

'A place of congregation and communion'

On Tuesday 30 August, ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope opened the new Kippax public library. He was introduced to the assembled guests by Merrilee Pigram, the general manager of the ACT Library and Information Service. They both praised the work of the architects, Michael Murray and Meta Anne Shirley, who created this entirely new library building for the West Belconnen area.

The original library opened in 1978, in a 'temporary' demountable building, which soon became inadequate for the needs of a growing community. Forty-four thousand people a year attend a function at an ACT public library, and make 1.8 million visits to one. The new building will be able to accommodate

the West Belconnen share of these numbers with ease; it is four times larger than the old library, with a community room available as well as the library space.

Libraries Alive! consultants Ian McCallum and Sherrey Quinn undertook the original community consultation and wrote the service specifications from which the architect developed the plans. Mr Murray praised their research and analysis, saying that a good brief made such a difference when developing a project. The result of community consultation, best practice and the architect's vision is an ultra-flexible space in the centre of Kippax shopping precinct. It is important to the architect that the building is obviously a library, that books and people are visible inside the building through the large bay windows that are a feature of three walls. Librarians and patrons love the layout: there are no hidden corners or awkward spaces, making the library easy to manage and navigate.

The Library Service has been developing the collection for the new building over the last year, at a cost of around \$500 000. The collection has expanded by around 40 per cent, with commu-



nity input forming an important part of the selection process. Ginninderra High School students should be pleased with the new youth collection they helped create. Over 300 people flowed into the new \$3.5 million library after the opening, borrowing began immediately and the 10 computers available for public use were very popular. ■



Opening day crowds



Jacinta Davies (left) and Rukhmani Pillay are looking forward to continuing their storytime attendance in the new library

Medical and oral health library for Griffith University

Griffith University has established a new specialised discipline library in their Centre for Medicine and Oral Health on the Gold Coast. The centre, officially opened in July 2005, is home to the School of Medicine, which had its first intake of medical students this year, and the School of Dentistry and Oral Health, the first new dental school to be established in Australia for almost 60 years.

The seven-storey centre, situated at Southport adjacent to the Gold Coast Hospital, has been designed to cater for up to 700 students. The library occupies 400m² of floor space on the fifth floor, close to the main lecture theatres and seminar rooms. It features a wealth of natural lighting and stunning ocean and hinterland views.

Griffith Health's commitment to teaching and research across traditional discipline boundaries, as well as its vision of creating healthy communities, both drive the development of the collection. Senior librarian Veronica Dawson said the focus of the initial collection development has been on support for teaching, in particular the medical school's resource-intensive problem-

based learning strategy. Since the library opened its doors in April 2005, the monograph collection has increased from a modest 2000 volumes to 3000, and continues to grow rapidly. Shelving can accommodate around 23 000 volumes. With a policy of purchasing journals electronically where possible, the small print journal collection is well supported by the university's 48 000 electronic titles across all disciplines.

The library currently has seating for 70 people, including 26 computer spaces, and the entire floor is wireless accessible for students and staff who choose to use their own laptops. The Student Learning Centre adjacent to the library has an additional 30 computers. Three rooms for group study, two consultation rooms, and a 10-seat training room are available. An ergonomic book return system has been installed.

Griffith's library collection now spans seven sites at Nathan campus, Mt Gravatt campus, the Queensland College of Art and Queensland Conservatorium in Brisbane, its Logan campus, Gold Coast campus and the Centre for Medicine and Oral Health. ■



CMOH library: external view



The library foyer