

AFTER THE FLOODS – TWO QUEENSLAND LIBRARIES ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

Esk and Laidley libraries were inundated in the Queensland flood events of January 2011. The Australian Booksellers' Association and ALIA joined forces to deliver six cartons of new children's books to help rebuild the libraries' collections. ALIA's Queensland State Manager, Claudia Davies, was on hand to make the delivery.

At first glance the towns of Esk and Laidley, nestled below Toowoomba in the Lockyer Valley, have successfully rebuilt after the devastating floods, and the community is flocking back to their local libraries. Look a little closer though and you'll see plenty of trades people working in closed businesses, homes that are dark and silent at night and, at the libraries, a waist-high flood line intentionally left on the outer wall or fluorescent paint marking warped floor boards.

Library staff worked around the clock during the crisis in their local communities and evacuation centres. With little warning, and with transport and communication systems at a standstill, the libraries themselves could not be protected from the floodwater. Structural damage and loss of bookstock was inevitable. The libraries were able to re-open within a few weeks however, thanks to the efforts of the councils.

Five months on and Esk Library is fully recovered. Laidley Library is facing further renovation work to their lovely building in the centre of town.

Last month I visited Esk and Laidley Libraries to deliver boxes of new and much-loved children and young people's books which were donated by the Australian Booksellers' Association. The books were welcomed by Library Managers Anita Aurisch at Esk and Nicole Kilah at Laidley as a great boost to their collections.

Books can transport children away from their sadness and worries to somewhere magical, adventurous or just plain silly. Following the floods, these libraries have played a vital role in helping their communities recover and ALIA and the ABA salute them.

Claudia Davies

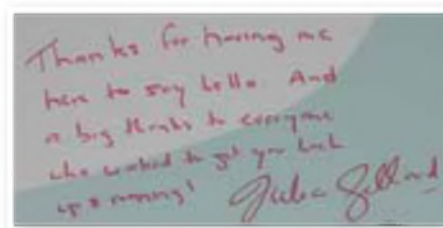
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From this...



...to this. Claudia with Esk Library Manager Anita Aurisch and Laidley Library Manager Nicole Kilah, delivering the stash of children's books donated by Australian Booksellers' Association.



Snapped: a message of support from the Prime Minister

INTERLIBRARY LENDING RESOURCE SHARING PRICES UNDER REVIEW

The Australian resource sharing network is the envy of many library communities worldwide, not the least for our collaborative approach to adopting national guidelines/charges (the ILRS Code) which provides predictability, consistency and flexibility in relation to sharing our resources.

The ALIA Interlibrary Lending Advisory Committee has planned to review the pricing within the Australian Interlibrary Resource Sharing (ILRS) Code in 2011.

www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/interlibrary.lending/ - www.alia.org.au/interlibrary.lending/ilrs.code.html

Given the recent announcements of the National Library Document Supply Service and other individual libraries of an increase in their interlibrary loan charges, the Committee is aware of the urgency to proceed with the review and has commenced consultation with peak body representatives. The Committee aims to complete the consultation process by end of October, 2011.

In order to preserve the ILRS code we would encourage Australian libraries to consider not altering ILL charges until the review is completed.

It is our understanding that the current default charges within LADD will remain, pending the outcome of the review.

Should you have any concerns or queries please email executive.director@alia.org.au.

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