

## Yarra Plenty meets schools

**Y**arra Plenty Regional Library Service, serving the north-east corner of the Melbourne metropolitan area, is enhancing school / public library relations through the use of the Teacher Release to Industry Program, or TRIP.

Supported by the Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI) and the Victorian Department of Education, TRIP provides teachers with a year of experience in industry. At Yarra Plenty participants spend this year developing stronger links between the library service and schools, both primary and secondary.

The program has been invaluable for the library service. While a number of library staff have prior teaching experience, the TRIP position has provided a current and dynamic viewpoint on school needs.

The first year of Yarra Plenty's TRIP involvement saw a number of initiatives. The 'TRIPer' updated the library's school contact details, visited large number of the 120 schools in the region's catchment, created a school newsletter and a school resources section on the library service's website.

One of the requirements of TRIP is the creation of a 'school link' project. The purpose of this project is to provide a bridge between the education environment and the TRIP employer. In Yarra Plenty's case, this resulted in two library information packs: a student pack and a school pack.

The student pack included information about the library service and an invitation to special training in the use of the library-provided databases. The school pack included a set of printed information sheets about the service, as well as a CD ROM outlining the resources available to schools and students through Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service.

An underlying theme in both of these packages has been the promotion of information literacy — both to teachers and students. The packages include statements on the importance and place of information literacy, a series of supporting materials, such as Powerpoint presentations and notes, and an inventory of information literacy skills.

The greatest benefit Yarra Plenty has seen from TRIP is the energy and enthusiasm the TRIP person brings with them, as well as their knowledge of the education system and schools.

*Craig Anderson*

*Does your library run programs such as these? What were the highlights of LIW 2003 for your library? Let inCite know. A LIW2003 round-up is planned for the July issue. Please contact the editor on 02 6215 8231, or e-mail [incite@alia.org.au](mailto:incite@alia.org.au) with your stories and photos.*

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