefitted immensely from her passion, generosity of spirit, insight and expertise, making Christine Mackenzie a very worthy recipient of IFLA's highest honour of Honorary Fellow.