In the State Library Galleries
First Sight: the Dutch mapping of Australia 1606–1697
To 4 June 2006
Picture Gallery, Mitchell Wing
Doug Moran National Portrait Prize 2006
To 10 April 2006
Galleries, Mitchell Wing
Heritage Collection
Supported by the Nelson Meers Foundation this exhibition showcases some of the most beautiful and significant items from the Mitchell, Dixson and Rare Books collections.
Mitchell Galleries

Coming Soon
CPLA 2006
Libraries Launch Communities
18 – 21 July 2006
Connabarabran
http://www.cpla.asn.au/
Children’s Book Week
Book now!
19 – 25 August 2006
ALIA 2006 Biennial Conference
19 – 22 September 2006
Perth
libraries/stars.html
Wow! Library Buildings Seminar
23 October 2006
Liverpool Library
Contact: Jan Witcombe, tel: 02 9273 1527
Metropolitan Public Libraries Association (MPLA) Conference
2 – 3 November 2006
Penrith
http://www.mplansw.asn.au/
ALIA New Librarians’ Symposium 2006
Pathways & Possibilities
1 – 2 December 2006
Sydney

Deadlines for Public Library News
August 2006 issue
16 June 2006
December 2006 issue
13 October 2006

Public Library News
April 2006
vol 12 no 1
including LIAC Vol 26 No 1
April 2006
Dagmar Schmidmaier AM (MRS)
BA Syd., DipLib MLib Hon.DLitt UNSW, FALIA

Dagmar Schmidmaier will retire on 28 April 2006. Prior to her appointment as State Librarian & Chief Executive, Dagmar held senior academic and management positions in the field of technology and information systems, management and librarianship, in the university, government and private sector.

When Dagmar arrived at the State Library of NSW one of her main goals was to develop new strategic directions for the Library. The success of the Capital Campaign, the development of atihell.com, and the establishment of the ongoing Heritage Collection exhibition with the support of the Nelson Meers Foundation are very visible indicators of the realisation of these goals.

Dagmar has been instrumental in setting in place a number of initiatives to assist public libraries in New South Wales to deliver high quality library and information services. These include the establishment of the Public Libraries Consultative Committee (PLCC), the development of NSW.net, the review of the Library Act, the revision of the Public Libraries Grants & Subsidies program and the development of policies, guidelines and research to support the network.

The PLCC, a sub-committee of Library Council, was established in July 1996. The Committee provides a consultative framework for Library Council, the State Library and key stakeholders in local government concerning public library services in New South Wales. It provides policy advice to Library Council, monitors the funding arrangements and advises Library Council on an annual basis concerning the development of guidelines for Library Development Grants.

One of the most significant achievements for the NSW public library network was the NSW.net project. Established in 1997, NSW.net has been providing councils and libraries with a permanent high-bandwidth connection to the Internet and access to online databases. Originally a grant based project, recurrent funding was secured in 2004/05.

In order to provide an up-to-date legislative framework, a review of the Library Act 1939 was completed in 2005. The review confirmed that the role of the Library Council and the State Library to promote, provide and maintain library services for the people of NSW, in cooperation with local government, was a sound principle that will underpin the ongoing development of the network in the 21st century.

Another important focus has been the development of policies, guidelines and research to support the development of public libraries including: People places: a guide for public library buildings, Digital practice guidelines, Children’s policy guidelines, “A safe place to go” libraries and social capital and Culturally diverse communities and the public library.

Dagmar has worked with the Country Public Libraries Association (CPLA), Metropolitan Public Libraries Association (MPLA), the Local Government and Shires Associations (LGSA) and the Local Government Managers Association (LGMA), NSW Division to secure significant additional State Government funding for public libraries and oversee the development of a revised and simplified funding arrangement. State funding has increased from $16.17 million in 1995/96 to $24.8 million in 2005/06.

And as many of you will know Dagmar has taken every opportunity to visit public libraries across the state, and has delighted in meeting public library and Council staff and Councillors. Her visits have taken her from Broken Hill to Bondi Junction, Tweed Heads to Eden, Wentworth to Wollongong and points between. She has spoken at CPLA and MPLA conferences, participated in the opening ceremonies of more than 15 new or extended libraries, launched several mobiles, opened youth areas and specialist collections and travelled thousands of kilometres.

Dagmar will continue to be involved in the library industry, notably as President of the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) from May 2006. In addition, Dagmar will remain Chair of the Aurora Foundation Board.

I’m sure you join with us in wishing Dagmar a busy, fun and satisfying retirement, filled with good books, good company and good health.

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From the Editor

Welcome to the NEW LOOK Public Library News! And this first issue will keep you reading for hours. We feature one of Sydney’s newest public library buildings in Blacktown, share the romance of Library Lovers Day and join in the fun of reading with babies! Plus all your news from across the public library network (and to all the contributors to this issue, thank you!). Our new publication schedule is detailed in the next column.

Victoria Anderson
The Technology Centre provides computer and internet access to 32 users at any one time. A feature of the design of this area is that part of the room can be isolated to create a training facility with 22 computers. This feature allows the general public computers to be available while a training course is being conducted.

This project was made possible thanks to Blacktown City Council recognising the need for a new central library building to assist the city's residents in accessing information, education and recreation to support and enhance their lives.

Thirty minutes after the building was opened to the public on 25 September 2005, there was not one study space to spare and all the computers in the Technology Centre were in use! This has been the picture ever since. The public's reaction has been very positive and complimentary. The end result of this new location is a welcoming and very functional library for Blacktown City residents, their families and friends.

The ecologically sustainable features include an automated louvre control and solar sensors, large open space areas, artificial lighting and active lighting control systems, solar power generation, a night purge ventilation system and solar hot water. These features offer long term cost effectiveness and provide a healthy environment for the patrons.

The building is large but the layout makes it simple for the public to navigate their way around. For ease of access, all lending services are located on the ground floor including fiction, non-fiction and biography collections, children's collections, DVDs, videos and music CDs, spoken word, large print, magazines, CDROMs and community language collections in twenty one (21) different languages.

All resources to be used on the premises are located on level 1, and this includes reference, study and HSC resources and the local studies and family history collections. Also on this level are open study and group study areas, quiet study rooms, local studies and family history research area, the Technology Centre and the Multifunction Space.

Renowned childhood literacy expert Mem Fox says, The importance of getting songs and rhymes into children's heads can't be over-estimated. With this in mind, Sutherland Shire Libraries began working on a program to meet this worthy aim. A grant application was made to the Library Council of New South Wales in February 2004 and November brought the great news that our application was successful. The grant allowed us to purchase resources and run our First Steps: A Lapit Program for a two year period.

We hastily began buying resources and program preparation so the sessions could be up and running in February. The most enormous cushions that you have ever seen were purchased - one metre square and loved by children of all ages! Grant monies covered the cost of the cushions, an exciting array of puppets, board books for the program, board books as giveaways, information books for parents, toys and promotional flyers. The commitment made by Sutherland Shire Libraries included staff time, processing of books, library bags, stationery, promotion and other assorted items.

The Children's & Young Adult Team made a detailed list of the jobs that needed to be done to make sure that the program was ready to roll. These jobs were divided amongst team members and undertaken with enthusiasm, and some frustration and hair pulling. We had a three pronged approach – purchase the resources, prepare the actual program and let our community know about this exciting new activity.

The biggest stumbling block in setting up the program proved to be the fact that it had to be done over December/January when many businesses are either shut or operating on skeleton staff. Luckily the companies involved were aware of our time crunch and filled our orders as quickly as they were able. The resources soon began rolling in and excitement mounted as we unpacked box after box of fun stuff!

We decided to develop twelve weeks of activity sheets, thereby providing variety for both babies and staff. Each activity sheet contains six rhymes and uses the same opening and closing rhyme/song each week. A coloured A3 version of all rhymes was laminated for display during the sessions. Included were lap jogs, finger plays and modern and traditional rhymes. We have also built in rhymes that can be used with puppets and some that can be used with musical instruments. Preparing the program involved staff training and much reading of resource books in readiness of conducting sessions.

The new library
The Multifunction Space allows for a range of library related social/cultural events, lectures, seminars and launches for the enrichment of patrons and Blacktown's citizens. The 200-seat facility also has meeting spaces for community groups. It provides a full range of audio-visual equipment and can, by operating a sliding wall system, be divided into three separate meeting rooms. Gallery space is available for displays and exhibitions.

SNAP SHOT
Location: Cnr Alpha St and Flushcombe Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148.
Architects: FJMT Architects
Builders: ADCO Constructions
Size: 5,000 square metres on 2 levels plus 3 levels of underground parking

Helen Macri
Outreach Programme Coordinator
Blacktown City Libraries
as any new program we were both excited
and anxious as time passed. Inaugural sessions
were conducted in February 2005 and whilst all
children are welcome to our preschool storytime
sessions, First Steps is the first program that we
have specifically designed for children under the age of
two.

The four week program is offered twice a school term
at Sutherland and Engadine Libraries. Attendance is
limited to 10 babies with a preference for one baby,
one lap. Each session consists of rhymes, finger plays,
songs and simple board books. There is time for
parents to get to know one another, for the babies
to play and for question time. At the first session,
parents are presented with a library bag containing
membership forms, library literature and community
information. The final session children are awarded
a certificate and given a high quality board book.

Between sessions parents are encouraged to spend
time with their babies singing songs and rhymes to
them, building the blocks of early literacy. Parents
have responded with wonderful enthusiasm to this
new program and many are eager to continue coming.

There proved to be a few teething problems,
understandable with a new program such as this. We
fully anticipated that some parents would miss a
session due to unavoidable circumstances. However
there was an occasion when two parents were
contacted before the program started to confirm they
were coming. Not only did they not arrive for the first
sessions they missed the entire program despite follow-up
communication from staff. Obviously things come up at the last minute, particularly with
children of this age, but it can be frustrating when
so many eager parents missed out altogether. When
brainstorming the sessions for 2006 we decided
to book an extra baby/parent into each program
in hopes of minimising the effect of unexpected
absences. We have also prepared postcard size
confirmation forms to stick on their fridge. These
contain the dates of their session and they are given
to the parent at the time the booking is made. Time
will tell if this approach is successful.

Our sessions for 2005 were filled by April and June
for Sutherland and Engadine libraries respectively.
In November of 2005 we opened bookings for the
first six months of 2006. Sutherland was booked out
within 10 days and Engadine shortly thereafter. Due
to the enormous interest this program has generated we are
introducing a drop in rhyme-time session,
beginning in February 2006. This new program will
run at Sutherland library for six months, giving us
time to streamline procedures and address issues
that arise. In July 2006 we anticipate that it will be
introduced at two branch libraries, with a possible
three more branches following suit in February 2007.

It is gratifying to know that whilst this program is
meeting the needs of the community it is also proving
so exciting to library staff.

Deborah Hill
Children’s & Young Adult Services Team Leader
Sutherland Shire Libraries

Library lovers

Featuring

Features

First Steps
and strategically placed in appropriate community
venues. Visits were made to early childhood centres
to drop off posters and flyers and meet with centre
directors, encouraging them to promote the activity
to parents and carers.

February 14 was for many years known as Valentine’s
Day, beloved of romantics. In 2006 a new era began
with Library Lovers across NSW claiming the day
for themselves and renaming it in honour of their
passion. To celebrate public libraries across NSW
gave away Heart Library wristbands in lime green, cobalt
blue and vibrant orange and invited their clients to
wear their hearts on their wrists.

And what a success the wristbands (or to give them
their proper appellation, power bands) were! To
quote Brenda from Baulkham Hills, “They loved them!
The wrist bands that is! Snapped them up! We had staff going
round handing them out and the response was fantastic.
Even had a few oldies sporting trendy wristbands!”

But the wristbands were only part of the story. The
celebration provided a natural promotional link to
desires with a romance theme and at Manly the
Valentines Day display of books about love from the
non-fiction section proved surprisingly popular.
Cootamundra and Wagga Wagga encouraged patrons
to take home a wrapped book for a blind date. One
client commented that it was the best she was going
to get on Valentine’s Day!

At Singleton, staff handed out Valentines postcards
for patrons to complete describing why they love their
library. Responses included “I enjoy coming to this library.
It is in a great location, the people (staff) are always friendly and
helpful, I am very grateful for being part of such a great place.”

At Oberon staff presented every visitor with a little
rose, though it must be admitted that the bush by the
back door is now nude! While at Dee Why staff made
red heart stickers for patrons so they could wear their
hearts on their sleeves. The photograph of the staff
lined up at the end of the day is somewhat blurry – an
exhausted photographer I think!

The creativity of library staff in promoting this day
of love didn’t stop at the front door with messengers
venturing forth on foot and behind the wheel. At
Broken Hill some of the more daring staff took
specially marked envelopes containing wristbands
and your library bookmarks up the main street for

Library lovers at Oberon

Libraries focused their decorating efforts on the three
colours of the bands with lime, cobalt and orange
balloons in very short supply across the premier state
by nightfall on 13 February!

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Book huggers!

In a number of localities the day was used to
raise the library’s profile with colleagues in other
areas of Council. At Narellan and Randwick our
marketing gurus went one step further and created
love packages (their terminology!) for Councillors,
Directors and Managers. Each beautifully wrapped
present contained a wristband, something sweet and
a message. As one of our champions wrote, “They
were crazy about them! Something chemical happens to the
brain when love hearts are sent your way.” At Campbelltown,
Grant White was able to take advantage of a full
Council meeting to distribute wristbands to all of the
Councillors who reciprocated with heartfelt
edorsements of love for their libraries and library
manager.

Deborah Hill
Children’s & Young Adult Services Team Leader
Sutherland Shire Libraries

Library lovers

Featuring

Features
Features

Library lovers

dressed in pink/red and gave out chocolates and wristbands to those receiving a delivery.

Coffs Harbour Library held a special event with a selection of romance fiction wrapped so borrowers could be surprised by their mystery book selection. They had a lot of fun encouraging people to be daring enough to borrow a book sight unseen, and the lollies on the stand helped! They found it a great way to promote the fiction collection and recreational reading.

As with any library event food played an integral part – particularly if it involved chocolate, was pink or heart shaped! Morning teas were the order of the day with a wide range of invited guests, which included other council staff, mayors and councillors. Meanwhile a pair of well known and highly regarded PLS consultants bartered a set of wristbands at their favourite coffee shop in the Chifley Plaza for a couple of chocolate hearts! They will obviously stoop to anything.

From Bourke to Bega and Narrandera to Newcastle the day was reported in newspapers, on radio and TV. More importantly it got communities talking – as Anne from Grenfell wrote, “Yesterday was a real treat! The day was reported in newspapers, on radio and TV. More importantly it got communities talking – as Anne from Grenfell wrote, “Yesterday was a real treat! It was a great day, and I enjoyed every moment of it!”

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Food (as always)

Housebound clients at Tamworth were also spiced up for the day. Housebound delivery staff were dressed in pink/red and gave out chocolates and wristbands to those receiving a delivery.

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Library lovers

Happy 60th!

On 24 November 2005, Ku-ring-gai Library celebrated 60 years of service to residents and visitors with a variety of functions at each of our four branches, encouraging patrons to participate in the celebrations.

Council’s adoption of the Library Act in August 1944 paved the way for Sydney’s first suburban municipal public library to commence service in the following year. The Gordon branch was located in Council Chambers, in a room measuring 45 feet by 24 feet of which a third was partitioned by glass to form a Children’s Section. This event was clearly recalled by the first librarian appointed by Council, Marjorie Cotton.

From this humble beginning, Ku-ring-gai Library has survived fire, technological change, moving locations and expansion to evolve to our present form as a vibrant hub of community information and knowledge serving a population of just under 110,000 people. It is also significant that this library service was the first provided in Sydney by a Municipal Council.

Turrramurra branch hosted a morning tea and guests were entertained by the Warrawee Public School Choir whilst the St Ives branch held an all day celebration including a large ‘book’ cake which was enjoyed by patrons. Lindfield branch also held a continuous morning tea and provided a 60th birthday card which was signed by patrons on the day.

At Gordon branch a small gathering for invited guests was held to recognise the occasion. Displays of relevant photographs of the period and other memorabilia added to the occasion. The Mayor of Ku-ring-gai, Clr Elaine Mailicki extended a warm welcome to the guests and I briefly outlined the history of the library and the contribution of Council and library staff during this time.

The 60th anniversary celebrations will continue through the year with media highlights planned and integration with Council’s centenary in 2006.

Christmas presents

While the kids were enjoying their holiday fun at Kempsey Library, the adults weren’t neglected. We held a massive book sale in early January that saw us sell most of our preloved stock and increase the numbers through the door. It seems that in the Kempsey area our clients really look forward to our bi-yearly book sales. People even make special trips to town for this event. They can hunt for a bargain, meet other people and the price is right!

On January 10th three local authors launched a book they had collaborated on. About 40 people attended this with the authors reading extracts from the book and ABC radio conducting author interviews. All in all the Christmas period was a busy vibrant time for the Library and staff.

Lisa Beecham,
Children’s and Young Adult Librarian,
Kempsey Shire Library.

Adults reading

Just for a change we decided to run an Adult Summer Reading Club. Library patrons were invited to take home a sheet to record their summer reading titles and their comments on those books. We then had a wine and cheese evening where people came to discuss their books and maybe win a prize donated by our local book shop. The result was a hilarious evening with a big variety of books being discussed. Everyone had so much fun that we are going to do it every month from now on.

Sandra Watson
Leeton Shire Library

Lake Macquarie News

International day of people with a disability

Local identity, James Bennett shared his experiences as a blind person to celebrate International Day of People with a Disability, 3 December. Lake Macquarie City Library organised for James to talk with local school children at organised for James to talk with local school children at Charlestown, Belmont, and Edgeworth libraries.
In the libraries

A diminutive artist of five foot nothing, Jennifer braved the 43 degree heat to climb up and down ladders to achieve the stunning results over five days in January. She has used oil based paints which gave a fantastic texture as well. Jennifer is highly regarded for her art both locally and nationally, and also finds time to tutor students at TAFE and at the Adult Learning Association.

Library Managers, Pam Young and Christine Del Gigante, are thrilled with the unique artwork which has really raised the profile of the bookmobile with many people giving Bookmobile Librarian, Janine Cornale, a wave when they see her driving past.

Newcastle Region Library hosted the Nikon Walkley Press Photo exhibition during January and February. The exhibition is one of the most comprehensive and prestigious competitions for press photographers in Australia. The exhibition chronicles Australia’s history, people, news and events and the photos represent the pinnacle of photographic achievement and distinction in Australia. It features news, sport, daily life, portrait and suburban/regional photography as well as photographic essay work.

2005 was an eventful and sometimes tumultuous year for the world and the images in the exhibition reflected and captured the emotion and drama of significant events such as the Asian tsunami, the imprisonment of the Bali Nine, the drought, South Australian bushfires and the plight of Vivian Solon and Cornelia Rau.

One of the highlights of the exhibition was the opening. This year, winner of the 2005 Press Photographer of the Year award, Renee Nowytarger of The Australian opened the exhibition. Renee talked about her life as a press photographer which involved everything from filming in disaster areas, visiting the Navotas prison in the Philippines and even ducking for cover from gun shots.

Carol Edmonds
Education and Promotions Officer
Newcastle Region Library

Discover

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In the libraries

During the last twelve months Newcastle Region Library has been working on a comprehensive branding program. The aim of the program, Discover everything your library has to offer, is to enhance the Library’s image by producing an identifiable brand that increases awareness of the full range of services provided by the Library.

A refurbishment program of branch libraries provided an opportunity to establish a consistent approach to the presentation of libraries. The program includes

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Columns

In the libraries

The Library Council of NSW provided $238,000 in grants as a contribution to the building, and securing the latest in library technology and innovative services.

Kylie Duncan
Promotions Department
Lake Macquarie City Library

Art on wheels

The popular bookmobile which travels to towns throughout the Griffith City and Murrumbidgee Shire areas is now easier to spot since its dramatic makeover by well known local artist and tutor Jennifer Forster. The three metre high panels on the van have been transformed into dramatic landscapes depicting the vineyards and rice fields throughout the area, and the iconic Murrumbidgee River, our region’s lifeblood. Also featured is the same friendly sheepdog as depicted on the giant mural in Griffith City Library which Jennifer completed in 2004.

Library staff wanted to make a statement with the bookmobile, and as the cab-chassis was recently replaced and the exterior signage was due for renewal, this was a perfect opportunity to commission the masterpiece. The reaction from the public (especially the children) has been amazing as they think it’s soooo cool to step into a 3D picture.

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Columns

In the libraries

James is a mechanical engineer specialising in manufacturing and human resource management. He became totally blind in early 2004. Karen Phillips from Vision Australia, and Putu the Guide Dog, were also present at the talks. Karen brought along examples of Braille and some special glasses that simulate various eye deficiencies, such as cataracts and glaucoma. James also discussed with the children the art of navigation by a method called sight assist, and with the assistance of Putu shared some rules of Guide Dog handling.

Joanne Smith
Promotions Librarian
Lake Macquarie City Library

Swansea

Swansea Library opened in its new location in the Swansea Centre on Monday 9 January 2006. The new Library features multiple Internet computers for public use, the latest library technology including self service loan equipment, bright and welcoming children's and teen activity areas, comfortable reading spaces, a large collection of books, DVDs, music CDs, magazines, and amazing water views of Black Neds Bay.

Technical Services Librarian, Debra Southwell said the whole community can be proud of this landmark building. At 725 square metres, the new Swansea Library is almost ten times the size of the previous facility, Ms Southwell said. The self-service option allows a quick and easy alternative for customers, and allows more time for library staff to answer information queries and provide assistance with internet and public computer queries.

James and Putu

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Kylie and Sherah Scully enjoying the scenery

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Kylie Duncan
Promotions Department
Lake Macquarie City Library

Art on wheels

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Columns

In the libraries

Coating, refurbishment, and new external and internal signage.

The program began in 2005 with the production of a brochure outlining library services and facilities. Working with a photographer and graphic designer the concepts and presentation of the brochure were extended to other elements of Library presentation. Large billboard signage has been added to external walls. The main feature of the branding is the discover theme. The branding has attracted a number of new users into the Library and the theme has been extended to include merchandise and advertising.

Carol Edmonds
Education and Promotions Officer
Newcastle Region Library

Wagga Wagga News

CWA

Each year the Country Women’s Association of NSW presents a program that encourages its members and local schools to participate in the Country of the Year study project. Participants work hard to research and produce a project about the country of study nominated for that year, and then these are judged. Finalists enter their completed projects in Regional and State level competitions with winners taking out prizes in various categories. It’s an educational experience for the young and the young at heart, but mainly it’s a lot of fun for those involved (especially sampling the international food goodies)!

Wagga City Library is very excited to support this community project, and our new Reference Librarian, Anna Klebansky hosted the annual information morning tea for the CWA International Office from the Riverina branches. The information session on the 2006 Country of the Year, Denmark was well attended with the ladies exploring resources available in the Library - on the shelves and on the internet, while munching on a yummy morning tea. This was followed by an informal question time which gave members an opportunity to catch up with fellow off-ers and ask library staff that pertinent How Do I...? question. We look forward to seeing many of them back in the Library again with branch members throughout the year.

Claire Campbell
Manager Library Services
Wagga Wagga City Library

Oral history

The Local Studies Collection has been revitalised over the past six months with the launch of an oral history programme. While it has taken some time to obtain all the suitable hardware and software to enable such a program to commence, the other factor upon which such a program depends is people. The ability to have the time and interest to prepare and conduct oral history interviews is a rare commodity in this day of instant results. Thanks to the good offices of two fantastic volunteers, one male and one female, initial interviews were conducted in December 2005.

Christie Bolton
Programs Coordinator
Wagga Wagga City Library

Christmas Mystery

For Christmas the staff of Wagga Wagga Library provided mystery Christmas Surprise Books wrapped in festive paper with only their barcodes showing. Staff were as busy as Santa’s elves wrapping the new fiction titles for eager members to borrow and place under their Christmas trees. The reactions from our members was very enthusiastic, one lady even borrowed one to give to her friend, several wanted to unwrap it at the counter to see if they’d like it or not and another one asked not to see the screen as the ‘surprise book’ was checked out to her. We would recommend it as a fun way to give your customers a special treat and it is also a great conversation starter!

Claire Campbell
Manager Library Services
Wagga Wagga City Library

Multiscreen

The Multiscreen system, a communications system to promote library services using both audio and vision, has proved very popular with library clients and council staff. Having two screens, facing both into the Library and out to the Civic Arcade, the system is able to attract new clients and existing members to its constantly changing visual displays. It is also used to cross promote the exhibitions in the Art Gallery and the Museum. A number of staff have been trained to use the system but Carol Slattery is the main user and has a keen eye for simple messages being conveyed in a creative and eye catching manner.

Claire Campbell
Manager Library Services
Wagga Wagga City Library

Who is she?

The yellow BMW F650GS purrs in to the lower ground car park. Her boots stepping quietly onto the concrete, a slender twenty something woman in black bike leathers and red hair she takes a silver chopstick from her back pack and with one swirl, performs a salon style hair up that would

Eilaghe Reunea
Local Studies Librarian
Wagga Wagga City Library

Author visit

On Tuesday 15 November Judy Nunn visited Wagga Wagga City Library to promote her most recent novel Heritage. Her visit was made possible through a partnership with Angus & Robertson Wagga Wagga. This partnership saw four Australian authors visit the library in 2005.

Judy Nunn is a down to earth, no-nonsense author who captured her audience with her easy manner and energetic delivery despite being in the middle of the flu. The readings from Heritage were dynamic and her acting skills were evident in the presentation.

Friends of the Wagga Wagga City Library provided a wonderful supper and the wines were supplied by Padthaway Estate. Library patrons enjoyed the opportunity to chat informally with Judy and her husband Bruce Venables.

Claire Campbell
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Wagga Wagga City Library

Local Studies Librarian
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Claire Campbell
Manager Library Services
Wagga Wagga City Library

Who is she?
rival any Hollywood star. From her pocket she takes an identification tag which she pulls over her head, revealing she is Marita Macklin. She could work in any city, in any country any where in the world, But who is she? She is the next generation of library worker. Boldly going where no library worker has gone before, baring her midriff and using cooking utensils as a fashion item. Move over Nancy Pearl, the 21st century just arrived.

Claire Campbell
Manager Library Services
Wagga Wagga City Library

Love that library
Library wrist bands were the fashion item of the moment and the whole day was topped off by a fabulous story, which included some spectacular performances from library staff, on PRIME Nightly News. What a day, summed up perfectly by another lyric by JPY O.K. o.k, o.k, o.k, o.k.

Marita and her co-workers

Chris Bolton
Programs Coordinator
Wagga Wagga City Library

Library Lovers’ Day
As John Paul Young sang Love is in the air, but better than that, it’s at your public library. February 14, 2006 as most of you will be aware has been claimed for library lovers everywhere as Library Lovers’ Day. At Wagga Wagga City Library the day was celebrated with the traditional colours of red and white as well as the new ones of lime, orange and blue.

Patrons were invited to partake in a giant Library Lovers’ Day Cake, adorned with white icing and winged red love hearts before being introduced to their mystery date with a wrapped book. When asked by one patron if she would enjoy her blind date, a member of the circulation team was heard to reply, Who knows, it could be love at first sight or it could be a complete disaster, the best thing is you don’t have to make light conversation with a book you hate.

A friendly cut
Wagga Wagga City Library has a very active group who organise home deliveries for housebound borrowers and conduct regular book sales throughout the year. On Saturday 11 February, $1,123 was raised at the first book sale for 2006. Projects undertaken by the FOTL group include the microfilming of Wagga Wagga City Council rates books and the purchase of a microfilm reader printer. They also operate a drink vending machine in the library. At the Christmas drinks party in December Cr Ken Klemke and FOTL members unofficially opened the new disabled access on Level Zero of the library. We are very lucky to have such wonderful friends to support our resources and projects at Wagga Wagga. During Seniors Week in April they will also subsidise the Twilight Heritage Walking Tour which will be led by the National Trust of Australia, Riverina Committee.

Claire Campbell
Manager Library Services
Wagga Wagga City Library

MACQUARIE REGIONAL NEWS

Baradine moves
The Baradine Branch of the Macquarie Regional Library has been providing a valued service to local residents for many years and the recent relocation of the library into new premises at the Rural Transaction Centre has been greeted enthusiastically by the community, Warrumbungle Shire Council and Macquarie Regional Library.

The updated library facility was included in the official opening of the Baradine Rural Transaction Centre (RTC) by John Anderson, the Federal Member for Gwydir, on Friday 10th February 2005. The Macquarie Regional Library is very proud to be involved with the Baradine Rural Transaction Centre (RTC) and greatly appreciates the support that the Baradine Progress Association has given by providing new library facilities to the town.

The combined centre is the result of many hours of patient work by local volunteers to achieve better access to resources for the community. Baradine Progress Association members care for their town and are to be congratulated for their planning, design and completion of this multi purpose centre that will better benefit everyone in the community.

The library is now bigger, brighter and cleaner and provides more accessible space for library services. There is more room for extra resources and space for reading and study. The library offers more space to the local pre-school activities, assisting in literacy development within the community.

Liz Cutts
Baradine Library Officer

Armchair Travel Night
On a warm night this summer, ‘passengers’ made their way to Macquarie Regional Library’s ‘check-in counter’, eager to start their much-anticipated trip around the world. They were handed their boarding passes and itinerary and directed to follow the yellow line (laid out in masking tape on the carpet) to the “passenger lounge”. This followed a warning from a staff member that sniffer dogs were patrolling the airport. Soon after, a boarding call was made over the telephone requesting that passengers flying Macquarie Regional Airlines around the world on Flight 2830 should make their way towards our friendly hostess Melanie who would assist them to their seats. After boarding and the necessary demonstration of safety procedures, passengers were served cheese and bickies and wine (just like on real planes!) from Library trolleys that made their way up the aisle.
Dubai comes to Dubbo

After taking off and landing a second time, passengers were treated to a presentation by the lovely ladies from a local travel agent. They shared their personal stories of trips to India and on board luxury cruise liners before giving some general tips and handy hints about travelling overseas. Passengers were then served culinary delights from around the globe and treated to Asian finger foods, kindly prepared by a local lady. Following this, passengers were served tea and coffee and an assortment of biscuits from around the world. Our guests then viewed the display of travel books and chatted excitedly to one another about their own adventures around Australia and abroad.

After boarding once more for the last leg of a whirlwind trip, library staff member Hermina Williams did a superb job telling everyone about her experiences travelling overseas with her family to Holland, the UK, and Germany. One of the funniest moments of the night was when Hermina showed a slide of a cow being transported up a canal in a very small canoe. The Library’s Armchair Travel Night was deemed an outstanding success and well worth the hours of planning. It was certainly a lot of fun to organise, so here’s hoping we enjoy another overseas trip again soon!

Tracking the Explorers

It was with much anticipation that a crowd gathered at the Dubbo Branch of Macquarie Regional Library to hear author John Whitehead give a talk about his latest book, Tracking and Mapping the Explorers - The Macquarie River to Port Macquarie (Oxley and Evans 1818). Mr Whitehead’s book is an intricate study of Mr Oxley’s expedition routes and campsites through regional areas and towns of New South Wales. The book retraces Oxley’s 1818 expedition, which travelled through Wellington, along the Macquarie River near Dubbo, Narrimore and Warren and other areas including the Macquarie Marsh Wetlands before ending in Sydney.

Mr Whitehead had access to facsimile and enhanced diaries, journals, field books and charts to plot the expedition of Oxley. The book compares topographic descriptions of the modern day landscape to the explorer’s descriptions of vegetation, wildlife and aboriginal culture. Oxley’s entire 1820 journal covering the 1818 expedition has been reproduced in a manner that allows the reader to follow more precisely his route and camp site locations on the early Australian landscape.

As Mr Whitehead spoke of Oxley’s expedition, he described a journey woven together in adversity, determination and an extraordinary tale of sacrifice. Mr Whitehead’s next instalment will be eagerly awaited by those intrigued by explorers, exploration and local history.

Ahhh, Christmas…

It comes but once a year and for libraries situated in shopping centres, as we are, it lasts for about three months. After all, there’s the Christmas tree and the decorations that go up everywhere, the carols blasting from every speaker and of course the sales to remind you that there are 100 days, 65 days, 15 days, 12 days, 2 days, only 1 day to go!!

Well this year Erina Library decided to get in on the act by holding two big events over two big days to celebrate the silly season. We kicked it all off with Christmas @ Your Library where 100 children, plus their parents, turned up to hear the Gosford Public School Choir and a professional storyteller wow their senses with Christmas carols and traditional Christmas tales. Also joining us for the evening was Santa and his elves, who helped usher in the families while smiling for those important photo opportunities. Children attending were asked to donate a small gift to Rotary to be handed out in their annual Christmas gift drive and the response was wonderful with many great presents going out to families in need.

The next day saw Christmas @ Your Library for Seniors. There was no Santa this time but still around 40 people attended the event to hear poetry readings, some rather tall tales and the delightful Harmony Chorus sing. The festivities were capped of with a wonderful afternoon tea.

People were also encouraged to bring squares of knitting to the library for the charity Wrapped With Love during December. Each square goes to make a blanket to be sent to a developing country and it was heart warming to see the number of squares handed in and the colourful pile they made.

So with a mix of music, song and stories Erina Library celebrated Christmas and thanked our loyal library members for a year of great patronage, and they thanked us all by helping out two great charities.

Dubbo Branch Librarian
Erina City Library

Gunnedah update

Gunnedah Shire Library through the support of Gunnedah Shire Council and Newcastle TAFE has been successful in gaining not one, but two trainees. Our newest member of staff and first trainee is Jacqui Muller. Jacqui is very new to the world of libraries and is already keen to make lots of changes! Jacqui recently visited Swansea Public Library, just in time for us to submit our estimates for the year. So yes, the wish list doubled!

Our second trainee is Robyn Draper. Robyn has worked at Gunnedah Shire Library for 25 years. Robyn is undertaking Certificate 4 in library practice as an existing worker trainee. The TAFE is providing us with a pathway to gaining qualified library technicians, and it is hoped that we will be gaining another trainee at the end of the year.

Virtually Mosman

Mosman Mayor Denise Wilton launched Mosman Library’s Virtual Library Tour on Tuesday 6 December and after a quick search on Google we believe it is the first virtual tour of any Council library in New South Wales.
Often new members don’t have time to come in for a personal tour of the Library and we thought that this would be an innovative way for them to get a feel of the library in their own time and from the comfort of home.

To make the Library fun to explore, we have a clickable floorplan with photos and text for each of the areas, said Jane. And to show the overall space, we have 360-degree panoramas by photographer Peter Murphy. Have a look at the children’s storytime, it’s a fantastic shot.

The Mosman Library Virtual Tour is a Macromedia Flash presentation and requires the Quicktime plugin.

The Mosman Library Virtual Tour is an innovative way for new members to get a feel of the library in their own time and from the comfort of home.

You can see more of Peter’s work at http://www.mediarvr.com/blog/

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Jane Broadbere  
Information Services Librarian  
Mosman Library

Artistic talents

Maureen Ford  
Photo courtesy of Wendy Kimpton, Pictorial Review

Auburn Home Library Service celebrated the 15th International Day of Older Persons and the International Day for People with Disabilities for the second year running with an exhibition called MaturedArt @ your library.

Local residential aged care facilities and hospital outpatient units were invited to contribute artwork and craft pieces created by their patients. The response was overwhelming – from a total of 67 entries sent, 45 were selected for the showcase. For two weeks library visitors of all ages were in awe of the hidden artistic talents of the elderly, frail and disabled.

This year the local newspaper’s attention was focused on the beautiful artworks crafted together by 31 residents of St Joachim’s Nursing Home. St Joachim’s liversional therapist Maureen Ford has been working with the residents for 15 years, and makes use of various craft techniques to maintain patient’s gross motor and cognitive skills. St Joachim’s was awarded a first and second prize in the NSW Aged Care Facilities Art and Craft Competition. A number of their winning artworks were inspired by the library’s craft books which Maureen borrows through our Home Library Service.

On display were the paintings and collages by the St Joachim’s patients, works by a mouth-brush painter from ParaQuad’s Ferguson Lodge facility in Lidcombe and many more unique crafts and artwork from local residential facilities and hospital outpatient units.

Once more MaturedArt @ your library revealed the wonderful capacities of people who are aged and more dependent. We hope future displays at Auburn library will enhance public awareness of their contribution, achievements and ambitions.

Isabella Andruszkiewicz  
Home Library Officer  
Auburn Library

Australia Day

Australia Day within the Tumut Shire is a huge event. The 2006 Australia Day theme was Celebrate, Decorate and Participate and this was a theme embraced not only by the Library but by the entire community. The Tumut Library was certainly keeping with this theme by hosting an Australia Day display which highlighted events that have shaped the Tumut community as well as parts of the Library collection.

One of my Council duties is Coordinator of the Tumut Shire Australia Day Committee which organises the Shire’s Australia Day Celebrations. The Shire hosts four Australia day functions at each of the four towns. Each celebration is unique to that town and gives residents the opportunity to promote their town and people throughout the Shire. Australia Day 2006 once again gave the community the opportunity to acknowledge the people that build the fabric of our community. The Shire has many wonderful citizens who give tirelessly of their time and services to enrich the wider community through many and varied avenues. The Tumut Shire Australia Day Committee acknowledged 33 citizens or groups this year. Each award recipient received rousing applause from the crowd and it was wonderful to see so many people in our community acknowledged.

The major awards of Citizen, Young Citizen and Community Events are Shire-wide and for the first time the Tumut Shire Australia Day Committee awarded a joint title of Citizen of the Year to two residents who were scored equally in the voting. Both were well deserving of the title.

The Tumut Library had extra reason to celebrate, as Library Assistant, Rhonda Twomey acknowledged at the Australia Day celebrations. Rhonda received a Tumut Shire Australia Day Achievement Award in recognition of her 30 years service to the Tumut Pony Club and several other community organisations.

Australia Day is a wonderful opportunity to promote the Aussie spirit and goodwill amongst members of the community.

Kristin Twomey  
Librarian In Charge  
Tumut Shire Library

Collection Development

The MPLA West South West Collection Development Group was formed in 2002 to fill a void in the Collection Development area. After an initial email to public libraries in this region to gauge interest for the group, the first meeting was held at Bankstown Library to discuss the focus of the group and its future direction. All participants agreed that they wanted to do more than meet and chat! They wanted to accomplish something and pass on their expertise to others. The desire was to provide documents for common collection development activities to assist staff working in the field.

The group brainstormed and came up with a list of priorities which is revised each year to ensure that it remains current and focussed. The brainstorming session was led by Michelle Dowling of Auburn Library and Paul Scully of Liverpool Library, and their valuable assistance has continued to this day.

The group has worked on several documents and has completed four, Supplier Evaluation, Collection Evaluation, Selection and Delection Principles and a Delection worksheet. The effort in finalising these documents had been varied with some documents coming together quickly and easily and some taking a toll on the group’s sanity at times! Despite the difficulties, the group agrees that the effort is worth the ‘pain’ knowing that these documents can be freely used by others.

The group is committed to continuing its work for the library community with future plans including a draft Collection Development Policy document, End Processing standards, Stocktaking guidelines and Tools and Strategies for Community input.

All documents and minutes of the groups meetings can be found on the MPLA website at ????
The Woollahra Library celebrated 50 years of service in December 2005. A year long program of special events to mark the anniversary started on December 4 when the Library hosted a party for about 200 guests including current and past staff, the Library Friends group, Councillors, volunteers and other members of the community associated with the Library.

The party featured music by the Woollahra Philharmonic Orchestra, an exhibition of the Library’s history, a massive birthday cake and special guest speaker, singer turned author Helen Reddy, famous for penning the feminist anthem ‘I Am Woman’, who led the guests in the singing of Happy Birthday.

The survey was administered over a Monday to Sunday from 5 - 23 December and at random times at each of the five libraries. Survey sessions were of one hour duration and the three simple survey questions were translated into Arabic, Chinese, Vietnamese and Spanish. We received 2,000 responses.

The survey revealed some interesting findings:

- Access to private transport appears to be more of a factor at Smithfield, Fairfield and Cabramatta than at Bonnyrigg and Wetherill Park
- Only a small percentage (3.5%) of survey respondents from Bonnyrigg Heights are using the library despite the fact that this suburb has had a 19% increase in population since the 1996 census.
- Bonnyrigg Library had the highest usage (16%) from users outside the LGA, followed by Cabramatta (11%), Fairfield (10%) and Wetherill Park (7%).
- Smithfield Library, which is located in a residential area, had a whopping 54% of borrowers from the suburb of Smithfield alone, while 39% came from the four adjoining suburbs and those from another LGA constituted only 1%.
- Fairfield Library also had a high percentage (52%) from the suburb of Fairfield but at the same time Fairfield patrons are the highest users of other Fairfield branches as well.
- Of the total respondents, over 25% belonged to another library service. This percentage varied considerably between libraries with the main library at Cabramatta having nearly 30% compared with the smallest library Smithfield, having only 12%.

The complete survey findings provide clues to library usage patterns but raise many issues which will require further investigation and analysis.

If you’re going down this track make sure you chase up a Deductible Gift Recipient status from the Australian Taxation Office. This means donations will be eligible for a tax deduction. Your Council’s Finance section can help with this.

As the community ages, and Great Lakes is at the forefront here, libraries should consider promoting themselves as possible recipients of bequests. After all, the community really does love us.
In the libraries

Columns

Chris Jones
Manager
Great Lakes Library

News from the Southern Tablelands

Woodlands
On the evening of Friday 3 February Goulburn Library held a soiree to mark the opening of the travelling exhibition Woodlands: It’s Your Country. The exhibition is made up of stunning images by one of Australia’s finest natural history photographers, Esther Beaton and celebrates the beauty and diversity of our woodlands.

Prof Lindenmayer and Esther Beaton

Sylvia Brook
Branch Officer in Charge
Goulburn Library

The bottom drawer
As part of the Regional Library’s 2005 Lunch in the Library Program, a lunchtime presentation was made by Elizabeth Burness at Goulburn Library on 19 October. The presentation was entitled History in the Bottom Drawer. Elizabeth collects and researches clothes and apparel from earlier historical periods. Her presentation displayed two cedar drawers filled with a fascinating array of wearing apparel, jewellery and trousseau items from a bygone era. Seeing and touching these items gave those attending a remarkable insight into the lives of women in early Australia and brought to life a time when women were the keepers of much of the family history and when female wealth was often measured in terms of the items of linen and other pieces of material culture they possessed.

Sylvia Brook
Branch Officer in Charge
Goulburn Library

Marrickville
On 12 December 2005, Sam Byrne, Mayor of Marrickville officiated at celebrations held to mark the revamp of the floor space of the Central Library at Marrickville and the launch of our new Express Checkout facility.

Feedback from a user/non-user survey had highlighted the need for the library to improve its appeal in order to encourage increased community usage and membership. After extensive review and planning, the library closed for a week at the end of November and all staff were on hand to assist in the massive move which involved relocating 88,000 items, cutting down shelving, removing and re-fixing bay-end panels, converting an office area into a new reading room, and cutting a new window through a lift thick wall into this room.

After an exhausting and challenging week the staff have created an open welcoming, friendly place that will cater to the needs of our vibrant diverse community. Since reopening, we have received countless favourable comments from library users who appreciate the more open and spacious feel of the library.

The most positive impact has been made by grouping like things together. Children now have all their resources in one place within the library and there is a separate youth room. English language fiction and non-fiction are together and we have created a lounge area where clients can browse magazines and newspapers, or just gather for a chat.

We now also have a reading room that can be used for quiet study or to hold meetings, such as the Library’s Book Club.

As part of the celebrations the new express checkout system was also launched. The installation of this system was made possible by a Library Council grant through the State Library of New South Wales. Marrickville Library has the distinction of being the second library in Australia to install the 3M One-Tag Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) System, and on the night a plaque was presented to the Mayor to commemorate this.

Just last year the library introduced the Dynix Horizon Library Management System which has enabled us to produce community language catalogue records in script. The new Express Checkout stations can take this service one step further by providing the details on the docket in the language requested.

Pamela Davies
Community Programs Team Leader
Marrickville Library

Get a life!

What do you do when even the Council staff working in the building next door don’t know where the library is?

Gail Dunn
Library Services Team Leader
Wollondilly Library and Information Service

Read my LIPS!
The staff at Wollondilly are a standout in their smart black and red LIPS t-shirts. LIPS stands for, Libraries Information Professional Service. Worn on special promotional days, the t-shirts are fun way to promote the service to the public. The huge lips on the shirts attract a lot of positive attention and both male and female staff love them.

April 2006 vol 12 no 1
Australia, New South Wales Branch, and the Cooma Ex-Services Club to ensure the Monaro Regional Libraries held a collection of authoritative resources on dementia. The launch was well attended with representatives from Alzheimer’s Australia, Cooma Ex-Services Club, Greater Southern Area Health Service and members of the Forget-Me-Nots (a local seniors group).

The Monaro Regional Library, the Early Childhood Intervention Coordination Program and Bredbo CWA jointly funded two special collections, one on autism, and the other on cerebral palsy. The resources purchased as a result of the partnership are allocated to all the branch libraries in the region. Guest speakers from the Spastic Centre’s ACT Branch launched the cerebral palsy collection.

Monaro News
Blockbuster year!
2005 was a blockbuster year for the Monaro Regional Library and Information Service, which is why we’ve only just gotten around to sharing the news now! It was indeed a very exciting and busy year for the Library Service. Statistics show that region-wide, there was an increase of 9% in loans. In addition, a total of 1,005 new members joined the Library Service. This reflects the incredibly hard work that has been undertaken to raise the library’s profile in the community.

Some of this hard work is reflected in the unprecedented number of events, activities and new initiatives undertaken during the year. Two fantastic books launches were held at Cooma Library this year, Gabrielle Lord’s Dirty weekend and Judy Nunn’s Heritage. Both launches were extremely entertaining and each event was standing room only! Fine food and wine flowed and both Gabrielle and Judy were truly gracious and the crowds loved them. Both conducted book signings and the local bookshops did a roaring trade selling copies. Heritage struck quite a note with many locals as it was set in our region during the construction of the mighty Snowy Scheme in the 1950s.

A joint project was undertaken with Alzheimer’s Australia, New South Wales Branch, and the Cooma Ex-Services Club to ensure the Monaro Regional Libraries held a collection of authoritative resources on dementia. The launch was well attended with representatives from Alzheimer’s Australia, Cooma Ex-Services Club, Greater Southern Area Health Service and members of the Forget-Me-Nots (a local seniors group).

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Public Library Services is responsible for administering the Library Act and Library Regulation 2005 as they relate to local authorities and public libraries. It ensures compliance with the Library Act and Library Regulation 2005 and provides policy support for the development of quality public library services that meet the needs of the people of NSW; administers the allocation and payment of the public library funding strategy (including subsidy payments and Library Development Grants); provides leadership, advice and guidance to local authorities on the provision, control and management of library services; plays a role in promoting the public library network and supports this role through a program of relevant research; collects, collates and distributes a range of statistical and performance data relating to the public library network; consults and prepares issues papers and policy statements, and makes recommendations for changes to the Library Act 1939, Library Regulation 2005, guidelines and policies; provides advice in formulating State Library services delivered to and through the public library network, and actively promotes those services. All 152 local councils in NSW have adopted the Library Act 1939. Councils which have adopted the Act and provide a library service, receive State Government funding to support the development of Library services.

The state-wide nature of Public Library Services’ work is managed through a system of urban and rural areas. The five rural areas are the Zones nominated by the Country Public Libraries Association (CPLA). The four urban areas are the Regions nominated by the Metropolitan Public Libraries Association (MPLA).

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continued on page 29
Public Library Services Staff

Kathleen Bresnahan
Assistant State Librarian, Public Library Services

As Assistant State Librarian, Public Library Services, Kathleen provides strategic leadership and authoritative advice to local authorities, the public library network, the State Library and other agencies on the provision, control and management of public library services. Kathleen leads the division in managing the administration of the public library funding strategy and compliance with the Library Act 1939 and Library Regulation 2005 in relation to local authorities and public libraries.

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David is part of the PLS management group and also specialises in all aspects of planning and designing library buildings. He assesses space requirements, recommends sites, prepares design briefs and troubleshoots during building projects. His major assignments are performed as fee-based consultancies.

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Ellen is interested in the cooperative provision of reference and information services including reader’s advisory work. Ellen provides advice on the Library Development Grant program and participates in the preliminary assessment of applications.

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Mylee Joseph
Consultant, Young People and Older Persons

Contact Mylee for assistance with children’s and youth services and services to older people, including the development of appropriate promotions, collections and spaces. Mylee provides advice on the Library Development Grant program and participates in the preliminary assessment of applications.

tel: (02) 9273 1521
mjoseph@sl.nsw.gov.au

Cameron Morley
Manager, Funding and Advisory Services

Contact Cameron for advice on the public library funding strategy and information on the Library Act 1939. Cameron’s role includes preparing public library policy advice for the Public Libraries Consultative Committee and the NSW Department of Arts, Sport and Recreation. In addition Cameron participates in library service reviews, the provision of general library advice to councils and the supervision of Public Library Services division.

tel: (02) 9273 1483
cmorley@sl.nsw.gov.au

Oriana Acevedo
Consultant, Multicultural Services

Contact Oriana for assistance in developing strategies for the management of multicultural services and advice on the management of community language and ESL material collections. Her work includes investigating and recommending technologies which enhance access to multicultural collections including the State Library’s multicultural collection, and promoting library services to multicultural communities. Oriana provides advice on the Library Development Grant program and participates in the preliminary assessment of applications.

tel: (02) 9273 1544
oacevedo@sl.nsw.gov.au

Sue Parkinson
Consultant, Evaluation

Contact Sue for assistance and advice on library performance measures, benchmarking, public library statistics and reviews of library services. Sue is currently involved in the implementation of the Bibliostat database. Sue provides advice on the Library Development Grant program and participates in the preliminary assessment of applications.

tel: (02) 9273 1523
sparkinson@sl.nsw.gov.au

Victoria Anderson
Consultant, Promotions

Contact Victoria for assistance with the marketing and promotion of public library services. Victoria also coordinates the professional development programs sponsored by PLS and edits Public Library News. Victoria provides advice on the Library Development Grant program and participates in the preliminary assessment of applications.

tel: (02) 9273 1526
vanderson@sl.nsw.gov.au

Public Library Services Staff

Contact Ellen for assistance and advice on the provision of Reference and Information Services. Ellen is interested in the cooperative provision of reference and information services including reader’s advisory work. Ellen provides advice on the Library Development Grant program and participates in the preliminary assessment of applications.

tel: (02) 9273 1525
eforsyth@sl.nsw.gov.au
Archives also gave tips on conserving family papers. The workshop was very successful with positive feedback from the participants. Both State Records NSW and National Archives presented the Library with updated information.

Cooma Library hosted a Father’s Day photographic exhibition, Celebrating Dads which was jointly organized by Parenting Across the Monaro (PAM Group) and the Library Services. Due to boundary changes, the Cooma-Monaro Shire Local Government Area now includes properties up to the ACT border. A survey was conducted of the residents of Michelago to determine if a Mobile Library would provide a worthwhile service to the residents. As a result of the survey, the Mobile Library will have a scheduled stop at Michelago for an eight month trial period. The service commenced last May, and to date has been well patronised.

A trial arrangement was organised for a box of forty books to be delivered to Ando and Bibbenluke Schools in remote areas of Bombala Shire. The boxes are delivered and collected by the Mobile Library during the scheduled run to Cathcart and Delegate.

Monaro Regional Library received a grant from the Department of Aged and Disability Home Care (DADHC) to present an intergenerational storytime event at Bombala. Children from Bombala School and senior members of the community came together to tell stories. Mary French, a professional storyteller facilitated this event. A similar program was also held at Delegate.

Phew! What a fantastic year! Meanwhile the hard work continues, with all sorts of plans brewing for 2006. We’ll keep you posted!

Sue Bailey
Network Services Librarian
Monaro Regional Library

Constitution Hill
Parramatta City Council invited its local residents to the official opening of the newly refurbished Constitution Hill Library on Saturday 3 December 2005. A wonderful family day of celebrations followed to the delight of scores of local residents, and included a clown, a magic show, a fire engine, sausage sizzle, face painting, a Toongabbie Historical Society stall and a local school dance group.

The Lord Mayor of Parramatta, Councillor David Borger, officially opened the newly renamed Constitution Hill library which was first opened to the public in 1990 as the Emma Crescent Branch Library. The State Library’s Dr David Jones then addressed the audience. Council recently changed the name to Constitution Hill to better reflect the history of the area. The library serves more than 30,000 local residents.

The library has undergone an extensive $1.2 million makeover which almost doubled the library’s fig2 r space, provided multi purpose meeting rooms and new amenities for the community and staff. There are also dedicated spaces for children, young adults,
**In the libraries**

an adult reading area and a dedicated technology (Learning Centre) space. The Branch also provides a home for the Toongabbie Historical Society.

Roger Henshaw  
Manager Information and Library  
Parramatta City Library

**Bathurst News**

**DVD success**

Many social commentators have observed that libraries need to keep up with current technologies to remain relevant. Not only should libraries be at the cutting edge of emerging technologies, they also need to provide adequate resources for the community to satisfy their information needs, and their recreational needs, beyond reading. To accomplish this successfully the library environment should be welcoming, comfortable and suitably equipped to accommodate all age ranges appropriately.

A collection of DVDs which is relevant, growing and which our borrowing community simply cannot get enough of, has been built from 0 to nearly 2000 titles within a 2 year period. The State Library of NSW provided a grant to kick start the collection and Bathurst Regional Council have supported further growth. Regular visits to local video libraries and shops keep acquisitions staff in touch with mainstream new releases. Trade literature and some websites then provide the inspiration for deciding on the documentary and art house movie titles. The collection development process has been complemented by the circulation policy, once again a simple process. DVD loans are limited to five per borrower, with the same loans period as all other items, 28 days. Over 78% of these loans are returned before the loans period ends, with at least 40% within 7 days. Anecdotal reports from staff have people making return trips over a weekend, or even within a day.

Furthermore the library has a machine to clean the discs that arrive back damaged. This has proven to be the most cost effective way of maintaining the collection.

Our DVD collection is wearing out the carpet between its display and the circulation desk ... now you can’t say you haven’t been told.

Robyn Scrivener  
Collection and Technology Librarian  
Bathurst Library

**Sparkling**

The Pace Australia two day Sparkle program is fast becoming a must do for libraries which are serious about developing a best practice customer service response. Bathurst Library recently sent a staff member to the course and we were very pleased with the result for her, in terms of a learning experience and a motivational course.

We wanted to send more staff on the course but were unable to schedule a sizable number of staff to attend, given the cost and number of days involved, both in the course itself and the travel time required to go to Sydney. What to do?

Centrec’s HR and training cell was approached and they were able to negotiate a shorter course of 1 day duration and also achieve a resultant reduction in costs. The Sparkle course was redesigned to allow for participation by Council Customer Service staff and was held in November in Bathurst Library.

The Sparkle course was held in the new year at Bathurst and any libraries wishing to express interest in sending staff should contact John Cumberford.

This has been the best first day. This quote came from one of two new recruits who started their employment at our library recently. Bathurst library presented the new team members, Caitlin and Diahanne with a bag of goodies inspired by the Sparkle program and relating to the library. The bag (an @ your library bag) was customised with their names in glitter and included inside was a mug (representing the social aspect of morning and afternoon teas), a bottle of sparkling water (which underlined the importance of health), for energy purposes, a can of coke, a kit kat and a muesli bar. In a photo frame were the words Welcome to the staff of Bathurst Library, You are a valued member of our team.

We spoke about the value of individuality and the idea that everyone has something to contribute to the work environment. Importance was also placed on customer service and having a sparkling attitude towards the public no matter who they are – young or old, demanding or meek, visitors to our region or secret shoppers. Teamwork and involvement was also highlighted with stress placed on having a sparkling attitude toward other team members.

At the conclusion of the session they were presented with a bunch of flowers and told to take your flowers home and smile each morning as you anticipate another rewarding day at the library.

At Bathurst library we aim to have an attitude that coming to work is rewarding and pleasurable. I encourage all libraries to inspire your staff with the Sparkle program.

Helen Carver  
Library Assistant  
Bathurst Library

**What to grow**

Bathurst Library recently held a seminar organised by Bathurst Regional Council and Greening Bathurst entitled What to grow in Bathurst. The seminar was held in the Library Function room one Saturday from 10 am until 1 pm, and included speakers who talked on garden care, native and perennial plants and water wise gardening. The session was useful for seasoned gardeners and those just starting out with many practical tips.

**Race weekend**

The red cortina

The seminar also saw the launch of The Bathurst Guide to Plant Selection and care brochure. This booklet includes photos and plant lists as well as general information for gardeners in our region. It was available on the day of the seminar for a small donation of $2.

This event was attended by some 70 people, and provided promotion for the Library’s gardening collections. A special display was mounted featuring Australian gardens and plants.

Robyn Scrivener  
Collection and Technology Librarian  
Bathurst Library

**DVDs on the go**

Difficult as this is, many libraries accomplish it. One of the secrets of their success lies in sharing with other libraries how on earth they do it. So in the spirit of handing on hot tips let me tell you of one unprecedented success Bathurst Library has enjoyed.

Granted, it only covers a part of the huge undertaking outlined above, but it is a step in the right direction. Keep in mind that the relatively large region we service has a small, rural population with only one central and a mobile library.
In the libraries

A special week for Bathurst is naturally the Bathurst Race week, culminating in the 1,000 kilometre race. This year the Bathurst Regional Council Library created a Mount Panorama race display complete with a 1963 Cortina in racing colours on loan from the National Motor Racing Museum. This way we promoted both our motoring collections as well as the National Motor Racing Museum located on Mount Panorama.

Beth Hall
Information and Lending Services Librarian
Bathurst Library

Genres, what?

Following a number of customer requests to put all the Westerns or Sci Fi books together, we decided to trial this method of display. Of course it means splitting up the collection and may make shelving even more of a chore, but we tried putting the customer first and established a Western area and now a Sci Fi/Fantasy area. Both are being well patronised and we now plan to provide a setting for those books we all love to hate - the true crime section.

Beth Hall
Information and Lending Services Librarian
Bathurst Library

Cooee!

On Tuesday 8th November the Springwood Branch of the Blue Mountains City Library held a function to celebrate the passage of the Coo-ee recruiting march through the district on that day in 1915.

A display of historic photographs and posters, press articles and memorabilia was oficially opened by Major John Gallagher, the great-grandson of Captain Bill Hitchen. A small detachment of Coo-ees (made up of descendents of the original marchers and children from local schools) accompanied by a piper as were the original Coo-ees in 1915 re-enacted the entry of their forebears into Springwood.

The original march was led by Bill Hitchen, a local plumber and Captain of the Gilgandra RIf. Club His hardy band of 35 locals set out on foot from Gilgandra on 10th October 1915, bound for Sydney, 324 miles (518 kms) away, hoping to average around 10 miles (16 kms) a day with brief stopovers at numerous townships on route to rally support and to enlist recruits for the AIF.

Dubbed Hitchen’s Own and the Coo-ees, they would announce their arrival with the well known bushman’s call of Coo-ee echoing far and wide across gullies and ridge tops to be answered in kind by their hosts, and more rousing coo-ees highlighted the re-enactment ceremony in the library.

John Merriman
Local Studies Librarian
Blue Mountains City Council

International Volunteer Day

On Monday 5 December sixty people celebrated International Volunteer Day at Springwood Library with talks by Pam Gardiner from WIRES, Margaret Wilkinson, library volunteer and Morna Colbran from Springwood Neighbourhood Centre. Vicki Edmunds, Manager Library and Family Day Care welcomed Mayor, Jim Angel, volunteers, community members and staff. Dave Allen, Group Manager, Blue Mountains City Services made presentations to the library volunteers. The Library and Springwood Neighbourhood Centre were happy to express their gratitude to the valuable group of supporters who work behind the scenes in the libraries and across the community. Lunch was served on the verandah at Braemar following the talks and presentation.

Library staff surveyed a number of local identities on their reading habits as part of the Read @ your library campaign. We asked them what their favourite books were and what they were currently reading.

Luke Hartsuyker MP, the Federal Member for Cowper revealed that his favourite book is 1984 by George Orwell. Coffs Harbour State Member Andrew Fraser’s current bedtime reading is The Prince of the City: Giuliani, New York and the Genius of American Life by Fred Siegel, but his all-time favourite is South with Scott by Admiral Lord Evans. Council’s newly appointed General Manager, Stephen Sawtell has confessed a love of Tolkien, while his current reading includes Gods of the New Millennium by Alan Alford and The Well of Many Blessings by Caiseal Mor.

New returns desk

Staff at Coffs Harbour Library are pleased to see the arrival of our new returns desk. The automated system will eliminate bending to retrieve books from the conventional spring lift bins previously used while also giving us a much larger book capacity. The electric returns bin and after-hours controlled access chute was supplied by OLS in Brisbane. We are now busy re-working our returns processes and procedures!

Judy Atkinson
Library Programs Officer
Coffs Harbour City Library

The lounge room of the community

Morisset Library has entertained and enlightened...
The site that was eventually chosen was a building that formerly served as the Wellington Bowling Club and had been vacant for a number of years. By mid 2005 renovation had begun on the new building which saw in short order the roof of the building completely removed and replaced and the interior of the building almost completely gutted so that almost all traces of the previous Bowling Club were gone. The refurbishment of the building moved very quickly as the aim was to open for business as a library before Christmas 2005. The renovation of the building became a talking point around town with much interest expressed as to what the finished product would look like. Wellington Council supervised the construction process and also contributed funds to help with the Grant money provided by the State Library. A moving date was decided on and we had a period of two weeks from December 5 to December 21 to completely move all stock from the old library building to the new location.

In September we enticed our shy local historian, Beryl Mullard to talk about change in Morisset over the years. Beryl has written some books on the area but had not spoken about her research in such a manner before. The response was overwhelming with our small library jammed with people attending on the evening. So many people turned up that we ran out of chairs and had to use the cubes from the childrens area. Beryl provided an intriguing display of photos dating back to the 1900s and spoke passionately on change in the area since that time. Those in attendance had a wonderful time and had many questions for Beryl to answer afterwards over supper. In fact, we had to push people out the doors after closing time later that night.

In October we had local poet, Carol Heuchon who dazzled us with her recitals of not only her own but classic Bush Poetry. Carol has won many prestigious poetry prizes and is a bit of a local character. She had the library filled with laughter and excitement and the night was also a success. We stuck with the same format as our history evening and were hounded by enthusiastic patrons when our next event would be. The evenings are free with supper provided and we are fast becoming the place to visit for catching up with friends and learning something new, not just somewhere to borrow books or use the Internet. Staff are bubbling with ideas for more evenings which we will continue in 2006.

Cathy Shay
Lake Macquarie City Library

Relocation of Wellington

Located 50kms east of Dubbo, the town of Wellington has had a public library which has served the needs of its residents since 1971. By 2003 the small size of the library building had become a liability and a Library Development Grant application was put together and successfully submitted to the State Library with the result that $200,000 was received for the relocation and refurbishment of the existing Wellington library.

Nearly done!

Wellington library staff (with the assistance of a team of removalists and Regional Office staff, a number of whom were old hands at library relocations and the attendant problems), pitched in and packed literally hundreds of boxes containing the entire library stock and formed a convoy of trucks and cars which loaded items at one end of town and moved them to another end of town and offloaded and reshelved (on brand new shelving) these items with hardly a swear word to be heard! The moving process took two full days and the weather managed to stay dry and not too warm which was a great relief.

The new building is more than twice the size of the old one and is in a more prominent position which has raised the profile of the library in Wellington as the old site was in the middle of Cameron Park and not really visible to passersby. The new library has brand new fixtures and furniture and also a superior air conditioning system which has had visitors claiming that the library is the coolest building in Wellington which I am proud to say can be taken to mean a number of things.

The stock of the library has also been upgraded with new fiction and non-fiction titles as well as an upgrade of DVD titles. In the future, car parking spaces will be provided adjacent to the library premises to allow for off street parking and landscaping will be undertaken around the building. All in all the project was a complete success with all parties involved collaborating in a harmonious and constructive manner and the finished product is a landmark for the community of Wellington.

Mark Dwyer
Wellington Library Manager

Rediscovering reading

Read @ your library during November 2005 provided the opportunity for one of the best @ your library activities we had all year. Following on from the Rewarding Reading Training which all staff had completed by the time Read @ your library came around, staff put together a Rediscover Reading day. The aim was to encourage a love of reading and to let people know about other types of books that may be outside their usual reading habits.

We had a wonderful morning of entertainment, all organised by enthusiastic staff who focused on fiction and non fiction genres. There were stalls and displays set up in the library featuring Thrill and Spills (detective and thriller reading), Step Back in Time (history – fact and fiction), Romance and Science Fiction and the opportunity for one of the best @ your library activities we had all year.

Harry Potter at Riverwood

I’d have trouble picking my favourite part of the morning – was it our Reference Librarian reading romantic poetry to our Campsie Branch Officer at a table set with flowers, wine, cheese and grapes? Or maybe it was our Aged and Disability Services Librarian in a very garrulous, pseudo drunken state reading from a favourite non fiction historical book. Certainly not to be overlooked was the massive effort put in by Riverwood staff and borrowers alike who went with the Harry Potter theme and had even created wonderful costumes for the event. And I should also mention our Community Information Librarian who was truly scary as the very rumpled, slightly mad, private eye, reading true crime stories. As well as enjoying the poetry and prose reading and the dramatic skills of library staff, we gave all people attending a glad bag of goodies and books were presented as lucky door prizes.

Michelle Mashman
Manager
Canterbury City Library

Celebration

Campbelltown’s Glenquarie Branch Library recently underwent a mini retail refurbishment to coincide with its thirtieth birthday celebrations. The refurbishment introduced a contemporary retail style vibe to the branch library with a more spacious entry foyer, new blinds, non fiction subject zones and face out display shelving. Attractive shell end panels and new signage have also been installed. Adding to the overall ambience of the library is a column of pictures.
In the libraries

Cherry pickers!

Young Library staff were delighted to receive a request from author June Cookson, of Holbrook, to launch her thriller *The Cherry Picker*, during the National Cherry Festival on 2 December. The novel, set in a rural country town, is a mix of mystery and romance, dysfunctional and murderous relationships, and has received excellent reviews from literary critics. An appreciative audience was entertained by June’s presentation relating her experience in researching, writing and publishing the book and her thoughtful answers to questions regarding the whole process.

Celebrities

A full week of activities to mark the anniversary of the branch library service and launch the retail refurbishment commenced with a Family Fun Day on Saturday 5 November and culminated on Wednesday 9 November with the presentation of the winners of the logo design and naming competition for Campbelltown’s new junior reading club Bookalicious. Guest speaker, John Larkin, had the audience in stitches with his hilarious presentation, following which past and present library staff and customers enjoyed refreshments and sharing their reminiscences about the library service late into the evening.

Library customers are very positive about the new look Glenquarie branch, and staff continue to receive many favourable comments about just how much easier the collection is to use and the fresh appeal of the retail refurbishment.

Mary Jetha
Branch Team Leader
Glenquarie Library

Changes at Ashfield

The second half of 2005 saw some major changes in the children’s collections at Ashfield’s two libraries. Firstly the picture book collections were put into alphabetical order, so that borrowers and staff can more easily find specific titles or favourite authors.

Then the books suitable for our youngest customers were taken from the picture book collection, and put into their own area, called Baby Books, to make it easier for parents to find them. Next, the toy library was moved from its old position in a locked room in Haberfield library, to an open access corner of the library. At the same time, a selection of toys was moved to Ashfield library. Although these moves have undoubtedly increased the noise and activity in the libraries, the children love it.

In November two new graphic novel collections were established, one for children and one for teens. These have been very popular, and only a handful is ever on the shelf.

The most recent change in the collections area has been the creation of a separate space for children’s books in Chinese. At the same time many new books were purchased for the collection, making this collection much easier to find, and a lot more appealing.

Collections aren’t the only things changing at Ashfield. Recent innovations in children’s programs include the establishment of a regular Chinese language storytime and the revival of Kah’s Authors at Ashfield. The first author for 2006 will be the immensely popular Duncan Ball, who is visiting in March. Also in March we will hold our first Tiny Tots Time, storytime for the under threes. As well as organising these additions to our programming we are running holiday programs, storytimes and the summer reading club as always.

In the last six months we have put in a lot of time and effort to make the Premier’s Reading Challenge easier for everyone. Previously this was a huge challenge to staff as well as parents, but we hope that the introduction of labels, subject headings, library-specific lists, and extra titles will help everyone find the books they need, and eliminate some of the anxiety.

Pam Gravenor
Children’s and Youth Co-ordinator
Ashfield Municipal Library

Children’s week

Campbelltown City Library successfully applied for a grant of $1,200 from the Children’s Book Council’s ALOUD program to fund author visits to two of our branch libraries during Children’s Week 2005. ALOUD funding is conditional upon the students being from disadvantaged areas. We identified our Minto and Glenquarie branch libraries as serving areas of significant socio-economic disadvantage. Census figures (2001) indicated that children living in

Judy (Photo courtesy Young Witness)

Janice Otty
South West Regional Library

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and attending school in these areas are likely to have little or no exposure, outside of school, with Australian children’s literature or authors. Library staff contacted local primary schools prior to submitting the grant application to gauge interest in the proposal. Nearly all the schools approached were keen to participate in the author visits.

Seventy-three Year 5 and 6 students from Curran Redfern Primary School enjoyed meeting Moya Simons, author of many titles in the Aussie Bites series, at our Glenquarie Library. Moya’s presentation had the kids laughing and in return they asked interesting and pertinent questions, like Where do you get your ideas from? and What time of the day do you write? Teachers accompanying the classes appreciated the insight the children were given into the life of a writer.

Deborah’s questions. The library staff noticed a significant increase in borrowing Max Remy books after Deborah’s visit. Buoyed by this success, library staff are keen to find funding for more author visits in the future.

The effort involved in applying for ALOUD funding and organising the author visits was not onerous and we would like to encourage other public libraries to consider the Children’s Book Council ALOUD funding to develop programs to promote reading and writing to primary school children.

Sue Threlfall
Children’s Librarian
Campbelltown City Library

Happy birthday
On 19th October 2005 Tuggerah Library and Information Service celebrated its 10th birthday. A week of festivities was held, including free Beginning your Family History workshops and An Afternoon with Deb Abela (author of the Max Remy series) as well as colouring-in competitions for the children.

To mark the actual day itself, the Mayor, Bob Graham presided over a cake cutting ceremony, with many original staff members attending, amidst balloons and streamers. The first borrower was also there to watch the cake cutting and enjoy the celebrations. Librarian, Annette Forster highlighted the changes in the way libraries provide services in a short presentation entitled The way we were and the way we are now with technology on top of the list.

The Mayor had the opportunity to present a prize to the winner of one of the colouring-in competitions, with the winner’s whole kindergarten class participating in a special birthday story time.

The Library and Information Centre opened in 1995 as part of the new Westfield Shopping Complex at Tuggerah. This was a milestone for Wyong Shire Library Service as this was the first library on the Central Coast to combine library and Council services – a one-stop-shop using multi-skilled library staff. Tuggerah remains Wyong Shire’s largest library, housing the Reference, Local Studies and Family History collections. Five of the original seven 1995 staff still work at Tuggerah, so a proven great work place!

Joanne Potter and birthday story time
Michelle Goldsmith
Information Services Officer
Tuggerah Library and Information Centre

Book Now!
The Children’s Book Council of Australia 8th National Conference and Expo, 4 to 6 May will provide teachers, librarians, parents and others interested in children and their books with a wonderful opportunity. An exciting program of talks and demonstrations will lead conference delegates into some cutting edge developments in the writing and telling of stories.

Details at www.booknow.org.au

Usage seems to have increased judging by the number of titles found out-of-order, continues Jeff. The Special Collections Area also houses the Aboriginal Resources collection, the ABS collection,
### di@yll update

For the last four years di@yll (drug information at your local library) has provided communities in New South Wales with access to credible drug and alcohol information. In late 2005 a di@yll research and evaluation project was carried out. The findings concluded that two of the key objectives of the di@yll project were successfully achieved.

Findings indicated that:

- the NSW Public Library Network has developed the capacity to provide accessible, quality information on illicit drugs to their local communities and that in doing so it demonstrates to key stakeholders, the efficiency and effectiveness of the State Library and the network in the delivery of quality health information state-wide.
- di@yll could benefit from further promotion within the NSW Public Library Network and local communities, and that this could best be achieved by employing a marketing and communications specialist to develop appropriate strategies.

Carmel Court, a consultant funded by NSW Health, Community Drug Strategy, commenced in this role in January 2006.

Carmel is developing a marketing and communication strategy which will help promote di@yll to key external stakeholders and agencies (including local government agencies), review and renew promotional material (including the di@yll website) and assist the NSW Public Library Network promote di@yll in their local communities.


Megan Atkins  
di@yll Project Office  

### Registration

A Reader’s Card is required to access many of the services and collections at the State Library of New South Wales. This includes accessing electronic resources or requesting items from stack storage in the State Reference Library and Mitchell Library. The State Library has recently introduced online registration. This allows clients to begin the registration process for a Reader’s Card either in the Library or wherever they have access to the Internet.

A client needs to complete their name and contact details such as residential address and telephone number and/or email address and indicate whether they wish to take part in Library surveys and/or receive information about Library services and activities. They will also need to indicate whether they will collect their card in person or have it posted to their residential address. The introduction of online registration has allowed the Library to streamline the registration procedures. Clients can save time by completing the online registration form before they visit the Library.

When clients are collecting the card in person they must provide at least one form of identification, preferably with an address. New South Wales residents will need to show identification with a New South Wales residential address to access the full range of services such as access to databases from home.

If they are unable to provide appropriate identification they can still be registered and receive a Reader’s Card. However they will not be able to access the full range of services available.

The benefits of client registration are increased security for the collection and more streamlined access to services. It will also allow for the development of new services in the future eg accessing selected databases from home (for NSW clients), advanced set asides, stack slip printing and an online booking system for electronic resources.

Finds of interest to public library staff was one initiative, Multilingual Senior Surfers on the Internet, which aimed to assist older Victorians to participate in the World Wide Web in their own language. A road show was developed by Vicnet staff members who travelled through regional and metropolitan Victoria visiting CALD seniors in their community meeting places to give presentations and hands-on internet training based on BHP Billiton’s Skills.net program. Each session was language-specific and used interpreters and translated materials to guide the seniors to online news, health, travel and government information, as well as email. Training guides were developed in a range of languages and are available in PDF format on the MyLanguage portal for any public libraries wishing to run a similar program in their region.

Maria Wiemers and Karen Small  
A/Coordinator, Reader Services  

### My Loans

In 2005 four NSW public libraries took part in a pilot project that provided them with access to their State Library loan records on the State Library’s circulation system. Access was through a simple web interface.

In April 2006 we will be offering access to this service to all NSW public libraries through My Loans. My Loans will allow you to track and manage your State Library interlibrary loans, renew items on loan (if the loan rule allows an item to be renewed), copy loan records electronically to your own in-house management system and provide you with greater responsibility for the management of overdue items.

Access is available 24/7 allowing you to manage your State Library interlibrary loans when you want, for example when a client is in front of you. My Loans is easy to use with no set up required - all you need is Internet access. The State Library will provide you with a patron login and detailed instructions to help you get started. Using My Loans will enable you also to search the State Library catalogue and save preferred searches.

More information with detailed instructions will be sent to each NSW public library before the service is implemented in April 2006.

Karen Small  
A/Coordinator, Reader Services  

### Open Road 2006

During February several members of the MPLA Working Group on Multicultural Library Services braved Melbourne’s chilly summer to attend the Open Road 2006 Conference: Challenges and Possibilities. The two-day conference was the third in a series presented in partnership with Vicnet, a division of the State Library of Victoria and the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs, Department for Victorian Communities.

The conference aimed to address the challenges and possibilities of developing content for, and community access to, web services in a multilingual environment. The conference program provided delegates with the opportunity to hear the views of speakers from a broad range of backgrounds and included an impassioned keynote address from the Hon Justice Marcus Einfeld AO QC, a fascinating look into the internationalisation of web standards by Richard Ishida from W3C, and a world view of online news reporting from Alexi Paspalas of BBC Worldwide.

Closer to home for the library delegates, however, were three reports from Vicnet staff members about the work being done in the multicultural sector of the State Library of Victoria, Multilingual Senior Surfers on the Internet, Multilingual Community Web Publishing and MyLanguage – Delivering Content in 62 languages. Of particular interest to public library staff was one initiative, Multilingual Senior Surfers on the Internet, which aimed to assist older Victorians to participate in the World Wide Web in their own language. A road show was developed by Vicnet staff members who travelled through regional and metropolitan Victoria visiting CALD seniors in their community meeting places to give presentations and hands-on internet training based on BHP Billiton’s Skills.net program. Each session was language-specific and used interpreters and translated materials to guide the seniors to online news, health, travel and government information, as well as email. Training guides were developed in a range of languages and are available in PDF format on the MyLanguage portal for any public libraries wishing to run a similar program in their region.
Multicultural news

of Year parties. It's sometimes a bit hit and miss organising entertainment for such events, but ours all worked. The acrobat performing for Luna New Year was extraordinary – inducing jaw dropping reactions from many of us.

Michelle Mashman
Manager
Canterbury City Library

Community language selection

The Campbelltown local government area has undergone significant change in its community profile in recent years, with the number of people speaking a language other than English increasing to 19 per cent of the population. This cultural diversity had also been identified in various surveys, reviews and consultation with community groups.

Carolyn Young
Extension Programme Coordinator
Campbelltown City Library

meetings were held on Saturdays from August to November 2005 in Spanish, Chinese, Arabic and Hindi. Suppliers were in attendance and were able to assist people when making their selections.

The selection meetings were promoted in all of our libraries, flyers were translated into the relevant languages, and library staff attended multicultural interagency meetings. We contacted community workers, promoted the selection meetings on 2MCR 100.3 our local community radio station, through media releases and through Check it out!, the library newsletter and Compass, council's community newsletter.

Selection profiles were compiled with the assistance of Oriana Acevedo and Shauna Miller from the State Library of New South Wales. The selection profiles were an opportunity for community members to give us feedback on popular authors and subject areas of interest to the varying language groups.

The selection meetings have allowed input and feedback into the collections from families - from grandparents to teenagers and the attendance of community workers from... such as Macarthur Diversity Services has helped to maintain the library's profile amongst these communities. We have also received valuable input on how to store and house the collections, particularly DVD's.

The material is now flowing into the library, with the collection team busily processing and cataloguing. The launch of the revitalised collection is set for May 2006. We look forward to hearing the feedback and comments... to attract new members. One of the most heart-warming comments heard at one of the meetings was, it is fantastic that the library is doing this, we are very happy”.

Carolyn Young
Extension Programme Coordinator
Campbelltown City Library

Mahboba’s promise

Mahboba Rawi is an Afghani refugee who is the driving force behind an aid organisation, called Mahboba’s Promise that delivers food, shelter, medical attention and education to hundreds of children and women whose lives have been destroyed by war in Afghanistan. Mahboba has appeared on the ABC’s 7 30 Report and Australian Story. She was listed in the Sydney Morning Herald late last year as one of the 50 leading Australians who matter to the rest of the world.

She is also the author of the recently published Mahboba’s Promise which was a perfect excuse for Andrew Allen, our Reference Librarian to arrange her visit to Campsie Library. In November we were privileged to listen to her share her stories – moving, inspirational stories which included her escape from Kabul after leading student protests against the Russian invasion, her time as a refugee in Pakistan and the experiences which led to her establishing an aid organisation to save refugee orphans dying on the streets of Kabul.

This talk was the first of a series of non-fiction on author talks to be held at Campsie Library and we are shortly to hold one of a very different nature, on Portuguese Cookery.

Michelle Mashman
Manager
Canterbury City Library

Kicking up our heels

We love any excuse for a celebration at Canterbury, and whilst Latin American entertainment goes outside the normal scope of our events, the event was such a success that we can’t wait to do it again. To avoid embarrassment, there’s no photo included of one truly talented staff member who can salsa with the best of them, but she certainly helped make the night one to remember! Along with both flamenco and salsa dancing, the evening included music, dancing, poetry readings and singing.

Salsa!

Other recent festivities included a Korean event, a Luna New Year celebration and Multicultural End of Year parties. It’s sometimes a bit hit and miss organising entertainment for such events, but ours all worked. The acrobat performing for Luna New Year was extraordinary – inducing jaw dropping reactions from many of us.

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January was a busy month for the Youth Library as we provided the local young adults with a chance to kick back and enjoy their school holidays to the EXTREME. All the activities were a huge success with over 80 young adults participating in the holiday fun.

We kicked the holidays off with two Extreme Art workshops. The participants at these workshops got creative with aerosol paint whilst learning how to turn graffiti into a work of art.

Following on from these creative workshops was our Chocolate Festival activity. This included fun, games and chocolate to the EXTREME. To top this activity off the participants got creative again by making their own ice cream sundaes.

After the chocolate high had worn off it was time to sink our teeth into something a little less extreme, but just as fun with our card making workshop. This activity allowed the participants to show off their creative flair by making cards for their friends and families with a range or different materials, using many types of techniques.

We wrapped up the school holidays with EXTREME relaxation. Get Reel @ your library saw participants chilling out with a free movie and some munchies. This was a great way to end a very exciting holiday program and it helped the young people to unwind before getting ready to start the new school year.

These school holiday activities brought a lot of new faces into the library which we will be sure to see again very soon with some tricky assignment questions. We all look forward to a very exciting school year for Camden Council Youth Library Services in 2006.

Krystle Anderson
Acting Youth Librarian
Camden Council Library Services

Wollongong HSC
In November 2005 Wollongong City Library was offered an exciting opportunity to promote Local Studies resources to local HSC students.

The University of Wollongong coordinated a seminar to help HSC History Extension students discover what history resources were available locally. The panel included academics and librarians from the University of Wollongong, the State Library of NSW and Wollongong City Library.

July Holt, Reader Services Librarian, Reference represented Wollongong City Library at the seminar. July’s presentation focused on the library’s extensive Local Studies collection which includes maps, manuscripts, reports, photographs and statistics. July also demonstrated Wollongong City Library’s web links and electronic resources.

The seminar attracted 140 students from Wollongong and its neighbouring council areas of Shellharbour, Campbelltown, Shoalhaven, Sutherland, Camden and Wingecarribee. It is hoped that as a result of this seminar these students will access the library’s resources throughout their HSC studies and in the future when they go on to tertiary studies or into the workforce.

Jodie Healy
Adult Services Librarian
Wollongong City Library

Teen Summer Reading
This reading program targeted teenage library patrons and its aim was to encourage young people to read for pleasure over the summer months as well as to participate in writing and reading challenge.

The challenge was to read either youth fiction or graphic novels from any of the Merrickville libraries and to write a minimum of one book review, with prizes for the best review from years 7 to 9 and 10 to 12.

The Challenge was promoted throughout the Local Government Area via the libraries, high schools, and relevant youth groups and ran from 5th December 2005 to 23rd January 2006. There were 41 young adults registered for the program who read a total of 240 books.

The challenge concluded on Friday the 27th of January with a talk by poet Yolta Kili. A total of 18 young people and two adults attended the event. Certificates and prizes were awarded to the Teen Summer Challenge members and the event concluded with lunch.

Youth website
The launch of our youth website was held in September at the Marrickville Central Library. It was attended by the young people who had created the website, their families, friends and other interested young people in the community. In total 50 people attended this event.
Young Adults' update

Monaro

Monaro Regional Library targeted youth in the region in 2004/05. As a result, a brand new Young Adult collection was launched across the library service, and a new Young Adult space opened at the Cooma Library. An HSC collection was also investigated and established, to be developed further during 2006. Youth Rule was the theme of the YA launch. Local rock band Turbo Epidemic provided the entertainment, AES Library Suppliers provided a selection of books for recommended purchasing, local businesses donated prizes for competitions and pizza and soft drink was provided by library staff for the evening.

These websites are an invaluable resource for students undertaking HSC studies.

The workshops were also held at Bombala Library for year 11 students in the second school term in 2005. Like the Cooma workshops, these were a cooperative exercise with staff from the Monaro Regional Library and the Bombala High School's teacher librarian, and again featured hands-on experience of NSW.net databases.

Sue Bailey
Network Services Librarian
Monaro Regional Library

Pin ball wizards

Perhaps a unique addition to the Young Adult section at Bathurst Library is our newly acquired pin ball machine, although the greatest use so far is coming from staff and borrowers of an age to remember when arcade games didn’t all have joysticks!

One borrower complained, asking did we want the Library to be an amusement arcade. Well actually, we were thinking that wouldn’t be such a bad thing, would it?

Also available is a PS2 machine, with several games which is proving a real hit with the kids.

John Cumberford
Library Manager
Bathurst

Graphic Novels

Graphic novels are the latest new titles now available from Coffs Harbour’s libraries. A full list of the Library Service's graphic novels is available on the online catalogue at www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au/citylibrary

Yolta and a fan

The new youth website

Certificates of attendance were awarded to each student who had worked on the project. It was a great event and it gave the web design youth group the opportunity to show what they had been working on. After the launch pizza and drinks were offered.

A number of young people indicated that they would be interested in continuing to work on the website. Plans are underway to organise a regular meeting time with interested youth.


Pamela Davies
Community Programs Team Leader
Marrickville Library

Turbo Epidemic

We also hosted the Rage Against Rage art competition at Cooma and Bombala Libraries. This exhibition was part of an annual event to celebrate the Monaro as a safe community, in conjunction with Community Health and local community groups. Young students were encouraged to express their thoughts through their art.

How the Library can help you with your studies workshops were held at Monaro High School for years 7 and 11 students in term one. These workshops were a cooperative exercise with staff from the Monaro Regional Library and the Monaro High School’s teacher librarian. Emphasis for the year 11 students was on a hands-on demonstration of accessing the NSW.net databases through the library website.

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John Cumberford
Library Manager
Bathurst

Work experience student Tara Mendelson

Maitland rocks

Just


Pamela Davies
Community Programs Team Leader
Marrickville Library


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Now hear this!

Ever wondered how designers manage to get acoustics in buildings right? It’s become a very technology-heavy subject and the array of resources and techniques at the acoustics consultant’s disposal is remarkable. At a recent meeting with an acoustics consultant we were unwitting guinea pigs. We sat in a room which had been set up to simulate a library underneath an auditorium. Up above our heads was everything you might or might not expect in a town hall: a wedding reception, a string ensemble, an organ recital, a school stage band and a very heavy metal group.

We kept talking and couldn’t hear anything untoward, until the heavy metal started and we heard a few background thumps and clanks. It was a reassuring demonstration of how noise can be simulated and controlled. Along the way we had learned some of the tricks of the trade and acoustic design basics, including electronic sound masking, tweaking air conditioning outlets to provide a soothing ‘shhh’, reflective and non-reflective surfaces, and sound absorbency.

For a succinct introduction to the wonders of acoustic design for lecture rooms and auditoria, Marshall Day Acoustics have a very clearly set out and informative booklet on their website, entitled Acoustic design – rooms for speech. You can download it at www.marshallday.com/downloads1.htm

Dr David J. Jones
Manager, Building and Advisory Services

Community critical: Australian public libraries serving seniors

A report by Friends of Libraries Australia (FOLA)

Melbourne 2005

A 2005 survey of Australian public libraries by Friends of Libraries Australia confirms that they receive high use from older adults, and that many libraries now provide more for them than their longstanding provision of large print and talking books. Public libraries play an important role in the lives of many older adults, particularly the lonely and isolated. However they often lack the accessibility, buildings, space, resources, professional staffing and funding to ensure that all older adults are able to take full advantage of what a modern public library can provide for them.

Dr Alan Bandy AM

Free E
E-book that is! Why Libraries Matter: A Story Long Overdue, from the Alliance Library System and TumbleBooks, is a new animated online book. Also available in downloadable format, the book is available free to all public libraries and elementary schools in North America for use on their websites.

Why Libraries Matter: A Story Long Overdue is the charming tale, told in rhyming verse, of a young girl who shows her family and neighbours how important the library is to them and their community.

www.librariesmatter.com/books/index.cfm

Dr Pat Stracey
A/National Manager
Library Extension Program
Australian Bureau of Statistics

Designing Libraries

A new web-based resource for libraries devoted to sharing best practice in the planning and design of library buildings. At present this is mainly UK libraries but will soon include examples from across the world.

www.designinglibraries.org.uk
Legal Tool Kit – Update

Older people & the law

New edition

NSW Young Lawyers • 2005 • 130 pages • 0 957 600 214 • Free

Also available in full text at www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au

This booklet gives a good overview of aspects of the law that concern older people. Topics covered include housing, wills, healthcare, financial matters, age discrimination, and family law. It also provides contact details of community legal services, government departments, and other aged care associations and resources.

Tenancy handbook: a reference manual for agents, self-managing landlords and tenancy advisers

NSW Office of Fair Trading • Dec 2005 • 33 pages • 0 7347 6094 9 • Free • Also available at www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au

This handbook contains valuable information about the legal rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants. It looks at the role of the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal, how to resolve problems, ending tenancy, repairs, and includes contact details of Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service organisations.

Law Books for Libraries – Update

Australian business law 2006 25th edition

Latimer, Paul • CCH Australia • 2006 • 1310 pages

1 921022 90 6 • RRP $160.00

Comprehensive coverage of Australian business law including an overview of the legal system, white-collar crime, land and property law, intellectual property, negligence, contracts, consumer law, bankruptcy and electronic commerce. All chapters include legislation and caselaw references.

Environmental law handbook 4th edition

Farrier, David & Stein, Paul (eds) • Redfern Legal Centre Publishing • 2006 • 768 pages • 0 94720 585 3 • RRP $579.95

A plain language guide to environmental law and practice in NSW covering planning instruments, environmental assessment, pollution control, conservation, mining, water supply and heritage protection. The inclusion of case studies, websites, and legislation make this book a valuable resource.

Land law 5th edition

Blay, Sam • Lawbook Co • 2006 • 920 pages • 0 455 22102 2

• RRP $139.95

This new edition includes changes in the law with regard to leases, easements, covenants, environmental law, mortgages, the Torrens title system and native title. The book also covers sources of land law in New South Wales, types of land ownership including old system title and Torrens title, strata title, co-ownership, and Crown land.

Retirement village living: an overview of the NSW retirement village laws

NSW Office of Fair Trading • Oct 2005 • 41 pages • 0 7347 6028 0 • Free • Also available at www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au

A guide to laws and issues regarding retirement villages including information about contracts, basic rights and obligations, fees and charges, and dispute resolution. It also gives contact details of consumer groups for the aged.

Strata living: what you should know about residential, commercial & other strata schemes

NSW Office of Fair Trading • August 2005 • 30 pages • 0 7347 6038 8 • Free • Also available at www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au

This booklet updates information for people living in or managing strata schemes in NSW. It covers Owners Corporation, meetings and responsibilities, executive committees, caretakers, strata managing agents, and dispute resolution strategies.

Torts 5th edition

Butt, Peter • Lawbook Co • 2006 • 182 pages • 0 455 22236 3

• RRP $24.95

A mini law text for students and others wanting a concise outline of principles and key cases of the law of torts. It covers negligence, duty of care, liability, nuisance and defamation. A title in the LBC Nutshell series.

New issue – Hot Topics 55: Sentencing

On the 1st of July 2004, Australia’s first Bill of Rights came into force in the ACT. This issue of Hot Topics looks at the various arguments posed for and against the need for a Commonwealth Bill of Rights, and looks at the ACT Human Rights Act 2004 as a working example of a Bill of Rights.

New LIAC opening hours

Monday to Friday: 10am – 5pm

Saturday: closed

Sunday: 11am – 5pm

Current issue – Hot Topics 54: Bill of Rights

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New issue – Hot Topics 55: Sentencing

The Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH) is an assessment and referral service for legal matters in which legal assistance is requested on a free or reduced fee (pro bono) basis. This manual sets out criteria and regulations for waiving fees of NSW and Commonwealth courts. Application forms are included.

Key Dates for 2006

LIAC Find the Law training

2 day training

State library of NSW 26-27th September 2006

Bookings: Andrea Curr acurr@sl.nsw.gov.au

Fax: 9273 1250

1 day Foundation courses to be advised

Australian business law 2006 25th edition

Latimer, Paul • CCH Australia • 2006 • 1310 pages

1 921022 90 6 • RRP $160.00

Comprehensive coverage of Australian business law including an overview of the legal system, white-collar crime, land and property law, intellectual property, negligence, contracts, consumer law, bankruptcy and electronic commerce. All chapters include legislation and caselaw references.