

Conferences



dreaming08 Committee

provide delegates with popcorn during the event.

There was the excitement as the abstracts started rolling in and that amazing day when the ten members of the Programme Committee met in Alice Springs to select the oral and poster presentations, and put together the first draft of the programme.

There was the excitement of the sponsors coming on board. There was the elation of realising that we had sold all our exhibition space three months before the conference but the disappointment at having to turn down some organisations who wanted to be a part of the event.

Tongued Lizard and a Python amongst others—delegates were fascinated and the farewell drinks threatened to go on all night. We held the Australasian Premiere of *The Hollywood Librarian* and organised the local Girl Guide troop to

And then there was the excitement as the registrations started coming in...

And so we came to the conference week itself—nerve-racking but such a buzz. It passed in a blur and so quickly that suddenly it was all over. And then the sadness that this amazing experience was over, that committee members would now disperse, go their own way, get on with their own jobs and no longer be a part of the tight-knit supportive group that we'd become.

However, there are so many memories that the ten of us share, so many experiences that bind us together, that wherever we are or whatever we do in the future, we'll never forget what we achieved together and the privilege it was to work with such an amazing bunch of people.

So, we say thanks to the ALIA Board and ALIA National Office for offering us the opportunity, to our employers for allowing us the opportunity, and to ICMS for helping us through it.

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Wow! What a great idea! Inspiration from public library successes

Library stars: best of the best 2008

Have you ever heard a presentation and thought, "Wow! What a great idea! Why didn't I think of that!?"

Well I recently experienced a whole day of those thoughts (and let me tell you that can be exhausting!). I am, of course, talking about the *Library stars: best of the best 2008* satellite event on 2 September 2008 at *dreaming08*, where 39 delegates were inspired by the successes of their public library colleagues. The day's themes, based on the Biennial Conference themes, focused on *Entrepreneurship, Accessibility and Meeting places*.

We began the day by hearing the welcome and keynote addresses from ALIA President, Derek Whitehead, IFLA president Claudia Lux, Stockholm Public Libraries Director Inga Lunden and ALIA Public Libraries Advisory Committee chair Vicki McDonald. And this is where the inspiration began! Claudia encouraged us all to put our library star entries and other successes on the IFLA success stories database <http://www.ifla.org/success-stories>. Inga described some of the amazing projects at Stockholm Public Library, and talked of the importance of promoting our past and current successes so that general managers, councillors and politicians will be aware of the value of funding future successes!

Then we began hearing from the three winners—finalists from the 34 nominations that were received from public libraries across the country.

Shirley Shepherd inspired us all with her 'access' presentation. She described how Nhulunbuy Community Library, in the Northern Territory, had increased Indigenous access to their

library service by introducing Yirrkala storytime—a regular offsite Indigenous language storytime held outside the Yirrkala Women's Resource Centre.

Peter Richardson detailed Launceston Library's entrepreneurship by promoting themselves, their local history and their local historical societies and making a profit through their Local History Publication program.

And Debra Burn highlighted the benefits to the Yeppoon Library, Rockhampton Regional Council and the local community by developing an inspirational meeting place in verbYL—a combined youth lounge and youth library located in the heart of the shopping district.

Perhaps the most inspirational parts of the day, however, were the poster sessions and group discussions held after each presentation. It was amazing to hear about and see all the great things public libraries are doing out there!

So finally, I would like to thank all those who made the best day of the conference possible! The sponsors (Peter Pal Library Supplies, S Central and Public Libraries Australia), the organising committee (in particular Christine Mackenzie and Vicki McDonald, and Jane Hardy and Judy Brooker at ALIA National Office), the speakers and presenters, the delegates who attended and, of course, all those public libraries out there who shared their successes with us by participating in *Library stars*! To check them out yourself, go to <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/public.libraries/librarystars2008/>

P.S. In case you're wondering—Debra Burn and VerbYL won the Delegates' Choice Award! Congratulations!

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