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## Nungalinya College Library Darwin



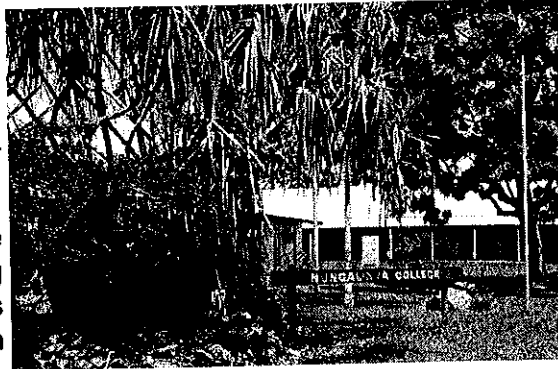
Iris Beale

*Iris Beale, Librarian at the Keith and Merle Cole Library, Nungalinya College in Darwin has contributed this pen-portrait along with photographs of herself and library technician, Lorraine Erlandson.*

Our library is small, situated within a beautiful, tropical, residential college for Indigenous people in a green and leafy part of Darwin. We run with two part-time staff, a librarian and a library technician each employed for 15 hours per week.

Nungalinya is a private theological training centre for Indigenous ministers and church leaders. We also provide courses in community studies, cross-cultural awareness and textile arts. The college is a partnership of Anglican and Catholic Churches and the Uniting Church in Australia.

Nungalinya is an Aboriginal word used by the local Larrakia people. It means "old man rock", and is the name of a very sacred place, a reef out in Darwin Harbour which can be seen only at low tide. The Larrakia people themselves suggested Nungalinya as the name of our college: so we are the "Rock College" in the Christian and Larrakia sense and our foundation stone is a large, round granite rock. (The photo above shows the rock on the left with the library in the background.)



In Darwin, the concept of strong foundations has even deeper meaning. Christmas 1974 was the time Cyclone Tracy blew away the new Combined Church & Research Centre and it was from those ruins that Nungalinya evolved.

Our library, with about 17,000 items, is mainly a theological and an Aboriginal Studies collection. We hold a lot of videos, popular with students, as well as necessary when English is a second language for most of them.

Our difficulties—well, as everywhere, time and money are in short supply. Being small, we seem to battle constantly with IT difficulties and being isolated (we are the only theological library in the Northern Territory), it's hard to keep in touch with the wider world of libraries.

Our rewards, in helping students and staff in study and teaching, are many. We can promote the library in the college by wandering over to the schools and having a chat, and in this technological age, assistance from larger libraries is usually just a phone call or email away.



Lorraine Erlandson

*[Nungalinya College is also a member college of the Adelaide College of Divinity. Ed]*