Remote Indigenous Public Internet Access (RIPIA)

The first year of the RIPIA program has been a huge success with new equipment and Internet training being delivered to 19 Indigenous communities throughout the Northern Territory. Most of the sites now have faster internet connections and new public access computers.

Community Library Officers (CLOs) participated in the Train-the-Trainer program with great enthusiasm, which resulted in new skills to assist their community members in accessing reliable websites. Ongoing support for Community Library Officers is being carried out weekly through web conferencing sessions with Northern Territory Library (NTL) staff.

The RIPIA program has been popular with nearly 100 community people attending the basic Internet training. Libraries play an important role in providing a place for community members to enjoy their collections, Our Story database, and use the internet for their learning journey.
E-Mentoring

More and more organisations are discovering the value of mentoring and coaching as a strategy for training and developing their people. NTL has developed an E-mentoring program to assist CLOs to further develop their skills in Internet based Web 2.0 applications.

To deliver the program, the NTL uses a web teleconferencing application WebEx, which has allowed CLOs to receive support on a far more regular basis.

How E-Mentoring Can Help Community Library Officers

CLOs use E-mentoring as a way to access information in between visits by NTL staff. It is especially helpful if you want to learn more about computers, or the many things you can do on computers, and can be used to help with other aspects of library work.

CLOs participated in an eight week program where they were matched with NTL staff members. During weekly online sessions, CLOs and NTL staff explored web 2.0 tools and websites, and talked about how library clients could use these tools.

A highlight of the program was implementing the CLOs Facebook page where they can now share stories and talk about the programs and activities they have at their libraries.
Bonding, Bopping and Books

Bonding, Bopping and Books is an arts-based community library program for young children and their families. NTL received funding through the Parent and Community Engagement (PaCE) program within the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations to design and deliver the program in Angurugu, Groote Eylandt during Term 3, 2010.

NTL collaborated with existing services in the community to ensure that the program complemented and extended the local services in Angurugu. Bonding, Bopping and Books emphasised listening and responding to music, visual art, dance, literature and multimedia, as a foundation for early literacy learning.

The program successfully engaged families using creative play to support the development and learning of the participants in an entertaining manner. Sessions were held at the Pre-school, and included excursions and activities to provide variety in program delivery.

A grandmother of two young children said “the singing makes the mums and grandmas happy”.

Pip Barry (NTL) delivers the program at Angurugu

Albert with his mum Alvira and grandma Melva looking at a photo album of Bonding, Bopping and Books excursions and activities. Albert’s grandma and mum were sharing stories about the photos in the Anindilyakwa language.
National Simultaneous Storytime

Over 100 children from Darwin and remote Libraries and Knowledge Centres were able to see and hear each other during National Simultaneous Storytime, with real-time two-way web conferencing. Children in Lajamanu, Wadeye, Elliott, Mataranka and Nhulunbuy Libraries heard Charlie King read ‘Little White Dogs Can’t Jump’ live from the Northern Territory Library, Parliament House. Taminmin Library also celebrated National Simultaneous Storytime with 137 children and a little white dog, Muskett, bought in by Kezia Purick.

Minister for Arts and Museums, Gerry McCarthy also read to over 30 children at Tennant Creek Library as part of this national event, aimed at helping children to discover libraries and to highlight the importance of books, reading and literacy for children.

Wadeye Library celebrating Children’s Book Week

CLOs; Donna, Bernadette, Monica and Sam were very pleased with the successful Children’s Book Week program. Activities included a two-way reading session and the making of two banners. A children’s footprints banner was fun for everyone and Donna created a landscape picture fitting in with the theme “Across the story bridge”. Groups of school children participated in the activities.
Baby Board Books

Kate and Koulla from NTL have been busy in 2010 working on the baby board book project. Currently four baby board books have been compiled and are soon to be printed. These include:

- Amama, Apapa, Ajaja (Mummy, daddy, baby) – Tiwi
- Dalba Larrakia Baby - Larrakia
- Maty, Angey, Ampelyerrk akwek (Mummy, daddy new born baby) – Amantjere
- Mama, Papa, Pirltirrka (Mummy, daddy, new born baby) – Warlpiri

Remaining baby board books to be finalised soon are:

- Welcome Home Baby – Mudburra
- Pirltikka Warlpiri Baby - Warlpiri

We look forward to showcasing all the completed baby board books in 2011.

The baby board books have been funded under the Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records Program, Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, with two from the NT Dept of Education and Training through Families as First Teachers (FaFT), and one funded by the Warlpiri Education Training Trust.

A big thank you to everyone who has been involved with this project.
Highlights of 2010

Community Library Officers Forum

The annual Community Library Officers Forum held in Darwin in October 2010 was a huge success with a record number of 39 participants attending the four days of training and networking.

**Family Literacy:** bringing stories to life using the arts

**Sharing information:** to increase knowledge

**Selecting new resources**

**Web 2.0 tools:** and E-mentoring

**Family History:** understanding about databases and organisations
Katherine
Hi! My name is Kerri Watkins, I have been working with the Reading and Communicating with Kids (RaCK) program in Katherine since late September 2010. My position is about working and supporting community based reading mentors in local Aboriginal communities within the Katherine area as well as Mataranka and Barunga.

As a part of the NTL Family Literacy Program, the program provides children (birth to five year olds) with literacy and reading skills which enable them to be school ready.

A typical community visit involves selecting a site, generally under a tree in the park or in the community library, choosing appropriate books to read, reading (which is done by the reading mentor, myself and sometimes the kids), singing and doing action songs, talking and learning about each other.

We then finish the session with fruit and juice.

Previous to working with NTL, I worked for 11 years with the Parks and Wildlife Service of the NT as a park based Ranger, then as Joint Management Officer. I will start my studies into Early Childhood Education next year.

Pine Creek

Goodbye Ellen
Ellen Fielder has worked at the Pine Creek Library for four years providing a valued service for the community. Ellen is going on a holiday and will continue to live in Pine Creek. NTL staff thank Ellen for her work at Pine Creek Library and her contribution to the Community Library Officers’ Forum.

Welcome Erin
Erin Dunbar is the new CLO at Pine Creek. She worked casually at Nhulunbuy Library and is enjoying working with the community members and visiting patrons of Pine Creek Library.
Merry Christmas

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to working together in 2011

Public Libraries and Knowledge Centre staff list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cate Richmond, Assistant Director</td>
<td>8922 0792</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cate.richmond@nt.gov.au">cate.richmond@nt.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathy Hilder, Manager Public Library Services</td>
<td>8922 0734</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cathy.hilder@nt.gov.au">cathy.hilder@nt.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibby Maynard, Project Officer, Remote Services</td>
<td>8922 0741</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gibby.maynard@nt.gov.au">gibby.maynard@nt.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet Jones, Project Officer, Remote Services</td>
<td>8922 0732</td>
<td><a href="mailto:janet.jones@nt.gov.au">janet.jones@nt.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joy Cardona, Aboriginal Heritage Co-ordinator</td>
<td>8922 0709</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joy.cardona@nt.gov.au">joy.cardona@nt.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anja Tait, Library Programs Advisor</td>
<td>8922 0796</td>
<td><a href="mailto:anja.tait@nt.gov.au">anja.tait@nt.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate King, Senior Literacy Advisor</td>
<td>8922 0754</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kate.king@nt.gov.au">kate.king@nt.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koulla Giannikouris, Literacy Project Officer</td>
<td>8922 0724</td>
<td><a href="mailto:koulla.giannikouris@nt.gov.au">koulla.giannikouris@nt.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerri Watkins RACK Project Officer</td>
<td>8922 0724</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kerri.watkins@nt.gov.au">kerri.watkins@nt.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Pilkington, Records Officer</td>
<td>8922 0724</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kerry.pilkington@nt.gov.au">kerry.pilkington@nt.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Palmer, Records Officer</td>
<td>8922 0732</td>
<td><a href="mailto:emily.palmer@nt.gov.au">emily.palmer@nt.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pip Barry, Project Co-ordinator</td>
<td>8922 0724</td>
<td><a href="mailto:philippa.barry@nt.gov.au">philippa.barry@nt.gov.au</a></td>
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