

First ALIA 'Welcome' function for LIS students held in Tasmania

On a cold winter evening in Hobart, about 30 students and ALIA members gathered at the New Sydney Hotel to hear Linda Luther (University of Tasmania) and Siobhan Gaskell (Community Knowledge Network) talk about the recent organisational changes in their respective institutions.

This event was held during Library & Information Week and targeted library technician and librarianship students from Tasmania. It was the first ALIA 'welcome' function for LIS students to be held in Australia this year. This is an initiative from ALIA's National Office to target LIS students and introduce them to ALIA, and events will follow in all other Australian states and territories.

The speakers were passionate and informative and the students had a great chance to network with practitioners. Many of those who attended stayed on for dinner afterwards. We'd like to thank Linda and Siobhan and encourage all LIS students to attend the event in their local area.

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ALIA Northern Territory Recognition Award 2010

Congratulations to the Read Hot Readers (RHR) and Caught Read Handed (CRH) team from Darwin City Council Libraries for winning the inaugural ALIA Northern Territory Recognition Award. The Award was presented at a LIW dinner at the Yum Cha Restaurant in Darwin on 27 May, with about 25 members and friends present. The winning team – Emma Pollock, Leanne King, and Courtney Forsyth – won \$300 cash and a beautiful glass trophy. Sponsorship was proudly provided by the Northern Territory News.

The program started off small as Caught Read Handed and targeted all school students, but then quickly grew. Because the age range expanded and the size of the group continued to increase, it became necessary to create a second group, Read Hot Readers. So now Caught Read Handed caters for students in Years 3 – 6 and the second group, Read Hot Readers, targets students in Year 7 and above. Because of the popularity of the groups, there is currently a waiting list to join.

All members must, among other things, share a love of reading and learning about new books and learn the layout of the library and where to access various sources of information.

Some examples of the exciting events and activities that the groups have participated in include Poem-Tastic – a poetry competition during February while the adult library members were writing sonnets for a competition for Library Lovers' month – and the Young Territory Author awards – the members are encouraged to be a part of this terrific initiative by writing their own stories.

Congratulations are also in order for other 4 nominees for the great work they are doing: Kimberley Waters from Nhulunbuy Community Library, Leonie Gray from Palmerston City Library, the KAOS Program at Darwin City Council Libraries, and Sally Howarth, Palmerston City library.

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