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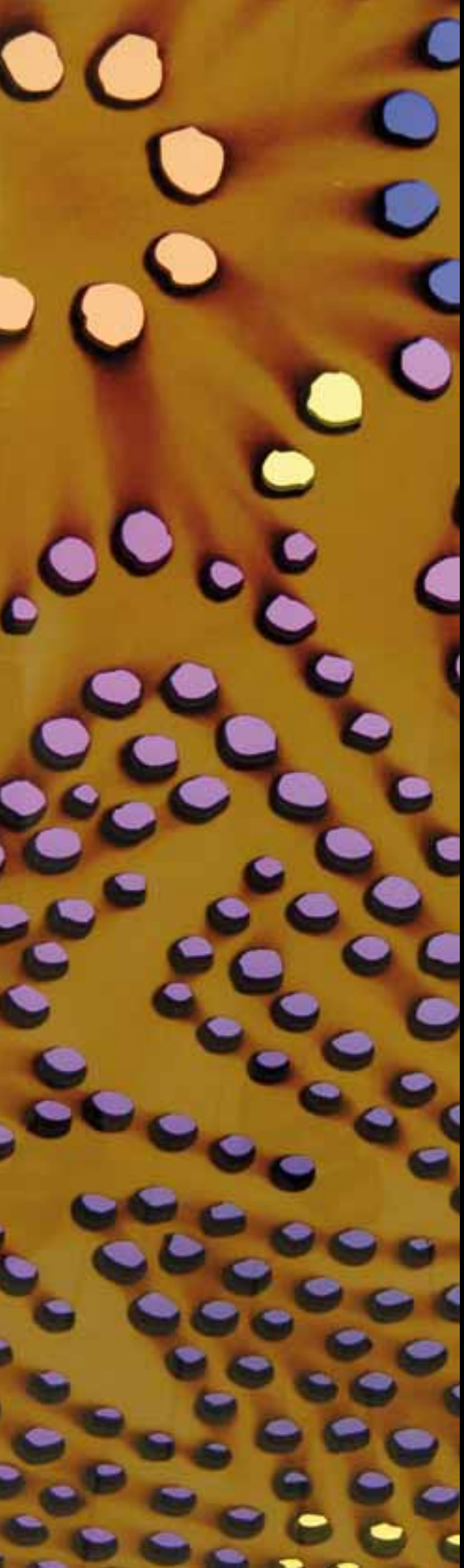
www.slq.qld.gov.au

Welcoming places

Ideas for public library services for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders



This publication contains images of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders who may have deceased.

Welcoming places

Ideas for public library services for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders

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This publication outlines the inspiring results of State Library of Queensland's *Listen here!* project which systematically documented successful ideas for improving library services to Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders. It contains a series of short case studies provided by each library involved in the project, a listing of key elements to consider when working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and examples of programs that have been run for these client groups.

You will find ideas in this publication which can be adapted for your library and community. Many libraries have developed close links with their local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities which have resulted in tremendously rewarding experiences for everyone.

Listen here! project

The majority of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders in Queensland live in areas served by public libraries. However, many libraries have reported difficulty in knowing how to reach out to these client groups in ways that meet their interests and needs. The State Library of Queensland (SLQ) is committed to partnering with public libraries to improve services to these client groups, at the same time ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collections and culture are represented in public library spaces.

In 2005, as a way of trialing some practical strategies for building positive relationships with these client groups, the Indigenous Library Services team at SLQ developed the *Listen here!* project. This project documented how five libraries improved their services to their local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

SLQ worked closely with Cairns Libraries, Cooloola Libraries, Paroo Shire Libraries, Thuringowa Library Services and Townsville Library Services. Funding was provided for the employment of a part-time Indigenous project officer for approximately six months as well as funding for the development and delivery of programs. Independent libraries also received a grant for collection development.

Each library was asked to trial the following strategies: creating or using an existing Indigenous reference group for guidance and support; organising public programs; creating an Indigenous presence in library spaces; and seeking advice to improve collections.

Library staff reported on their experiences throughout the project and also shared ideas amongst themselves. Within the overall guidelines of the project, a wide range of different approaches and programs were used. The Indigenous project officers and the Indigenous reference groups assisted each library to make Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders feel welcome and made sure that their programs and collections were right for their communities.

Listen here! Workshop
Back row L-R: Rick Wilson (Thuringowa), Ron Store (Thuringowa), Penny Jackson (Paroo), Kerry Clarkson (Townsville), Genevieve Lehmann (Cairns). Front row L-R: Linda Hansen-Jordan (Thuringowa), Angela Renshaw (State Library of Queensland), Nai Nai Bird (Cooloola).

Activities included art workshops during NAIDOC week, storytelling for children and the launch of an Indigenous children's collection, an oral recollections project, scrapbooking workshops with Elders and the commencement of a larger project to create a dictionary of local Aboriginal languages. Community participation in different activities led to increased library usage and membership by Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders.

Experiences from *Listen here!*

Cairns Libraries

Prior to participating in the *Listen here*! project some members of the Indigenous community were already using the library service as we had encouraged use through partnerships with local schools and community groups. The *Listen here!* project presented an opportunity to further engage with the Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders living in Cairns.

The new relationships formed between the Indigenous community and Cairns Libraries highlighted the potential of the library service to provide an alternative arena to promote these cultures. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities expressed a new interest in using the library for displays of Indigenous artefacts and memorabilia, workshops with community groups, storytelling, family history research as well as more general research and study services.

Acknowledging that the project officer for the *Listen here!* project required extensive communication and project management skills, a comprehensive recruitment campaign was conducted, with an emphasis on networking within the local Indigenous community.

We were aware how important it was to adhere to local protocols when establishing a working group. The project officer worked with the Indigenous Liaison and Policy Officer in the Council, who was able to provide appropriate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contacts already established through Council.

The various organisations contacted were very interested in the project and more than willing to be represented on the working group. We believe that this interest was generated by the project officer personally visiting each organisation and providing written material about the library service and the *Listen here!* project.

Many of the organisations represented on the working group were unaware of the services currently provided by Cairns Libraries, for example the family history collection. Family history promotional material was provided to organisations for distribution, in turn heightening awareness within the community and resulting in a noted increase in access to this collection by the community.

The community now has access to Indigenous library material which meets the criteria developed by the working group and further selection of material will ensure that the collection continues to develop and meet the needs indicated by the community.

Cairns Libraries has direct relationships with members of the Indigenous community involved with the working group. These relationships provide the community and the library service with a solid foundation from which further collaboration can occur.

By Genevieve Lehmann

Cairns Libraries now has direct relationships with members of the Indigenous community… a solid foundation from which further collaboration can occur.

Cairns Libraries
Sydney Gray, *Listen here!* Project Officer
Genevieve Lehmann, Support Services Team Leader
Kerrie Still, Library Manager

NAIDOC week celebrations were perhaps the highlight of the programs and events

Cooloola Libraries
Nai Nai Bird, *Listen here!* Project Officer
Leonie Day-Wilson, Library Manager

Gympie Library, Cooloola Libraries

One of the first displays in the Gympie branch library leading up to the *Listen here!* project was a *Black Diggers* exhibition for ANZAC Day. We received extensive publicity through local papers and by word-of-mouth within the Indigenous community, so this exhibition was a useful drawcard to get people into the library and foster community interest in the upcoming project.

The Indigenous Resource Officer for the project, Nai Nai Bird, had extensive cultural knowledge and standing within the community as well as experience working in the library, and was able to draw on these skills throughout the project.

A large-scale children and young people's event called *Kidzone* included a talk from Nai Nai on traditional culture, bush foods and medicines. With 600 children and young people attending, there was keen interest from many participants and schools, leading to requests for Nai Nai to organise follow-up school visits to share her knowledge, and a noticeable increase in demand for library resources relating to Aboriginal culture.

During school holiday periods, Indigenous stories were told to children aged 5-10 in "Littlies Storytelling". Craft activities were also introduced, such as how to make traditional tools and making string from native leaves. Once school resumed, a number of students continued to visit the library so that they could access the computers and seek homework help from library staff. The library's collection of materials on make-up, hairstyles, and fashion magazines proved very popular with Indigenous high school students, who quickly became confident library users.

NAIDOC week was perhaps the highlight of the project's programs and events. The library collaborated with local Aboriginal artists to run a series of art workshops, funded through the Mooloola Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation, Regional Arts Development Fund, and local sponsors including Skill Centred and The Gympie Times Newspaper. The Cooloola Art Gallery lent their venue so local Indigenous artists could display their works.

A display was also held in the foyer of the Gympie Library, featuring a Goorie gunyah, artefacts, bush-foods, bush-medicines and plants and numerous "floor talks" were held during this period. The art workshops were so popular that workshops and art sessions continued at the library after NAIDOC week. It was also evident that Indigenous members were now not only interested in library materials of an Indigenous nature – they were also far more aware of the other facilities and services the libraries had to offer. Their confidence had been gained.

By Leonie Day-Wilson

Cunnamulla Library, Paroo Shire Libraries

We had success with organising events and found this a good way to get members of the community into the library to see what we had to offer. We organised special morning teas for the Elders and eventually these incorporated craft sessions. A Creative Memories consultant ran a session on preserving photos and creating beautiful pages for albums and memories. Everyone enjoyed it so much and there has been a real interest in scrapbooking. Quite often now we have someone pop in to

say hello and then sit and have a cuppa with us. Building these relationships also allows us to understand the communities' interests more clearly. For example, some of the Elders expressed interest in our audio book collection and were interested in religious materials in this format, so we have been able to organise that.

Before being involved in the *Listen here!* project, only a few Aboriginal people used the library. I have since found out that this was a matter of trust for the local community – not knowing if they were welcome in the library. Once the project started, the Paroo Shire employed Agnes (Dolly) Fox as the *Listen here!* Project Officer and within six weeks a decision was made to create an on-going position for Dolly. She also commenced a certificate in Library and Information Services. Having an Indigenous staff member in the library has been the biggest benefit to the community. With Dolly's presence the feeling is more relaxed when people enter as they can see Dolly and know they are welcome. Also, it has now become a relaxed atmosphere even when Dolly is not there, as I have gained their trust and respect.

Our library is now used by a larger proportion of the Indigenous community including a group of young adults, who tend to use the library for the Internet and as a safe house. During summer months we have a late night and this has attracted a few young people who want to read magazines or meet mates. The Indigenous people now see the library as a welcoming location; we have also had a membership increase since Dolly has been working at the library.

An Indigenous languages dictionary project started as part of *Listen here!* and we have received a grant of $48,500 from the Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records program (Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts) to compile and publish a dictionary of the tribes of the Paroo Shire. The library reference group are helping to organise this, along with Dolly and myself.

When I first went to Brisbane for the training there was a speaker talking about a project from the past and she used the saying "from little things big things grow". Let me tell you that I whole heartedly agree with this. It seems that our project is growing all the time and I am running out of hours to do it all in!

By Penny Jackson

From little things, big things grow

Paroo Shire Libraries
Agnes (Dolly) Fox, *Listen here!* Project Officer/Indigenous Resource Officer
Penny Jackson, Library Manager

Agnes (Dolly) Fox prepares for a photography session, Cunnamulla

Community trust was a key factor in achieving a library program that will continue to grow beyond the parameters of funding and timeframes …. When this trust is in place, true community partnership and leadership will follow.

Thuringowa Library Services
Linda Hansen-Jordan, *Listen here!* Project Officer
Rick Wilson, Indigenous Resource Officer
Ron Store and Susan Coker, Library Managers

Thuringowa Library Services

As part of *Listen here!* an Oral Recollections project was started, with the intention of recording personal recollections of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders. Our hope is that they become one of Thuringowa Library's rich resources. These personal recollections provide a pathway to assist those searching for material, viewpoints and Indigenous knowledge from the local area and to provide an understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture in oral form. Most importantly they document, reclaim and in some cases return their oral heritage to their communities.

The response from Indigenous people who would like to tell their story has been positive and encouraging. These stories will inspire the young ones, also connecting them to the place in which they live and to the people with whom they share that place. The most important feedback from the Indigenous Advisory Council and the local Indigenous community is that this collection will create a historical record and a sense of holding something valuable from the past to pass on to the next generation.

For many Indigenous people, the term "oral history" is associated with anthropologists and other experts eager to record for posterity. When Aboriginal people are talking to each other about old times, this is known as *yarnin' up*. It is for this reason that less formal interviews were conducted, often over a cup of tea around the table – *yarnin'*.

By developing an Indigenous Protocols and Policy Statement for the Indigenous Resource Service, we aimed to ensure that the oral recollections of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders are used appropriately, respecting community ownership. A consent form was developed to make it clear how the interviews, photographs and outgoing loans will be used, minimising the chances for misunderstanding.

The success of Oral Recollections is that it was community steered, created and designed to best serve the needs of the community and to pass on cultural knowledge to the next generation. It preserves and values the interviewee's history and story which in turn nurtures a sense of place and belonging. Sometimes personal recollections contain memories that have not been talked about for a very long time and recalling these was painful and sad. Sensitivity, compassion, respect and understanding were crucial.

By Judith Jensen and Ron Store

Townsville Library Services

When copies of the *Norman B Tindale Genealogy Records* held by the Museum of South Australia were obtained by Townsville Library Services, the Indigenous Resource Unit was established to encourage the Indigenous community to come and visit the library, share their stories and explore what the library offers, whilst feeling comfortable researching their family history.

I started working with the library in 2001 and have found it rewarding, helping the community search for their links to family and country, whilst at the same time encouraging Indigenous people to use the library more and become members.

I have a historical link to Palm Island because this was my mother's birthplace. It was important to the Elders to have someone who has these links to the community so that relationships could be established and our people made to feel comfortable when visiting the library and seeing a familiar face.

On advice from the Elders Advisory Group, the Indigenous Resource Collection stands alone in the library with books and resources labelled with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags so they can be easily identified. This collection has been a source of education and awareness, not only for the Indigenous community but for the non-Indigenous community and is growing in size every year.

Library services are provided to the whole community but the Indigenous community have been missing out on all these opportunities because of a lack of confidence and lack of awareness.

When the Indigenous Resource Unit was first established, there wasn't a high percentage of Indigenous people using the library and so we started a journey of awareness and communication with the community to establish links and implement activities and projects that would involve the community and help them take tiny steps into the library. Norma Lampton was employed as the project officer for *Listen here!* and whilst on this six-month journey, library staff saw what a difference this project made. More Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders became aware that the library wasn't a place to be afraid of and so began their journey of knowledge and understanding of what libraries are about.

The activities in the *Listen here!* project have shown that we cannot service the community to our full advantage by staying in the library and expecting people to come to us. We need to go and visit people in their homes, schools and organisations to talk about what we are doing and what the library is all about.

By Kerry Clarkson

… so we started a journey of awareness and communications with the community to establish links… help them take tiny steps into the library.

Townsville Library Services
Norma Lampton, *Listen here!* Project Officer
Kerry Clarkson, Indigenous Resource Officer
Annette Pike, Library Manager

Kerry Clarkson with the Indigenous Collection, Aitkenvale Library, Townsville

Staff and training

Employing a person from the local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities has been identified as the single most influential factor in increasing library usage by these client groups.

- Does your library have Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander members of staff? Are there mentoring and training mechanisms for these staff members?
- Do all library staff members participate in cultural awareness training?
- Would library staff be interested in forming a Reconciliation group? See www.reconciliation.org.au
- Keep in touch with others – State Library has created the QATSILS (Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library Services) discussion list to help you share ideas. Join at www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/publib/news/lists/hosted/qatsils
- Besides informal networks, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Resource Network (ATSILIRN) is a great starting place. http://home.vicnet.net.au/~atsilirn/

Looking for Aboriginal people or Torres Strait Islanders to join your staff?

- Access government employment and training programs for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders. For example, Structured Training and Employment Projects provides funding for projects that lead to lasting employment for Indigenous job seekers. Visit www.workplace.gov.au and follow the links to 'Indigenous Programmes'.
- Consider creating an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Resource Officer position to attract someone with the necessary skills in community engagement and experience in running programs.

Having an Indigenous staff member in the library has been the biggest benefit to the community. With Dolly's presence the feeling is more relaxed when people enter as they can see Dolly and know they are welcome…. membership has increased since Dolly has been at the library.

Paroo Shire Libraries

Left Detail from carvings in the Talking Circle, kuril dhagun, by Laurie Nilsen and BOVACIA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, 2006

Below Jo-Anne Driessens creates a display at kuril dhagun Indigenous Knowledge Centre, State Library of Queensland

The various organisations contacted were very interested in the project and more than willing to be represented on the working group. We believe that this interest was generated by the project officer personally visiting each organisation and providing written material about the library service and the Listen here! project.

Cairns Libraries

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reference groups

An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reference group, working group, or friends of the library group is a vital asset for your library. Though it may not have formal authority to make decisions, it provides valuable advice and insights and serves as a link back to the local communities. Members of the reference group can help answer questions such as:

- Why aren't Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders using the library?
- What sort of collections and programs would make the library attractive to these client groups?
- Who can help you reach out to these client groups?
- What other organisations could you partner with to run some programs for these client groups?

It is worth checking whether your Council already has an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reference group that could help you. Indigenous officers working in your community in the area of health, with police or in education are also great resources, as are Council Youth Development Officers, Recreation Officers and Local Area Multicultural Programme (LAMP) coordinators.

When considering potential reference group members, aim to reflect the diversity within your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Think about including people from different age groups, a balance of male and female members and cultural backgrounds ensuring representatives from all language/clan groups are included. Potential members of a reference group include:

- Local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, both male and female
- Younger Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders
- Organisations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients or members
- Elected representatives from your local Council
- Indigenous resource officers working in other services
- Non-Indigenous people – perhaps including key library staff. Experiences from the *Listen here!* project highlighted how valuable it was to involve library staff in this group.

Make personal contact with all potential members of the reference group and invest time in building trust and respect before approaching a formal meeting. The Queensland Government website provides good advice about consulting with Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders. See www.indigenous.qld.gov.au/resources/cultures.cfm

Consider providing transport to and from meetings and allow plenty of time after the meeting for informal discussions and relationship building.

Friends of the Library launch
Aitkenvale Library, Townsville Library Services. L-R: Maureen Marappa, Shane Alley and Gordon Ross

The best success of having the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags hung in the library was the resulting pride... comments came from the most unexpected people of how happy they were to see the flags hanging together. Also encouraging recognition and cultural awareness made it worthwhile.

Thuringowa Library Services

Look and feel of your library

A welcoming environment is important for all library visitors. By creating a visible Indigenous presence, the library can send a message that Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders are valued clients.

- Involve the community in selecting material for the library – get feedback at community events and ask your reference group to help you choose material for the library that responds to the known interests of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, as well as materials created by Indigenous authors, journalists, artists, filmmakers and musicians.
- Be aware that material about Indigenous people that has been written/recorded/filmed by non-Indigenous people may not always represent or interest the community. Ask your reference group and other people for their opinions.
- Subscribe to Indigenous media – see the list of newspapers and magazines in this publication for ideas.
- Display a map of Aboriginal Australia and a detailed map of the Torres Strait (Aboriginal Studies Press www.aiatsis.gov.au can supply these).
- Hang three flags with pride – the Australian flag, the Aboriginal flag and the Torres Strait Islander flag. Contact your federal, state or local Member of Parliament to obtain these flags, free of charge.

Lea Giles-Peters, State Librarian, State Library of Queensland, participates in Reconciliation Week activities

- NAIDOC* is perhaps the most important annual celebration for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders, held in the first full week of July. It celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders.

Other important days include:	
26 May	National Sorry Day www.nsdc.org.au
27 May – 3 June	National Reconciliation Week www.reconciliation.org.au/
3 June	Mabo Day www.tsra.gov.au/www/indexcfm?itemid=234
1 July	Coming of the Light www.tsra.gov.au/www/indexcfm?itemid=235
Early July	NAIDOC – check the theme for each year www.naidoc.org.au/
9 August	International Day of World's Indigenous People www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/news_internationalday2006.html

- Display Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander material held in the library and show artwork or other artefacts, particularly for NAIDOC.
- Create a local history corner that includes both pre-colonial and early colonial days and the Aboriginal people and/or Torres Strait Islanders from your community. The State Library may have some historic photos of your community.
- Consider using Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spine labels for collection materials.
- Use culturally sensitive and appropriate terminology in library signage and all library materials. For guidance on this issue have a look at *Communicating across Cultures* www.datsip.qld.gov.au/resources/cultures.cfm

*NAIDOC originally stood for National Aboriginies and Islanders Day Observance Committee and the acronym has become the name of the week itself.

The community now has access to Indigenous library material that meets the criteria developed by the working group and was not previously available at Cairns Libraries. Further selection … will ensure that the collection continues to develop and meet the needs indicated by the community.

Cairns Libraries

One of the first displays in the Gympie branch library was a Black Diggers exhibition for ANZAC Day. We received extensive publicity through local papers and by word-of-mouth within the Indigenous community, so this exhibition was a useful drawcard to get people into the library...

Cooloola Libraries

Programs

There are many examples of popular programs that have been run in different libraries. Once you have an established relationship with your Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, through your reference group, you will be able to adapt these ideas for your community or come up with some completely new ones.

For continued inspiration and possible connections, look at programs in kuril dhagun Indigenous Knowledge Centre in the State Library www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/ind/kurildhagun and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) www.aiatsis.gov.au.

When running programs:

- Promote your efforts Contact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander radio stations and provide information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander newspapers and magazines. See the list of Indigenous media included in this publication.
- Develop partnerships with local organisations which involve Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders so that you can run joint activities.
- Don't stay in the library. Undertake outreach activities to your local health centres, churches, old people's homes and other local institutions. Remember these client groups may have had very little contact with libraries and may feel shy about coming to you.

Some successful programs undertaken by libraries include:

- Family history research.
- Recording oral histories/recollections.
- Hosting book launches for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors.
- Engaging local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander storytellers or speakers to run storytelling or information sessions.
- Exhibitions highlighting the achievements, history or culture of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders, eg Black Diggers, sporting heroes, local languages.
- Programs and projects that promote the use of Indigenous resources such as Reading for Reconciliation. See www.reconciliation.org.au/i-cms.isp?page=390.
- Photography classes (both digital and traditional) and related activities such as scrapbooking or making calendars, basic readers or family trees.
- Library welcome sessions providing information on how to access resources in the library for different groups eg mothers and children, Elders, schools, TAFE students and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations.

Some ideas...

Boomerang painting (Cunnamulla Library)

Description
Young people were invited to the library to paint their own plywood boomerangs with the assistance of local Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) artists. The boomerangs were locally made and were purchased along with the paint from CDEP. During the day, morning and afternoon teas were provided as well as some entertainment in the form of traditional dancing with didgeridoo accompaniment. Parents and extended family members were welcome to come along and watch the young artists at work.

Outcomes
Excellent community support with 51 children painting a boomerang and plenty of family members attending.

Cost
$3 per boomerang and refreshments, including morning and afternoon tea.

Who was involved
The library manager, an Indigenous project officer, two CDEP staff.

Contact
Penny Jackson, cunnamullalibrary@bigpond.com.au

Digital cameras (Taking IT On project)

Description
The *Taking IT On* project run by State Library of Queensland (SLQ) visited many Indigenous communities, offering free training in basic IT skills. Digital photography proved to be a very effective and fun way of breaking down initial reluctance to use new technology. Digital cameras were used to take photos and then create a useful object such as a calendar, card or photo display that could be taken home from the session.

Taking IT On training
Karren Pickering and Daniel Nunn, Wujal Wujal Indigenous Knowledge Centre

Outcomes
Over 30 novice computer users were trained in these communities, many of whom had never used the library before. People who hadn't used a computer were willing to give it a go if the focus was on using a camera first, and on the computer as a secondary element. Cameras could be taken out into the community, with people invited to come back to the library to print or make materials with the images. Family photographs were especially popular.

Taking IT On training
Jenny Mooka, Chris Hollingdrake, Annie Min, Mabuiag Island

Cost
Software for downloading images eg Iphoto (mac), Photo Wizard (PC) & Google's Picasa 2 – freeware.
Digital Camera – costs vary, they can also be borrowed from family or friends.
Printing costs include a printer and photographic paper.

Who was involved
Torres Strait Island and Cape York communities.

Contact
Scott Gibuma, scaddygibuma@hotmail.com

Story time program (Earlville Branch Library)

Description
Cairns Libraries celebrated the launch of their exciting new Indigenous Library Materials Collection with a children's story program at Earlville Branch Library, with all the stories taken from the new materials. Storytelling was followed by mask-making activities for the children. The Cairns Libraries Indigenous working group was consulted to develop this new collection.

Outcomes
Twenty-three year four students attended the first Story Program and it is planned to repeat the event with Indigenous storytellers. The Indigenous working group is now an established and direct link for Cairns library staff to their Indigenous communities and the Indigenous materials collection continues to grow in both size and popularity.

Cost
Minimal cost for mask materials only. Collection development, possibly fees for storyteller.

Who was involved
The Cairns Libraries Children's librarian, teachers from the Balaclava State School and library staff to help with the activity.

Contact
Genevieve Lehmann, g.lehmann@cairns.qld.gov.au

Yarnin' up – Oral Histories/Recollections (Thuringowa Library Services)

Description
Yarnin' up preserves Indigenous people's unique memories and life experiences. The first history produced was Ernie Hoolihan's oral history, *Marking our Times*. It traces the early history of the Yumba-Meta Housing Association, the first association of its kind in Queensland, established to acquire Indigenous housing using Commonwealth funding.

Outcomes
The project has created enormous interest in the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with local Elders wanting more involvement with the project and supplying more ideas and subjects. The library now has a resource that accurately portrays the local history and gives young people a chance to learn their history directly from the Elders. The project also resulted in the creation of participant consent forms which are now standard in the library when working with original materials.

Cost
Transcripts $478, artwork $560, editing, burning, printing on CD $780 (50 copies), printing A5 booklet $350 (50 copies), approximately ten staff hours for interviews plus four weeks of full time editing and liaising with consultants.

Who was involved
Indigenous library resource officer, Indigenous project officer, extensive consultation with advisory groups and library staff.

Contact
Judith Jensen, judithj@thuringowa.qld.gov.au

NAIDOC week (Gympie Library)

Description
Cooloola Libraries participated in NAIDOC week celebrations as a way of reaching out to members of the local Indigenous community who had not used the library service previously. The library collaborated with local Aboriginal artists and the Cooloola Art Gallery to run art workshops and local Indigenous artists were able to take part in an exhibition of works at the gallery. The Gympie Library also hosted a NAIDOC week exhibition, featuring a Goorie gunyah, artefacts, bush foods and bush medicines. A respected member of the local Aboriginal community gave talks in the library during the exhibition.

Outcomes
The art workshops were so popular that they continued at the library after NAIDOC week. Both adult and junior library memberships increased as a direct result of involvement in NAIDOC week celebrations and other programs undertaken over the course of the *Listen here!* project.

Cost
Art supplies, bush foods, bush medicines. Funding from Mooloola Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation in the form of a Regional Arts Development Fund grant assisted greatly, as did funding from other major sponsors, Skill Centred and The Gympie Times.

Who was involved
Local artists, the Indigenous project officer, library staff, gallery staff.

Contact
Leonie Day-Wilson, leonie.day-wilson@cooloola.qld.gov.au

I learnt through the Listen here! project that we cannot service the community to our full advantage by staying in the library and expecting people to come to us. We need to go and visit people in their homes, schools, and organisations to talk about what we are doing and what the library is all about

Townsville Library Service

Finding Out Forum (Mackay Libraries)

Description
A day long session bringing together many government services to highlight the range of information resources and services available to Aboriginal people, Torres Strait Islanders and South Sea Islanders in their search for community and family history information.

Outcomes
The response from the community was fantastic with approximately 60 people attending (we were expecting about 30). We received positive comments about the value of covering the records concerning each group individually: Aboriginal, Torres Strait and South Sea Islands. Since the forum, many attendees have contacted the participating government services and word of mouth has created a demand for the session to be repeated. Library staff members also found the forums valuable, gaining an appreciation of just how difficult records can be to find and access.

Total cost
Morning tea and lunch were provided as well as staff time. All speakers were free of charge.

Who was involved
Representatives from State Archives, Communities and Personal Histories (Department of Communities, Queensland), National Archives of Australia (Brisbane office), Heritage Collections at State Library of Queensland (SLQ) and kuril dhagun Indigenous Knowledge Centre at SLQ, and Mackay library staff.

Contact
Julie Manaway, j.manaway@mackay.qld.gov.au

Right Detail from carvings in the Talking Circle, kuril dhagun, by Laurie Nilsen and BOVACIA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, 2006

Below *Finding Out Forum*
L-R: Niles Elvery (Queensland State Archives), Greg Cope (National Archives of Australia), Julie Manaway (Mackay Libraries), and Gavin Bannerman and Nadine McDonald-Dowd (State Library of Queensland)

There has also been progress with our dictionary – we have received a grant of $48,500 to compile and publish the dictionary…All this came about originally from the Listen here! project. It is a dictionary of the tribes of the Paroo Shire and the library reference group will help organise this.*

Paroo Shire Libraries

* Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records program of the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts

Funding

Once you have a project in mind there are many sources of funding.

Government

Check out these websites for updated information on government funding:

- www.grantslink.gov.au/ for a list of all the Commonwealth Government funding, with guidelines and deadlines for applications.
  Look particularly at the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (community projects, homework centres) and the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA). DCITA administers the Backing Indigenous Ability funding for public access Internet and computers in remote communities: www.dcita.gov.au/communications_for_consumers/funding_programs_and_support/backing_indigenous_ability
- www.qld.gov.au/grants/ for a list of all funding available through the Queensland Government. Again, the Department of Communities is one of the best sites to look at for funding for local projects, also Arts Queensland for regional arts development funding.
- www.slq.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/word_doc/12163/07-Guidelines-LSDG.doc State Library of Queensland Library Strategic Development Grants. These grants aim to assist public libraries to engage with their communities and build social cohesion by targeting services to people experiencing social, economic or geographic disadvantage.

Philanthropic foundations

There are many foundations, large and small, public and private, that have an interest in supporting projects offering services to Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders. Have a look at the Australian Indigenous Guide to Philanthropy prepared by the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation www.vaccho.org.au/html/publications.htm but watch out for Foundations that only support projects in Victoria.

Corporate

Most big companies (mining, petroleum, forestry, financial, building, automotive etc) have public giving programs – the details are available on their websites.

Banks (Bank of Queensland www.boq.com.au/aboutus_community_sponsorships.htm, Commonwealth, National, Westpac etc) and insurance companies (NRMA www.nrma.com.au/pub/nrma/community/help-program/index.shtml, Suncorp etc) are good sources of funding for small scale local projects. This money is usually managed by the local or regional manager. It may just be a matter of talking to the local representative.

In-kind support

Some companies may not be able to give you money but they can donate goods or services such as advertising, paper, paint, furniture, books, art materials, CDs or expert advice. This is often the easiest kind of help to organise – it is just a matter of asking.

Contacts

Arts organisations

Aboriginal Nations
Dreaming Stories animations
w www.ablnat.com.au

Bangarra Dance
w www.bangarra.com.au

ILBIJEER Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Theatre Co-operative
w www.ilbijerri.org.au

Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company
w www.yirrayaakin.asn.au

Community organisations

Reconciliation Australia
PO Box 4773
Kingston ACT 2604
t (02) 6273 9200
f (02) 6773 9201
e inquire@reconciliation.org.au
w www.reconciliation.org.au

Reconciliation Queensland
PO Box 6402
St Lucia QLD 4067

NAIDOC
National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee
w www.naidoc.org.au/

NATSIEW
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Website
w www.natsiew.nexus.edu.au

TSRA
Torres Strait Regional Authority
PO Box 261
Thursday Island QLD 4875
e info@tsra.gov.au
w www.tsra.gov.au/

Government

Indigenous Portal
w www.indigenous.gov.au

Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
Level 6a, Neville Bonner Building
75 Willliam Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15397
Brisbane QLD 4001
t 3224 2011
f 3224 2070
w www.datsip.qld.gov.au/

Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination
GPO Box 9820
Brisbane QLD 4001
t 1300 653 227
f 3005 6097
w www.oipc.gov.au

Queensland Government Reconciliation
w www.reconciliation.qld.gov.au

State Library of Queensland
PO Box 3488
South Brisbane QLD 4101
t 3840 7666
e info@slq.qld.gov.au
w www.slq.qld.gov.au

Media

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander radio stations

National Indigenous Radio Service
This site includes a listing of local Indigenous radio stations around Australia
w www.nirs.org.au

98.9 FM (Brisbane)
t 3852 3715
w www.989fm.com.au/

Bumma Bippera Media 98.9 FM (Cairns)
t 4052 1155

Us Mob Radio 4UMS 87.8 FM (Cherbourg)
t 4168 3400

Mob FM 100.9 (Mt Isa)
t 4749 1338

TSIMA/4MW 1260 AM (Thursday Island)
t 4069 1524

TAIMA/4K1G (Townsville)
t 4772 5466

Newspapers, magazines and journals

Koori Mail
PO Box 117
Lismore NSW 2480
t (02) 6622 2666
f (02) 6622 2600
e admin@koorimail.com
w www.koorimail.com

National Indigenous Times (NIT)
PO Box 696
Woden ACT 2606
t 1300 786 611
f 1300 786 622
e mail@nit.com.au
w www.nit.com.au

Deadly Vibe
Vibe Australia
26 & 28 Burton Street
Darlinghurst NSW 2101
t (02) 9361 0140
f (02) 9361 5850
w www.vibe.com.au

Torres News
PO Box 436
Thursday Island QLD 4875
t 1300 TORRES (1300 867 737)
f 1300 STRAIT (1300 787 248)
e editor@torresnews.com.au
w www.torresnews.com.au

Television

SBS
Living Black
w www.news.sbs.com.au/livingblack

Strait Up – Stories from the Torres Strait
w www.20.sbs.com.au/straitup

ABC
Message Stick
w www.abc.net.au/message/links.htm

Us Mob
w www.abc.net.au/usmob

Dust Echoes
Ancient Stories, New Voices
w www.abc.net.au/message/dustechoes/

Reference documents

If you are looking at writing funding submissions, or reports to your Council or other bodies, there are many existing policy documents that can be useful:

- *National Policy Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library Services and Collections*. This policy has been developed by National and State Libraries of Australasia (NSLA), the peak representative body for libraries in Australia. As a member of NSLA, the State Library of Queensland encourages all public libraries in Queensland to consider the *National Policy Framework* and work with the State Library to improve services and collections for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders.
  www.nsla.org.au
- *Reconciliation Strategy,* 2006, State Library of Queensland
  www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/ind#strategic
- *Protocols for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collections*, State Library of Queensland
  www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/ind#strategic
- *Our Place is Your Place: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment and Training Strategy 2007-2010*, State Library of Queensland.
  www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/ind#strategic
- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protocols for Libraries, Archives, and Information Services*, ATSILIRN (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Resource Network)
  http://home.vicnet.net.au

Publishers and distributors

AIATSIS Aboriginal Studies Press
GPO Box 553
Canberra ACT 2601

t (02) 6246 1183
f (02) 6261 4285
w www.aiatsis.gov.au

Average number of titles published per year: 8

Blackbooks
PO Box 229 (11 Mansfield Street)
Glebe NSW 2037

t (02) 9660 2396
f (02) 9660 0120

Distributes: books, tapes, CDs, posters, arts & crafts

Black Ink Press
PO Box 217
Thuringowa Central QLD 4817

t 4773 5077
f 4773 5307
e info@blackinkpress.com.au
w www.blackinkpress.com.au

Average number of titles published per year: 10

FrontRow Video Distribution
PO Box 80
West Brunswick VIC 3055

t (03) 9387 3047
f (03) 9387 0588
e frontrowvideo@frontrowvideo.com.au
w www.frontrowvideo.com.au/

IAD Press
Institute for Aboriginal Development
PO Box 2531 (3 South Terrace)
Alice Springs NT 0871

t (08) 8951 1334
f (08) 8952 2527
e sales@iad.edu.au
w www.iad.edu.au/press/iadpresshome.htm

Average number of titles published per year: 8-12

Magabala Books
PO Box 668
Broome WA 6725

t (08) 9192 1991
f (08) 9193 5254
e info@magabal.com
w www.magabala.com

Average number of titles published per year: 8-10

Marcom Projects
PO Box 4535
Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113

t 3340 8900
f 3340 8999
e marcom@marcom.com.au
w www.marcom.com.au/

Distributor of DVDs for SBS Television

People Learn Productions (formerly Narkaling)
PO Box 1409
Midland WA 6936

t (08) 9274 8022
f (08) 9274 8362
e orders@peoplelearn.com.au
w www.peoplelearn.com.au

Learning disability educational resources

Ronin Films
PO Box 1005
Civic Square ACT 2608

t (02) 6248 0851
f (02) 6249 1640
e orders@roninfilms.com.au
w www.roninfilms.com.au

University of Queensland Press
UQP Black Australian Writing Series
PO Box 6042
St Lucia QLD 4067

t 3365 2127
f 3365 7579
e uqp@uqp.uq.edu.au
w www.uqp.uq.edu.au

Indij Readers
PO Box 2048
Rockdale DC NSW 2216

t (02) 9597 7844
f (02) 9597 7855
e info@indijreaders.com.au
w www.indijreaders.com.au

Keeira Press
PO Box 139
Southport QLD 4215

t 5502 8853
f 5502 8854
e info@kpress.com.au
w www.kpress.com.au

Contacts

Kurrajong Aboriginal Products
PO Box 427
Caboolture QLD 4510

t 5497 4235
f 5497 4656
e enquire@kurrajong.net
w www.kurrajong.net

Wangka Maya Publications
PO Box 2736
South Headland WA 6722

t (08) 9172 2344
f (08) 9172 2355
e wangkamaya@kisser.net.au
w www.wangkamaya.org.au

Working Title Press
33 Balham Ave
Kingswood SA 5062

t (08) 8271 6665
f (08) 8271 0885
e jane@workingtitlepress.com.au

The artwork used throughout this publication is a detail from *Kurilpa Country* by Lilla Watson

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Public Library Services
Cultural Centre
Stanley Place, South Bank
Brisbane, Qld, Australia

t 07 3842 9007
f 07 3842 9033
e pls@slq.qld.gov.au
w www.slq.qld.gov.au

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