

## **Maribyrnong Library Service**

African Adventure



## **Maribyrnong Population**

- Population >66,000
- 130 different countries of birth
- 85 different languages
- 40% born outside Australia
- New arrivals from China, India, Burma and Horn of Africa



## **African Population in Maribyrnong**

- Sudan (Arabic)
- Ethiopia (Amharic)
- Somalia (Somali)
- Eritrea (Tigrinya)

– Data from MLS Community Profile 2007 based on Census 2006



## **Celebrating Diversity @ your library**

- literary functions
- bilingual Storytelling
- multicultural displays
- information sessions in relevant topics in languages other than English
- internet training in languages other than English
- Art exhibitions
- Language workshops



## Why an African Languages Collection ?

- Improve services to the growing number of residents from the Horn of Africa
- Facilitate access to literature in the main African languages
- Provide music and films for entertainment and leisure
- Strengthen social belonging and community wellbeing



## Community Consultation

Establish current and future needs of the African communities in regards to access to

- information
- self education



## Community Consultation

### The target groups

- African community groups and organisations of the Maribyrnong Municipality
- Organisations which provide services to the African communities such as AMES, community centres and local schools.



## Community Consultation

### Publicity

- Flyers
- Written notices
- Advertisements
- Radio announcements
- Formal invitations
- Word of mouth



## Community Consultation Methods

- Survey
- Public Forum
- Meetings with local groups



## Community Consultation The Survey

- Translated into five African languages
- Demographic details
- Library usage
- Language/s spoken
- Subject/format preferences
- Electronic format



## **Community Consultation Public Forum**

### **Issues discussed:**

- Main languages spoken by local African community groups
- Types of materials required in the collection
- Subject interests
- Availability of resources
- Internet/computer training needs of the African community



## **Community Consultation Meetings with local groups**

- Survey distribution
- General discussion



## Survey Results

- Preferred languages: Arabic, Amharic, Somali and Tigrinya.
- Arabic being the most widely spoken
- Preferred subjects: history, health, English learning and children's books
- Audiovisual material
- ESL classes, craft classes
- Language workshops
- Computer/internet training.



## Meetings and Public Forum Recommendations

- Egyptian authors
- Bi-lingual children's books
- Books in English and African languages about African themes



## MLS response

- African Languages collection (2005)
- Multicultural events with an African theme:
  - » African True Stories (2006)
  - » African Festival (2007)



## African Languages Collection Launch 2005





## Languages in the Collection

- Amharic (Ethiopia)
- Arabic (Sudan)
- Somali (Somalia)
- Swahili (Somalia, Kenya, Congo)
- Tigrinya (Eritria)



## *Maribyrnong Library Service Invites you to an evening of*



Painting by African artist Sutueal Bekele Althe

### ***African True Stories***

Come and listen to the stories of three African Immigrants from the time they left their homeland to the present day. They will share with us their story of struggle, tenacity and achievement.



A teacher, a college professor  
and a policy adviser...



...tell their true stories

Footscray Library  
June 2006



## Coffee Ceremony



@ Footscray Library



## Aims and objectives of the festival



- Create greater community awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity

- Provide the African population with an opportunity to share their identity and cultural characteristics through art, literature and food with the wider community



## African Festival Program

- Workshops to learn Amharic
- African cooking demonstration
- Trivia competition
- Film screening: “Live and become”
- African Photographic Exhibition



## African Dancing



@ Footscray Library





Sam Neves Kitoko MAMA AFRICA-2004

## African Art Exhibitions



## Ethiopian artist **Sutueal Bekele Althe**

Highpoint Library







Photographic Exhibition by  
**Befeki Kebede**

Highpoint Library



Painting Exhibition by  
**Joe Malatji**

Footscray Library



# MARIBYRNONG LIBRARY SERVICE

