PM Award for Northern Territory Library

Northern Territory Library’s Public Libraries and Knowledge Centres program was honoured to receive a Commendation for its entry in the 2009 IPAA Prime Minister’s Award for Excellence in Public Sector Management. Cate Richmond, Assistant Director of NTL, received the award from the Honourable Dr Mike Kelly, Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Personnel and Water, representing Prime Minister Kevin Rudd at a ceremony in Canberra this week.

The awards aim to encourage and recognise better practice and innovation in all levels of Government in Australia. They are designed to honour the achievements of public sector work groups, units and teams rather than individuals and focus on specific projects, initiatives or change processes.

The PLKC program enables remote Northern Territory Indigenous communities to document, preserve and access local cultural heritage through community libraries, and was recognised for innovative service delivery. It is an example of a successful partnership model for Indigenous library services with local communities and local government which builds on community identified strengths and aspirations. The model contributes to:

- Preservation of culture and Indigenous heritage
- Capacity building: employment, support and training of local library staff
- Increased community skills in information literacy and computer literacy

Northern Territory Library would like to congratulate the entire PLKC team for their dedication and continuing hard work.
In October, Northern Territory Library became the community partner of the Reading and Communicating with Children program which is an early years literacy program working with birth to five year old children based in the Katherine township and several communities in the RoperGulf Shire.

We welcome Emma Clewlow, Early Years Project Officer for the RACK program and the community reading mentors.

The “community-based” reading mentors are employed to provide short, regular, book reading and early literacy sessions with families and their young children. Ongoing support, training and mentoring is provided by the Early Years Literacy Project Officer. One of the first activities for RACK staff in 2010 is to visit Elliott to talk with community members about becoming a reading mentor.
E-mentoring and E-tools
by Cathy Hilder, Manager Public Libraries

Northern Territory Library received funding through Adult Learners Australia (ALA) to conduct Adult Learners Week activities across the Northern Territory. Four e-mentoring workshops and a ten week, one hour a week, online Professional Development E-Learning Leaders program was facilitated by Georgina Nou. Participants included library staff from across the Territory and Adult Community Education Training Provider staff.

The workshops were held in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs, with a workshop specifically targeted to Community Library Officers during the annual Community Library Officers Forum.

The e-Learners program has fostered a greater collaboration between Public Libraries and Knowledge Centres and the Adult Community Education sector within the Territory with regards to online training using e-tools. NTL is currently developing an Internet and Online training package that will use some of the e-tools covered during the e-Learning program to deliver online training to CLOs.

New project for 2010
by Anja Tait, Library Program Advisor

Hi everyone,
My focus with Northern Territory Library is to make links between schools, their libraries, and community libraries.
This is not a new idea. Long ago many teachers and teacher librarians worked collaboratively in this way. At one time it was called CCPT.
I always enjoy the opportunity to plan and co-teach with colleagues.
Students have rich learning experiences and a lot of fun!
In 2010 I’ll be working on a small-scale pilot project in the rural area outside Darwin, which will be called **Libraries, Literature and Literacy**. The idea is to make visible to classroom teachers the explicit links between literature, English literacy, and information literacy. It’s an opportunity to profile the online and print resources in local libraries, and encourage teaching staff in local schools to use them. Martha Tozer at Bees Creek School and I will be designing and trialling a range of approaches, with early childhood and primary students, to highlight and celebrate learning outcomes that can be achieved when libraries and schools work together, both within a school community and beyond the school gate.

We don’t plan to “re-invent the wheel”, so will be looking to catch up with people in local schools and community libraries who are already working together, to hear more about what works. Nowadays schools don’t often have the human or physical resources for teaching staff to jointly plan or deliver teaching and learning. Let’s find a way to make this happen without straining budgets or the schedules of busy people, who are already contributing so much to their communities.

**Training in Central Australia**

**Ti Tree**

James Glenn is the new community library officer at Ti Tree Library and Knowledge Centre which is operated by the Central Desert Shire Council. James was the past president of the Central Desert Shire Council and has been involved in many committees. Jan and Gibby provided training on library management and the Anmatyerr Angkety database. James was interested in recording people’s stories and working on the Anmatyerr Angkety database.

**Santa Teresa**

Jan and Gibby’s went to Alice Springs in early November where they visited several book stores to select new books and DVD’s for the library. The upgrade of the collection was funded by the MacDonnell Shire Council.
Santa Teresa Library & Knowledge Centre now has a new community library officer, whose name is Josie Cavanagh. Josie was appointed by the MacDonnell Shire Council and has some library experience in working at the school library.

Jan and Gibby spent four days training Josie on library management and the Anwemekenhe Ayeye database and also worked with Veronica Wallace who looks after the school library.

The library is getting an extension and upgrade early next year as part of the Federal Government’s Building the Education Revolution economic stimulus plan.

Highlights from 2009

Community developed board books for babies and family

Early Years Project Officers have been working with Community Library Officers and community members at the Tiwi Islands, Lajamanu and Elliott during 2009 and will work with the Larrakia Sea Rangers in 2010.

The book for babies and families is very special as it has a cultural message, written in local language and English, for families and babies.

The baby book has artwork created specifically for babies to look at; the first pictures they see in a book are from their own culture.

The whole family can read, sing and look at the book, and there will also be a cd of songs and stories in both language and English that everyone can listen to.
We thank the Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts for the opportunity to work with community members to develop picture storybooks, in local language, to be given, as a gift, to parents and their new born baby over the next ten years.
We are also working with other agencies to develop baby board books:

- World Vision staff in Alice Springs will work with community members at the Warlpiri communities of Yuendumu, Willowra and Nirippi
- Batchelor (BIITE) lecturers in Alice Springs will produce a book in both Amatjere and Warlpiri with the Ti Tree community
- East Arnhem shire staff to work with the Yirrikala Women’s Centre to develop a book in Yolgnu Martha.

**Working with other organisations………**

Early Years Literacy team would like to say thank-you to all those wonderful people from BIITE, DET, World Vision, Anglicare, Fred Hollows Foundation, The Smith family, Tiwi, Lajamanu and Elliott Art Centres, Central Desert, Barkly, RoperGulf, VicDaly, Tiwi and East Arnhem Shire staff, Save the Children, Little Big Book Club, MusicNT, Good Beginnings, KICS, Yamba, Better Beginnings (WA), and Isee Ilearn.

We thank you for your support and contribution over the year and look forward to working together in 2010.

**ATSILIRN**

*Rising to the Challenges: Information Services for Indigenous Australians ATSILIRN Conference*

In April Northern Territory Library assisted two Community Library Officers to attend the annual ATSILIRN conference along with three NTL staff. The ATSILIRN Conference was held at the University of Notre Dame in Broome, Western Australia. NTL staff included Kate King, Joy Cardona and Gibby Maynard and Community Library Officers Jodie Nish from Elliott and Doreena Stirling from Ti Tree.

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.
Libraries get a make over

This year Gibby and Jan worked with Shire Councils and community library officers transforming their old libraries into attractive spaces where adults and children can connect and learn. Libraries, which have had a make over include Pine Creek, Barunga, Borroloola, Wadeye, Santa Teresa and Ti Tree Library & Knowledge Centres.

CLO Forum

The CLO Forum was once again a big success at Northern Territory Library with 15 Community Library Officers attending the 4 day program. Participants were supported by their Shire Councils and travelled in from Elliott, Batchelor, Angurugu, Milingimbi, Ramingining, Borroloola, Mataranka, Peppimenarti, Pine Creek, Wadeye and Alyangula.

The four days included training on early years literacy, using web tools, recording stories, book buying, connecting with schools, reporting and skills development.

The Forum is an important annual event and a place where Community Library Officers can get together and learn from each other and participate in training.
Technology, Technique & Unique

Jan and Gibby gave a presentation at the recent ALIA National Library and Information Technicians Conference about the challenges of delivering training programs in remote areas of the Northern Territory. There was a lot of interest and praise from other participants about the presentation and the work Jan and Gibby are involved in.

Event Highlights from 2009

Pete the Sheep and Hippo’s 30th birthday at Parliament House

Shellie Morris writing a song with school children at NTL

Hazel Edwards and pink hippo
Little Big Book Club - ABC photo @ Karama library

Yamba the Honey Ant at Ti Tree

Performing at the Little Big Book Club session

Yamba, Doreena & Teresa

Literacy and Numeracy Week Display @ Parliament House by Department of Education and Training, BIITE and NTL.

Literacy and numeracy display

Teresita and Regina from Nguiu attended and sang the Tiwi baby song “Amama, Apapa, Ajaja” at the Music Symposium held at Charles Darwin University.

Anja, Teresita and Regina
Yirrkala ladies attended the 2009 “We Grow them up” Learning Festival and read “Big Rain Coming” in language and English.

Goodbye....................

We say goodbye and thank you to Mary.
Mary will be starting a new job.
Mary will be missed, especially by the Elliott community where Mary has worked closely with Jody and the baby board book group.
During the year we have also said goodbye to Sandra Stuart, and two Community Library Officers Sherylene at Lajamanu and Doreena at Ti Tree.
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Public Libraries & Knowledge Centre Team

Kate, Koulla, Gibby Jan, Kelly Cate, Cathy, and Mary

Joy and Anja