

Loreto scoops ASA awards

Loreto archiving expertise was highlighted recently with the presentation of two national awards at the 2008 Australian Society of Archivists' Conference in Perth 2008.



L-R; Steve Stefanopoulos, Sr Theresa Elliot, Robin Scott.

Photo taken by Tim Robinson, Sydney University Archives.

The Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) is the professional association for Australian archivists and holds annual conferences where the latest archival theory and practice is presented by local and overseas experts, ideas and challenges are shared and annual awards are presented.

Sr Theresa Elliott, Archivist John XXIII and Robin Scott, Loreto Province Archivist both received awards for their outstanding work, Tess for her publication 'Resting beneath the Rainbow' and Robin for the 'Selected Guide to Loreto Collections'.

'Resting beneath the Rainbow' tells the stories of the 45 Sisters who are buried at Loreto Normanhurst. The publication was assisted by the Loreto Sisters, WN Bull Funerals, Loreto Normanhurst and Kim Eberhard.

The 'Selected Guide to Loreto Collections' evolved from a 'Complete Guide to Loreto Archives' which was an internal document produced as a response to the increasing fragmentation of the archival collection and attempted to provide an intellectual link between the parts. It is limited to the historic records and is designed as a gateway to the Loreto Archives to encourage the use of the collection by internal and external researchers. Our collection is an archival resource which can combine the topics of religion, education and women.

The Guide, which is available on the Loreto Sisters website, encourages a holistic view of a diverse collection and, hopefully, will encourage research use and, into the future, a more complete understanding and documentation of the story of Loreto.

Robin thanked the Loreto Archivists for their contribution to the Guide and Sr Jane Kelly for her contribution to the Glossary of Loreto Terms.

As part of the Conference program, Steve Stefanopoulos Heritage & Records Manager Loreto Mandeville Hall, presented in a panel discussion on 'Discovering Capabilities in Small Archives'.

Theresa and Robin said, "The conference was a chance to update our knowledge and to meet and talk with other archivists. We have all come home with some new ideas and renewed excitement and inspiration for our Loreto collections.