

Shock! Horror!

Librarians meet to talk about books...

Nine 'guinea pigs' from public libraries at Bateman's Bay, Bowral, Campbelltown, Goulburn, Narellan, Nowra, State Library of NSW, Queanbeyan and Wollongong have just completed a pilot course for readers' advisors.

Called 'Rewarding Reading' the course was funded by the State Library of New South Wales and developed for the Country Public Libraries Association (CPLA) South East Zone by Ian McCallum and Sherrey Quinn from Libraries Alive!

Rewarding Reading is a train-the-trainer program for public library staff involved in the delivery of readers' advisory (RA) and readers' development services in New South Wales.

Peter Conlon, secretary of the CPLA SE Zone and Queanbeyan public librarian, commented: 'We are off to a very promising start. Participants in the initial three-day course in Goulburn were buzzing with enthusiasm, and Ian and Sherrey have plenty of new material to incorporate into the production version of the program. Rewarding Reading will soon be rolled out across the SE Zone, and with the State Library's backing, across country New South Wales as well. This is one of the best things that we have done.'



Photo: David Reid

L-R: [back]: Jean Jamieson, Ian McCallum, Wayne Monkley, Glennis Beauchamp; [front]: Jacqui Neave, Wendy Gray, Julie Barningham, Sandra Croker, Ellen Forsyth

The course uses experiential learning techniques to cover the experience of reading, the rationale for RA services, the nature of the interaction between reader and advisor, promoting RA services, and presents a list of print and electronic information sources. ■



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