

INDIGENOUS MATTERS

Indigenous matters is not just the theme for this issue of *INCITE*, it is also the theme of ALIA President, Lyndall Ley, and has been a focus of much of ALIA's work during her term.

For this issue of *INCITE*, we asked you to tell us about what your library has done for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collections, communities, and education, and you have shared your stories on working on classification of First Nations' original material, incorporating meaningful engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people into your everyday library work, and how small changes can make big differences. We gladly received these responses and we hope that you gain a greater appreciation of what might be possible in your library through reading the following articles.

There are also many other places to find valuable information to guide you in the management of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collections and events.



ATSILIRN (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information and Resource Network) became an ALIA Group in the second half of 2018 and a meeting was held at ALIA House on 31 January, 2019, to talk about future plans. Pictured here are Ronald Briggs, Lyndall Ley, Alana Garwood-Houng, John Morseu, and Margy Burn with the Taonga Mauri Stone – highly prized objects which travel to each International Indigenous Librarians' Forum, wherever it is held in the world.

You can celebrate UNESCO's Indigenous Year of Indigenous Languages (en.iyil2019.org) and you can learn a lot by reading through the Australia and New Zealand School of Government's *Respect for Indigenous peoples and cultures ANZSOG Learning and Action Protocol* (bit.ly/2DxQW0o). Together, we can grow as library and information professionals to ensure the best service for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. 🍁

PROMOTING INDIGENOUS LITERATURE at Fitzroy North Primary School Library

I work as a Library Technician at Fitzroy North Primary School and when my principal approached me in late August 2018 about developing a permanent Indigenous literature section in the library, I was excited. The library already held a respectable collection of Indigenous texts but there was an empty corner in the library just waiting for something to fill it. The school already demonstrated a strong commitment to celebrating Indigenous culture through participating in events such as Sorry Day and NAIDOC Week, and this offered me another way to contribute towards student learning on this topic.

The first thing I decided was that my collection policy would centre on the principles of acknowledgement and respect. Artworks by Indigenous artists, books by Indigenous authors, and working with suppliers who actively support Indigenous communities meant that I was able to engage with the culture I was promoting.

This is why I chose Magabala Books to supply new Indigenous texts; aside from having an extensive catalogue, their dedication to supporting Indigenous

communities through scholarships and various philanthropic projects stands out. Similarly, the seating was purchased from Winya Furniture, a company that employs Indigenous artists and offers training and employment opportunities to Indigenous youth from remote communities.



The new Indigenous Collection space at Fitzroy North Primary School Library

This project has been a huge learning experience for me. At the beginning I was quite daunted by the amount of work required, but I was able to use my transferrable skills to focus on small tasks that were easier to manage. I also learned a lot about Indigenous engagement in the arts, discovered fantastic Indigenous literature, and developed a greater appreciation for the issues facing Indigenous writers and their communities. I plan to continue developing the collection for students to discover the amazing work of Indigenous writers around the country. 🍁

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