**Heritage Services**

**Chief Minister's NT History Book Award**

$1000

The Chief Minister's Northern Territory History Book Award is for the best historical book on the Northern Territory, published in the previous year and offered for general sale.

Northern Territory Library collects the published documentary heritage of the Northern Territory and this award recognises the scholarly, literary and creative activities of the authors and publishers of such books.

The award was first offered in 2004 and the inaugural winner was David Bridgman for *Acclimatisation: Architecture at the Top End of Australia* (Canberra: Royal Australian Institute of Architects, 2003). Shortlisted books in 2004 included:

- *Tom and Jack: A Frontier Story* by Geraldine Byrne
- *Their way: Towards an Indigenous Warlpiri Christianity* by Ivan Jordan
- *The Menzies School of Health Research: Establishment, 1978-1997* by Brian Reid

Nominations are now open for books of Northern Territory history published between 1 January and 31 December 2004. The closing date for nominations is 30 June 2005 and the winner will be announced at the presentation evening on 14 October.

Entry forms and details of the conditions of entry are available from NTL’s website [www.ntl.nt.gov.au](http://www.ntl.nt.gov.au) or by phoning (08) 8999 7177, Freecall: 1800 019 155.

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**10th anniversary in Parliament House and Library & Information Week 23-29 May**

Assistant Director, Ann Ritchie

This year marks our 10th anniversary in Parliament House and it is fitting that the date of the official opening 22 May 1995, coincides with Library and Information Week 2005.

The amalgamated State and Parliamentary Libraries were opened by the minister with responsibility for libraries, Hon Steve Hatton MLA. The service was renamed Reference and Parliamentary Library Services. It was not until after a restructure in 1997, the joint-use service from Parliament House became known as the Northern Territory Library.

The re-location and merging of the two library services were at least four years in the making. According to Sheila Forrest, NTL Librarian at the time, Library staff worked with developers, architects and interior designers in planning the design to be functional and comfortable, and the move to the new complex in State Square was completed in January 1995 (*Incite*, June 1995).

It is a tribute to the foresight of our colleagues and collaborators, that the relationship between NTL and the Legislative Assembly has flourished. Complementary activities and functions of the two organisations include services such as research and reference services; education and schools liaison; public tours and staff orientations; media, reporting and document heritage archives. These services facilitate information provision in a democratic system of government, contributing to an informed public and evidence-based, decision-making processes which are essential to the future development of the Territory.

For more information about our activities during Library week refer to the Reference services column.
As part of community consultation processes, government departments and private organisations invite submissions from the public on a variety of projects. Documents are submitted to the Northern Territory Library for public display, until the time for public comment closes. Once removed from display, the documents are catalogued and added to the Library’s collections. The types of documents the Library may receive include development plans, proposed changes to legislation, environmental impact reports, and policies.

Currently on display at the Northern Territory Library is the Alice Springs Water Reuse Scheme Public Environment Report. Previous reports displayed this year include Blacktip Gas Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and the Darwin City Waterfront Redevelopment Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Submission of documents for public consultation can be on a voluntary basis, or may be required by legislation. For example, government departments and private companies are required to write assessment reports that discuss the environmental impact of their activities. Northern Territory and Commonwealth legislation requires these reports to be made available to the public for review and comment.

This year the Northern Territory Library will feature the theme “Just Ask!” to remind clients and those who have often thought about visiting or contacting the library, that they are more than welcome to ask for staff assistance, information about resources and to request new items.

At the Northern Territory Library, the staff will be taking the opportunity to promote our professional services and skills. Our Training Tuesdays program continues and on Thursday 26th May we will conduct two tours, 9.30am - 10.30 am and 4.30pm – 5.30pm, both tours followed by refreshments.

The library will also feature some special displays, including information and services offered by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, services NTL offers to educational groups at school, TAFE and Tertiary level and our new Family and Local History service. Come visit NTL in Library Week 2005!

Parliamentary Library Service

Public Consultation Documents

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