

## Access awards bring world closer



Four of a kind . . . award winners (from left), Mr Steele, Mr Morris, Ms Try and Ms Chan — Picture: ALAN PRYKE

Five local multimedia developers are the first to benefit from NSW's inaugural Access Australia awards. Trudi McIntosh reports

FIVE NSW multimedia developers have each won a \$5000 International Attachment Award from the State's Access Australia Co-operative Multimedia Centre (CMC).

The inaugural awards were launched this year and presented at the official opening of the Access Australia CMC in Sydney last week.

The NSW Access Australia CMC has established its base in the Australian Technology Park.

Access Australia chief executive Mr Bruce King said the awards provided incentives for local multimedia companies to emulate best practices from around the world.

Federal Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, Senator Vanstone, officially opened Access Australia's headquarters last week and presented winners with their awards.

Senator Vanstone also announced that each State CMC would receive a further \$2 million from the Federal Government this year.

The winners included Ms Charlie Chan, of Charlie Chan Music, Mr Matthew Denton, creator and director of Limelight Media, Mr James Steele, director of Interactive Multimedia in Canberra, Ms Kathryn Try, of Multi-Concepts, and Mr Rod Morris, Cyberspyder managing director and a leading Web designer at Interactive Originals in Sydney.

Mr Steele, who has been working closely with Professor John Hedburgh and his multimedia develop-

ers at Wollongong University on titles such as Lake Illuka and its award-winning companion product, Nardoo, used part of his prizemoney to visit the United States to seal a distribution deal and establish contact with the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Science Foundation.

He also attended the recent international book fair in Frankfurt, Germany, where Nardoo scooped the international EMMA 12-16 educational category award.

Mr Steele's company, Interactive Multimedia, and the university's Interactive Learning Laboratory last week received a \$90,000 collaborative research grant from the Australian Research Council.

Ms Try flew out of Sydney at the weekend to visit a leading US multimedia education expert, Professor Elliott Soloway, in Michigan.

Ms Chan will explore various video-conferencing software development areas. She plans to visit Cornell University in the US next month and meet software developers, including Apple Computer.

A multimedia composer and online performer, she will also perform on the Web at the renowned Knitting Factory in New York's Greenwich Village.

Mr Morris used some of his prizemoney to attend the global Macromedia Users' Conference in San Francisco in October.

Mr Morris also recently helped to revamp the design of site of the recruiter Morgan and Banks.