

Distinguished Achievement Citation

Kylie Percival

The Council of the Australian Society of Archivists is especially delighted to present the Distinguished Achievement Award to Kylie Percival, ASA Vice-President 2011 – 2012 and ASA President 2012 – 2016, in recognition of five years of exceptional and outstanding leadership of the Society. At the same time, Kylie has provided leadership and management in her workplace not only as University of Adelaide Archivist, Manager of University of Adelaide Archives, Records & Collections, but also as Acting Deputy University Librarian. Kylie has not only fulfilled all of the requirements of these roles, but she has time and again provided the necessary energy, commitment, and vision for guiding the future of these organisations.

Having assumed responsibility for the University of Adelaide Archives in 1994, Kylie combined the current records management of the University with the University Archives. In addition, she was given charge of the University Art & Heritage Collections. With an eye to wider community engagement, she established an effective volunteer program which has contributed markedly to the documentation of and access to the University's archival holdings. In 2007, Kylie project-managed the upgrade of the University's electronic records management system, the original acquisition and installation of which she had managed. Kylie's high-level strategic, conceptual, analytical, and creative thinking skills have enabled her to find or create solutions to problems and challenges, and to make sound judgements about people and systems. Kylie is never content with the status quo; it is a feature of her distinctive intellectual capacity that she can identify organisational aspects which require improvement, and furthermore devise strategies to identify and implement those improvements.

A member of the ASA since 1988, Kylie has served as a past conference organiser, and as Convenor of the South Australian Branch, during which time she gained media coverage for leading protests against the closure of the NAA Adelaide facilities. In 2011, despite a demanding employment role, her deep concern (and that of many members) about the financial and governance crises faced by the Society, and the possible imminent insolvency of the Society, led Kylie to stand successfully for election as Vice-President. From the first meeting of the new Council of 2011 – 2012, it was obvious that Kylie's governance experience, management skills, and clarity of thought, made her the right person to lead the Society over the next few years. In the following years, while the Society reverted to being a member-run organisation with a few honoraria roles, the factors which lead to gradual recovery included Kylie's capacity to understand financial data, to identify suitable members for specific roles, to keep a watchful eye on all aspects of the Society's operations whilst allowing members to grow in their roles, to foster communication with other bodies such as CAARA & ARANZ, and to listen to members and simultaneously bring them along with the consideration of new and often challenging ideas. Along with her fellow Councillors, Kylie also learned new ways of thinking about governance, communications, marketing, membership, and society development. Her leadership style has never been solely 'from the front'; she was also willing to learn from her colleagues, and walk beside them in the learning process, thereby inspiring loyalty and collegiality. Kylie has also looked outside the archival profession to foster communication with the GLAM sector, to promote the development of non-archival professional skills, and to encourage members to look ahead beyond the known and obvious. Kylie Percival's Presidency has been outstanding, memorable for all the right reasons, and truly Distinguished.