

Jane Cowell - Winning my first award

Time: 2.30-3pm

Speaker: Jane Cowell – Manager, Caboolture Shire Library Service.

Queensland Library Achiever of the Year (2003) Jane Cowell unveiled a long list of achievements that justified her prestigious award. Primarily, Jane had been nominated for her work on the highly successful 'library express' service at the Caboolture Rail Station whereby commuters can also borrow and return books on the platform. Jane's accomplishments with Caboolture Shire Libraries, however, are not just for the 'library express' alone. Despite all obstacles Jane was instrumental in the opening of the Narangbar Library in December 2002 which acts as a focal point for the small community and boasts around 7000 visits per month – quite a feat when the community has 7000 residents.

As well, Jane implemented several innovative programs such as Project Goal – a partnership with local primary schools to have all Grade One students as library members; My Zine program – a youth workshop for the creation of zines; Write Way Up – a literacy program for kids who have been expelled from school and the Caboolture Community Campus partnership with QUT and BNIT. Essentially, the award has drawn the attention of not only the media and district but local councilors and executive management. Public awareness of the library services and its integral role in the community has been priceless.