



Lifting the Sky:

Capacity Building through Early Language/Literacy Intervention:
the Project Worker's perspective.



Presented to the SNAICC Conference 2010
by Aunty Barb Hubbert and Gail Robinson

With thanks to

- Murriajabree Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assoc Inc
- Gundoos Playgroup
- Moreton Bay Region Libraries
- Boystown - Communities for Children (Deception Bay)

Communities for Children is an initiative of the Australian Government

Aunty Barb Hubbert

My Greatest Achievement:

Mother of 10-Step mother of 10-
G'mother of 30 (another in October)-
Great G'mother to 8; (another in December!)

My Hobbies: Family History Mission

7 years Family History Director,
23yrs Family History consultant,
Writing Poetry and prose since childhood



Studies 1956-Scholarship. 1999-Certificate 111 Indigenous Community Welfare
Certificate 1V Indigenous Community, 2004-Bachelor Health Science/Mental Health
2005-Certificate 1V Assessment and Workplace Training
2006-Masters Indigenous Studies/Well-being, 2010-Justice of the Peace (Qualified)
1993-Healthy Lifestyle Program,
1992-Teachers Aide & Parents Support Program Literacy Tutor

Current Active Member of -Moreton Bay Regional Elders Council

Vice Chair/Murrijabree A&TSI Assoc Corp, Yinaar's Yarning Circle, Murriabulak Dancing group

Kidney Business (also part of research team for this)

Majallen Clinic Yumbah Teilah Health Service, Metro North Executive Health Forum

Caboolture Community Consultative C'tee, North Lakes Community Consultative Committee

Redcliffe Community Consultative Committee, Moreton Bay Community Consultative Committee



Gail Robinson:

- Mother of three. Beekeeper's wife
- 18 years Community Cultural Development
- Library Outreach Project consultant 2005-2010
- Project management / Community Artswoker
- 22 years Professional Storyteller
- Qualified Librarian (ALAA)-8 yrs
- Cert 4- Workplace Training and Assessment
- Cert 1 Arts and Cultural Industries Training incl. Indigenous Cultural content.

Deception Bay has

- 1645 children under 4 years
- Low socio-economic indicators
- A long history of public housing
- A large number of Aboriginal families...the local school (600 students) has 15% Aboriginal students



It is a beautiful place to live.

Murrijabree

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Assoc. Inc

Murrijabree Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Assoc. Inc. was established to aid the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members of Deception Bay by providing culturally specific programs that promote self determination and positive social change throughout the community.



LLOP opened the door
to learn and share



The Library Language Outreach Project has been about the development of an alternative model of library delivery.

Including:

- an outreach worker and
- the placement of library collections and services in community venues, such as playgroups, health centres and cultural organizations.



LLOP works by

- building and maintaining partnerships and relationships,
- building capacity of organizations,
- by building trust in relationships with organizations.

LLOP Funding: Place-based: \$120,437 over 4 years

FaHCSIA



Facilitating Partner-BoysTown



Community Partner-Moreton Bay Region Libraries



Deception Bay Library



Project workers and project resources

How it worked





**the building
blocks
of
EARLY
LITERACY
are
HERE
and in
ALL
these
pictures**



Children's early learning is exploratory, holistic and social in nature.



Words link naturally to play and add meaning useful for later comprehension.



**Keep your eyes open...
Emergent Literacy happens right in front of you!**



Words
link
everything
together.



Families were encouraged to recognise the fundamental role they play in their child's literacy and language development:

Including:

- telling stories,
- reading,
- listening,
- and talking with children.



**goin' fishin'
for a feed**



Children's engagement in mark-making in many mediums was encouraged.

What is Literacy?

Education Queensland (2010) defines literacy as, 'the ability to read, view, design, speak and listen in a way that allows us to communicate effectively and to make sense of the world.'

Literacy ensures that we can succeed in everyday life – it enables us to make sense of written, visual and spoken texts e.g. books, DVD's, television, magazines, timetables, signs, maps and conversations'

Emergent Literacy skills include:

- **knowing words (vocabulary),**
 - **knowing the alphabet and some sounds of letters**
-
- **being able to play with sounds (phonological awareness),**
 - **knowing how books work and being familiar with print and pictures**
 - **having books in the home or**
-
- **visiting the LIBRARY or a Library Outreach Service**

Community Capacity Building

‘the degree to which a community can develop, implement and sustain actions which allow it to exert greater control over its physical, social, economic and cultural environments...the ability of individuals, organisations and communities to manage their own affairs .

((Littlejohns and Thompson 2001 in <http://www.aifs.gov.au/sf/pubs/bull1/bh.html> accessed July 2010)

Why is telling stories important...and what stories matter...

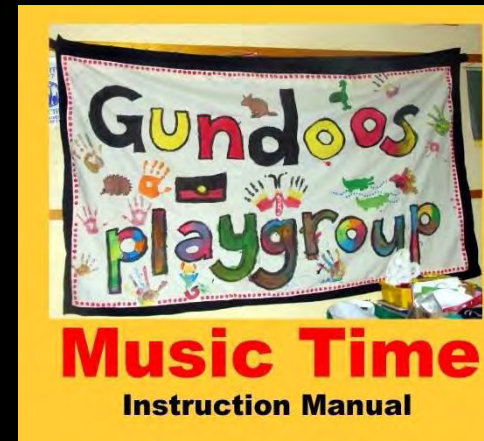
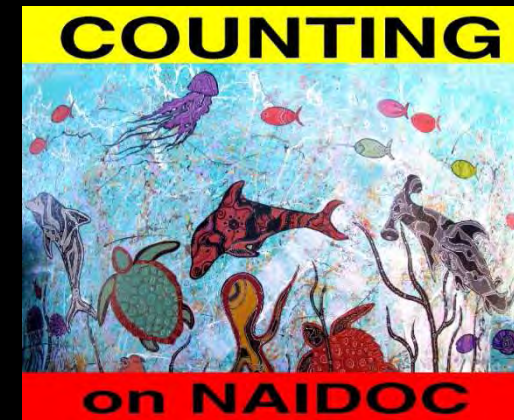




**stories take you
back in time**



you need
this
knowledge
to
dream up
the future.



How creating your own stories/books builds community capacity and makes literacy meaningful

Community publishing...
Telling our own stories.

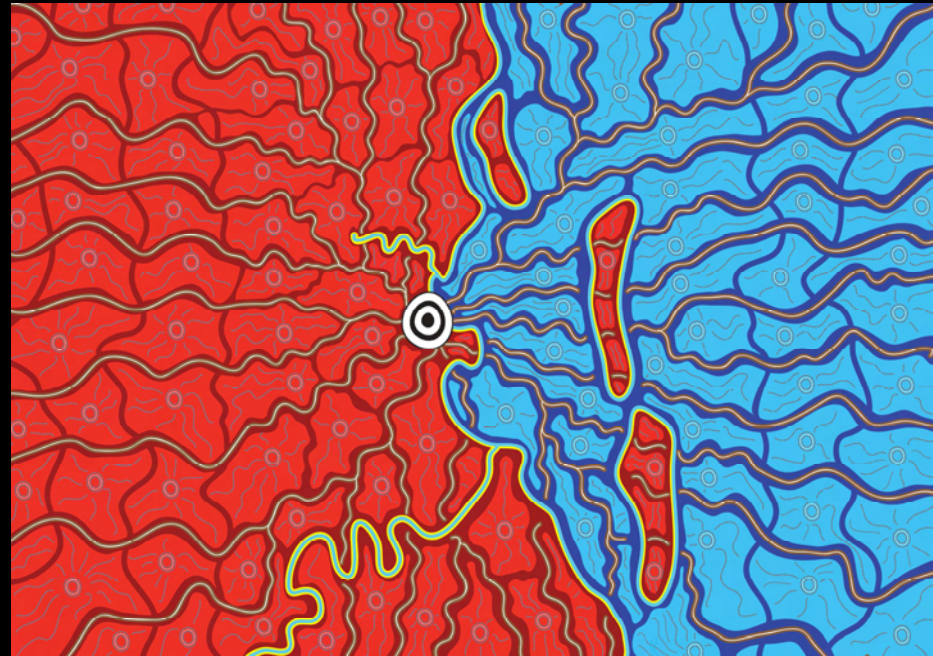


Music Time

Instruction Manual

- Project workers used storytelling, photography and art as a constant tool of engagement, modelling new ways for families to experience language and literature.
- Community arts projects were delivered in partnership, extending their reach and impact

The Welcoming Place



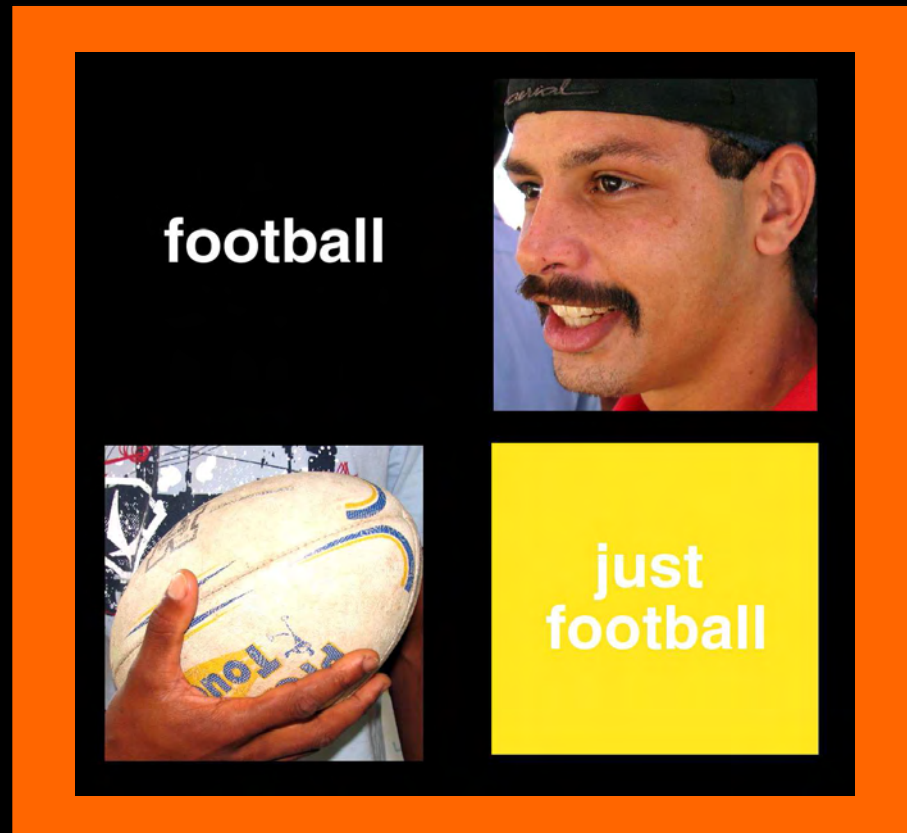
It's not just about having an outreach worker, other projects coincided and brought about change inside the local library as well.



It makes sense to work together though collaboration can be challenging.



What stories matter in around your place?



When do children get to hear the stories?

Time
for one
last
story?

