

Australian Library Week in the Territory

It seemed no time at all before Australian Library Week was upon us yet again. Libraries from around the Territory were able to take a small diversion from the excitement of the opening of the new Northern Territory Library, not to mention the hiatus of the Euthanasia debate. With Parliament House and the Northern Territory library being located in the same building, involvement of library staff was certainly first hand!

The Darwin Public Libraries and Information Service took this opportunity to launch their CD-ROM network. Available for public access

through a PC network, it includes some of the latest and most up-to-date reference tools. *Encarta 95*, *Australia through time*, *Yearbook Australia 95*, *Austguide* and *Austrom* are some of the titles available. Demand and use by students is high, and the multi-media format of some of the resources is a great incentive for library clients to sit and browse, particularly for parents who don't have the exposure to the new technology that students have. Launched by Alderman Bob Elix, the focus of the network is on high quality reference tools, for use by staff and clients alike.

The winners of the Childrens Po-

etry Competition were also announced. Schools and public libraries share in the promotion of this event, with the competition attracting close to 600 entries from across the Territory. Winners in the various categories received books, with certificates and small gifts being given to the runners-up. The panel to judge this year's entries included members of the Children's Book Council (NT Branch), the Australian Fellowship of Writers, local teachers and library staff.

The NT Library again held its annual book sale as part of the Australian Library Week celebrations, at which the official launch was also held. The venue this year was the premises recently vacated by the Northern Territory library, and again, intrepid book lovers could select for the bargain price of \$2 per kilo! Proceeds went to a worthy cause — the purchase of new books for the public and community libraries around the Territory.

Alice Springs public library, currently in the throes of extending their library, held their own book sale. As part of the library extensions, a parenting room has been included adjacent to the children's area. The parenting room serves as a private and quiet retreat for parents and young children, with proceeds of the book sale being used to equip the area with appropriate furniture and facilities (in liaison with the local Nursing Mother's group). It is anticipated that the extensions will be completed by early July.

Various other libraries organised displays on the theme, as well as conducting storytelling activities for children. So proving ALW is alive and well in the top end.

Stephen Farrawell, NT Branch

From tablet to terminal

Major exhibition launched during Library Week

The lure of cyberspace brought an overwhelming public response last month at the State Library of South Australia's *Destination Information* activities.

The Library staged free, big-screen Internet demonstrations in its lecture theatre throughout Australian Library Week. These were supplemented by direct public access to the Internet and multimedia CD-ROMs on a bank of PCs, with librarians on hand to navigate.

The 'surf the net' PCs also formed part of a major exhibition, *From tablet to terminal*, which was launched during the week by the Chairman of the Libraries Board, Mr Peter Wylie. By using graphic images, treasured historic materials from the library's collections and significant historic and contemporary items of machinery and hardware, the exhibition traces the history of recorded information and the impact of changing technology on public access to information.

The library's public programs unit, which coordinated the events, was inundated with hundreds of public enquiries

and bookings for the Internet sessions. All sessions were booked out well in advance with additional demonstrations being arranged to meet the demand.

The library was delighted with the diversity of people who chose to participate in the sessions. People of all ages came along, there was a good mix of men and women, quite a few business leaders, a number of managers of media outlets, people from community organisations, public servants and private sector employees from many industries.

Mrs Awcock said the Library was already taking advance bookings for future Internet demonstrations.

In an interesting 'time warp' contrast to the Internet demonstrations, the State Library of South Australia has also been holding working demonstrations of the State's first printing press — the Stanhope Press, which also forms an integral part of the exhibition. Operators of the press, Michael Talbot and Jenny Tonkin, are producing free keepsake prints for onlookers to the lunchtime demonstrations which are being conducted throughout the 8-week exhibition.

This fascinating piece of machinery is significant in the history of South Australia, having printed South Australia's first newspaper, the *South Australian gazette and colonial register*.

Mrs Awcock said the demonstrations of both forms of technology have provided exciting dimensions to the *From Tablet to Terminal* exhibition.

Together they tell the story of the technological breakthroughs, the increasing speed of recording and reproducing information and the greater dissemination of information that resulted. ■



Project manager for *Destination Information* at the State Library of South Australia, Loine Sweeney at the launch of the exhibition



Ross Barrett (seated) NT General Councillor with Alderman Bob Elix at the CD-ROM network launch