



Qld launches ALW with a splash in Townsville

Townsville's Great Barrier Reef Aquarium: an unusual venue for Queensland's launch of Australian Library Week

Richard Sayers, James Cook University Library

Over eighty ALIA members and their guests joined with the State Librarian of Queensland, Des Stephens, and the chair of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), Dr Ian McPhail, to celebrate the launch of Australian Library Week on Tuesday 7 May.

Dr McPhail delivered a highly entertaining and inspiring keynote address, which included his experiences with the State Library of South Australia. He spoke of librarians as motivated and intelligent professional people, far removed from lingering stereotypes. Dr McPhail also highlighted the services provided by special libraries, and praised the work of special librarians in both public and private organisations.

Local ALIA members were also delighted to have Dr McPhail present GBRMPA's library manager, Suzie Davies, with an *Excellence in achievement* commendation from the Queensland Special Libraries group.

Des Stephens launched the festivities by opening a large viewing window into the main aquarium. The proceedings caught an aquarium diver off guard as he immersed himself in the literature of corals, in the main tank! The sheer novelty of the launch attracted considerable media attention, including television coverage on the TEN Network and WIN Townsville.

The work of the State Library of Queensland in regional areas featured in Des Stephens' address. He described the Internet as a major challenge facing public libraries throughout the State. Both themes were carried over into media interviews following the launch.

This year's launch was the first to be held outside Brisbane. The Queensland Library Promotion Council (QLPC) sought expressions of interest from regional areas in late 1995. A joint submission from ALIA's North Queensland Division proposed the launch in



Suzie Davies receives her Excellence in achievement commendation from Dr Ian McPhail, chair of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority during the opening ceremony

Townsville and closing festivities in Cairns. The collaborative nature of this year's celebrations were reflected in the Queensland theme, *Reading the future: From reef to rainforest*.

Much of the funding for the week's activities came from the QLPC, including sponsorship of a television advertisement which was aired on the TEN Network in the fortnight leading up to the launch.

The tremendous success of the launch did not overshadow an impressive range of other activities across North Queensland. The ALIA North Queensland division sponsored another high-profile window display in Townsville's Flinders Mall. Aitkenvale Library hosted the official launch of Townsville's *InfoPlus* community information network on Thursday 9 May, and also conducted behind the scenes library tours. Thuringowa City Library and Hinchinbrook Shire Libraries held a variety of activities for children, including story-telling and craft afternoons. The regional flavour of Australian Library Week activities was epitomised by Bowen Shire Library's display entitled *From horse and cart to cyberspace*.

The success of this year's Queensland launch certainly spread from reef to rainforest, and beyond.



ACT

- **9/7 ACT specials section** invite you to a demonstration of the Canon document management systems, at the Canon showroom, 98 Barrier Street, Fyshwick. 12-2pm. RSVP 3/7 (vital for catering!) to Susan White on (06) 205 0391.

- **10/7 ALIA branch council meeting** in the NLA 4th floor conference room. All are welcome, ALIA members or not (come along and join!).

- **11/7-5/9 Happy days are here again** on the first payday of the month at the Hyatt. *Roll up and celebrate them with the Specials* (or drown your sorrows, if you prefer) on 11/7, 8/8, 5/9 and so on. 5.30pm. Any questions to Libby Coates on (06) 266 2346.

- **17/7 ACT branch winter dinner and awards at the Regatta Point Restaurant.** The all-inclusive cost is \$40, for pre-dinner drinks, a gourmet dinner and wines or soft drinks with the meal. 7pm for 7.30pm. RSVP and payment in advance to Diane Costello, ph (06) 248 8571 or e-mail diane.costello@ane.edu.au

- **31/7 ACT branch professional perspectives lectures:** Warren Horton, director-general of the NLA, on *The political dimension to library management*, in Lecture Theatre 2B11 at the Uni of Canberra. 12.30-1.30pm. Contact: Trish Milne, ph (06) 201 2312, e-mail tam@comserver.canberra.edu.au

- **13/8 ACT library technicians:** Roslynn Membrey, ALIA Board of Education, will talk about *the work of the Board and its benefits to library technicians*. CIT Reid campus, Block D (room indicated at door of building) 5.30pm. All welcome. Contact Edith Hackworthy, ph (06) 268 8120, e-mail e-hackworthy@adfa.oz.au

- **19-20/9 World1/ABN user's meeting.** Venue: National Convention Centre, Canberra. Registration \$80, Optional cocktail reception \$27. For further information call the help desk on (06) 262 1691, freecall 1 800 026 155, fax: (06) 273 1180. Note revised date.

NSW

- **3/7 Riverina regional group. Professional development workshop.** Speaker: Jennifer Nicholson plus panels and individual consultations. Riverina Institute of TAFE Library. 9-12.30pm, ALIA members \$15; others \$20. Contact: Chris Griffiths, ph (069) 332 347, fax (069) 332 900, e-mail cgriffiths@csu.edu.au

- **10/7 Performance indicators for libraries: a one-day workshop.** Uni of NSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph (02) 385 3589, fax (02) 385 3430, e-mail M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au

- **10/7-14/8 NSW library technicians group meetings.** Venue: Uni of NSW Library, Kensington, level 2 in the Library Meeting Room (10/7), Uni of Western Sydney, Westmead Campus Library (14/8). Time: 5.30 for 6pm. Contact: Katherine Raper, ph (02) 330 3347, fax (02) 330 3305.

- **13/7-6/12 NSW Acquisitions Section committee meeting dates** Meetings to be held at the Staff Room, Level 5, Fisher Library, Sydney Uni at

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