



## WOLLONGONG LIVING LIBRARY 2010

Throughout the year, our living 'books' continued to share their diverse life stories with community members in schools and at public events held at Council. Their stories of resilience inspired readers and helped them to explore important personal and social issues.

In contrast to previous years, 2010 saw twice as many Living Library events (12 in total) held,, with smaller audiences. Some of the year's highlights include:

- § A return to a younger student 'readership' with Year 9 students at Corrimal High School. This event revealed bullying as a big issue for students, as well as a need for students to be linked with local services. As a result of the program's work with the school, Wollongong Youth Services delivered a services expo for students; the school has also been included in a local anti-bullying program called *Rock and Water*.
- § For the first time the Living Library worked with Links to Learning – a program for young people at risk of leaving school early. A big result for this group was actually stepping through the door and meeting new people; for many it was their first experience of being in a lift and eating catered food. Above all, they enjoyed life stories as a way to learn, and the respect and honesty the 'books' gave them.
- § Our 'books' shared stories on the theme of 'compassion' for the Year 7 development day at Smiths Hill High School; this event was initiated and organised by Year 12 students who contacted us after attending a Living Library event at Edmund Rice college last year.
- § We opened the doors to the general community, staff from the Smith Family and community & welfare students from TAFE; the latter used the Living Library experience for an assessment task.
- § For the first time, we held a themed Living Library at Council in support of World AIDS Day, in partnership with ACON and the Community Drug Action Team (CDAT). We had Sydney 'books' sharing stories of living with HIV, and Wollongong 'books' talking about the impact of HIV/AIDS on their personal lives; we also included an 'information book'.
- § 9 living 'books' were interviewed on DVD; their stories will be used as 1- minute promos on our website; longer versions will be offered to the community as an educational resource.

## 2010 Snapshot

<b>Corrimal High</b> Yr 9 English students	March 24	<b>9 books</b>	<b>29 readers</b>
<b>Links to Learning</b> Yr 7 Kanhooka High	May 12	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Links to Learning</b> Yr 8 Dapto High	May 12	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Corrimal High</b> Yr 9	May 26	<b>7</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>St Marys College Seniors</b>	June 2	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Dapto Careways Inc.</b>	June 30	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Smiths Hill High School</b> Yr 7 Values Day	July 20	<b>9</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Links to Learning</b> Yr 7 Illawarra Sports High	August 24	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Links to Learning</b> Yr 8 Illawarra Sports High	Sept 1	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Open Community</b>	September 16	<b>9</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Open Community</b>	October 21	<b>9</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>World AIDS Day event</b> <b>Open community</b>	Tues Nov 30	<b>5</b>	<b>32</b>

**22 'books' participated**  
**5 new 'books' joined the program**  
**312 'readers' participated**



***The Real Price of Heroin* – Wollongong Council  
(new book)**



**(new 'book') *You Can't Beat Me* – Corrimal High**

**Further information:**

[www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/community/livinglibrary/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/community/livinglibrary/Pages/default.aspx)

[www.livinglibraries.org.au](http://www.livinglibraries.org.au) (Australia)

[www.living-library.org](http://www.living-library.org) (Europe)



***I Have a Dream – Smiths Hill High***



***Unveiling the Myth – WCC***



**World AIDS Day - WCC**



**Links to Learning**



**Wollongong Living Library  
2 year celebration**