

Linking...links...chains...punk

Word association led Library staff at the Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE to choose a punk theme for Library and Information Week 2007. Librarians dressed in punk gear caused quite a stir amongst the staff and students. The now traditional, eagerly anticipated morning tea for BRIT staff and Board members was held in the newly appointed Library Seminar Room and Reading Room. 'Care packages' distributed to staff from each of the regional campuses and corrections facilities and a graffiti board for students in the library foyer were well received (both good ideas borrowed from the ALIA Great Ideas LIW competition!). Library staff from La Trobe University and the Goldfields Library Corporation joined their BRIT Library colleagues for a celebratory breakfast on the Monday for a great start to the week! Local media coverage was extensive, but the greatest benefit of the day was the obvious connection with a younger cohort of library users.

Narelle Stone

**Library Manager / Technical Services
Librarian Bendigo Regional Institute of
TAFE Library**

Dynamic, colourful, surprising: Kogarah's library festival

'When will you run this festival again? It's fantastic!'

It is the question Kogarah Library staff was asked constantly by the visitors to their Library and Information Week events in May 2007. We hosted 15 activities across our three libraries for Library and Information Week 2007 that attracted 612 attendances. Our key aim in planning the week was to create a festival atmosphere in the library and to raise awareness of Library and Information Week.

We really believe libraries 'educate, inform and entertain'. Our events tackled some serious subjects, such as how to plan your future finances and how to best engage young children with books. We also had some activities that showed that the library is a place where you can have fun—like a children's party and a French cuisine cooking demonstration. An important aspect of our planning was to make the activities directly relevant to the lives of the people in our local community. The themes we chose were almost elemental: food, money, fun and information (who can live without information?). 'Food @ your library' proved the most popular activity for adults with a demonstration of French cooking by a French

chef from a local catering school. The event was booked out two weeks before and, even so, there was standing room only.

The most popular activity for children was our Friday evening 'Space Party', attended by 79 children and their parents. The children enjoyed blasting off with an astronaut and a robot, playing games and winning prizes. An aim of the Space Party was to introduce local children to each other, as many of them live in the apartments located above and around the library building.

There were two elements in the overall success of Library Week at Kogarah Library. Firstly, we are lucky to have a fantastic venue for events and activities. Our library is just over a year old and includes a foyer and exhibition area that can seat up to 150 people. Many people came to borrow books and stayed for the events in the foyer.

Another important element was community involvement. Our series of financial planning talks were presented free by a local financial planning company. The local Kogarah Concert Band presented part of our lunchtime music program, along with a showcase of talented students from Kogarah Marist Boy's High School at the 'Young Muso's Zone'. The involvement of local people enhances the community's sense of ownership of their local library as well as keeping the budget manageable for a program of 15 activities.

We believe Library and Information Week 2007 was a terrific success. It now provides a great base for promoting future events throughout the year and creates a sense of the library as an interesting, exciting, relevant and sometimes surprising place. We hope we can build Library and Information Week into an annual 'celebration of the library' and so when asked, 'When will you run this festival again?' we can answer 'Every year ...in Library and Information Week!'

Wendy Wenmin Chen

Top night for Top End

The ALIA Top End group hosted a very successful quiz night attended by around 70 people at the Charles Darwin University Casuarina Campus. There were prizes for each of the 12 teams, as well as some excellent donations for our auction and raffle including two autographed items by Lleyton Hewitt donated by Tennis NT. Some of the funds raised went to help those who suffered losses in the recent Solomon Islands tsunami.



Love your local librarian—or else!

Photograph courtesy of *The Advertiser* (Bendigo). Taken by Laura Makepeace



...do what the robots do! Children enjoying the LIW activities at Kogarah Library



Musical morning at Kogarah

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