Rising to the Challenge

Successful ATSILIRN Conference held in Broome

Northern Territory Library assisted two Community Library Officers to attend the annual Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Resource Network, ATSILIRN Conference along with three NTL staff. The ATSILIRN Conference was held at the University of Notre Dame in Broome, Western Australia on 15 &16 April.

NTL staff included Kate King, Joy Cardona and Gibby Maynard and Community Library Officers Jodie Nish from Elliott and Doreena Stirling from Ti Tree.

Liz Davis, a Traditional Elder welcomed everyone to Broome and to the Conference on behalf of the Yawuru people, the Traditional Owners of the land. Around 35 participants attended the two - day Conference.

The opening speech was by Professor Pat Dodson who gave a talk about the foundation of good communications between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. This was followed by various presentations and workshops including information about family history projects, the Bringing Them Home Oral History Collection, family and early years literacy, Indigenous protocols and special interest groups within International Federation Library Association, IFLA.

The highlight of the conference was the presentation by NTL staff with CLO's Doreena and Jodie. The presentation started with Doreena and Kate reading the story “Big Rain Coming” in English and Anmatjere, followed by information about the NT Early Years Literacy Strategy. Joy talked about the Our Children, Our Language project on the Tiwi Islands and Gibby spoke about the Our Story database. Jodie was the IT person videoing the presentation.

The Conference provided a great opportunity for PLKC staff and community library officers to meet and share information with other Indigenous and non-Indigenous library workers from other places in Australia.

Library and Information Week 2009
Libraries your passport to discovery!
25 – 31 May
Libraries connect people to ideas. Libraries promote information and provide access to recorded knowledge, information and creative works.
At Broome we had a lot of fun, we went to the Paspaley shopping centre in the Mall. Gibby, Jody, Joy, Kate and I went to Broome for the ATSILIRN Conference it was really good. I really like to share stories and get more ideas with other library people, and also we introduced ourselves and told them where we came from, what position we are working and whether we are fulltime or part time employees. I like to meet other people from Broome in WA they were so kind to us.

We stayed in an upstairs house at the University of Notre Dame. In Broome Gibby, Jody, Joy and I went to Cable beach in the afternoon it was a really good place to swim. Gibby and Joy were waiting for us while Jody and I went to the beach to put our foot into the Indian Ocean water. Jody took a photo of me standing in the water and also took one of her. We also saw 15 camels going on the side of the beach, after that we went back to where we were staying to get ready for dinner at a restaurant.

I was so excited that Gibby took us to the public library at Broome and took a photo of me and Jody standing inside the library, it was a nice cool library. In there were a lot of little children and their mothers drawing and playing with toys.

We also went to the old Museum and saw a lot of old fashion photos, which were all about the history of Broome.

Really opened my eyes up... by Jody

I would like to thank Gibby & the NT Library team, for inviting me to the ATSILIRN Conference in Broome. It gave me a chance to see that there is alot of networking between different organisations, who do simular work. Plus meet new people from across the nation & find out what they do in their departments. When I first started working at the library in Elliott, I only knew about the basic duties of a librarian. The trip has really opened my eyes up, as to what a librarian can do. It was really good to be able to talk to others about our "Our Story Database", who know little if anything at all about it. All who I spoke to about it were really impressed with the database, so that was good feed back to me. It was truly an educational & enjoyable trip, with wonderful company as an added touch.

So once again thank you very much for the opportunity that was given to me, by going on this trip.
Creating Local Books

TIWI ISLANDS

Northern Territory Library received some funds through DEHWA Maintenance of Indigenous Languages to produce a baby board book, in Tiwi and Warlpiri languages. An early years literacy workshop was held at Milikapiti on the 25-26th March to develop the content for the book.

There were community members present from Milikapiti, Pirlangimpi and Nguiu at the workshop. On the first day all participants were welcomed and there was lots of singing and dancing by all. After lunch we went on the bus around Milikapiti and went swimming and pandanus collecting. That evening the ladies created the song “Amama, Apapa, Ajaja.”

The second day was spent singing and recording seven children’s songs in language. A community bbq was held on the last night to celebrate the creation of the baby board book and song “Amama, Apapa, Ajaja.” and also the official launch of the Our Story database for Milikapiti. The Tiwi ladies sang the song to the parents and children at the barbecue. They looked beautiful in their purple and blue tiwi designed skirts that had been printed by Pirlangimpi Women’s Centre for the occasion.

By the end of the two days a song was created and recorded in Tiwi language called “Amama, Apapa, Ajaja” by the Tiwi women and this is what the baby board book will be about. A further six children’s songs were recorded in Tiwi to be accompanied on a cd along with the baby board book. Kate, Koulla and Joy would like to thank all who participated in the successful workshop. We look forward to the book being illustrated and published later this year. The book will become a special gift for all Tiwi babies.

LAJAMANU

Kate and Gibby travelled to Lajamanu to talk with community people about the funding grant “Maintenance of Indigenous languages”.

At Lajamanu the plan is to retell a traditional story in Warlpiri, which will be developed into the baby board book. A meeting was held in the library with a group of people who are happy to work on the activity. Donna from World Vision will work with us. Kate will work with the community on creating the contents for the book over the next few months.
National Simultaneous Storytime

During Library and Information Week in May, there will be a National Simultaneous Story time. The story time will be happening in libraries around Australia on Wednesday the 27th May at 10.30am NT time. This year’s story is “Pete the Sheep” by Jackie French.

Minister Alison Anderson has been invited to read “Pete the Sheep” at Wadeye Library and Knowledge Centre. School children from Wadeye’s Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School will be participating in this event at the library.

Shellie Morris has been invited to read “Pete the Sheep” at the Northern Territory Library, Parliament House. We would love to hear about your storytime so please let us know what activities you did in your library.

Kate goes up the track

Kate King travelled up the track from Alice Springs in March and spent a day with Doreena at Ti Tree and a day with Jodie at Elliott. It was great for Kate to meet and talk with both Jodie and Doreena in their libraries.

The planned visit was to work on creating the pictures for a board book but as all good plans are – there is always a change! We didn’t get very far – Doreena was making the book about the library so we took photos. Jodie was going to use photos from the “Our Story’ Database. We found some great photos of local people reading in the library. On the next visit we will try to get a book created.

Hippo’s party

Hazel Edward’s book “There is a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake” turns 30 this year.

The Northern Territory Library is hosting a “hippo birthday party” to celebrate the event on Saturday 30th May. If you enjoy the hippo books then contact Kate and Koulla and we can help you have a “hippo birthday party” too.

If you are in Darwin then come along to the Northern Territory Library, Parliament House on Saturday 30th May 10-11am and join in the story time activities or visit Taminmin Community Library on Thursday 28th May from 10-11am for a hippo birthday party.

Landon reads to Uncle Daniel
Kids enjoy new resources

New books, board games and photos were the highlight at Umbakumba Library & Knowledge Centre when Gibby Maynard visited in March to provide training for Jodie and Cynthia, Community Library Officers.

Each day children and adults visited the library to read books and magazines, play board games, use the internet and look at the photos and movies on the Yirrilangwa Alawudawarra database.

The training covered all areas including library collection development, database management, storytime & after school activities, administration and the internet.

Community Library Officer, Jodie Bara Bara said she values the training visits by NTL staff as it helps to increase her skills and knowledge in running a library services in the community.

Josie Maltravers from Anglicare visited the library and talked to Jodie and Gibby about her Play and Learn Support program with the 0 - 4-year-old children and offered to include the library in her program with library staff.

Jodie reading a story to her children

Llewellyn wins iPod
By Iris Beale, & Marinda Trembath
Taminmin Community Library

At Taminmin Community Library, we presented the wonderful iPod Nano prize to Llewellyn Markey (8 years old), who was one of the 3 national winners of ALIA’s Summer Reading Club Encyclopedia Britannica competition.

Whilst Llewellyn’s parents were in the know, we kept the news as a surprise from her, and the delight on her face when her name was announced was priceless!

We here at Taminmin Community Library in Darwin’s rural area often miss the action larger libraries/locations get to enjoy, so this was very special for us also.
Elizabeth Caldwell left Angurugu after four years of working at the library and Groote Eylandt Linguistics. Elizabeth was involved in getting the library re-established and the development of the Groote Eylandt database.

A small gathering of Library and Groote Eylandt Linguistics staff arranged an afternoon tea to thank Elizabeth for her work at Angurugu.

Staff presented Elizabeth with a beautiful lino-bock print wall hanging, which was created by them.

Gibby thanked Elizabeth on behalf of Northern Territory Library for her commitment over the past four years and her achievements in developing the Groote Eylandt database and getting the library to its present status.

The library runs a weekly lino-printing session with help from Kerry from the Anindilyakwas Arts and Crafts Centre. Around twelve ladies meet every Friday afternoon to create designs for bags and wall hangings.

The “We Grow Them Up” learning festival is happening on 28-29\textsuperscript{th} May and the program has a special focus on the importance of strong fathers in growing up little children.

Kate and Koulla, along with Hazel Edwards will be presenting on Thursday afternoon. If you are interested in attending this conference then please contact us or phone Kathy James from Anglicare on 89850054.
This month I’d like to share with you some of the displays we’ve had at Nhulunbuy Community Library. Displays don’t have to take a lot of work but are great to keep the library looking alive and fresh, as well as a good way to promote books and resources we have on different topics.

During the year we invite the schools and childcare centres in the town to loan us samples of children’s work for us to display. During March and April this year.

Nhulunbuy High School students made a colourful banner for Harmony Day with multicoloured handprints representing the wonderful diversity of people around the world.

Artwork based on Edvard Munch’s painting ‘The Scream’ inspired many different painting styles by year 9 students from Nhulunbuy High.

And finally, we joined the rest of Australia in commemorating ANZAC Day on April 25th.

Sisters working in the library

The Ramingining Library & Knowledge Centre has two new Community Library Officers, sisters Sifora and Belinda Durrurrrnga. Jan Jones visited the library in February and provided training on the Our Story database, scanning of photos, Agama Library Program and library management.

Ramingining has received funding to build a new Multi Media Centre which will house the BRACS studio, an internet area and the Library & Knowledge Centre. Sifora and Belinda are also receiving multi-media training from Co-ordinator Xavier Espiau and will be recording interviews in the BRACS studio.
Farewell to Jay

LKC and Southern region Community Library staff are saddened to farewell Jay Gibson, Coordinator for the Southern Region who is leaving after 4 ½ years service with Northern Territory Library.

Jay has worked tirelessly with the CLO’s and community members of Ti-Tree and Santa Teresa to enrich their ‘Our Story’ databases with local stories and community history.

Jay planned to leave Alice Springs to take up a new job so good luck Jay with all your future endeavours.

Public Libraries & Knowledge Centres... Update

Libraries Have Changed ... Have You?

This was a key message at the recent Public Library Forums held in Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin. Representatives from Municipal and Shire Councils were invited to work with Northern Territory Library staff to develop a vision for future NT public library services. The forums also provided an opportunity showcase best practice public library services in Australia and overseas.

The current Public Library Funding Agreement 2008 - 2011 concludes on 30 June 2011. The process to develop a new agreement which will best meet the needs of NT public libraries began in 2007, when the Public Library Co-ordination Committee and Northern Territory Library engaged an external consultant to conduct a review of public library services and to recommend service delivery models.

In 2008 the consultant Walter Turnbull provided the Public Library Co-ordination Committee with a report and a summary of responses from stakeholders. The report indicated that further consultation with Municipal and Shire Councils, as key stakeholders, needed to take place.

“Like many for-profit industries, the library business isn’t monolithic. Libraries exist in two fundamental forms. There are the public, or community, libraries, usually funded by local city and state taxes and charged with a civic mission. They provide a place for young children to learn, for students to socialize and study, for job applicants to gather information, for immigrants to learn their adopted country’s language, for seniors to read the newspaper, and for any cardholder to borrow books, music, or videos. The good ones are run by entrepreneurial librarians who understand the needs of the community and actively seek to meet them.”

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