

IYWIP in the Karratha community library

Donna Barge with a significant collecting activity in the northwest

The Karratha Community Library is a joint-use library funded by the Shire of Roebourne and the Karratha College. Karratha is approximately 1600 kilometres north of Perth, in Western Australia, and is the regional centre for

monographs, 16 cassettes and CD's, 56 videos, and three magazine subscriptions. As a special initiative we are focusing on collecting cassettes and CD's in 1994. An annotated bibliography has been compiled of the collection, and is updated on a regular basis.

The collection has a two-fold purpose to improve the awareness of non-indigenous people of the culture of indigenous people and to enable indigenous people to study their own culture.

At the beginning of 1993 a display board in the foyer between the Karratha Community Library and the Walkington Theatre was set aside for the purpose of advertising 'positive' articles and photos on indigenous people, both Australia wide and locally. The idea was taken up by other groups as well, and our board has been full all year long with contributions from local groups, and newspapers and magazines. Because of the board's ideal location it has been seen by a

wide cross-section of the community, and has been well received.

The library held a special display inside the library itself for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Week. A collection of Aboriginal artefacts, posters, books and videos from the collection was placed in a prominent position and proved so popular, especially with tourists travelling through in the winter months, that we have kept the display up ever since.

The library ran a 'Design a Poster' competition on the theme of 'The Year of Indigenous People' for all local school-age children. This was very popular—some excellent entries were received, and the winners were presented with a copy of either Deidre Stokes book 'Desert Dreamings' or Oodgeroo's book 'Father Sky, Mother Earth'. The entries were then displayed in the library during the October school holidays. During the holidays the library also ran a holiday activity of Didgeridoo making, which was accompanied by a spear and boomerang making exhibition by a local Aboriginal man; both events were popular with over 90 children attending.

The library also helped organise free school screenings locally-made for the film *Exile and the Kingdom*, which is now receiving national acclaim. It tells the story of the local Aboriginal people, both before and after white settlement. The film was viewed by most upper school children in the area, and over 1600 students had the opportunity to learn more about the local Aboriginal community.

As the year comes to a close our commitment to 'The Year of Indigenous People' will be carried into the coming years by continuing to collect materials for our Aboriginal Art and History Collection, and by building on the contact made during the year with local people. As a final thought to take into the future, I quote one of the winning entries in the poster competition: 'In the dark we are all the same colour'.



Peter Stevens and local children boomerang shaping

the West Pilbara. Karratha itself has a small Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, but has larger communities in the local area, such as at Roebourne.

The library has been working towards increasing its European population's awareness of the local Aboriginal people for the past four years, and during this time we have been collecting materials on Australia's indigenous people. We have so far acquired 528



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