

► ership and Cultural Management within Cultural Heritage Institutions.

Many new and exciting developments have been achieved in the last twelve months largely due to the many networks and resources of Aboriginal community people and Aboriginal workers (throughout the public and private sector) who share our concerns

about the need for culturally appropriate services and service delivery and the need to inform Aboriginal people about of the vast amounts of their cultural heritage within the State Library of South Australia.

If you would like any further information on projects, materials etc, or require some form of assistance please

don't hesitate to contact us. Perhaps you can provide us with more networks or simply be added to the growing list of contacts and resources. [Contact: Isabel O'Loughlin or Angela Sloan] at the Aboriginal Unit, State Library of SA, GPO Box 419 Adelaide South Australia 5001. Tel (08) 207 7313, fax (08) 207 7307. ■

A Maori identity in New Zealand librarianship

Chris Szekely, Maori Liaison Officer with the National Library of NZ, describes an exciting new development (with possible future parallels for Australia?)

Perhaps the most dynamic movement currently impacting on New Zealand librarianship is the establishment of a Maori Library Workers' Network—*Te Roopu Whakahau*.

Though still in the early stages of development, *Te Roopu Whakahau* ('a group to encourage') is rapidly asserting its identity on the New Zealand library scene. Since 1991 it has steadily developed from a handful of Maori library staff to a network of over 130. Last year, at a

three day *hui* (Maori gathering) the majority of these met and agreed to formalise the network. A committee was elected and charged with the task of drawing up some terms of reference to create the new group's structure and objectives.



Members of *Te Roopu Whakahau* in discussion: left to right Sally Pewhairangi, Wharehuia Hemara, Margaret Tane, Raewyn Tipene Clarke

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With a mandate from the *hui*, the committee has worked steadily to create a formal relationship with the New Zealand Library and Information Association (NZLIA). In pre-Network days, very few Maori had any involvement with the association and fewer still were members. The NZLIA has responded by making a commitment to look at ways in which the network can affiliate on an equal partnership ba-

sis, and effectively bring the greater number of Maori library workers into the professional fold. The Association's Bicultural Special Interest Group is also continuing to support and strengthen the Network as it develops.

Te Roopu Whakahau has undertaken to play a role in promoting libraries to Maori clients, to promote communication between Maori library workers and monitor information issues as they relate to Maori. The draft terms of reference include a mission statement to

'encourage Maori participation in information work and education resourcing'.

The committee have worked hard since their election to give credence to the group's objectives. For example, *Te Roopu*

Whakahau made a submission to a recent Parliamentary Select Committee Inquiry into Maori education which stressed the important role libraries play in resource-based learning and access to information. The network is also producing a formal report for the Ministry of Maori Development on how Maori librarians can inform Ministry policies.

In October this year, *Te Roopu Whakahau* are publishing the second edition of *Te hikoi marama: a directory of Maori information resources*. *Te hikoi marama* ('the enlightened journey') is a comprehensive guide of those organisations throughout New Zealand with collections of specific Maori relevance and publishers specialising in

Maori resources. First published in 1991, the directory has become an important New Zealand reference source and an essential tool for Maori researchers. The network has obtained the rights to publish future editions.

Funding through subscriptions, sponsorship and revenue generated from training events has enabled the committee to create forums for communication. These include regular nationwide mailouts, a published newsletter, committee teleconferencing, regional meetings and an annual conference.

The network is spread across the full range of libraries and all levels of library work—although a disproportionate number of Maori staff are unqualified library assistants. This latter issue is reflected in one of the network's objectives 'to facilitate opportunities for Maori library workers'. Already the network has had some success in assisting Maori library workers to gain admission to professional training courses. Some Maori are turning to the network to endorse their library school applications in lieu of support from their own employing libraries.

The need for more Maori involvement within the library profession has become increasingly clear as New Zealand's bicultural identity develops. Maori researchers and Maori language learners are using libraries in greater numbers, bringing with them specific requirements and expectations hitherto alien to library culture. Many libraries are experiencing difficulties in appropriately meeting the needs of Maori clients. The future now looks more heartening as Maori library professionals through *Te Roopu Whakahau* seize the challenges of *nga kaupapa Maori* (Maori agendas) to uniquely enrich and advance the nature of New Zealand librarianship. ■