

Edward the emu BA

Linda Sheridan, head of reference services, La Trobe University (Albury/Wodonga Campus Library)

An academic library participating in storytime? Why not! As a shared facility of La Trobe University and Wodonga Institute of TAFE, we have a creche on campus (instant audience) and we resource courses in education, child care and drama. We decided to read and dramatise the story, to make this a special event for the children, who were looking forward to their excursion to the 'big library'.

Our training room was transformed into a zoo as staff bought in branches of gum trees and drawings of lions, seals, snakes and emus. Emu footprints lead a parade of children, hand in hand, through the library, much to the bemusement of our adult students.

I read the story, with dramatic assistance from my children, who had agreed to be emus, and from a university drama student, Cindy Connole, who stimulated the audience participation.

Amongst the children and accompanying adults were also students of the TAFE Child Care course, who enthusiastically joined in the clapping, singing and actions. We all had



Edward the Emu Simultaneous Storytime for Library Week
l-r: Cindy Connole as the lion, Rachael Sheridan as the emu, Linda Sheridan reading Edward the Emu

a lot of fun and, as I glanced about at preschool, primary, secondary, TAFE and university students all sharing their love of 'a good story' I knew this was wonderful way to celebrate Library and Information Week. ■

A fun and productive week

What are the health effects of caffeine and chocolate?

How many bookworms does it take to munch through an entire copy of MIMS Annual?

These are just two of the questions answered by the library services at Central Coast Health during Australian Library and Information Week 2001.

The week's program aimed to promote the library's services — new and old — and included the launch of the library's revamped intranet site which now allows clients to submit their interlibrary loan requests electronically from their desktop. One day was dedicated to promoting CIAP (NSW Health's Clinical Information Access

Program). A display guided clients through a Medline search on the health effects of caffeine and chocolate, with free chocolate giveaways! Another display covered a wide range of resources on complementary therapies.

We held a thank you morning and afternoon tea for our clients and finished the week with library fun day, looking at librarians in popular culture. The highlight of the week was a competition to guess how many bookworms it took to eat through a MIMS Annual. Donations went to the Central

Coast Kidney Life Appeal and the winner of a fabulous prize of coffee and chocolates (what else?) was one of the staff specialists from accident and emergency.

The week was a lot of fun for both library clients and staff. We succeeded in promoting the library's services and raising the profile of the library within the organisation. Plans for next year are already under way.

Suzanne Lewis, acting manager of library services, Central Coast Health

Variety the key...

St George College Library (TAFE) celebrated Library and Information Week with a variety of activities. Tours of the library were conducted each day along with classes in periodical database usage, basic internet, and using the library catalogue. A number of teaching and administration sections of the college participated by providing display material, including fine art and graphic design, fashion, autobody repair and refinish (airbrushed car panels), automotive retail service and repair, and electrical.

Library staff compiled 'information rights' posters covering topics such as freedom of information and the internet, which will be displayed in the library on a continuing basis.

A storytime was held for the children of Kameruka Cottage (the College's child care centre) where *Edward the emu* was among the books read to the children. Kameruka staff had supplied the library with some of the children's artwork and the children were delighted (as were their parents) to see the work displayed prominently in the library.

The highlight of the week was a staff thank you luncheon held on Thank You Day in recognition of all of the support and patronage of the library by other members of the College. Overall, the week was a great success and helped to raise the profile of the library to both staff and students of the college. ■