

ACT Public Library supports East Timor libraries

The ACT Public Library celebrated Library and Information Week 2004 by hosting a trivia night on Wednesday 26 May, to raise money for public libraries in East Timor.

The event was a great opportunity to support one of Australia's closest neighbours in helping to improve education and literacy. The Dili Public Library was essentially destroyed, and small aid projects have been working to establish new community libraries, including the Xanana Gusmao Reading Room.

Special guests at the trivia night included the East Timorese Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Jorge Da Conceicao Teme and members of the East Timorese community. The ACT Public Library shares its facilities in Griffith with the East Timorese Embassy, and brought together interested public and special libraries from across Canberra to support this important cause.

Participants celebrated with style, decorating their tables, and vying for prizes



East Timorese Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Jorge Da Conceicao Teme, and Merrilee Pigram, general manager of ACT Library and Information Services, announce the results

donated by Dymocks Belconnen, the Asia Bookroom, and ACT Public Library staff.

All of the \$1600 raised from the night will be given to Australian Volunteers International for the Xanana Gusmao Reading Room, who will purchase library books for themselves and other public libraries in community centres around East Timor. ■

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Treasures and curios of the AGAL Library

The Australian Government Analytical Laboratories (AGAL) has its roots in colonial times when it was part of customs administrations. In those days it had such interesting tasks as the measurement of the alcohol content of spirits entering the colonies so that the appropriate amount of revenue could be collected. Over the years, the AGAL library has acquired photos and other ephemera which document AGAL's work and history. Inspired by the National Library's 'Treasures' display, the AGAL librarians decided to exhibit its own library treasures and promoted Library and Information Week with a 'Treasures and curios of the library' display.

On display were chemistry books dating back to the early 1900s, historic photos of the laboratories and pictures of former AGAL staff sporting handlebar moustaches! As well as the historical artefacts, also displayed were books and videos showing the diverse subject areas held in our small but special library. Some of the interesting titles displayed were: *Composition of*

Aboriginal foods, Dictionary of colour, Russian for scientists and 2000 Olympic Handbook and Media Guide. Many staff enjoyed the display and the morning tea and they were also invited to make a donation towards the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea.

1 July this year will see the end of an era for AGAL when it merges with the CSIRO's National Measurement Laboratory (NML) and the National Standards Commission (NSC) to form a new organisation, The National Measurement Institute (NMI). This new institute will be responsible for national physical, chemical and biological units and standards of measurement and will represent Australia in international weights and measures organisations. The librarians and records managers have been working closely with each other to plan the future information services for the new NMI.

**Michele Ritchie, Australian Government
Analytical Laboratories**