

I'm locked in the library, but don't help!

Darwin City Council Libraries locked 38 willing 15–17 year-old library members in the Casuarina library overnight during Youth Week (9–17 April 2005). Even the staff locked in with them came out asking when they could do it again.

The older staff turned up bright and early on Saturday morning to feed and rescue the staff who had been locked in from 8:30pm Friday night with the enthusiastic, lively kids. No-one wanted rescuing, all were smiling and still wide-awake. The food supplies were low however, so our arm-loads of MacDonal'd's ensured we were followed wherever we went around the library. No-one was looking for their rides home, even the security guard lingered over breakfast to tell us what a great night he'd had. No trouble, lots of conversation and fun.

A small team of two trainees [school leavers], the children and youth services librarian and a library assistant planned the lock-in, found the sponsorship and organised advertising. There was a pizza supper around 11:00pm, with lollies, chips, chocolates and drinks available throughout the night. The kids arrived with teddies, mobiles, friends and their own favourite snacks.

They set up little enclaves in every available nook and cranny of the library and then decided whether to play the XBoxes or Playstations, sit at the internet terminals all night, watch the DVDs on the wall-size screen with full surround sound, take part in the quick quizzes, read or just chat the night away or do everything.

The enthusiasm was so high after the Youth Week lock-in that we set about planning another one in November for the 12–14 year olds. This group assured us they felt left out



because they were excluded from the Youth Week event. The response from the kids who attended in November was just as enthusiastic – and most of them were boys. This time around we invited them for a dance lesson followed by tea, with some help from Red Rooster. The security company donated their services the second time around, as did the sound hire company. The planning team took on board the kid's comments from Youth Week and decided not to have DVDs, instead we 'hired' a disco machine and the kids took turns being the DJ when they weren't on the internet, chatting, reading or playing the games machines. The evening finished with a pizza supper around 11:30pm. Smiles were in abundance again from all involved with the second lock-in.

Would we do it again? Yes! It's fun, and it builds a wonderful positive picture of libraries for young people who will be tomorrow's decision-makers.

*Frances O'Reilly – Children and youth services librarian,
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National Youth Week 2006

National Youth Week 2006 was 1–9 April. Start planning something for next Youth Week (dates still to be confirmed), or just go ahead and get young users into the library at any time!

For more information on Youth Week, go to http://www.generate.qld.gov.au/community_participation/national_youth_week/.

National
youthweek
1-9 April 2006
www.youthweek.com

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Your PD triennium will run from 1 July 2005–30 June 2006, 1 July 2006–30 June 2007 and 1 July 2007–30 June 2008. Your first triennium will end on 30 June 2008 and the second will commence on 1 July 2008 and so on. Ongoing compliance requires the

accumulation of a minimum of 30 points annually and 120 points over the triennium.

Don't delay because the new PD year and recording period starts on 1 July 2006. Personal Associate and Library technician members: Register now to get started at <http://alia.org.au/members-only/education/pd/register.html?realm=10>.

If you have any questions about ALIA's PD services, ALIA's PD scheme or the benefits of keeping your professional skills and knowledge up to date, please visit <http://alia.org.au/education/pd/> or contact Jill Yvanovich by e-mail pd@alia.org.au or ph 02 6215 8258.

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