

► the basis of the publication. Our interviewees were sought widely in the community via radio broadcasts, local press, community centres, Council community committees and by word of mouth. The oldest interviewee was born in 1905, the youngest in 1932.

Down the Bay describes the history of a specific place and provides access to a collective community memory. The project enabled the local community to communicate its feelings about the past of this place. The elderly respondents of *Down the Bay* are the only ones who experienced some important parts of this past, such as dramatic harbour fires, ferry accidents eighteen-footer boat races, infamous local characters and boat builders, and a visit by aviator Charles Kingsford-Smith. The recording of their memories helps to validate their experiences and helps us document and instil a 'sense of place'. In this way, and via the collection of recordings now on public access within Stanton Library, the

project's aims and objectives have been fully met. Not only do we have the recordings to listen to and learn from, but we also have a valuable publication available to the wider public.

Through our local studies and archive collections, our community museums and our wide and diverse public program of exhibitions, lectures tours and publications, Stanton Library's Historical Services Department provides access to a rich history and culture which is uniquely North Sydney, while at the same time ensuring that the community plays a role in its preservation.

Stanton Library's Historical Services Team consists of three full-time staff; the historical services manager, Margaret Park; a senior librarian, historical services, Léonie Masson; and historical services officer, Adriana Felet-Pezo; plus a team of fifteen community volunteers who assist with guiding at the museums/Rest Park, indexing local studies projects, and oral history interviewing. ■

Community heritage grants preserve future

Twenty-two community heritage organisations from every Australian state and territory have received grants totalling \$70 000 to assist them with the preservation of documentary heritage collections in their custody.

Representatives of the organisations were presented with their grants by the president of the Senate, Margaret Reid at a ceremony at the National Library of Australia on 2 October 1997. The Community Heritage Grants Program, which is administered by the NLA, provides grants of up to \$5000 to assist in the preservation of documentary heritage material of national significance.

Since the program's inception in 1994 more than eight communities have benefited from funds provided through Australia's leading grassroots documentary preservation initiative. In this time, a total of \$260 000 has been distributed to libraries, historical societies and community organisations to help them preserve, store, microfilm and digitise their valuable documentary collections.

Successful applicants this year include: Furneaux Historical Research Association on Flinders Island; Tranby Co-operative for Aborigines; Barnardos Australia; Maritime Museum of Townsville; Ngarinyin Aboriginal Corporation; Victorian Services for Deaf Children; Spastic Centre of New South Wales; Melbourne Hebrew Congregation; Friends of Goolwa and Kumarangk, to preserve the Hindmarsh Island Bridge Collection.

As a result of the Community Heritage Grants Program, future generations will have access to valuable documents and photographs which might otherwise have been lost due to the effects of age, light, dust, humidity and insects. The program recognises and supports the distributed national collection of significant documentary heritage materials — a collection which is located all over Australia, not just in the national collecting institutions of the capital cities.

For information on the Community Heritage Grants contact the National Initiatives and Collaboration Branch of the NLA, telephone 02 6262 1137, fax 02 6273 4535, niac@nlc.gov.au, <http://www.nla.gov.au/niac/chg> ■

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Australian Library and Information Association

ALIA Awards for Innovation in Victoria

Nominations are now being called for the 1998 award

These awards, first awarded in 1996, recognise innovative practices by library staff in Victoria in any aspect of library activity — for example, design of a brochure or world wide web page, or for teamwork. An award is made in each of the following categories: academic (universities and TAFE); public libraries; school libraries; special libraries; law libraries; and health libraries. The awards are open to library staff at all levels who are personal ALIA members.

Application information is available ALIA National Office, PO Box E441, Kingston 2604 phone 02 6285 1877, fax 02 6282 2249 e-mail awards@alia.org.au

URL <http://www.alia.org.au/awards.html>

Nominations close 15 March 1998



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