

Children's librarians recognised at conference

The presentation of the Bess Thomas and Marjorie Cotton Awards by the National Children's and Youth Services Section of ALIA took place during the ALIA Biennial Conference in Adelaide.

The awards recognise the work of two pioneer Children's librarians from New South Wales. The Bess Thomas award was presented to Tracy Gibson, young peoples librarian from Logan City Council Library. The award will allow competition winners of the 'Libraries, young people's story writing competition' to extend their skills and future development by attendance at a creative writing workshop, the leader to be a well-known young people's author.

The Marjorie Cotton Award was presented to Narelle Poulton, children's and youth services librarian with Central Northern Libraries, based at Tamworth in New South Wales. The service covers a geographic area of 44 328 sq km, with twenty-three branches scattered throughout twelve local government areas.

The award recognises Narelle's contribution to developing, implementing and promoting services to young people in her library service. Children's Book Week involves Narelle travelling 1800 kms to reach 1650 children and teachers, making a special effort to reach remote schools.

Narelle has promoted the use of technology throughout the region through the use of a travelling PC. This PC is loaded with software and CD-ROMs and set up for short stays at

branch libraries that have limited access to technology.

The award recognises Narelle's active participation in co-operative networks — she encouraged the integration of the State Library of New South Wales' *Infocus* resource and *Live the future* project into the whole region.

A feature of Narelle's career has been the sharing of ideas and expertise, and encouragement and support of others. Narelle has nurtured many staff members through the first steps of storytelling, and she loves the opportunity to help out with a storytelling session. Professional storytellers have been invited to the region to present storytelling workshops, helping to build even greater staff confidence.

Narelle assists, promotes and encourages young students to participate in the Tamworth Library Association's Writers Festival program for children. She also co-ordinated the Nestlé Write around Australia project in 1997 for the North West Zone, in which some 300 entries were submitted, and workshops arranged with author Natalie Jane Pryor as facilitator.

Narelle has achieved a high profile library service to children and young people through her dedicated, enthusiastic and creative work in the regional library service, receiving much publicity for the service in the local newspaper.

This award highlights the work of an innovative, enthusiastic librarian, who works with limited resources to make an impact on the next generation of readers and library users. ■


Y2K code of practice issued

Standards Australia has just issued a new 'Code of practice' on year 2000 conformity for small and medium size enterprises to help the sector better tackle the millennium bug.

Endorsed by the Federal Government's Y2K Industry Program, the code of practice (HB120—1998) gives non-technical, easy-to-understand guidance on how to manage the year 2000 problem.

The new code of practice helps small and medium size enterprises identify where they may have a problem and the extent of that problem. It also takes them through critical management issues such as the impact on their business, solution strategies, where to get help, and testing.

Copies of the code of practice are available from Standards Australia offices in all state capitals.



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