

# Building community awareness

## Randwick City Library and Information Service

Australian Library Week this year commenced with a tour of our central library at Maroubra for thirty-two people from the Coast Centre for seniors. The group was divided into four groups for a tour, which included question and answer time. The second part of the tour included the second floor work area, which is not accessible to the public. People were fascinated at the level of production behind the scenes and now have a better understanding of the labour intensive nature of library work. The visit concluded with morning tea, registration of new members and delivery of a variety of library guides.

We endeavoured to make each location look festive for the week. We purchased a number of Australian Library Week balloons, which we displayed everywhere and gave some to the kids to take home as well. We added to the flavour with coloured streamers. The highlight of the decoration was an exhibition co-ordinated by Russian artist, Efim Novikov. Efim is an artist and art teacher working in Randwick City. The work in the exhibition was from young people aged six to sixteen, with one special piece from a three year old. Many have been impressed with the high standard of creativity, execution and presentation. This exhibition has also been an opportunity for our access and community information librarian to improve links with the Russian community.

In the past we have held an annual book sale on a Saturday. This year as part of Australian Library Week we held a book sale at each of our three locations. We plan on using the proceeds on new shelving for the HSC collection, the junior collection and to assist with the relocation of the junior and toy collections at our central library.

We took the opportunity to have an amnesty on fines during Australian Library Week. Many members took advantage of the opportunity to return items they had either forgotten about or were too scared to return them for fear of the overdue fines!

At Randwick branch we were able to launch our new internet kiosk with the assistance of the Mayor of Randwick, Councillor Dominic Sullivan. The internet kiosk is a coin operated machine similar to those found in shopping centres which will operate on a self-serve basis, requiring no bookings yet a fast and accessible way for people to check their e-mail when in a hurry.

Overall we have accomplished a very successful Australian Library Week for 2000. We are very grateful for the hard work of our volunteers. They impressed us with their enthusiasm for more. We are already planning future collaborative projects.

Melinda Maybury



At the launch of the new internet kiosk were Lynn McIntosh, reference and information co-ordinator; Julie Jarvis, manager, library and information services; and Councillor Dominic Sullivan, Mayor of Randwick

## On track in 2000!

A series of events held to celebrate Australian Library Week, presented by Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation

### Bursting at the spine: The launch of the Blackburn Library Branch extension

The Blackburn library extension was officially launched on Wednesday 17 May by Councillor Kaele Way, deputy chairperson of the Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation Library Board. Coffee and muffins were served while members of the community enjoyed the spaciousness of the newly refurbished library.

### Children's much loved stories on Saturdays!

Children of all ages enjoyed listening to the reading of their favourite books at Bulleen Branch Library on Saturday 13 May and Vermont South Library on Saturday 20 May.

### Are you 'On track'?

Library users were asked to guess how many books are in the library collection. Book vouchers were awarded to members who guessed correctly.

### Covering your tracks — you are on exhibition!

The library created a gallery of people who use the library. Patrons were asked to bring a photo to their local library branch during May, and the whole collection was on display at our seven branches during June. Special Library Week tattoos were exchanged for the photos!

### Tracking technology — internet classes for new parents, babies welcome!

New parents who want to attend internet classes, but are hindered by child care problems were able to attend a special Australian Library Week 'Introduction to the internet' class. ITEC and Youth Services together offered the class at a special reduced price of \$15.00 — and babies were invited!

### The very hungry caterpillar eats its way across the state

Public libraries across Victoria took part

in a special Australian Library Week event and read the *Very hungry caterpillar* on Thursday 18 May. All branches of the Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation took part.

### Get on the track of your ancestors!

A seminar for library users who want to start a family history, highlighting how easy it is to start, and what they can achieve by using the resources at the local library — Microfiche resources, CD-ROM resources, FamilySearch and other genealogy databases, as well as the internet.

### Fast Track Issues

Fast Track Issues (FTI) means that users can now checkout their own books by using the FTI station at Box Hill, Nunawading, Shoppingtown and Vermont South branch libraries. It is a great innovation for those who are in a hurry or those who enjoy learning how technology is making life easier and more convenient. ■