NT Library Celebrates 30 years

The Northern Territory Library, previously known as the State Reference Library, opened 10 November 1980, to now hold a broad range of collections, which have been compiled and shared over the past 30 years.

The Northern Territory Library is a technology access centre, meeting place, historical record holder and place for people to learn, discover and be connected to the world of information.

Best of all, it’s free and for everyone.

The magnificent library space at Parliament House is only one arm of the Library’s operations.

The Library also provides research and reference services including family and indigenous history, and coordinating other library services and programs.

The last 30 years has seen the growth of its wide-ranging services and essential resources supporting the 9 public libraries, 15 Government High School libraries, NT Government department libraries and 22 community libraries across the NT.

The Public Libraries and Knowledge Centres the Library supports all across the NT, in partnership with local government, have been internationally recognised.

This innovative Institution provides access for Territorians to student tutoring services, online books, puzzles and games for children, online photo and history exhibitions and recorded stories from the Territory’s past.

Territorians from Ltyentye Apurte to Jingili have access to world-class library services – and access to the world of information.

New more than ever, libraries are about ‘connecting’ people.

Northern Territory Library, Parliament House
1800 019 155 www.ntl.nt.gov.au
The Tiwi Bombers Footballers visited the Northern Territory Library on Saturday 16th January, 2010. The aim of the visit was for the players to become familiar with the resources available at the library and to have a look at the Ngini Tiwi Database, which is located at Pirlangimpi and Milikapiti Libraries. The players utilised the resources by accessing the computers to search databases, learn about their own Ngini Tiwi Database, reading books and working on their Tiwi Bombers Supporters webpage on Facebook.


Jo McGill, Director, Gibby Maynard, Margret Curry, Heather Tangey, John Richards and Joy Cardona assisted in the visit and the morning was enjoyed by everyone.
Holiday Fun at Wadeye Library
By Samantha Russell, CLO

There has been a lot of activity in the Wadeye Library and Knowledge Centre with school holidays the library doors were open for children of all ages and there were many! Big ones and little ones visited the library and not just to enjoy the cool air conditioning!

Community library officers Donna Lantjin, Bernadine Kungal and Samantha Russell have been busy scanning new books onto Agama since the 2009 October CLO Forum. Children have enjoyed the shiny pages with fresh images to capture their imaginations. Wadeye community members who enjoy non fiction will also be pleased to learn that the library collection has been growing.

The community access computers were a favourite activity for the younger community members to engage in while visiting the Library. There were a lot of fingers having a lot of fun as they explored the many sources of entertainment made possible using computers. Young ones delighted in their reflections while at play with Photo Booth.

The library also holds copies of locally created movies, old and new which are easily accessible to view on the computers. These are always a great source of interest and entertainment for everyone.
Cont…Wadeye Library

An intimate gathering of senior Wadeye women came together in the Wadeye Knowledge Centre on Friday 8th January 2010. Information was presented by Dr. Suzanne Belton Senior Researcher for Graduate Health Practice, Concepta Narjic (from Wadeye) who works for the Northern Territory Department of Health as a Traditional Birth Attendant and Sarah Ireland a past Honours Student at Charles Darwin University. The three women collaborated on the Healthy Start Plus One Project exploring Women’s Business related to maternal and baby care. The written component of the research was presented and passed onto the Kanamkek-Yile Ngala Museum (Mark Crocombe), along with Sarah Ireland’s thesis; Niyith Niyith Watmam, The Quiet Story. This documentation is now available on request for appropriate members in the community.

In addition to the research presentation, a collection of 18 digitised low resolution images of photographs taken by anthropologist Dr. E. W. H Stanner during his time in Wadeye were displayed. The photographs were couriered back in the appropriate hands of Concepta Narjic from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) in Canberra. AIATSIS provides a valuable service called Return of Materials to Indigenous Communities (ROMTIC), which aims to assist in the cultural repatriation of photographs, documents and audiovisual material to communities and family members.

The images were viewed with great interest, prompting discussion and a few shared stories. These photographs will eventually be added to the Murrinh Nekinigme database. Wadeye library officers will have the task of working with community members to identify those in the photographs. For now the digitised images are stored in both the Kanamkek-Yile Ngala Museum and can be easily accessed by community members through the WKC.

Alister Lantjin, Darren Lantjin, Alex Lantjin & Augustine Lantjin.
Baby’s Book and Training at Ti Tree Library

Cecilia Tilmouth the new Community Library Officer was very busy at the library attending a Baby’s Board Book workshop and having library training. The workshop was run Margaret Carew from Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE) with the assistance of Gibby Maynard NTL. The local Community Language Team and library staff worked together to develop the first stages of the baby book in Anmatyerr and Warlpiri language. The translation work continued at a community barbecue at the local park where other people helped with the translation and shared stories.

Cecilia Timouth and James Glen also received library and multi-media training during the week which has helped them to understand what they need to do at the library. The library is a popular place with lots of men, women and children visiting the library each day to enjoy the cool air-conditioning and to read the newspapers & magazines, see the old and new photos and movies on the Anmatyerr Angkety database, use the internet and look at the many good books.

Online Resources …..Grzimek's Animal Life

Grzimek's Animal Life on the web provides students and researchers with a dynamic, interactive resource that fosters more discussion and critical thinking skills with over 4,000 animal species to see. Check this out on the Locate Your Library webpage.
News from Katherine......
Reading and Communicating with Children Program (RACK)
By Emma Clewlow

Both Rockhole and Binjari communities have been very active in the program with many new families becoming involved. “10 Crocs in the Bed” using puppets has been particularly enjoyed by all family members. Barunga community saw our first Dad become part of the reading group!

Next month in Katherine, RACK will be holding a two day workshop/training for the Reading Mentors. The workshop will include a tour of the Katherine Town Library and making a photo book. Reading Mentors have been actively taking photos that we will use for this activity.

We say farewell to Reading Mentors Olivia Raymond and Jennifer Rankin. Olivia has joined the Night Patrol Team and Jennifer has family commitments in other communities. We welcome new Reading Mentors Amy Nocketta, Eleanor Rankin and Suzie Andrews. Both Amy and Suzie have previously been involved with RACK and are very happy to be part of the team again.

Story time at Rock

Annie and Quavon at Binjari.
Holiday Fun at Nhulunbuy Library
By Kim Waters

It’s been nothing but fun at Nhulunbuy Community Library these last couple of months!
Under 5 Storytime goers enjoyed special visits, the first from Santa Claus just before Christmas. They sat in his lap for a photo and got a special treat! Unfortunately he forgot the big kids…also known as Library staff. The second visit was from the Nhulunbuy Fire Station and their cool fire truck. They enjoyed a ride on the truck and had a go with the fire hose!

During the school holidays children made Christmas cards and ornaments; their own jewellery; paddlepop stick pencil holders and door hangers; animal handpuppets and pompom dinosaurs! Staff were suitably awed when children proudly showed off their creations after each activity.
Not to be left out, teens also enjoyed decorating paper lanterns, fans and parasols; making a soft toy plushie; creating their own charm bracelets; a movie marathon; and competing to complete gross challenges! Think tinned spaghetti, custard, shaving cream, eggs, dog biscuits…and teens. Oh yes.

December and January also meant it was time to Read on the Wild Side! Kids aged 0 – 11 earned prizes as they read, and kept a tally of books read by sticking stars on a display in the Library. The goal was to read 600 books or more, and their reward was a visit from the fire truck and their awesome bubble making machine! They were so eager they made a new record – 53 kids read 1288 books! That’s double the goal, and over double the amount of books read in previous years.
Cont....Holiday Fun at Nhulunbuy Library
By Kim Waters

Teens aged 12 years and over earned points per page read, book review written, competition entered, event attended and books borrowed. For every 300 points earned they got a raffle ticket into the major prize draw. The goal was to earn 5,000 points or more to have a paint fight – they earned 51,000 points! That’s an astonishing amount of pages read!

The fun continues at Nhulunbuy Community Library!

STOP PRESS!!  CLO’s join Facebook

A FaceBook Group Page has been setup for Community Library Officers to share their library news and ideas with each other.

Signing up to this page will form part of the Closing the Gap: Remote Indigenous Public Internet Access (RIPIA) Training that NTL Staff will be undertaking with most CLO’s over the next 4 months. Gibby and Jan will contact those not involved in the training soon to invite them to join.
Wet season school holiday fun
Taminmin Community Library

By Iris Beale, Taminmin Library Manager

Here at the Taminmin Library we have a special wet season holiday program, running two mornings a week. We cater mainly for primary school children, and also let the preschoolers join in. This helps us as otherwise we would have difficulties managing to run our regular two Storytimes per week for the littlies and our weekly Nurserytime program for babies under 12 months, as well as a fun program for older children.

We organise the program for the whole school holidays early in December and put together a flyer for the parents so they know what is going on, including our closing times over Christmas and New Year.

We always try to involve the local community, and people love to help us out. We have some ladies who teach art and craft, Waldo the bush poet who comes with his outback dunny (really his speaker box) and his toy dog Blue (who actually is a Blue Heeler toy dog), and a bonzer BBQ at the end of the holidays to celebrate Australia Day.

BUT the very favourite amongst the children is the annual visit by the Humpty Doo Firies, who drive up in their fire truck and spray the whole lawn area with their great big hose. It’s magic. On the serious side, they talk to parents and children about the fire service and fire safety. We combine it all with fire truck stories and songs for the little ones, and everyone has a wonderful cool, and wet, and educational fun day.

If you would like to ask anything about our holiday program, please phone me on 8988 1200, or email iris.beale@nt.gov.au
Remote Indigenous Public Internet Access RIPIA

Northern Territory Government has entered into an Agreement with the Australian Government to provide or improve public internet access facilities and/or training services to 19 Indigenous communities across the Territory.

The communities include Anmatjere, Angurugu, Barunga, Elliott, Galiwin’ku, Hermannsberg, Lajamanu, Milikapiti, Milingimbi, Minyerri, Ngukurr, Peppimenarti, Pirlangimpi, Ramingining, Santa Teresa, Umbakumba, Wadeye, Wallace Rockhole and Yirrkala.

The project is jointly run by the Department of Business and Employment and the Department Natural Resources, Environment, Arts and Sport through Northern Territory Library.

The training part of the project is being delivered by Northern Territory Library and will start in March going through to June 2010. The purpose is to provide train-the-trainer skills to Community Library Officers, specifically in online tools and the Internet to pass on to community members.

Community Library Officer will also be introduced to an e-mentor, a NTL staff member during the RIPIA training. The role of the e-mentor will be to provide support in e – learning tools through a program called Webex which is an easy way to share information using the internet on a weekly or fortnightly.

Over the past 6 month Northern Territory Library staff have been working with Shire Councils and other agencies about what is needed at the libraries to get the internet working better, computer upgrades, and developing a training program.

Public Library & Knowledge Centre Staff

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