

# Multicultural storytelling at the City of Botany Bay Library Service

## Australian Library Week 2000

The City of Botany Bay Library Service celebrated Australian Library Week with a multi-cultural storytelling program for local pre-school children on 17 and 18 May.

Bi-lingual library staff told stories in Arabic, Chinese, Greek and Thai, followed by the same story told in English. Approximately 100 children from diverse ethnic backgrounds attended the programs and were enthralled by the stories. It was rewarding to see the children who understood some of the languages listen attentively, move their lips to repeat some words and thoroughly enjoy themselves. A children's song followed each story. In each song one word was translated into the particular language enabling the children to learn a few words in different languages.

The MPLA Multi-cultural Working Group, at its February meeting, had encouraged libraries with non-English



Children enjoying the multi-cultural story telling at Botany Bay Library Service

speaking background communities to extend Australian Library Week programs to include multi-culturalism. The City of Botany Bay Library Serv-

ice responded with this pre-school program which was so well received that we plan to continue this program more frequently. ■

## Australian Library Week at Box Hill

Australian Library Week 2000 was celebrated across Australia in May — and for Australian Tax Office Box Hill staff, the library was the place to be...

The Box Hill Library team saw Australian Library Week as an opportunity to put the library resources and staff in focus.

Staff met face-to-face the tax officers at their workstations, circulated some brochures about the library services, introduced and demonstrated some new databases, and hosted several events in which the patrons demonstrated their skill and usage of electronic products to their colleagues.

A board games day provided a rare opportunity for us all to be a bit more relaxed. We hosted a breakfast at which the regional manager of library services Victoria/Tasmania, Martin Kelly presented an outline of the Service Level Agree-

ment: that is, what the library service standards to basic service levels are.

Library clients suggested that we provide a suggestion box for ongoing comment — our clients like to know we listen and offer a response.

Library staff endeavour to make the library's resources accessible to all patrons so that they can be:

- more productive;
- more accurate;
- more informed; and

- better able to produce reports for policy that is adopted nationally and legal briefings that are argued successfully in court.

**Jenny Connor, library manager, Australian Tax Office Box Hill**



Client talent: David Imber demonstrates his usage and skills in retrieving information from in-house databases. Library manager, Jenny Connor at far right, and reference librarian Belinda Goodwin is second from the right