Welcome to April Public Library News! In this issue we look back on a Summer of Reading with public libraries embracing the Get in the Game theme. Find out how libraries celebrated International Day of People with a Disability, Indigenous Literacy Day and International Migrants’ Day. There’s Library Lovers’ Day, Living Libraries and lots more. We mark two library birthdays – a first and a 50th! There’s also news from the State Library, including Online Guides, LIAC and drug info@your library forums and an update from Public Library Services. So, make a cup of tea (see page 11) and enjoy!

Kathleen Alexander  
Guest editor
And the winner is …

or how Campsie library hosted the director/screenwriter and film of the year two days after the AFI Awards

I have been a fan of the Australian feature film *The Black Balloon* since I saw it at the cinema. Each year we hold an event for International Day of People with a Disability at our library; past years have included the Sydney Street Choir, a Guide Dogs Demonstration, a Musicability concert, and the launch of the Freedom to Read AudioRead Navigator Project. When an event that I was organising for the 2008 Day started to fall through, I thought of a public showing of the film in the library instead. You see, the film is about a family with an autistic older brother, and stars Toni Collette, Luke Ford, Rhys Wakefield and Gemma Ward.

And so the amazing run of luck started. I contacted the film’s distributor, Icon Films, who put me onto Amalgamated Movies to find out the hire costs for screening the film at the library. At this stage it was just a dream that we could get any of the film’s talent to appear at the screening. But on a tip from our Library Manager Michelle, who had seen the director give a talk at the official premiere, I chanced a pleading email to Kate, the marketing director at Icon Films. Within a day she had the unbelievable news that Elissa Down was available. She was not only the movie’s director, but also the co-writer of the script. She lives mostly in LA now, but was in Australia that week for the AFI awards in Melbourne on Saturday 6 December, and would be in Sydney the following Monday night, if we could hold the screening then. This was a no-brainer! Over the next month I organised and publicised the event – come and meet Elissa Down at the screening of *The Black Balloon* at Campsie Library on 8 December starting at 6.30pm.

It seemed to be a great match for the library - we’ve had many author visits before, but this was the first time we’d had a visit from a screenwriter! And for International Day of People with a Disability we were not only showing a major Australian film based on a disability theme, but would also be featuring its creator who had grown up with two autistic brothers. The official Day of People with a Disability is 3 December. As our event couldn’t be on that day, we celebrated International Week of People with a Disability.

Greg Roberts
Aged and Disability Services Librarian
City of Canterbury Library

It was such great timing for us that the AFI Awards were being held that week. For all the obvious reasons, I was barracking for *The Black Balloon* while watching the AFI Awards on the TV, and it scooped the pools by winning six awards, including Best Supporting Actor and Actress, and Elissa herself won with Best Original Screenwriter (with Jimmy the Exploder), and Best Director. And of course it also won the award for Best Film of 2008. But now I was nervous that two days later Elissa wouldn’t be able to come to our little library function any more. I needn’t have worried – she came along and she was fantastic!!

My dream run of luck almost came unstuck with an unfortunate series of power blackouts in the library throughout the day of the film screening. Pretty stressful when you need to be able to rely on electricity to run all the equipment that had been organised to give the best possible movie theatre experience – PA and High Definition DVD player and projector! However, good luck intervened once again and we only had one short power outage right at the end of Elissa’s interview during the audience question time, but the screening itself was uninterrupted, and it was a hugely successful night. Some patrons told me afterwards it was the best movie they’d seen.

Huge thanks to Elissa Down and Kate at Icon Films. It’s going to be hard to top this for our next year’s International Day of People with a Disability event. Any ideas anyone?

Greg Roberts
Aged and Disability Services Librarian
City of Canterbury Library
Last year ‘Once upon a time in Mosman...’, an Intergenerational Biography Project for local primary and secondary school students was initiated by Mosman Council as part of their ongoing commitment to intergenerational harmony.

The Intergenerational Biography Project focused on the students researching, interviewing, recording and writing about the lives of older citizens of Mosman.

The personal stories showcased a range of people with teachers, writers, journalists, doctors, artists, war veterans, shop owners and migrants all recollecting their Mosman memories, be it childhood, working life or even weekend trips to Balmoral Beach.

The project aimed to:

- Promote empathy and understanding across generations
- Meet curriculum requirements
- Support schools during the project
- Create a rewarding experience for students and their older subjects
- Highlight to the community at large the talents of the young writers involved and the value of the biographical stories.

As Project Co-ordinator and also a member of Mosman Library’s Local Studies staff, I could see that by achieving these aims the stories would, in turn, create a significant resource in social history for Mosman Library’s Local Studies Collection.

Teachers saw the Project as a holistic learning experience and a chance for the students to appreciate and value the older members of the community.

Mike Munro hosting the storytelling

Entries from five schools and almost 70 students included written biographies, artworks, powerpoints and DVD presentations, creating an exciting exhibition for the Mosman Festival week 24 October – 1 November 2008.

As a highlight of the exhibition Mike Munro hosted an entertaining evening of storytelling across the generations. A sample of stories was chosen by the schools and Mike Munro, who spent his childhood here in Mosman, took on his familiar role of ‘This is Your Life’ presenter.

Mary Lou Byrne
Mosman Library
Kogarah Library has a variety of services to help students with their studies and we’re now bringing it all together under one banner at our Homework Zone.

There are three components that presently make up the Zone.

The team!
There has been a Children’s Reference Desk for some years at Kogarah, staffed by the Children’s Services staff. With the addition of a Youth Services Officer in 2006 the potential opened up to also provide services specifically targeted to young adults. The area has a Homework Desk where Children’s and Youth Services staff are available for enquiries.

The opportunity to provide qualified staff who can guide students through their homework questions, one-on-one, and offer resources for their study is one of the unique services that a Library can offer. It’s therefore important to actively promote this unique asset to the public. Our brochures on the Homework Zone promote our staff as the first great resource that students can use.

The helpers!
Our Homework Helpers are Years 11 and 12 students from a local girls’ high school who come three afternoons per week to assist any student with their homework or reading.

The students do this as part of their community service and we have found them a great asset to the Homework Zone. Whether it’s helping with specific homework questions, or reading with a child, they provide an approachable and welcoming help for the students who use the service. We are looking at extending the number of helpers and hope to gain the assistance of a local boy’s school to balance the genders in the service.

And the virtual!
We are also moving towards the addition of a virtual branch of our Homework Zone as we increase our online resources. We have recently subscribed to Yourtutor, a one-on-one online tutoring service in Maths, English, Science and Assignment and Essay Writing. Because it is tutoring in real time, this service provides for students who may not otherwise have access to tutoring.

Online databases and reference materials are available at the libraries or remotely. It’s one thing to have the services, but quite another to get good usage from the students, so we have begun active promotion of the online resources.

Students are referred to the online resources as the staff assist them. At various times the staff members on the desk run information sessions about the library’s databases. Database names are often not user-friendly and so usage can be small if they are not actively promoted. The aim is to provide both an awareness of what a database can do for the student and some basic instruction on how to get the best results. We will continue to develop this area in 2009 with promotions.

The Zone has its own promotional pamphlets – one for years K to 6 and one for years 7 to 12. They are aimed at giving a simple explanation of the service and are brightly coloured and child and youth friendly.

By promoting these services as a one-stop place for students to get assistance with homework and study, we hope to support the students and get significant usage for all of our resources.

Linda Heald
Community and Cultural Services Team Leader
Kogarah Library and Cultural Centre
The 2008 Mobile Library Muster, hosted by the Gold Coast City Council, was held on 13 – 14 September. It was a great opportunity for mobile library staff to network with their colleagues from other states.

The keynote speakers at the conference were Gerard Pauschmann and Kevin Hennah. With a great sense of humour, Gerard focused on interpersonal communication, team work and leadership skills. The session was practical and informative, particularly his talk on the *Art of influence and negotiation*.

Kevin Hennah was knowledgeable and very entertaining. His presentation applied not only to mobile libraries but also to static libraries. Kevin spoke about maximising productivity of space by not keeping library materials that were dated or of little interest to your local community. During his presentation he provided practical advice on how to display more materials within a restricted space.

Mobile libraries are a perfect example of a limited space in which to display library resources. In general libraries have collections that address the need of their communities, and the acquisition of resources is normally guided by the Collection Development Policy.

Mobile libraries carry only a small percentage of the central library’s collection, like your favourite bookshop on wheels. Mobile library staff require a quite unique knowledge of the community they serve, in order to balance and refine the collections and resources they carry in such a limited space.

Mobile library staff must target their collections to respond to their clients’ needs, which vary from stop to stop. They also need to use the new books display space wisely, to expand the interest and knowledge of their clients.

Did I mention technology? Yes of course they also train the community in use of the Internet and the available databases.

And finally, mobile libraries are simply the best moving billboard, promoting library services wherever they go.

A special feature of the Muster is the announcement of the prestigious Mobile Library Operator of the Year Award. This year the winner was Mylynda Le Couteur, from Scenic Rim Regional Council. There were some wonderful letters that supported Mylynda’s nomination and it is worth mentioning one which says, *I have seen...*
young kids not yet at school give Mylynda a big hug, school kids sing songs and bring flowers to her, and an elderly person chatting freely with her. My guess is that every one of these individuals has a special place in their hearts for Mylynda Le Couteur.

There were six other nominations. They all demonstrated the essence of mobile librarianship:

- Absolute customer focus
- Professionalism
- Excellent communication skills
- Driving expertise
- Willingness to go above and beyond required duties
- Enthusiasm for the job
- Resourceful and a good sense of humour AND
- A good singing voice!

Oriana Acevedo
Public Library Services,
State Library of New South Wales
Approximately 1100 young people participated in the various 2008 Hastings Festival of Stories events. We were very fortunate with the weather and once again our wonderful parents and carers supported the Festival with their attendance. Every event created its own special atmosphere and it was wonderful to hear so many stories shared so magically in so many different places.

It was an absolute pleasure and privilege to chauffeur John Marsden from school to school and to feel the excitement back at Port Macquarie Library when he spoke to the enthusiastic crowd. What better way to launch the Festival of Stories! John wove his magic at each school and will have inspired many young writers and readers. The teachers were even more excited than the students, I think!

It was over to our own local storytellers for the Festival and what a great way to start with Rail Tales @ Kendall School of Arts. Tony the Train Driver entertained and informed us about his working life on the rails, from steam trains to XPTs. It was a beautiful day in Kendall and it was great to see so many people joining in the singing, stories, craft and games. One family even caught the train down from Wauchope! Participants helped make a train mural, which went on display at Laurieton Library. Extra train stories were ordered for all to borrow and another train enthusiast gave us train magazines to give to the children and he also displayed part of his model train collection.

Twenty-six young people from kindy to high school enjoyed finding out about everything from cow joints to snake skins, with Keith Davey, National Parks and Wildlife Discovery Officer at Wauchope Library. He brought a carload of bones, stuffed animals, posters and a python, quietly sleeping in a covered box.

How magical to share stories from afar on the Chinese Junk. Two groups went out with Captain Brian and Morgon the Storyteller. We are very lucky to have Morgon working in our community and generously sharing her skills with us via the Library.

Over a thousand locals and visitors attended the Community Celebration Day on the Town Green at Port Macquarie. The aim of the day was to bring groups together to celebrate living in the beautiful Hastings. We took the opportunity to have a Storytelling Tent to share stories in a variety of ways and to advertise the Library of course.

Locals and visitors enjoyed the all day entertainment that reflected the diversity in our community. Volunteers spoke to people about Library services, with Morgon and Library staff valiantly sharing stories in the tent as well as Tricia (from Dalang GaRumba) sharing the local indigenous Creation story. During the day it was great to see people drifting in and out of the tent captivated by stories despite all the amazing action and distraction out on Town Green.

When it was mentioned that we were going to have a jumping castle, ten pin bowling and a magician at Port Macquarie Library, some people were worried. We told the HSC students that it may be a bit noisy but they stayed and didn’t bat an eyelid. And, yes, it was great fun. Preschoolers took advantage of the Jumping Castle and it was a full house for Joel the Magician. And, no it wasn’t such a crazzzzzzy day and, no, the rabbits and doves didn’t run away.

All the people (including the 26 volunteers) created experiences that our young people will never forget. Thank you all very much!

Virginia Cox
Children’s/YA Librarian
Port Macquarie-Hastings Library
International Day of People with a Disability

Kempsey’s newly renovated Showground Pavilion was the venue for the Macleay Ability Expo, held on 3 December to celebrate the International Day of People with a Disability.

Kempsey Library joined many local organisations and groups to display products and services for people with a disability. Assistive technologies for people with low vision include the MonoMouse magnifier which enlarges very small print on to a home television or computer screen, and the MP3 Navigator, a distinctive red plastic handpiece which stores books in electronic format and plays them back to the listener at the press of a button. Services include a Home Lending Service for the frail aged, an extensive large print book collection, audio books on cassette, CD and MP3, a walker and book cart for library use, and disabled access. Home Lending staff are also developing a new personalised service for senior members with limited transport options – named the Library Visiting service, it involves volunteer drivers collecting borrowers from their homes so they can have a cup of tea and a chat at the library, and choose their own books.

The Library’s display stand had many visitors, each of whom were delighted to receive a free library bag containing literature about the library and its services, and to be offered free chocolate. The Navigator shaped chocolates were supplied courtesy of Audio-Read and proved to be the most popular item on the display!!

Alison Pope
Seniors Services Librarian
Kempsey Library

Finding family @ Shellharbour City Library

Each month Warilla Library hosts a family history research workshop. Our eager participants arrive clutching precious papers with family names and dates. Some faces appear beaming, others bewildered and some just plain frustrated. Overall each of them have one thing in common - a passion for family history which puts a determined gleam in their eye and a hope in their heart that today may be the day the research barricades continue to be eroded.

Regular and first time enthusiasts gather to seek help, provide assistance, share their research hints and traps, family skeletons, scandals, leads and stories, discover great websites and information on those long lost relatives. The workshops are lead by myself and three wonderful volunteers who gladly give their time, expertise and experience to help our participants.

With library and military strategy (or so we like to think) we attack from all sides. We endeavour to leave no stone unturned in our united quest to help people further along their family history journey.

As a group, we have learnt so many things and remind ourselves to never take for granted that we have tried every spelling variation possible because further down the track we find the missing piece of the puzzle that allows us to forge into the next generation. Best of all, because of what we have shared - the family dramas, sagas, trials and tribulations, the joys and the tears - it’s like we have become family and enthusiastically we continue on our journey to discover our past.

Janelle Cundy
Reference Services Officer
Shellharbour City Library
Library Lovers’ Day at the Henty Library

The Henty Library celebrated Library Lovers’ Day with morning tea and chocolates for everyone.

New books were wrapped with paper and ribbons then decorated with love hearts in readiness for going on a blind date. Borrowers had the opportunity to borrow the wrapped books not knowing what title was hidden inside. A beautiful display consisting of lots of hearts in different shapes and sizes provided a romantic background for members enjoying a cup of tea.

Library staff took this chance to promote the Henty Library monthly newsletter which was on display and distributed to members to read while enjoying morning tea. Library Lovers’ Day at the Henty Library was an opportunity to encourage members to sit down and actually take the time to look around at the resources and services provided, especially in today’s society where everyone is too busy to stop and smell the roses!

Susan Kane
Henty Library

Oral History – ‘To be, or not to be’

Now there’s the question….!!! In reply, I can tell you that I would have been happy for six to eight people to attend the workshop that I had organised. However, much to my delight, 25 people presented themselves at an Oral History workshop which was held at Bathurst Library on 19 February – certainly confirming that there is an evergrowing interest in the collection and preservation of our history in its various forms. Prior to attending a similar workshop in June 2008, librarians based in Bathurst, Oberon, Lithgow and Mudgee decided individually to embark on Oral History projects. And, after the workshop we decided to form a support and information ‘group’ for each other and the purchase of equipment.

Rosie Block from the State Library answered my call to be the wise and wonderful Oral History ‘guru’ and share her experiences – both good and bad with those at the workshop. The synergy was wonderful as we bounced our own thoughts, experiences and ‘wisdom’ off each other and tossed around the various pitfalls to avoid and possibilities to pursue.

Coming from smaller libraries also means that staff and therefore time resources are further reduced as we wear an ever-increasing range of ‘hats’. Nevertheless, the interest has been sparked and the enthusiasm is heating up.

Beth Hall
Librarian, Information & Lending Services
(and now Oral History)
Bathurst Library

Anne’s 100

The City branch of Newcastle Region Library celebrated the centenary of L.M. Montgomery’s book *Anne of Green Gables*, which was published on 13 June, 1908. As a child, I read my mother Pat’s original editions of L.M. Montgomery’s *Pat of Silver Bush, Jane of Lantern Hill* and other books. In a display we used these and my own books, the specially published centenary editions of *Anne of Green Gables* and Budge Wilson’s *Before Green Gables* as well as the library’s large collection of novels, biographies, DVDs, videos and CDs of L.M. Montgomery’s works. Also displayed were photographs of the author, the actresses Anne Shirley and Megan.
Follows who have portrayed Anne, “Green Gables” and Prince Edward Island, a slate (remember Gilbert Blythe’s head?), embroidered doilies and antique picture frames.

The Anne of Green Gables websites and the internet provided a great deal of information about the centenary celebrations in Canada and internationally. One of the library’s staff, Stella, is Canadian, and we were delighted to obtain some commemorative stamps from her.

As the display was held in June and July during the school holidays it was extremely popular with grandmothers and mothers who reminisced about their favourite books and children who were more aware of the films. The borrowers also snapped up colouring-in and quiz sheets, and were particularly intrigued by photographs of L.M. Montgomery as a child and young woman.

To begin the celebrations the City staff enjoyed a sponge birthday cake in Anne’s honour.

Linda Barden
Newcastle Region Library

Tweed Talks

Tweed Heads Library (Richmond Tweed Regional Library Service) frequently hosts a series of free talks to encourage older adults to view our library as a resource beyond books and reading by providing a shared space where they can listen to, request and gather information on topics relating to their everyday life and concerns. The Tweed Heads Library has recognised the importance of directing resources and services towards senior specific programs in order to maximise information opportunities; provide local support and generate trust; and collaborate with community members and professionals in the regional area. These once a month Tuesday talks are run in the mornings on a various range of topics and library staff are constantly provided with positive feedback and suggestions for new talks. Since their conception in September 2007 the library has been inundated with speakers wanting to participate in the program and contribute to the overall wellbeing of their community members.

These talks increase in popularity as the topics change, we have had to repeat sessions due to increased demand and on several occasions have had to book larger rooms as attendee numbers rise above 35+ guests. Local retirement villages and nursing homes transport residents to selected talks for a meet and greet with library staff and community information professionals. Tweed Talks have developed, and are providing the link in a regional New South Wales area between Federal and State Government Departments; professional institutions; community services initiatives; Local Government; libraries and the everyday lifestyle needs of our senior community. Tweed Talks recently received a high commendation in the FOLA 2008 Eric Flynn Award for Library Services for Older Adults.

Sessions included:
Did you get what you paid for?: A how to guide for shopping and refunds; a day in the life of Fair Trading; and latest scams and how to avoid them.

Introduction to Family History: A fascinating and very addictive guide to the world of family history. A how to get started morning, curing your curiosity, and an overview of records available.

Victims of Crime support: talking about types of crimes and how NSW residents can access services available; physical and emotional problems as a victim of crime and how to work through them as an individual; and a what to do and (what not to do) when someone has been traumatised by a crime.

Foot pain? Heel Pain?: an assessment and discussion on the relief and prevention of foot, leg and back pain relating to incorrect alignment of the feet.

Retirement, money and reverse mortgages: a free community session provided by the National Information Centre on Retirement Investments in Canberra on retirement issues; long term impacts on finances, choices and family relationships; and the pros and cons of reverse mortgages.

Other Tweed Talks have included: Bawdy Ballads & Raucous Rhymes, Heart Health and Nutrition, Medication Management, Maturity Blues, and Happiness Workshops.

Colette Stapleton
Tweed Heads Library
Remembrance Day event @Liverpool Library
"Worthy Legend or Manufactured Myth: The Australian Light Horse in The Great War 1914-1918" presented by Brad Manera, Head Curator at Hyde Park Barracks. We had a large audience for this presentation, mainly seniors, but a good mix of men and women.

Brad, an expert in militarily history with the Australian War Memorial, illustrated his talk with a PowerPoint presentation and artefacts from the Light Horse.

The event was a definite crowd pleaser, and comes highly recommended for a very reasonable fee.

Jo Morris
Local Studies Librarian
Liverpool Library

Swansea Library celebrates achievements with friends
The festive season is an excellent time of the year to celebrate achievements. Swansea Library, which serves the south-eastern side of Lake Macquarie, enjoyed a successful year filled with regular programs and special events. In recognition of these achievements, a Christmas breakfast was held to thank those in the local community for their continued support of our library in 2008.

Swansea Library’s regular programs including; Nana Sue’s Storytime, Read & Rhyme Time, Books & Babies, After School Craft, School visits, Youth Nights, Movie Book Clubs and Internet Lessons, have had great support throughout the year with many links strengthened with local playgroups, schools and youth services. Library Events also had a boost throughout 2008 with a strong response to our Library Lovers’ Day promotion, Youth Photography night, local Galgabba Art Display, World’s Biggest Morning Tea, Caves Beach Art Show, Aboriginal Art Display, Gardening, Boating, Fishing Talks and demonstrations from the Porcelain Painters Group. Staff even took the Library to the streets with our stall at the Swansea Seniors Expo.

Our breakfast to celebrate Library achievements was a great way to continue to build relationships developed throughout 2008 and to simply say “thank you”. The morning was well attended by our regular library lovers, local businesses (which helped with talks and displays), schools, and community groups, who were all thrilled to be recognised. It was also a great way for the Swansea team to discuss ideas and plan for even more great events and programs in 2009!

Cathy Shay
Branch Librarian
Swansea Library

Chester Hill Library turns 50!
Chester Hill Library celebrated 50 years of service by inviting all Bankstown residents to come along and party! Staff planned a week of activities culminating in a community party to celebrate 50 years of continued service on Saturday 8 November 2008 at the library.

Bankstown City Council opened Chester Hill Library on 1 November 1958, making it the first library branch to be opened in the Bankstown area.

Mayor of Bankstown, Cr Tania Mihailuk expressed her support for local library services. “Bankstown’s five libraries provide a vital service to the community. They have issued millions of books and have over 46,000 items in stock including videos, DVDs, music CDs and a variety of books such as community language books in Chinese, Vietnamese and Arabic. Chester Hill Library is a great library that has been able to present the community with fifty years of continued service. The library supplies its patrons with an invaluable service offering school holiday activities, Internet access and customer tailored Internet classes, printing, photocopying and faxing services.”

Bankstown City Council established the first public library service in the western suburbs of Sydney on 2 November 1946. In order to provide a library service to residents of Bankstown’s outer areas, a bookmobile service was commenced in 1955. The great use made of the bookmobile service by the residents of Chester Hill and adjacent areas justified the choice of the site for the first branch library. The official opening of the branch library by Bankstown Mayor, Ald. C. H. Little was televised on Saturday 1 November 1958, by Sydney’s three television stations.

Chester Hill library has nearly 9000 registered library users and offers a wide range of services to customers of all ages. During 2007/2008 there were nearly 120,000 library visits recorded at Chester Hill library. For children, the Chester Hill library provides services
including Lapsit, preschool storytime, school and childcare visits, Summer Reading Club, school holiday activities and special evening storytimes twice a year. For HSC students there is mystudyspace@yourlibrary and many HSC resources. For elderly patrons there is the popular Bus to The Library service. The library also offers Internet access and customer tailored Internet classes, and has just introduced the Library Smart Card for printing and photocopying services.

Robyn Owens
Library Services Coordinator
Bankstown City Library and Information Service

Time for tea
Over 50 tea-lovers joined Lindel Barker-Revell for a fun afternoon exploring the pleasures to be found in a cup of tea. Lindel appeared at the Readers Café, East Maitland Library on Friday 12 September as part of Maitland City Library’s diverse Look Who’s Talking programme.

“Tea has a wonderful quality that draws people together and, mysteriously, a shared cup of tea always seems to taste better than tea drunk alone,” said Lindel. “Tea leaves bring their life and spirit to our cups. When we make time for tea, we make time for ourselves and for each other.” In a world of cappuccinos and café lattes, Lindel’s latest book, Time for tea, examines the (almost) forgotten pleasure of tea and offers a fascinating insight into the development of our psychic abilities through reading tea leaves. Lindel, who is a writer and games inventor, astrologer and tarot authority, was first taught the art of reading tea leaves 25 years ago by an elderly lady, who had learned these skills from her grandmother. Lindel shared the intricacies of this forgotten art with us.

“Open your heart and mind to what’s inside the cup. The images are there for those who want to see them, and can be quite profound.” Lindel said. “There are so many tiny meanings to be found in a cup, and every time I look into one, I feel as if I’m looking at the stars.” Tea is historically woman’s business - they have always presided over the tea pot and learning how to read the leaves is a lovely way of keeping the ceremony and rituals alive, and a few minutes taken out of our hectic lives to celebrate this tea is no bad thing.

Kelly Shankley-Price
Maitland City Library

Look who’s talking
Maitland City Library’s Look Who’s Talking program has a great range of authors and events lined up for 2009. Look Who’s Talking showcases a diverse range of writers and events set to stimulate community discussion. Topics will cover sport, international affairs, investigative journalism and indigenous themes, as well as crime and fantasy.

Gender expert Dr Patricia Pender will lead a lively examination into the relative appeal and strengths of heroines in classic literature and contemporary culture. Along with Jane Austen expert, Pamela Whalan, and Sunday Telegraph gossip columnist, Ros Reines, Patricia will examine whether our heroines are role models or romantic fantasies.

Well-known sports broadcaster, Debbie Spillane, will share an extraordinary range of incredible sporting moments, whilst Katherine Howell, Davitt Award winner and writer of fast-paced crime, will keep you on the edge of your seat when she launches her latest title, Cold Justice.

Malcolm Knox, former literary editor of the Sydney Morning Herald and Walkley Award winner, will provide his investigative take on current issues in Australia. Freelance journalist and political commentator, Antony Loewenstein, well known for his blogs on war in the Middle East, gives us his view on politics and current affairs. Sam de Brito, who is the writer of the Sydney Morning Herald blog, All men are liars, will provide an insight into the business of being a bloke.

Also appearing is Colin Thompson, the internationally recognised illustrator, poet, and author of over 50
books, Melina Marchetta, the award winning author of the critically acclaimed evergreen *Looking for Alibrandi*, and Di Morrissey, one of Australia’s most popular and best-selling authors.

Dr Anita Heiss, one of Australia’s most prolific and well-known authors of Indigenous literature, will launch NAIDOC Week 2009 for Maitland City Library with her special brand of humour, intellect and sassiness. Primary and infants students across Maitland will be entertained with specially crafted stories from the Dreamtime, which are designed to showcase Aboriginal beliefs and culture.

Our annual HSC Seminars will provide local HSC students with an in-depth insight into a range of current English topics, including Hamlet, Blade Runner, Frankenstein and The Belonging. Our presenters include Associate Professor William Christie and Associate Lecturer Jowen Hillyer, who are regarded as experts in their fields. This is a great opportunity for students to gain that edge in their final examinations.

Finally, audiences are invited to indulge their love of literature through the magic of movies. Our Fiction into Film series promises to provide another perspective to enhance enjoyment of literature by screening select films at a variety of locations across Maitland during December/January.

**Keryl Collard**  
**Maitland City Library**

**Taking LIAC beyond the library**

In November 2008 my colleague Max Bancroft and I conducted two Legal Information Workshops for 13 staff from Sutherland Shire Council. Staff attending worked in various areas - corporate services, environmental services and the regulation and enforcement unit.

The level of knowledge of the trainees varied greatly. Those with minimal experience in finding legal information found all aspects of the workshop relevant. Others were quite familiar with the legislation websites but still found the search strategies and tips useful. All the trainees were impressed with the “Find Legal Answers” website and the library’s LIAC collection and would refer clients to these resources in future. The feedback from the trainees was positive with many commenting they would recommend the workshop to other staff. The State Library LIAC provided excellent training notes and valuable support for us planning the workshop. Due to its success, we plan to run another workshop tailored to the customer service staff in 2009.

**Julie Evans**  
**Corporate Librarian**  
**Sutherland Shire Libraries**

**Women’s Health & Wellness Expo**

Every year Pittwater Council conducts a Women’s Forum as one of its social plan strategies to provide support and information for local women, and the challenge we face each time the forum comes around is to host an innovative event which generates a buzz in the local community. This year we met the challenge head on as Library staff brainstormed with Council’s Community Development Officer Jane Mulroney and came up with the idea of a “Women’s Health & Wellness Expo”.

The main aim of the expo was to promote the health and wellbeing of women in the community by exposing them to the diverse range of health, fitness, leisure and beauty services available in Pittwater. In selecting a broad theme we hoped to appeal to a wide audience and we also saw the Expo as another great opportunity to promote the public library space as a vital community resource.

We started by inviting local businesses and organisations who promote the health and wellbeing of women to participate in the expo, providing them with a fantastic opportunity to promote themselves to the community. This has helped us to facilitate the building of relationships between council and local businesses, and highlight the library as a community hub.

The response was excellent and on the evening of the event 20 organisations participated in the expo, each setting up a stall in the library. As well as the stalls we also had a program of performers covering topics such as personal style, fitness, nutrition and self defence. Entertaining performances were also provided courtesy of belly dancers and the Northern Beaches Women’s Chorus.

The event went ahead on Wednesday 22 October and what a good night we picked! One of coldest October
nights in Sydney for about 30 years, but at least it was warm and happening inside the library!

Visitors to the expo were able to wander around our library and obtain information on fitness, alternative therapies, leisure and social clubs, adventure travel for women, life coaching, conflict resolution and business networking. There were free massages on offer – neck, feet or hands and these proved very popular!

The Women’s Health & Wellness Expo was a very successful night that was enjoyed by both exhibitors and guests and we have already received a lot of positive feedback about the event.

- “The choice of venue was excellent – it had a very warm and relaxed feel.”
- “It was a great idea and you created a wonderful atmosphere”
- “Congratulations on a successful and wonderful evening.”
- “Just a word of thanks for an excellent evening last night. The atmosphere was very friendly and we got some good enquiries.”

The aims for our event were achieved. We engaged with local businesses and the wider Pittwater community and we demonstrated the library as a focal point for facilitating this outreach. The expo was a big project and a lot of work went into organising it. The evening would not have been possible without the help we received from the library team. Many thanks to everybody that contributed.

Sharelle Ravenscroft
Community Information Librarian
Pittwater Library Service

Wyong update

Tuggerah Library continued its program of author talks in November with a visit from Sharon Munro, author of The Woman on the Mountain. Sharon owns a solar powered mudbrick cabin on a mountain. This mountain happens to be a 90 minute drive from the nearest town, with half of that being a dirt road. She is completely self reliant, has a generator, a water tank and grows her own food. There is no land line and mobile telephone coverage is limited. An enthusiastic crowd listened as Sharon related stories of her experiences with nature – from the native animals that come into her house on a regular basis to fighting to save her house from a raging bushfire. Sharon has an amazing outlook on life and is passionate about sustainable living and how we can all make changes to save the planet. Patrons who attended the talk were also able to purchase a signed copy of the book and chat to Sharon about her lifestyle.

During last year Tuggerah Library hosted “Tax Help”, an initiative of the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). A qualified accountant provided free tax help on Saturday mornings to those people who met specific criteria. Tuggerah Library had the most participants on the Central Coast and was presented with a certificate of appreciation by the ATO at a ceremony at Gosford in November. This is a wonderful service to be able to provide for patrons and we look forward to doing so again at tax time 2009.

Wyong Shire Library Service has had our local studies photographs available via our online catalogue for some time. However, online local studies information was non existent. After many requests, particularly around assignment time, we have created a local studies page on our library webpage. It includes information on the history of the Shire, suburb names and meanings, historic sites, indigenous history, census information and much more. We are hoping this will meet the needs of the students and the interest of the general public.

Inspired by our Web 2.0 training, Information Services at Tuggerah has created its own Delicious account. Patrons using our online homework help guides can click into the web site link and be taken directly to the tag relevant to that particular subject.

Michelle Goldsmith
Reference Librarian
Wyong Shire Library Service
Bega Valley Living Library at the Show

Bega Valley Shire Library held its first Living Library at the Far South Coast National Show in February. We believe this is the first time a Living Library has been held at an agricultural show in Australia. The Living Library took a number of booths in the main pavilion alongside the handcrafts, scarecrows, flowers and farm produce.

While our Living Library was attracting attention we knew we were competing against the lights and deep fryers of sideshow alley and ring events, so we promoted our Living Library with local youth street theatre group Searius who entertained the crowd in armour-like costumes constructed from books and passed around flyers promoting the Living Library.

Held on two afternoons from 1 to 5 pm, six Living Books were available each day with three booths fitted with comfy armchairs for reading. Our catalogue of books included a stroke survivor, a Paralympian and a travelling psychic, the psychic being our most popular book. After 42 loans, feedback from readers was positive, many reading multiple Living Books on the day and most wanting a bigger catalogue!

Local ABC South East radio exhibited keen interest in the project, interviewing a number of Living Books for later radio programs.

From our experience, here are some thoughts for future Living Libraries:

- Clearly explain the role of the Living Books to readers, as they often tried to solicit ‘free’ advice from the Living Book
- Prepare Living Books in the event of being ‘left on the shelf’ to avoid hurt feelings
- Be flexible and adaptable, some conversations extended beyond their allotted time and impromptu readings were held at the loans desk when all the booths were full!

Megan Jordan-Jones
Library Technician, Information & Liaison Services
Bega Valley Shire Library

Riverina Regional Library Book Club 2009

The popularity of book clubs has grown exponentially in recent years. The experience of reading is enhanced when it is done in a group and the clubs provide a regular social activity. Buying your own books or using a commercial book group service is very expensive so libraries are in an excellent position to meet this community need. The Riverina Regional Library (RRL) Book Club began last year serving 16 clubs around the region. In 2009 that number has grown to 30 and new clubs are still coming in. The library provides tubs with 10 copies of one title plus background notes on the author and the book as well as discussion questions. There are 67 titles in circulation. Ten tubs are provided to each club per year as the club runs from February to November. Each club pays a fee of $350 for the year and is responsible for the running of their club, organising the venue and meeting times.

Having 30 book clubs means that around 300 people throughout the region make up the RRL Book Club community. A wiki has been set up as an online meeting place and members are able to access the book list, discussion guides, policy and other resources as well as participate in discussions about the books they have read. Have a look at http://rrlbookclub.wetpaint.com and feel free to use any of the resources. The wiki also complements the book review blog (www.waggabookbuzz.blogspot.com) which is another tool to help library users choose books to read for pleasure. For those who want a book club with no commitments whatsoever there is the completely online Beyond Borders Book Club at http://beyondbordersbookclub.wetpaint.com.

Amy Heap
Reader Services Librarian
Wagga Wagga City Library
Singleton Library On Facebook

All staff at Singleton Library were allowed time to complete the Learning 2.0 training. If completed by December 2008 it contributed to a performance bonus. As well as participating in the course staff were asked to consider how the Web 2.0 applications might be applied at Singleton as a part of continuous improvement. For a quick and easy way for our patrons to check out what's happening at Singleton Public Library I chose Facebook, the most popular social networking site on the internet, reaching out to over 175 million active users.

Patrons can check out upcoming events, chat to other Library Fans and get updates when new events are posted. It’s the easiest way to see what’s happening at Singleton Public Library! I chose Facebook, the most popular social networking site on the internet, reaching out to over 175 million active users.

It was really simple to set up and half an hour or less is needed per week to update the page with upcoming events. Each time you add a new event you can send an update to all your fans. You don’t need to know HTML or any other programming language, your Facebook page can be created in just a few minutes with the very simple interface. You can upload photos, videos, and have Discussion Topics. The page went public in November and already we have 48 fans and rising.

If you have any questions about setting up your own Facebook page feel free to contact me: kharris@singleton.nsw.gov.au

Kylie Harris
Singleton Public Library

Fred Hollows Foundation at Crookwell

Most of us would be aware of the wonderful eye health work done by the Fred Hollows Foundation. Carrying on the work of the late Professor Fred Hollows the Foundation has examined over 1.2 million people and carried out a staggering 143,759 eye operations in 2007 alone. It has worked in more than 38 countries on three continents to provide essential eye care in some of the world’s poorest regions as well as working to overcome health inequality among the remote indigenous communities of Australia.

To coincide with the touring Fred Hollows display, the Crookwell Library hosted a talk by Kate Morrison, Community Development Coordinator at The Fred Hollows Foundation.

The audience of 60 which included members of the local community, representatives from Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Southern Tablelands Regional Library and the Mulwaree Trust, saw the devastating effects of blindness caused by cataract and trachoma and heard how blindness and poverty go hand in hand.

That these forms of preventable and treatable blindness are as close to home as outback Australia, came as something of shock to many, but the interest among the audience was easily gauged by the many questions asked throughout the talk.

With the subject of vision being in everyone’s mind we took the opportunity to launch our new Audio Read program at the same event. Up until then, our Audio-Read program had been restricted to those members of the community with macular degeneration. But now, with a $13,000 grant, thanks to the generosity of the Mulwaree Trust, Southern Tablelands Regional Library is able to extend this service to anyone who prefers to listen to audio books.

Thanks go to all those involved, which made this day such a successful event; Kate Morrison from the Fred Hollows Foundation, The Mulwaree Trust, represented by Vanessa Toparis, Upper Lachlan Library Services Manager, Kerri-ann Pratley and the community of Crookwell which always supports library events with an impressive turnout and a lovely lunch.

Howard Boyle
Southern Tablelands Regional Library Manager
Creativity Matters

Research indicates that keeping your mind creative is one of the best ways to live a long and healthy life. Arts and creativity programs provided for older adults are fast becoming accepted for their health, morale and social benefit.

MaturedArt@yourLibrary is now an annual exhibition at Auburn Library of art and craft and demonstrates the creativity of some of our older and disabled residents. The response to the latest MaturedArt exhibition was overwhelming with a record number of entries. We had to expand the display area to fit all the original artwork and craft pieces submitted by local nursing homes, residential facilities and individual artists.

Some of the comments in the visitors book:

“Very beautiful! Thanks Auburn Library – this display is truly inspirational. We tend to forget what skills and talent older people and disabled have;”

“The most interesting exhibition. Congratulations to all the artists. Warm thanks to Auburn Library; Some exceptional skill and effort – great inspirational exhibition!”

By recognising the importance of fostering an understanding of the vital relationship between creative expression and the quality of life, Auburn Library is providing our elderly and disabled residents with a great opportunity to show off their talents. We hope the exhibit will continue to grow in future years.

Isabella Andruszkiewicz
Home Library Service Officer
Auburn Library
**Roving at Wollongong City Library**

During the second half of last year Wollongong Librarians began roving in an attempt to better connect with our customers. By stepping out from behind the desk we found many customers in need of assistance who would not ask at the desk. It has been amazing to discover how many people are lost in the library!

Across the day there are two roving shifts, our busiest times 11-1 and 3-5. Our rovers move between the Reference Library on the first floor and the Lending Library on the ground floor asking customers if they require assistance.

The rover combines the skills of a roving reference librarian and readers advice to customers. We also are very skilled at finding lost husbands and wives!

We have discussed what we think makes a good rover and apart from the obvious of approaching customers we also assist customers with any technology problems, assist at the service points if required, and shelve, tidy and ensure display shelves are filled. A trolley of books can make a great prop when interacting with the customer.

It has been a rewarding experience as we are often able to spend a bit more time with our customers without worrying about the constraints of the ‘desk’. We are also able to take customers between floors depending on which collection best suits their needs. One rover was able to spend time with an English couple trying to locate a long lost aunt. The aunt had recently passed away, but we were able to locate other relatives and an impromptu family reunion was held. The couple later thanked the librarian, before heading back to England.

**Jenny Harding**

Librarian, Central Lending
Wollongong City Library

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**Walks through history**

Local Studies Librarians have a unique role in interpreting local history and encouraging the community’s engagement with it. One of the most popular local history events we hold are local history walks. Across Sydney they prove to be universally popular with available spots booking out quickly, or, for those brave enough to not put a limit on the number of walkers they will take, garnering a huge crowd.

Why? Because history lives all around us and the best way to experience it is to get out there first hand and walk the history walk as you are talking the history talk! In 2009 Waverley Council is celebrating its sesquicentenary and as part of the celebrations we have devised a walking program. Every month on a Sunday morning we offer free history walks around the local area. The program varies, but each walk is repeated throughout the year to enable as many people as possible to come along.

This Library-created program also links with other Council initiatives, supporting the broader goals and objectives of Council as a whole. This is essential. For example, the local history walks program supports Council’s Green Links program, which seeks to get people out of their cars and promote walking in the local area.

From March to November free monthly walks will take locals on a tour of all our local beaches, Charing Cross, Bondi Junction and a special once-only half-day coastal walk from South Bondi to Diamond Bay. There will even be a true crime walk to the sites of Waverley’s crimes and scandals to coincide with History Week 2009.

For example, in this photo of Tamarama Park taken in 1935 (pictured above) the newly constructed Marine Drive is at the centre of the image, a project...
In the Libraries

undertaken as part of a works program initiated during the Great Depression to ease unemployment. Council has beautified the park, planting trees and creating a tunnel so that pedestrians can cross from this popular picnic spot to Tamarama Gully. These are the kinds of fascinating stories revealed during a local history walk.

Kimberly O’Sullivan Steward
Local Studies Librarian
Waverley Library

Library goes green in Willoughby
Sustainable living is about caring for our planet. It is everybody’s responsibility to make sure the resources on the earth are there for our children to enjoy in the future. Council, Library and the local community are working in partnership to pursue a brighter future for our future generations.

Artarmon Sustainability Street Group was established in 2006. The Group is supported by the Willoughby City Council through its Sustainability Street® Program, dedicated to promoting sustainable everyday living. Together with the Tulloch Street Group, the Artarmon Group was granted $9,000 by the NSW Environmental Trust to start a Sustainable Living Collection in the Artarmon Branch Library in 2007.

The collection comprises books, magazines and other educational materials to guide, encourage and inform people of all ages on all aspects of more sustainable living, including energy and water conservation, waste reduction, reducing pollution and use of toxic chemicals, sustainable transport and activities such as permaculture and bushcare.

These Library items have protective covering using biodegradable plastic covering provided by Bio-pak. The titles can be viewed and borrowed at Artarmon Library or via the Shorelink library catalogue at http://webcat.shore.shorelink.nsw.gov.au.

The collection was officially launched in October 2007, with strong support from the community and has proved highly popular, with a third or more of the titles generally on loan. It has been promoted through local media and through other linked Sustainability Street and community activities, including the creation of a banner by local school children, a mural workshop for children and establishment of a community No-Dig garden at the Library.

The Artarmon Sustainability Living Collection is a highly successful project. It demonstrated a successful partnership between the Library and the community. The outcomes of the project are very encouraging. Special collection developed, community educated, sustainability issues highlighted, most importantly, community interests aroused. We are proud to have started one of the first sustainable living collections in our library and look forward to adding similar collections to our other branches.

More information can be obtained from the Council web-site under environment and sustainability (available at http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au)

Angelina Yeung
Manager, Outreach Services
Willoughby City Library

Sustainable living
Visiting writer @ Camden Library

Colette Livermore, author of *Hope Endures: an Australian sister’s story of leaving Mother Teresa, losing faith, and her on-going search for meaning*, spoke at length to an engrossed audience at Camden Library in March. This visit was part of the Library Service’s Visiting Writers Program. Colette described her experiences as a nun in Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity, a journey of eleven years, which took her from her home in NSW to some of the most desperate and impoverished countries in the world. Ultimately, she experienced inner turmoil, disillusionment and a crisis of faith.

Colette, now a doctor with a practice on the Central Coast, answered lots of questions about both her time in the order and of her life after leaving. She fielded some very interesting questions from people curious about her beliefs now, and how her lack of faith, once the foundation of her life, has affected the course of her life. Absolutely fascinating!

Over 50 people attended and declared Colette’s visit a resounding success.

Virginia Ghezzi
Camden Library Team Leader

NLA Digitisation Workshop

On 19 and 20 February the Western Sydney Local Studies Librarians were delighted to have Andrew Stawowczyk Long, the Digital Preservation Standards Strategist of the National Library of Australia, present a two day Digitisation of Heritage Materials (DOHM) training workshop at Liverpool City Library.

This training was based on the DOHM modules created by Andrew to assist others in the challenging and rapidly developing area of digitisation. DOHM is an invaluable resource in providing up to date, accessible information on digitisation standards and practices.

Andrew Stawowczyk Long was a delightful presenter, who communicated complex information to us in a very accessible manner. Like the importance of dynamic range in your scanners? Or colour calibration for ‘true’ colour preservation. Or digital negatives? To name just a few.

All attendees found the two day workshop highly valuable to them as custodians for public libraries local studies collections.

Jo Morris
Local Studies Librarian
Liverpool City Library

Library Lovers sizzle @ Coffs Harbour!

Sizzling sausages drew in scores of library lovers at Coffs Harbour on LLD2009. Library staff set up a BBQ in the foyer of the library on the damp Saturday morning, however the wet weather didn’t dampen the spirits of the community with our visitor rate up by 233% on the day … and 647 people through our doors at our main library.

Newspaper articles promoted the event and the snag sangers were free – always a drawcard! The Library also gave away free library bags to anyone who came anywhere near the library with hundreds given out! The bag contained our latest newsletter, booklists and our library bookmark.

Our branch libraries at Toormina and Woolgoolga were also kept busy with many loyal patrons dropping in for a free morning tea and a free library bag.

Across all branches we also had merchandise on sale, including coffee mugs, book journals, reading stands and our very own ‘Library Lover’ stubby holders.

The Library also collected donations for the Red Cross Victorian Bushfire Appeal raising approximately $250.
In the Libraries

A festive mood ensued, a second batch of sausages were quickly purchased, and although staff were run ragged – everyone involved was impressed with the fantastic response from the public.

Judy Atkinson
Coffs Harbour City Library

**Sausage sizzle**

They are encouraged to take note of words, phrases or even sentences that they do not understand in the course of reading and listening to the story. Discussions centre on the notes they have taken as well as the whats, whys, hows, whens and wheres of the story. Listening to the CD is an added bonus for the participants because it helps them improve their pronunciation skills. These reading and listening exercises also help them expand their vocabulary and develop or improve their communication, social interaction, and comprehension skills.

**EasyREADs**

On 18 December 1990, the UN General Assembly approved the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and members of their families. Ten years later, the United Nations officially designated this day, 18 December, as International Migrants’ Day, in recognition of the rights of migrants the world over and as an expression of support and solidarity with all migrants.

On 18 December, 2007, Liverpool City Library celebrated International Migrants’ Day in recognition of the immense contributions made by migrants to the community and also to promote respect for their basic human rights. A special feature of this celebration was the launch of Liverpool Library’s latest literacy initiative targeting migrants with low-level reading ability called **EasyREADs**, by NSW State Library’s Multicultural Consultant, Oriana Acevedo.

**EasyREADs** is a book discussion group with a difference. For one thing, it targets people from non-English speaking background and aims to develop in them the love for reading. The materials used are easy readers with accompanying CDs. Participants read the same title while listening to the CD.

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**EasyREADs** is a book discussion group with a difference. For one thing, it targets people from non-English speaking background and aims to develop in them the love for reading. The materials used are easy readers with accompanying CDs. Participants read the same title while listening to the CD.

Just like our first adult literacy program, the English Language Conversation group (which has been running successfully for 13 years and has been a model for other public libraries), Liverpool City Library is hopeful that other libraries will follow suit and set up a similar book discussion group for their CALD community.

**Carmel Martin**
Access Services Librarian
Liverpool City Library

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*Columns*
Children’s News

Circus skills
Sutherland was alive with spinning plates, juggling devil sticks and hula hoops as more than 20 children decided to Get in the game and learn some circus skills during the January holidays.

Alex Mannaring started by riding his unicycle around the library then he and his assistant, Kristie entertained the children with some awesome juggling and hula hooping tricks. After some words about correct use of equipment and the importance of persistence and practice, the children tried out some of the tricks for themselves. Lots of equipment and opportunities to swap with others ensured that the children were occupied the whole time.

Alex and Kristie had a great manner with the children. They were positive and fun and the kids had a great time trying out their newly acquired skills. If you decide to have Alex and Kristie at your library you do need a large space for the children to work in and a reasonably high ceiling for the juggling. Lots of positive comments were received from both children and parents. A hugely successful activity. We would be happy to pass on Alex’s contact details if you would like them.

Susan Forshaw and Melinda McNaughton
Sutherland Shire Libraries

Book Buzz
November marked the end to a very successful year of a new program at the Queanbeyan Library - the Book Buzz Club. Children’s librarian, Lynette Sebbens developed the after school program as a flow-on from the Summer Reading Club, which was a popular event and very well received.

The Book Buzz Club, attracted 46 registrations, enabling school-age children to review books throughout the year giving them a score of one, two or three bees. The reviews were then put up on a wall at the library for other children to see which books their peers liked, or didn’t like.

Kids have gained in confidence by recommending books to other kids. One eight year old club member felt so confident in his skills he submitted a review to Scientific magazine and had it published!

Emma Ciechan
Children’s Assistant Librarian
Queanbeyan City Library

Feel the power!
Science workshops are often an activity for primary aged children, but last January school holidays we decided to develop a science project workshop targeted at pre-teens and younger teens.

The idea for the workshop – to provide a chance to explore different power sources - was developed by two science lovers on our staff, Andrew Gee, the Information Program Coordinator, and Michael Sullivan, the Library Officer in Local Studies. We visited our local electronics stores to explore science DIY kits that could be used for the workshop. After evaluating a range of kits we chose a liquid powered clock that uses cola as its power source. Andrew and Michael, both parents of teenagers, decided this activity would be suitable for 9 to 14 year olds.

To make the workshop more interesting for the teens, we decided to invent a second project introducing another type of power source. After viewing a few videos of science projects on YouTube, it didn’t take long to pin down the next project – making an electromagnetic device.

The Book Buzz Club reviews from throughout the year were collated into top ten lists, which were released at the end of year Christmas party celebration. This year’s most popular picture book was our old favourite, Possum Magic by Mem Fox, while the most popular fiction book was Deltora Quest by Emily Rodda.

A few members of the Book Buzz Club
The kids would be taught to assemble the device using materials that could be bought from their local hardware store.

The workshop was fully booked and attended by 25 kids, which was a record attendance for a holiday workshop for teens. Andrew and Michael introduced themselves as the Mad Scientists working in the library. Teens and parents were amazed to find out the many talents our staff members possess. Michael Doran, the Intellectual Processing Librarian, joined in the team to help the teens assemble the projects.

The program was not only practical but educational, with a brief lecture about the different types of power and the great scientists who contributed to this area. Teens were amazed to learn the real-life application of the two projects they made on the day, for example, the electromagnet is a key technological device used in many applications, from heavy industry to telephones to toys.

The Feel the power! science workshop is just one more example of how our staff contribute their talents to the planning and presentation of youth activities. Involving staff in these activities helps to overcome the ever-constant problem of not always being able to find good presenters, and lets us design and tailor activities for a more targeted group.

Wendy Wenmin Chen
Youth Librarian
Campbelltown City Library

Summer Reading
Auburn

Auburn Library is physically right at the centre of its community and despite the fact that the adjoining council car park is being rebuilt, reducing available parking to on street only, the library was full of children as usual during January. The Summer Reading Club attracted 270 children who read 7000 books. To receive a ticket to the presentation on 11 February, 137 children returned their reading logs on time. Like other libraries the presentation includes a draw for prizes including tickets from the local cinema, family passes to the Powerhouse Museum and a MP3 player.

A program of our regular advertised activities was booked out and a total of 230 children attended overall, culminating in a Chinese magic and acrobat show attended by 112 people. As the biggest demand for holiday activities comes from the younger families we decided to have a puppet storyline using the Dreamweaver kits owned by the Children's Librarians of Western Sydney group (Auburn is a member). The kits provide professionally produced puppets and props to enhance enjoyment of the story. Face Painting and Badge Making activities proved to be very popular as did the make your own wind chime craft.

Judy Drayton
Children's and Young Adult Services Librarian
Auburn library

Bankstown

The Summer Reading Club was even more popular this year culminating with the presentation night on 20 February in the Bankstown Town Hall. To celebrate with the kids the Panania and Bankstown Libraries enjoyed a visit by several Bulldogs players on Tuesday 27 January 2009 as part of the theme of ‘Get in the Game’. The players were Luke Patten and Daniel Harrison at Panania Library, and Jamal Idris and John Kite at Bankstown Library.

The children asked some great questions, such as How many Weet Bix do you have in the morning? What books did you read when you were at school?, How do you become a rugby player?, Which team will win the Grand Final this year? Who's the best rugby player?
Luke and Daniel brought along the books they are currently reading which was a great inspiration to the kids. Jamal read a story to the children at Bankstown (the picture book entitled Just Like Me) and the kids loved it. All the players were very tall and very fit telling the children to eat healthy food and to be active and to listen to their parents! It was a great day for all of us and the kids were so inspired by their football heroes.

Robyn Owens
Library Services Coordinator
Bankstown City Library and Information Service

Coffs Harbour City Library once again invited children to participate in the Summer Reading Club. This is the fourth year we have held the SRC - each year the number of participants grows, and each year the children outdo themselves with their level of commitment and their enthusiasm to read more books.

This summer 261 children registered to take part in the project, and in doing so they made a commitment to read at least 10 books during the holidays. Younger children, just learning to read, could be read to by siblings to participate.

Children between the ages of four and 14 took part and 100 of them were able to attend the celebration party held at Coffs Harbour City Library.

The library was alive and vibrant that day, with the children busy making a bookmark, playing pass the parcel, and other games. Everyone received a certificate to acknowledge their participation and we also distributed (by a lucky draw) 100 prizes and movie vouchers, bookshop gift vouchers, and Pet Porpoise Pool free entry vouchers.

Finishing up with pizza, popcorn and cake, the event was a wonderful celebration of reading for pleasure. Thank you to the many businesses who donated goods and services to help make this event a success.

Judy Atkinson
Coffs Harbour City Library

Inverell

Inverell Shire Public Library hosted its first ever Summer Reading Club in the December/January school holidays. Most of the school holiday activities had a Get in the Game, Read theme.

Some of the holiday activities included:
- ten pin bowls decorating and a game to follow
- a guessing competition – how many golf balls in the clear plastic container
- a sports trivia afternoon
- mini indoor Olympics with some novel Olympic events such as book balancing and sock golf
- sports crafts, including making and decorating a wearable visor
- skipping rope making
- holiday activity books with the theme of “Get in the Game, Read”
- a martial arts demonstration by our local world class martial arts practitioner and trainer, Nick King.

The winners of the sports trivia competition
Children’s News

The Summer Reading Club attracted over 60 registrations with more than half completing the required reading by the end of the school holidays. There were some generous donations of expertise, time, gift vouchers and other prizes by local community members and businesses. There were also lots of inquiries about reading ideas and a higher than usual usage of the Junior Fiction collection.

Inverell Shire Public Library will definitely be hosting the Summer Reading Club again after this year’s successful inaugural event.

Kate Wanchap
Manager Library Services
Inverell Shire Public Library

Kogarah

Kogarah Libraries hosted its Annual Presentation Night for young readers who participated in the 2008/09 Summer Reading Challenge. This year’s theme, ‘Get in the Game: READ!’ helped motivate 110 children and youth to register in the Summer Reading Challenge with a winning total of 2,470 books read across Kogarah’s three libraries; Kogarah, Oatley and South Hurstville. Special guest, medal winning Australian Paralympian, Liesl Tesch presented participants with prizes and inspired readers to ‘go for gold’ by dreaming big and focusing on their goals. Book prizes were awarded to readers who “read the most” books and trophies were presented to both children and youth who nominated themselves for the “Champion Reader” trophy award. The grand prizes this year were iPods, kindly donated by a local shop. These were awarded to the authors of the two best youth book reviews and to the most outstanding young reader in the program. Every reader received a certificate for their participation in the challenge. A special thanks must go to Liesl for her inspirational words, she certainly imparted a little bit of gold to all who attended.

Linda Heald
Kogarah Library

Lake Macquarie

Lake Macquarie City Library buzzed with activity during January 2009 when children of all ages heeded the call to Get in the Game, Read!

Children and adults were entertained by a variety of performances and workshops. These included the Footlice Theatre Company’s Balder & Nana puppet show, JD’s World of Magic, the Tea Party storytime, Monkey Beats drumming workshops, and Springboard Science workshops. Those with an artistic flair let their creativity flow at T-shirt design workshops and I’m a Sport craft workshops.

For the first time, the Library collaborated with Council’s Sustainability department to host one of their Summer activities, Creatures of the Rocky Shore at Swansea Library. This session gave many families their first visit to the Library and was programmed to coincide with Lake Macquarie’s hosting of the Impact display from the State Library of NSW.

At each session of Summer Reading Club 2009, reading logs were distributed. Although pre-bookings were slower than previous years, the program achieved 90% attendance. Like many libraries, all of the activities were run on a cost recovery basis. A number of new families joined the library, with many also joining our email list so they can receive our new program information each month. As part of the Hunter Libraries Summer Program, the activities were advertised across the Hunter Region in a joint brochure and many activities gained a mention in local newspapers.

Julie Dunn
Library Promotions
Lake Macquarie City Library
Lane Cove

There was lots of action in Lane Cove this summer, with the Junior Library presenting some great entertainment.

Our fifth Summer Reading Program kicked off with the movie, *Kung Fu Panda* shown to children and adults on the first afternoon of the school holidays. The program was a resounding success with 200 children registering, and over 2,000 books read during the holidays.

At Presentation Night the Mayor, Councillor Ian Longbottom presented library bags, certificates and prizes to all the children who completed the program. After the ceremony the children and their families were served refreshments and had the chance to discuss their reading and the Library. The Mayor was keen to hear their ideas for the new Library, currently under construction.

Our school holiday activities were presented under the title Puppet Pandemonium. On 16 January Murphy's Puppets presented *Arlecchino and his Magic Lamp* to 52 children and 21 adults.

This was followed by puppet workshops at both Lane Cove and Greenwich libraries. Staff member Jillian Yau showed the children some wonderful antique string and hand puppets made by her grandfather. This inspired them to create some fantastic hand and stick puppets, as well as very cute sock-puppies!

The first week back at school, Lane Cove Library and Lane Cove ALIVE presented a movie in Lane Cove Plaza as part of the Sunset in the Village program. *Dr Seuss’ Horton Hears a Who*, shown on an inflatable screen, was a resounding success, with approximately 400 locals enjoying the entertainment outdoors on one of those many warm summer nights.

**Helen Rourke**

*Children & Youth Services Librarian*

*Lane Cove Library*

Newcastle

In keeping with this year’s Summer Reading theme we offered a range of activities centred around sports and being active. One of the most popular was our *Father and Son Pizza Evening with John Larkin*. Having begun his career as a professional soccer player, being a stand-up comic and of course an author of books for boys and teens, the evening with John was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. It was very special to see so many dads at the library with their sons; laughing, staying to chat, eating amazing amounts of pizza and then strolling through the library to select books.

Joey Peters, vice captain of our new Jets W-League soccer team and Matilda’s star presented a special *Meet a sports star* storytime; talking about why she enjoyed reading, sharing her favourite children’s book and demonstrating amazing soccer moves. Children also competed in a soccer quiz and soccer games with Joey.

Try your hand @.... activities gave children a chance to ‘taste’ a range of more unusual activities. These included cheerleading, hip hop, Rhee Taekwondo, magic workshops, robotics and self defence for teenage girls and mums.

Free storytimes and craft are always popular and this year our stories, in keeping with the theme, were quite active and included dramatic readings, lots of noisy games and a story told with the aid of a parachute (and the children).

We also offered *Mobilo Mania* as a free ‘drop in’ activity. This construction material is excellent for an unsupervised activity, with the pieces being large enough to ensure safety for toddlers, but challenging enough to provide much enjoyment for our 4-8 year olds. Libraries offered this activity for two days each and prizes were awarded at each branch for creative effort.

January offered perfect beach weather, parents were
more controlled with their spending and it seemed that every organisation was offering activities over the holidays. For the first time in a number of years our numbers were down. What we did find though was that our libraries were busier than ever, with many more families visiting for a free outing, more children completing their Summer Reading logs and overall loans dramatically increased.

**Julie Swane**  
**Children’s and Young Adult Librarian**  
**Newcastle Region Library**

**Taree**

The momentum of the Summer Reading Club continues to grow in our area every year. Indeed, Greater Taree City Libraries celebrated the biggest Summer Reading Club ever this year, with 314 registrations - more than double last years total! Feedback from parents and young readers indicates that the Summer Reading Club program is eagerly anticipated and provides great motivation to read more over the holidays!

Fun-filled parties were held in all four branches, where over 150 certificates were presented to the Reading Champions who completed and returned their reading logs, a brilliant achievement over the holiday break. With continuing local business support we were able to offer fabulous vouchers and incentives in our reading kits, and lots of great prizes at the end of the program - which were all enjoyed by the club members. Library staff dressed up in sporty gear to add to the fun.

**Debbie Horgan**  
**CYA Services**  
**Greater Taree City Libraries**

**Read @ your Library**

Coffs Harbour City Library celebrated reading during November, and took the opportunity to promote the Let’s Read initiative sponsored through Burnside. The library was able to distribute a Let’s Read video to every family attending Storytime at the library during the first week of November. The videos are distributed locally with the support of the Smith Family, and are an important adjunct to the programs they operate to provide support for local families.

**Judy Atkinson**  
**Coffs Harbour City Library**

**Halloween at Bankstown**

Children across the Bankstown area really frightened up for the *Harry Potter* parties at Chester Hill and Panania and the ultimate Fright Night at Bankstown on the eve of Halloween.

Children attending Fright Night at Bankstown participated in a range of scary games; *Pass the Spider, Feed the Baby Vampire, and Trick or Treat* to name but a few. Spooky tales from beyond the grave included a special performance by library staff. It was a night guaranteed to send shivers down your spine and scared parents and library staff as our hosts transformed so convincingly. Children dressed for the event and library staff were unrecognisable as witches, Dracula and the black widow.

The branch libraries at Panania and Chester Hill were transformed into our own Hogwarts with the libraries decorated in the theme of *Harry Potter*. Magic Tricks were performed by our wonderful host who happens to be a magician.
to work in the library. The children were split into three groups and played three Harry Potter themed games and craft sessions. Each child went away with scary memories and a certificate and small gift. Supper in the Great Hall was provided with the children seated at tables according to the Hogwarts house and entertainment was provided during supper. One of our staff members was absolutely convincing as a wizard performing magic tricks that defied detection by anyone attending the party. Mums and Dads were supplied with sustenance to cope with the scariness of the story telling.

**Storytime training for staff**

Early in the new year Bankstown Library staff got together for a full day of training and program planning for children and youth activities across all locations for the entire year. Each staff member was asked to bring their favourite programs for preschool and primary school storytimes. During the morning session everyone shared what they loved about their programs, gave demonstrations of rhymes, puppetry, felt board stories and tried out new songs and craft ideas. Experienced staff shared their knowledge and new staff built confidence with some practice and interactive sessions. Tips for handling groups were shared as were ideas of what songs to play if one didn’t have a great singing voice! There was practice session on how to deliver a program sight unseen in the event someone had to take over the storytime at short notice and tips on the most popular rhymes that our youngest customers know and enjoy.

**Monkey Business@your library**

The Bankstown Library Lapsit Storytime program has taken off in a big way! Following some trial lapsit storytime sessions every branch of the library network is conducting one or more sessions per year designed for babies 6 to 24 months and their parents to have fun in the library sharing stories, songs, nursery rhymes and simple finger puppets. We call our lapsit storytimes “Monkey Business” as we develop the baby’s skills in sounds, pictures, rhythms and rhymes over the four week program. During the program babies quickly become familiar with the rhythm and repetition of rhymes and will learn to focus and follow and develop motor skills. Parents have the opportunity to meet other parents from the community and share information about child learning and teaching, books and reading, and their communities. This program is supported by the grandparent seminar and storytime held in Seniors Week where many of the principles behind Monkey Business are imparted to the more senior caregivers.

Robyn Owens  
Library Services Coordinator  
Bankstown City Library and Information Service

**Tumbarumba**

Awesome Readers club met on 6 November and the theme was the Melbourne Cup. After reading some horse stories and eating afternoon tea we moved out to the lawn area for some horse games. Great fun and laughter had by all. On 4 December the Awesome Readers club celebrated Christmas and the final Awesome Readers for the year with a party and a visit from Santa.

On 9 October we ran our first school holiday “Games Day” which included board games, computer games, X-box games and Nintendo. We had 20 children attend. Lunch was provided by the Friends of the Library. The Tumbarumba Children’s Services held an expo on 22 October at the creekscape. The library set up a display with books to read and an area for making bookmarks. This was a well attended event and a great way of promoting what Tumbarumba has to offer for our local children. Taronga Zoo and the Tumbarumba High School and Primary School held the Booroolong Frog display in the library on 25 November. After many weeks of research, excursions and planned activities
Columns

Children’s News

Expo

the school children displayed what they had learned about the endangered Booroolong Frog in the library. The displays were judged and awards given. A lot of effort went into this project and was very beneficial to the children as well as the community of Tumbarumba.

On 23 December we had on loan from Museum Victoria a Rocket Science kit. This activity was on the lawns of the library and approximately 30 adults and children attended. The children were able to learn all about rockets and participate in launching some rockets themselves.

Petrina Smith
Coordinator
Tumbarumba Library

100 Views

While most teachers were still enjoying the last days of their school holidays, teachers at Claremont College, Coogee were busy exploring the natural history of Randwick through poetry and art.

Claremont is one of four City of Randwick schools taking part in Randwick City Library Service’s 100 Views Randwick program. The 100 Views program was conceived, devised and is run by local award winning writer, Libby Hathorn and supported by artist, Pat Granville-Smith. 100 Views encourages schools to choose a local icon and then celebrate the community and history of the area through art and creative writing.

Claremont College has chosen the magnificent northern Coogee Headland as their “icon” which will be viewed, celebrated, written about and artistically recreated 100 times by the students. The resulting works will be shared with the school community at the Annual Claremont Children’s Art Exhibition. The school will also celebrate the children’s achievements at a picnic at Dolphin Point.

Kensington Public School, Randwick Public School and Emanuel School and a school in Randwick’s sister city, Temora, will also take part in 100 Views this year. The project is a cornerstone of the celebrations to mark 150 years of local government in Randwick. To find out more about 100 Views, visit www.100views.com.au and www.libbyhathorn.com. For further information on Randwick City’s 150th anniversary celebrations visit www.randwick.nsw.gov.au

Michelle Kline
Randwick City Library Service

Coolamon

The Coolamon Library celebrated being opened for one year in December. We also celebrated our one thousandth new member joining the library - which is amazing. Our school holiday program in the September-October school holidays was the PlayStation unit with games. This was an overwhelming success, the poor unit never had a break – it was well used. Our storyline sessions are still proving very popular with regular attendance from our local daycare centre and daycare mums.

We had a wonderful Christmas storyline session – with four sessions held in the month of December. The Coolamon Pre-School had two day sessions and the Coolamon/Ganmain Playgroup another session. Our fourth session was a Friday session with children dressing in their Christmas t-shirts and Santa hats.
We were involved in the Summer Reading Challenge for the first time. This proved to be very popular with the library giving out over hundred bags. I’m looking forward to the coming year.

Helen McLoughlin
Coolamon Library

Ready to read

We hesitate to see our library dreams fulfilled because we gasp at the cost! When we costed producing a DVD storytime at Bathurst Library we were looking at quite a few thousand dollars. When you have an increasing number of children at storytime, you know you have something to offer the Library world as to why it works!

Bathurst Library will be launching Ready to Read in 2009. It will contain a DVD on how to do a quality storytime in your library, a CD of songs to go with themes for storytime by Jane Cook, our singing cataloguer, and a booklet about the importance of reading to children between the ages of 0 – 6.

Associate Lecturer in Organisational Communication at Charles Sturt University, Rielle Moises, has worked with the Library for three years on this project, since a meeting with the Outreach Library team where she offered to have her students produce a DVD, free of charge! She believed that Bathurst Library was inspiring young mothers and fathers to read to their children.

Junot Diaz, a creative writing instructor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (who has won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction) said in his closing address at the Sydney’s Writer’s Festival this year:

Let us give thanks to librarians. When I was young and knuckleheaded, fighting against being poor, against being brown, against being an immigrant, against being rejected by my father, it was a librarian assigned to a tiny precinct in Central New Jersey who took the time out of her work and with care and avid enthusiasm introduced me to the wonder of books and in the process, I would argue, saved my life.

At Bathurst Library we too use every possible avenue to encourage our children to enjoy reading. I work with a team of people who engage, communicate, laugh, and frolic. The DVD, which the students of CSU have created, is part of our networking and support for the University. Our CD by Jane Cook is an original! It is zappy, fun, unique and beautifully sung. This kit will be an asset and resource to all libraries, preschools and day care centres! For information call Victoria Bateman: 02 6333 6281.

Aniko Koro
Bathurst Library

Wyong update

As part of the Summer activities program, Tuggerah and Lake Haven Libraries hosted “Yoga for Children”. Yoga instructor Matt Wierzbicki (who happens to work for Council) and his helper Margaret ran through a series of poses such as cat, cobra and mountain and other stretches. At the end of the event the libraries were filled with the sounds of “OM”. Parents and children enjoyed the sessions immensely.

Author Deb Abella spoke at Tuggerah and Toukley Libraries about her Max Remy and Jasper Zammit books. She engaged the young would-be authors in her experiences of the writing process and how she was able to work with the late Johnny Warren on the Jasper Zammit series. Deb is an enthusiastic speaker who relates well to young people, many of whom said they were going to follow her down to the State Library to hear her speak again!

Lake Haven Library held two special storytime events during the Summer Holidays. “Crazy Clothing” had young people turning up in an assortment of colourful outfits, singing clothes related songs and making “stunning sunnies”.

Yoga in the library
As a community partner in the Communities for Children (C4C) initiative (funded by the Federal Government and facilitated by Mission Australia), Greater Taree City Libraries have had the opportunity to reach out into our community and to develop partnerships with other local services. This has raised awareness of the library and the services and facilities we provide for families with young children in our community.

‘Let’s Read’, an early literacy program aimed at families with children 0-5 years, has been incorporated into an extensive outreach Storytime program which has been taken into local preschools and childcare centres on a regular schedule throughout the year (resources from ‘Let’s Read’ are also available for borrowing from all library branches), as well as big community events such as: ‘World’s Biggest Playgroup Day’, ‘The Fatherhood Festival’, ‘Family Expo’, and ‘School Starters Celebration Day’.

Setting up a stall and Storytime nook at community events has brought the library to the people, and it’s wonderful for library staff to be seen as part of these events and then to be recognised by young children outside of the library context – ‘Look, Mum, there’s the Storytime lady from the library!’ Outreach programs are built into our planning now and we are looking forward to continuing to build partnerships within our local community.

The Good Readers Book Club (Community College Access Program for Disabled Young Adults) and The Learning Club (Smith Family Learning for Life Program) are exciting programs which are also based on partnerships between the library and other services within our community.

Both of these clubs are hosted in the Taree Library each week throughout the school term, and all sessions are well attended. As well, students in the Learning Club – a homework help program, receive support from local service clubs, further strengthening the position of the library as a community partner. Great coverage of library programs in our local newspaper is also an important part of their success.

Indigenous Literacy Day was celebrated for the first
Indigenous Literacy Day

time at Taree Library last year and it was a huge success. The event was part of the Library’s ‘Let’s Read’ Program, which is funded by Communities for Children.

The program consisted of all local Indigenous content, with local storytellers entertaining a huge audience of preschool children and adults from the Indigenous community with traditional stories from our local area, including an interactive story using puppets and another story made into a beautiful hand-made big book by a senior high school student.

Morning tea was enjoyed after the stories and then the kids enjoyed browsing in the Children’s Corner with their families. It was a wonderful morning, and a great opportunity to welcome Indigenous families into the library.

Debbie Horgan
CYA Services
Greater Taree City Libraries
**Live’n’Loud in the Library**

Being allowed to be loud in the library is a bit of a novelty, but at Taree Library it’s becoming a regular thing – we hosted three ‘Live and Loud’ events in 2008, and have more planned for 2009!

Combining live music, pizza and young people in a safe, relaxed and comfortable environment creates a great night’s entertainment! We have found local bands from surrounding High Schools are really keen to participate – vying no doubt for the glory of winning the ‘People’s Choice Award’, and the Open Mic section of the evening got bigger at each event. It seems there are lots of closet rock stars out there! The library provides a perfect venue, and shows the kids that it’s their place too.

‘Live’n’Loud’ events are organised in partnership with Greater Taree City Council’s Youth Development Worker, and the Youth Advisory Council, which consists of SRC members from all local High Schools. We will be launching Youth Week at ‘Live’n’Loud at the Library’ again this year – and then looking forward to the library being loud at regular events through the year!

Debbie Horgan
CYA Services
Greater Taree City Libraries

**Belonging**

Inspired by the wonderful information provided on the “Inside Break” website, the Information Services Team at Tuggerah has created a series of bookmarks and brochures for HSC students covering “Belonging” resources available within our library service. A “Belonging” page has also been added to the library webpage which has reading lists and links to other useful sites. A staff pathfinder has been created to assist those staff who may not deal with “Belonging” queries on a frequent basis but which will allow them to refer students to the best resources. It is in the format of “If you are asked such and such please refer student to [resources listed here]”. Early feedback from Branch Managers and staff has been positive, now we await the response from students!

We have also been very fortunate to discover a great local bookshop at Wyong. Its friendly staff were very helpful in sourcing the new “Belonging” guides for the reference collection. We feel the collection, guides, webpage and reference material will be able to assist students with their “Belonging” queries.

Michelle Goldsmith
Reference Librarian
Wyong Shire Library Service

**Twilight fever at Mosman**

Mosman Library hosted a _Twilight_ themed party on the eve of the Australian release of the much anticipated film. Fifteen young women (and young men!) came to the Library after hours for an evening of fun, games and of course, _TWILIGHT_!

The night started with a heated discussion about being a vampire. The teens were asked to think about the pros and cons of being a vampire. Some of the points were interesting. A young man suggested that one bad thing about being a vampire would be that you could never have a pet, because you might get hungry and ... well ... Someone else suggested that it wouldn’t be fun being a vampire because you could never get a massage. Someone thought it would be great if you never slept because you would have tons of time to read all the books you wanted!

We played three games on the night. _Twilight_ Pictionary, a _Twilight_ scavenger hunt and a _Twilight_ trivia game. Pictionary was just like the normal game but with words and concepts from the books. We didn’t do it with teams, whoever correctly guessed what the person was drawing got a prize (lollies from a big bowl) and then that person got to draw next.

Then we played a _Twilight_ scavenger hunt where we split the young people up into groups and gave each an identical list of items that related to the story, about 20 in all. There were things like an apple, a vampire, a fork, teeth, black, etc. They were asked to photocopy something from a book that represented each thing on the list. One participant remarked that it was a really fun way to get to know the different parts of the Library.

We then played a _Twilight_ trivia game. There is a lot of _Twilight_ trivia on the internet. The best one I found...
(mostly because it was broken down by book) was at this site: http://www.thetwilightSaga.com/pdf/TwilightTrivia.pdf The teens on the winning team each received a Twilight t-shirt.

We were very lucky because our local book shop provided merchandise for us to give away as prizes. We had about 25 Twilight themed badges, a couple of t-shirts and lots of mini movie posters to give away. I found some small trophies at the local variety store for the best dressed participants.

The soundtrack to the film had just been released so we played it as the young people arrived and as the Library was closed we could turn the volume up!

We took a group photo at the end of the night and I collected email addresses of anyone who wanted a copy. I thought that would be a nice way for them to remember the night. Each teen left with a bag of goodies including a list of books that would appeal to Twilight readers, more badges, information about more upcoming events and the Twilight mini movie posters.

The Sunday Telegraph ran a short story about how popular Twilight was and came to the party to talk to some young fans. The teens were thrilled. As a bonus, the reporter was in the middle of the book so she was as excited as the young people!

Amy Barker
Mosman Library

A Migrant’s Story

On Thursday 11 December, Peter Garrett AM, Member for Kingsford Smith and Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, joined 160 people at Bowen Library to celebrate the launch of A Migrant’s Story book.

A Migrant’s Story, now in its fourth year, aims to promote harmony, tolerance, understanding and empathy within the community. 2008 was the first year that an intergenerational aspect was added to the program.

Along with 26 migrants, 26 children aged between 11 and 15 from 15 different schools took part in the project. The children attended an initial workshop where they explored what life would be like as a migrant. They had to answer questions such as, “If you were told you had five minutes to pack all your possessions and leave your home, what would you take with you? How would you feel?” They were then taught interviewing skills and how to write a basic biography.

The migrants and children were paired up and met for a face-to-face interview that lasted up to two hours in some cases. The children then had the opportunity to write the stories through their younger eyes. They subsequently attended an editing workshop which gave them the skills to edit and revise their own work.

Many of the migrant participants have experienced horrific atrocities, survived wars, torture, upheaval and abandonment. They have shown immense courage in sharing their often painful memories with a young stranger. From all accounts, the children showed empathy and dedication. In preparation for their meeting, each child researched the political and socioeconomic backgrounds of their migrants.

Mayor of Randwick, Bruce Notley-Smith, was delighted by the community’s response to the project, “Almost 36% of the population of Randwick City has made the life changing decision to move to our country from other regions around the world. Projects such as A Migrant’s Story not only give these new Australians a voice, but also help with integrating them into our community. By adding an intergenerational aspect this year, a number of new and lasting friendships have been formed. I know of at least one migrant who has invited his young ‘biographer’ and her family over for a celebratory afternoon tea!”

Around 25% of Library patrons speak a language other than English at home. The Library caters for
Young adults update

these families with a strong Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) collection and a series of activities and events across the year such as weekly Spanish Babies Love Books lapsit program, Chinese and Russian story time, opportunities for resource selection input and eight English classes a week. A Migrant’s Story, which is held every two years, targets older CALD patrons who are willing to share their migration journey.

Copies of A Migrant’s Story are available for purchase at Randwick City’s libraries for $5 each.

Michelle Kline
Randwick City Library Service

Manga Extravaganza

Campbelltown Library hosted a “Manga Extravaganza” for manga and comic lovers during the 2008 October school holidays. This is Campbelltown’s second successful manga program following the “Go manga, teens!” activities in 2007.

Manga Extravaganza was held for two months from 1 October to 1 December 2008. A series of six activities were hosted, attracting more than 230 attendees. The program kicked off with a comic and manga merchandise drop-in session in the October school holidays, where we provided art materials so teens could create their own groovy comic bookmarks and badges. A “doodling contest” was also held in which teens were given 25 minutes to draw artworks in pencil.

Two manga workshops, one for manga character design and one for making comic strips from scripts, were also held. The workshops provided lots of hands-on experience to the participants. In one exercise teens were asked to critique a few sample manga drawings and to tell the class how to improve them. At the conclusion of each workshop, all drawings created by the participants for the exercises were displayed and the artists presenting the workshop gave general comments about the drawings. Small prizes were offered throughout the workshops to encourage teens to answer questions and try the exercises.

Following the two workshops, teens were invited to enter their masterpiece for the comic exhibition and competition held in November 2008. To make the activity as inclusive as possible, we accepted any artworks at all levels and offered prizes to artists from Beginners to Advanced. To encourage teens’ input, a “Teens’ Choice Award” was created for the most popular artwork voted by the viewers of the exhibition and a “Fan Award” as a lucky prize for a voter.

Manga Extravaganza is the sequel to our earlier successful manga program offered in 2007. Running a sequel to a successful youth program can be challenging. We aimed to create a program that was trendy, vibrant and included teens’ input into the planning. In order to create some new elements in the 2008 program, we asked teens what they would like to be included. We also gathered fresh ideas from a visit to the popular manga and anime festival, Smash! which is held in Sydney and attended by thousands of young people from all over Australia.

We concluded the Manga Extravaganza with an Award Ceremony night attended by exhibitors, competition participants and their guests. All competition artworks were projected as a slide show as each participant was presented a certificate. The winners were presented with art books by renowned manga artists’ such as the authors of the popular manga series “Naruto” and “Clamp”. Participants loved their prizes!

Wendy Wenmin Chen
Youth Librarian
Campbelltown City Library

Inspirational Women

To coincide with International Women’s Day, Randwick City Library Service and Rotary Randwick launched a writing competition about inspirational women on 7 March 2009.

The Inspirational Women writing competition is open to girls aged 12 – 18 who are invited to write about a woman who has inspired them and acted as a positive role model.

Female role models are instrumental in developing positive behaviours and attitudes in children, teenagers and young women who often emulate their behaviour. Role models can be family members, adult community members, teachers, peers, celebrities and other famous people.

Entries of up to 1000 words can be submitted in any form of creative writing such as a letter, poem, short
story, article or short play. There are two age categories for girls aged 12 – 14 and 15 – 18 years old. A total prize pool of $2000 is on offer for first, second and third prizes, which include Apple iPod Touches, Nanos and Shuffles. A prize will also be awarded to the school that submits the most entries. A book compiling the winning entries and commendations will be launched at a ceremony later in the year recognising the young writers and their inspirations.

The Mayor of Randwick, Cr Bruce Notley-Smith, said Council is honoured to be working with Rotary Randwick on this project, which acknowledges and celebrates the importance of women in our society and Australian culture.

“Women still hold a disproportionately low number of high-level positions in society. By encouraging and recognising the experiences, skills and importance of women, it’s hoped the female youth of Randwick City will be inspired to achieve their dreams – no matter how grand they may be.”

Mr Ben Casey, President of Randwick Rotary, echoed that sentiment. “We are delighted to be working with Randwick City Library Service to promote the important role that women play in society. Rotary International tirelessly supports equality and opportunity for all. We hope that by supporting this competition, it will help highlight the role that women play in inspiring the future female leaders, educators, health professionals and politicians, to name but a few.”


Michelle Kline
Randwick City Library Service

Head start at Mid-Western
A new initiative from Mid-Western Regional Council Library aims to give local senior students access to a wide variety of resources, services and specialist collections specially designed to provide them with a winning edge.

Called headspace: connecting you to the hsc, the new program means that students can log onto a range of databases on line from school, home or library. They are also able to take advantage of free inter-library loans, a live online tutor service and a host of HSC support materials, summaries and study guides.

As well as online databases such as Facts on File, the ANZ Reference Centre, The Computer School and many more, students can also access the services of a personal tutor from home or the library. Your Tutor operates every school afternoon from 4 – 8 pm, and gives students one on one qualified tutoring in all levels of Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology as well as study skills and essay writing. In addition, the Library subscribes to infocus, the State Library’s HSC collection of journal articles, photographs, primary source material and book extracts covering all subject areas.

Children’s Services Coordinator, Lydia Smith, has been working on headspace for the past several months “It’s been great consulting with students and having them “roadtest” some of our resources. We’re hoping to develop our relationship with HSC students so that we can incorporate their own ideas into the headspace concept.”

The concept has been met with enthusiasm by local schools. In fourth term last year, a team from the Library visited the three major high schools in the region and presented a powerpoint demonstration of the headspace resources to teaching staff. The result has been very exciting, with schools now actively encouraging students to join the Library, and including Lydia and the Library headspace presentation in senior study skills days, class visits and parent information evenings. Since the start of the new term the Library has already hosted eight in house presentations to hundreds of students, with additional visits to school libraries.

Membership of headspace is free with Library membership. Current Library members have access to resources with their Library barcode number. Plans are afoot to expand the headspace package to include a new webpage, blogs, study skills sessions, “lock ins” and HSC seminars which are often difficult for regional students to access.

Eilagh Rurenga
Library Services Coordinator
Mid-Western Regional Council Library
In touch with the State Library

Online Guides – what they mean for you and your clients!

How do you guide an HSC student to the right resources for their query about films in the Western genre?

Where do you start with a family historian who wants to know all about their convict ancestor?

What can you do to help a client who wants to look at trends in the wine industry?

The answer to these questions and more lies in an exciting development of the State Library of New South Wales – Online Guides. The Guides take particular client groups through a three-step process in answering their queries. It’s simple – first the client chooses their area of interest from a listing on the first page of the appropriate Guide. The client is then presented with a list of relevant resources, each with a description. In choosing a particular resource the client is given a set of instructions, and also a link to the resource if it is available online. One of the distinguishing features of all the Guides is that they are presented in a way that makes sense to the client.

The three guides currently available are:

• HSC English Guide (including area of study - Belonging)
• Family History: Convicts
• Business (useful for a number of client groups including secondary students, tertiary students, investors, job seekers and those looking to research a particular industry in Australia)

Why Online Guides?

First of all, we want to provide a service to our remote clients not just to those who can come in to the State Library. The Guides combine the expertise of a group of library staff and so replicate the best service offered in the Library, but online. The Guides thereby ensure consistent, high-quality service to all clients.

We are also responding to known needs. From our experience and research we know we have repeat inquiries from HSC English students, family historians wanting to know about their convict ancestors and those with an interest in a company or industry. We know too that clients want online 24/7 service and the choice of being independent.

More to come!

We have more Guides in the pipeline and will let you know when they become available. As well, the Guides are dynamic and will undergo changes as technological opportunities become available and as more digitised content becomes accessible. They will also be improved on the basis of usability studies and web analytics. In the meantime, please check out the Guides – click on Research guides on our home page, then choose Convicts, HSC English or Business. Use them with your clients, use them for staff training, encourage your clients to use them and let us know what you think!

Josephine Hennock
Reader Services

LIAC and drug info@your library Forums

Thank you to all public library staff who attended the LIAC and drug info@your library Forums at the State Library in February and March. We really enjoy the Forum days and your feedback is essential for running successful services. It’s also a great way of meeting colleagues, getting ideas about promotion, training and collections, and hearing what other libraries have done.

Public library staff travelled from Broken Hill, Lismore, Windsor, Campbelltown and many libraries in between. It was great to see regulars as well as some new faces.

Speaking at the drug info Forum, Karina Hickey, from the National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC), discussed cannabis use and the free resources that are provided to the community through public libraries. Marketing professional Carolyn Stafford presented on five quick tips for promoting the service.

At the LIAC Forum a full day included discussion about the LIAC training program. A proposal for changes to the Law Books for Libraries collection was strongly endorsed. Our guest speaker, Lauren Finestone from Legal Aid’s Older Persons Legal and Education Unit, presented an interesting and well received talk about the Unit and the pamphlets it produces.

Evaluations were very positive, with comments including:

- Really good, most enjoyable and informative
- Thanks again for reenergising the service.
- A burst of enthusiasm and heaps of ideas to take back home
- The forum is absolutely invaluable
- I appreciate that our comments are taken on board
- Very informative and inspiring. Thanks for providing us such a great service to present to our community

Catherine Bryant, LIAC
Kate O’Grady, drug info@your library

Seniors Week Law Focus

The law was in focus at Ashfield library during Seniors Week when Jeanell Buckley from LIAC and Lauren Finestone from Legal Aid each presented a session in the program Managing the Issues of Ageing!

The audience learnt about Legal Aid and then about the Find Legal Answers service in public libraries. Audience members also had the opportunity to browse the Tool Kit and the Hot Topics publications. Members of the Chinese community took away information about finding legal information in Chinese, and the Find Legal Answers website www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au was highlighted as a great starting point for everyone.

According to the event compere, Tony Smith, to manage the law well is to stay clear of it! But legal information is a different story, and the audience at Ashfield took away some valuable tools for being legally prepared.

Jeanell Buckley
LIAC

Stella Golab (left), Ashfield Council Seniors Action Committee representing Polish Seniors Group and Ruth Paillas, Ashfield Community Development Worker
Ref-ex: Reference Excellence NSW

Do you want to train new staff in reference and information services? Do you want your staff to have their reference skills refreshed? The Ref-ex wiki may be able to help.

This wiki is a collaboration between the New South Wales Reference and Information Services Group and the State Library of New South Wales. It is based on the Ohio reference excellence site, but has been rewritten for New South Wales conditions and legislation.

The Ref-ex wiki aims to help public library staff in New South Wales provide an excellent reference and information service to their communities. The wiki is module based, allowing staff to work their way through as required.


Try it out at your library today.

Ellen Forsyth
Public Library Services

The Ref-ex wiki

Public Library Services update

Consulting across the network

The State Library’s Public Library Service staff visited 25 NSW public libraries in February and March, providing a range of consultancy and other services including:

• Facilitation of strategic planning
• Assisting councils with regional library agreements
• Assistance with multicultural collection development
• Supporting the development of reference, children’s and young adult services in libraries
• Advising on library building plans

Public Library Network Research Program

In March, the Public Library Network Research Committee commenced two major research projects for 2009. The projects are:

1. Cost benefit analysis of models for collection management: acquisitions, cataloguing and processing in NSW public libraries. This project will be undertaken by Macroplan Pty Ltd

2. Scenarios for the future NSW public library network. This project will be undertaken by the Neville Freeman Agency Pty Ltd

The consultants will work closely with the Research Committee to develop the methodology, consultation and implementation for the projects which will be completed by June 2009.

Both projects will involve extensive consultation with NSW public libraries. Your contribution will be sought as the projects progress over the next few months.

Library Development Grants in action

Cameron Morley spoke at the launch of the Port Stephens Mobile Library (part funded by a Library Development Grant).

Leanne Perry spoke at the launch of the new Werris Creek Library (part funded by a Library Development Grant).

Regina Sutton and Frances Sims participated in the opening of Hay Library (Library Development Grant assisted) and visited Narrandera, Leeton, and Griffith on the same trip.
Country Libraries Fund

On 1 November 2008 the Premier and Minister for the Arts the Hon Nathan Rees announced the Country Libraries Fund, which will deliver an additional $9m for country libraries over the next five years ($1m in 2008/09, then $2m per annum for the next four years).

The Premier and Minister for the Arts has approved the allocation model for the provision of the additional $9m.

The State Library will distribute the funds utilising the existing Library Development Grant process.

The process for the allocation of the Country Libraries Fund is as follows:

Once annual Library Development Grant funds are allocated, all eligible unsuccessful applications from country NSW councils will be considered for the Country Libraries Fund as follows:

- 2008/09: $1m
- 2009/10: $2m
- 2010/11: $2m
- 2011/12: $2m
- 2012/13: $2m

This process has been followed for the 2008/09 allocation of the $1m Country Libraries Fund.


The Library Development Grants and Country Libraries Fund recipients were announced by the Premier in March. The successful projects are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Project Type</th>
<th>Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ashfield</td>
<td>Library Fit-out</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>$199,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballina</td>
<td>Expansion and relocation of Lennox Head Library</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacktown</td>
<td>Stanhope Gardens Library</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>$180,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burwood</td>
<td>Inner West libraries – downloadable collection</td>
<td>Collections</td>
<td>$48,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Bay</td>
<td>Local Studies digitisation</td>
<td>Local Studies</td>
<td>$15,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooma Monaro</td>
<td>Extend and refurbish Cooma Library</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfield</td>
<td>Refurbishment of Cabramatta Library children's area</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>$51,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilgandra</td>
<td>Indigenous services &amp; internet access</td>
<td>Collections</td>
<td>$40,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hornsby</td>
<td>Youth access project</td>
<td>Youth Services</td>
<td>$31,922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lane Cove</td>
<td>Fit-out of new Lane Cove Library</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>$180,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond Valley</td>
<td>Improved access to mobile library Mobile Library</td>
<td>$33,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockdale</td>
<td>Photograph digitisation project</td>
<td>Local Studies</td>
<td>$44,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waverley</td>
<td>RFID Technology</td>
<td>Systems</td>
<td>$196,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willoughby</td>
<td>Automated materials handling system</td>
<td>Systems</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: $1,619,982
In touch with the State Library

**Country Libraries Fund - additional funds**

Additional $1m provided as part of the State Government’s ‘Building the Country’ package

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Project Type</th>
<th>Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gundagai</td>
<td>RFID – Riverina remote branches</td>
<td>Systems</td>
<td>$196,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwydir</td>
<td>Bingara Library relocation</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>$44,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moree Plains</td>
<td>Moree Library relocation</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queanbeyan</td>
<td>Relocation of Queanbeyan Library</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>$82,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wollongong</td>
<td>New Thirroul Library</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Taree</td>
<td>RFID for Great Lakes &amp; Taree Libraries</td>
<td>Systems</td>
<td>$199,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Macquarie</td>
<td>Building reading confidence in kids</td>
<td>Outreach services</td>
<td>$17,973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lismore</td>
<td>North Coast Local Newspapers</td>
<td>Local Studies</td>
<td>$26,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walgett</td>
<td>Signage, furniture and collections</td>
<td>Promotion</td>
<td>$20,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palerang</td>
<td>Non-fiction for men and boys</td>
<td>Collections</td>
<td>$11,874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$1,000,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 2009/10 applications will be called for in July 2009.
Professional development

The State Library hosted a range of developmental opportunities. Some recent events include:

- 11-13 February – Leading from any position training (45 public library staff attended)
- 16-17 February – Rewarding Reading training (15 public library staff attended)
- 2 March – Perceptions and Connections Seminar (90 public library staff attended)
- 3 March – Reality check – non-fiction readers advisory (120 public library staff attended)
- 7 NSW.net EBSCOhost Database training sessions were delivered in March (83 public library staff attended)

In addition we presented some professional papers:

- Ellen Forsyth and Mylee Joseph gave a Web 2.0 masterclass at Transformations in Cultural and Scientific Communication Conference 2009 held at the Melbourne Museum 5-6 March 2009.
- Cameron presented a paper entitled Enriching communities: the value of NSW public libraries to the LOCLIB WA Public Library Association Conference on 6 March

Cameron Morley
Public Library Services
In the State Library Galleries

**Charles Darwin Down Under 1836**
The Picture Gallery, open 4 April to 26 July

Discover the little-known Australian adventures of the young Charles Darwin through a rich collection of original artworks, items and diaries. The exhibition reveals the naturalist’s travels in Australia from Sydney Cove to Hobart and on to Albany, exposing his fascination with our landscape, people and extraordinary animals. Celebrating 150 years since the publication of Darwin’s controversial *On the origin of species by means of natural selection*.

**Moran Prizes 2009**
Mitchell Galleries, open to 3 May

The Doug Moran National Portrait Prize encourages and promotes contemporary Australian portraiture. It is joined by the Moran Contemporary Photographic Prize, a national competition promoting excellence in photography. The competition winners share a total prize pool of $300 000.

**World Press Photo 09**
Mitchell Galleries, open 9 May to 31 May

Featuring award-winning photographs from the 52nd annual World Press Photo contest. The international jury gave prizes in 10 theme categories to 64 photographers of 27 nationalities including one Australian photographer, Mark Dadswell, who was awarded 2nd prize in the Sports Action Singles. This year 5508 photographers participated in the contest with a total of 96 268 photographs submitted for judging.

**Heritage Collection**
Mitchell Galleries

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.

**Australian Cookbooks**
Macquarie Cases

A rich tradition of Australian cookery books began in the mid 1860s and has continued to the present day. From the years of abundance to the austerity of the war years, there have been books to meet every need.

**Coming soon**

Next Chapter: public library services for older people

**AUSLIB Conference**
1-2 May 2009 State Library of NSW

Future Thinking Workshop with Stacey Aldrich
4 May 2009, State Library of NSW

Reference and Information Services Group Seminar
5 May 2009, State Library of NSW

Sydney Writers’ Festival
18 - 24 May 2009

PLNSW-Country Symposium
24 - 26 June 2009, Parkes

**Deadlines for Public Library News**

August 2009 issue 12 June 2009
December 2009 issue 16 October 2009