

BRIT Library on space mission

Amanda Steen, Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE Library

There was a space invasion recently at the Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE Library. To celebrate the Library and Information Week theme for this year, *Knowledge outlook*, the library was sent into outer space.

Throughout the week, the library became part of a Star Trek spaceship. The front entrance was decorated to look like the outside entrance to a ship with flashing lights. Inside was a teleporter to transport students into the world of knowledge. The circulation desk had a line of flashing red lights around it so that it would look like the control bridge.

BRIT staff and other invited guests were transported to the library seminar room for morning tea on Thursday 17 May. Library staff dressed up for the day as 'ALIANS', with the ALIA emblem strategically placed on uniforms. A rocket was placed at the centre of the table—along with lights coloured with cellophane. A variety of space foods were prepared by library staff, such as nebula scones, heavenly chocolate ripple cake, galactic raspberry loaf and quantum quiches.

A treasure hunt was held for students which involved completing a library quiz. Success delivered chocolate delights. ■



Courtesy of Bendigo Advertiser

BRIT Library staff get into the spirit

News from TAFE Tasmania North West Libraries — Devonport and Burnie

Library and Information Week activities 14–20 May 2001

The students currently studying in the Library and Information Services course came up with three objectives to focus on for Library and Information Week: to promote knowledge awareness in others; to provide/promote networking opportunities; and to encourage all students to visit their campus library.

They spent some of their class time and much of their own time preparing displays in both the Devonport and Burnie Campus libraries and the State Library in Burnie and Adult Education in Devonport. The theme of the week *Knowledge outlook* was highlighted in displays featuring hairdressing, hospitality, photography, technology, and a special display of childrens books and animals for National Simultaneous Storytime. The Art Department supplied poster-sized artwork of *Edward the emu*.

The students also organised three functions to celebrate National Library Technicians' Day and designed and printed, with the financial assistance of

ALIA in Tasmania, a special bookmark which received high praise for its quality.

Together, the TAFE libraries prepared a policy for a fines amnesty for library week, designed to encourage the return of overdue items.

The students also approached a number of local businesses and TAFE departments for sponsorship and gleaned donations for a prize draw. Dinner for two, movie passes and hair styling were among the prizes to be won for using a library card to borrow items during Library and Information Week.

**TAFE library users forum —
Wednesday 16 May**

A pilot study is being conducted at Devonport TAFE to investigate the benefits of setting up a library users group on campus. Five students and eight TAFE staff members met for afternoon tea and developed draft guidelines for such a group, which will be considered by other campus staff and management before being adopted.

**National Simultaneous Storytime —
Thursday 17 May**

Four groups of children from Malagenaa Child Care Centre and the Child Care Department's playgroup at Devonport visited the library for readings of *Edward the emu* as part of the National Simultaneous Storytime. Several other stories were read in addition to *Edward* and children took part in activities involving loud animal noises. A great time was had by all including the librarian reading the stories.

Designated Libraries Online Day, on Friday 18 May, the library staff encouraged students to widen their expertise with online databases such as the library catalogue.

Library and information Week proved highly successful as a training and public relations exercise in the North-West. The fines amnesty was well received and did not prove difficult to administer, while the prize draw had everyone remembering to bring their library card by the end of the week.

**Helen Dunford and Kerrie Blyth,
TAFE Tasmania — NorthWest Libraries**