

## Australia Day Awards

Library staff of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry were awarded Australia Day Achievement Medallions, as part of the National Australia Day Council provision of Awards to Commonwealth Government Agencies.

The Library received its Award 'for providing outstanding library services to the department including indispensable support for the department's research and policy agendas'.

**Libby Williams,**  
Library Manager  
libby.williams@daff.gov.au



(l to r): Steve Benson, Karen Kidd, Libby Williams (Library Manager) and Emma Datson with Dr Cliff Samson, AFF Deputy Secretary.

Photo credit: Arishma Devi, Corporate Public Relations, Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

## Casanova at the library

Late in 2007, the Banana Shire Library and Information Services updated their computers in the Biloela Library.

Upon their arrival there appeared to be a rather unique numbering system in place to differentiate the machines and a creative approach to solve the problem was needed.

Each staff member was tasked to decorate one PC and their efforts were judged by our most regular and dedicated library user. Chocolate was dutifully awarded in varying amounts dependent on the judging, but in the end it was worth all the effort just to have the chance to direct a customer to use Aristotle, Batgirl or Casanova!

This very simple exercise has generated a lot of interest in our town, and was well worth the creative effort!

**Fiona Jensen**  
Banana Shire Library and Information Services, Banana Shire Council  
fiona.jensen@banana.qld.gov.au

**1 mobile donkey library \$2631**  
**2 vet training courses \$340**  
**Changing a community's entire world – priceless!**

A throw-away comment on the email by Edwina Harvey, library technician at the University of New South Wales Law Library, sparked a flurry of activity on the AliaTechs list. Her suggestion of donating to the donkey library, part of the Oxfam Unwrapped program, instead of buying a Christmas present for one's nearest and dearest, soon became a popular alternative to negotiating the Christmas crowds while also helping people in developing nations.

A donkey library distributes HIV and AIDS literature to approximately 2,000 youths and adults every month, reaching those in rural communities who have limited access to school and community.

But instead of keeping the idea to the individual, the suggestion was taken up by the list as a whole, who agreed to donate as little as \$2.00 each in an effort to raise enough money for a donkey library.

Suddenly news of the effort spread via friends, family, the ALIA Board Blog, co-workers and donations came from many sources.

Thanks to a tech doing a little 'day dreaming' on the elist, ALIA techs from around Australia and New Zealand raised \$4388.10 for Oxfam Unwrapped in just over a month and were able to purchase:

1 mobile donkey library, 2 vet training courses, 2 gardener's packs, 9 stay in school, 8 literacy classes for adults, 30 eye health checks, 18 clean water kits, 2 shoes for a carer, 1 sewing training and 2 soccer balls.

Now wasn't that easy!

**Michelle McConachie**  
Serials Officer  
Monash University Library

## Library Lovers at Darwin City Council Libraries

Darwin City Council Libraries celebrated Library Lovers month with four weeks of pink and red, and lots of love to go around. The staff of the four libraries proudly wore Library Lovers shirts and wrapped mystery books were displayed around the libraries. The idea intrigued many readers with some enjoying a blind date with a mystery book and the chance to discover a new author and a few even had an Angus and Robertson voucher wrapped in their book.

Over the course of the month we ran a Library Limerick competition which received 90 creative entries. Judged by Dael Alison from the NT Writers Centre, the winner was treated to a night's accommodation and dinner for two compliments of Holiday Inn Darwin.

**Alex Kersemakers**  
Manager, Nightcliff Library,  
a.kersemakers@darwin.nt.gov.au

### The winning limerick

In Darwin it's teeming with rain  
Can't go boating, can't fish,  
what a pain  
But the wife, she's all right  
In the library all night  
Think I'll join her, start using  
my brain.

**Faye Angyal**

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