Carolyn Bourke: 2006 winner of the Marjorie Cotton Award

arolyn Bourke is the Community Outreach Librarian, Children and Youth at the Fairfield City Library Service in Sydney.

The judges described Carolyn as an outstanding candidate who exceeds all the selection criteria for the Marjorie Cotton Award. She has established an impressive range of programs across all ages, regularly pioneering new ideas to maximise the reach of the library. Working in a community with a large culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background Carolyn has been particularly sensitive to their needs and has targeted programs both inside and outside the library for these families.

Carolyn is passionate about seeing children reach their potential and believes that a love of reading is an important key to success. She is a creative and innovative thinker and is always looking for ways to stretch herself and those around her. Programs at the Fairfield Libraries such as

Babytime, Online Tutoring, Storytime Partnerships, Homework Centre, Youth Refuge partnerships, Family Literacy and HSC support are the result of her enthusiasm and hard work.

She has demonstrated a strong commitment to professional library networks such as the Children's Librarians Alliance Western Sydney [CLAWS] and the ALIA Children's and Youth Services (NSW) Group working with the committee to provide continuing professional development opportunities for library staff and teacher librarians working with young people.

Carolyn represents public libraries on committees in the wider community at local and national level. Carolyn was a member of the inaugural Reading Summit 2005 'Who ever you are, where ever you are you can read aloud' committee convened by the Department of Education, Science and Training. At the 2005 summit Carolyn presented a session on read aloud programs for children from culturally and

linguistically diverse backgrounds.

In addition to her work at the Fairfield Libraries, Carolyn has been teaching adults at TAFE and through Community College, playgroups and Family Daycare for the last 3 years. Stories are always used as part of the learning process and have helped build Carolyn's reputation as an entertaining and inspiring teacher.

In 2005 Carolyn won the Jean Arnot Memorial Fellowship for her paper on 'Building social capital through networking: how public libraries can be more than repositories of information'. (Paper available at http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/about/awards/arnot.cfm.) Carolyn is to be congratulated on sharing her experience and expertise with others through writing articles and papers for professional literature.

She is a role model for all librarians not just children's and youth services librarians.



