Another year almost over, but please take a moment or two to look through this issue of Public Library News – we’ve got the lot! You’ll learn how to create a blog, make your library a more positive place and join the travelling pants. Plus we have pages full of other stories and news – 2008 was a busy year. To all the contributors to this issue, thank you, and keep writing!

Victoria Anderson
Jean Genies

Jean Genies was an idea developed to engage youth in a fun, spontaneous program. We have a successful program of literacy-based events for young adults, and Sharon Drayton (head of Children’s and Young Adult services) and Mylee Joseph (State Library) decided to share this enthusiasm with other public libraries around New South Wales.

Drawing inspiration from the Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants series by Ann Brashares this voluntary program has seen four pairs of jeans travelling around New South Wales’ public libraries, with participating libraries decorating a portion of the jeans and hosting programs or displays based around the theme before sending the jeans on to the next library.

A variety of materials have been used to decorate the jeans including paint, stencilling, embroidery, buttons and beadwork. Librarians developed a range of related activities to tie in with the jeans visit, for example craft workshops, film nights, competitions and displays.

Why Jean Genies? The jeans will appear from nowhere, create magic in your library and disappear! And this is what they did!

The following libraries hosted the jeans: Manly, Woollahra, Marrickville, Inverell, Mudgee, Narrabri, Coffs Harbour, Port Stephens Tomaree, Kempsey, Wentworth, Port Stephens Raymond Terrace, Leeton, Parkes, Goulburn, Wollongong and Bowral, before returning home to Gosford! Huge distances across the state.

The launch of Jean Genies in National Youth Week took place at Manly Library on Thursday 10 April, 2008. Celebrity guest authors Felicity Pulman and Stephen Leong signed off on the jeans. Then the jeans visited a variety of interesting places!

The party to welcome the Jean Genies back to the Central Coast was held on Friday 1st August. Jeans for Genes Day. Felicity Pulman was kind enough to join us for the party. Librarians Claire from Port Stephens and Louise from Manly travelled to join in the fun, which included the Denim Derby game and great music from Gosford High School students. After decorating with a sea theme the Gosford Young Adult Bookclub took all the jeans for a photo shoot.

What next? Some of the decorated jeans will be travelling again as part of an international exchange program organised with the International Children’s Library in Munich.

Expression of interest are now open for 2009 please check out all the fun on the wiki at <nswtravellingpants.pbwiki.com>

Claire Stuckey
Gosford Central Library
From Santa Cruz to Sutherland
On Thursday 4th January 2007, teens from the Garfield Park Library in Santa Cruz USA started two pairs of jeans on their year-long journey to over 40 libraries across the United States, Canada and Australia. Each library conducted a program which was based on the Ann Brashares book and film The Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants. Teens from each Library signed the pants and added notes and photos to the ever expanding scrapbook.

Sutherland Library was lucky enough to be the Australian location to host the travelling pants. We conducted a program during the July school holidays where the kids came along in their favourite jeans to sign and decorate the travelling pants before they headed back to the USA. Using a combination of denim, buttons, ribbons, jewels and a selection of trinkets the teens showed their artistic talents aplenty while they enjoyed making a travelling pants diary.

Throughout the morning we played Pants Trivia and chatted about which characters were our favourites. Our contribution to the scrapbook left no doubt as to where Sutherland is situated on the world map, with lots of Aussie icons such as the Opera House, kangaroos and G’day mate taking pride of place on the pages. Lots of fun was had by all. After printing up photos of the day we finalised the scrapbook and together with the travelling pants, sent them back to Santa Cruz where the journey started 18 months before.

Chris Newett
Children’s & Young Adult Officer
Sutherland Shire Libraries

To blog or not

As a blog publisher, the most frequent comment I hear is it must take a lot of time to do that. Well, believe it or not, each posting to our Southern Tablelands History Matters blog <www.strhistorymatters.blogspot.com> takes only about one hour per week out of my schedule as Regional History Coordinator with the Southern Tablelands Regional Library (STRL)! That’s from first thought, to finding a relevant image and preparing the text, to publishing the completed post. It’s that simple, like my philosophy of blogging – it has to be quick and easy, or it just doesn’t happen.

So how is it done? Well the very first step is to prepare your blog. This will take about one hour, max, and you can always adjust the look of it if you change your mind later! Here at STRL, we went with Blogger, because it’s easy to use and update, so is ideal for us mugs (we also have a Library events blog at <www.strilevents.blogspot.com>). Once you’ve set up your blog, you can post anything you like to it. Publication is immediate: no wait, no mess, no fuss.

Actually, I find that the most time-consuming aspect of blogging is locating relevant images that can be used. Pics are majorly important as conveyors of information – every picture does indeed paint a thousand words (or more). But as we are all so painfully aware, there are ISSUES – copyright being the most obvious and it can be a real downer at times. Scanning is easy enough, but having permission to use that perfect image is another kettle of fish entirely. So I find that selecting my image is generally the key driving factor that determines what I post about. The next step is to find some text to go with the picture. If you’ve checked out our blog, you’ll realise something very important – I absolutely refuse to reinvent the wheel! I shamelessly pinch material from books, pamphlets, newspapers and mags, brochures, ephemera, posters, or anything else I can find, and then freely acknowledge the source/s. I also try to be creative in associating images with the text, for example, we have lots of photos of pubs available in our collection (with the permission to use them). I’m obviously not going to post dozens of articles just about pubs, but pub photos can very cleverly used to illustrate other topics e.g. street or townscapes, people, or social events.
To blog or not to blog

But what about feedback? Hits on the site, and responses to the posts? At this point, we have received some fascinating results from the Southern Tablelands History Matters blog. In its first 12 months of operation, since Sept 2007, we’ve had a gratifying total hit count of some 3508 visitors from all over the world. Our heaviest traffic occurred, not unexpectedly, during the Library 2.0 training when it reached a height of 273 hits for the first week of March. This might just have something to do with the fact that STHM was featured as one of the blogs of interest in the training program, and needless to say, we were tickled pink by this. However reality does have a way of reasserting itself, and we’re currently averaging the more modest (but still thoroughly acceptable) total of 88.5 hits per week.

Actual responses to our postings are also of particular interest, as these are seen as integral to the blog’s aim. The quality of responses we’ve received so far is fantastic, and exactly the type of reaction the blog was designed to attract. The rate of response does not seem particularly high: out of 55 posts to date, we’ve had 17 specific responses to 12 posts. Or are we expecting too much? Some posts have attracted multiple comments, so hopefully these are encouraging repeat visits. And what are our most popular posts? The Goulburn to Sydney Cycling Classic, the Pelican Sheep Station and Knowlman & Son.

One advantage of working in Local Studies is that you have lots of unique local source material at your fingertips. In doing your everyday work, answering reference queries and assisting library users, you soon realise that potential blog-posting material literally jumps off the shelf at you. It really is that simple! And you can believe me when I say that if this process wasn’t simple, I wouldn’t do it!

My blog-posting mantra: Be simple, Be wide-ranging, Acknowledge sources, Don’t editorialise.

While the STHM blog is really just another tool in our Library’s service kit, I consider it a uniquely useful one. It has the ability to maximise outreach with minimal input. Through the comments it elicits, we gain knowledge of what topics are of interest to a new and extremely diverse clientele. It also expands our potential for tapping new information sources.

So why not have a go at blogging for yourself? Experiment. The outreach potential of this format is only limited by your imagination. And it’s not as difficult or time-consuming as you might think.

Lynn Bonomini
Regional History Coordinator
Southern Tablelands Regional Library
Libraries Enriching Communities

While there is a general recognition of the vital contribution public libraries make towards the social capital, educational and recreational development of local communities, there is increasing pressure for libraries to clearly demonstrate their contribution in terms of value.

The NSW Public Library Network Research Committee, convened by the State Library of NSW, recognised that measuring the value of NSW libraries in a holistic and meaningful way is important for maintaining and building support for public libraries with government and other stakeholders. The Committee resolved to commission research to measure the economic, social, cultural and environmental value of public libraries using a range of methodologies, including the measurement of direct and indirect, tangible and intangible impacts. JL Management Services Pty Ltd was contracted to conduct the study in 2006 and 2007.

This report, *Enriching Communities*, provides clear evidence of the contribution and value of NSW public libraries in terms of the *triple bottom line*, or economic, environmental and social impact:

- Library users visit for an average of 35 minutes, view the library more as a cost-saver than a time-saver and are attracted mainly by the fixed collections, the availability of professional support and the friendly atmosphere.

- The top five outcomes from public library use are enhanced quality of life; enhanced enjoyment from hobbies; ability to obtain information not available elsewhere; facilitation of lifelong learning; and support for children’s education.

- The top five contributions to the community were seen as being a safe and pleasant place to visit; supporting educational facilities; facilitating lifelong learning; encouraging responsible social behaviour; and ensuring access to the Internet for all. The underlying themes are clearly those of safety, harmony, equity and education.

- Public libraries principal contribution to community culture is through their lending, reference and local history collections. There is also an appreciative audience for cultural activities such as local art displays and talks by visiting authors.

- Economic value as measured by library users’ willingness to pay averaged $58.20 per annum, which valued public libraries statewide at $392 million. This is 36.2% higher than 2004-2005 expenditure levels.

- Economic benefit, that is the financial amount saved relative to the cost of purchasing materials, was found to average $325 per annum among surveyed library users. This aligned closely with a more structured estimate of a statewide benefit of $1.216 billion, which equates to a benefit-cost ratio of 4.24 against the 2004-2005 investment of $287 million. Thus for each dollar expended on public libraries, $4.24 of economic benefit is generated.

- Economic activity measures the contribution of public libraries to the economy in real terms and was estimated at $810.2 million. Thus for each dollar expended on public libraries, $2.82 of real economic activity is generated.

Committee members for the project were:
Chris Jones (Great Lakes Library), Linda Bathur (Waverley), Lyn Barakat (Sutherland), Michelle Mashman (Canterbury), Noelle Nelson (Newcastle), Janice Biggin (Bega Valley), Ian Greenhalgh (Armidale Dungarees), Paul Scully (Liverpool), Kathleen Bresnahan (State Library), David Jones (State Library), Leanne Perry (State Library) and Cameron Morley (State Library).

Thanks to John Liddle of JL Management Services for coordinating the project.
Contemporary public libraries operate in an environment that is vastly different to that of their predecessors. Library services, technology tools, collection formats and community needs are diverse and continue to evolve at a rapid pace.

The Public Library Network Research Committee identified a need for modern standards and guidelines that would assist libraries and councils to:

- Evaluate current services
- Set targets for improvement
- Develop continuous improvement in library service delivery, and
- Plan for future needs.

The State Library of NSW, on behalf of the Committee, commissioned Libraries Alive! to conduct the research project and draft appropriate standards and guidelines. The project involved extensive consultation with NSW public libraries, analysis of international standards, and use of the annual NSW Public Library Statistics to set evidence based targets for public library collections and services.

The resulting publication Living Learning Libraries: standards and guidelines for NSW public libraries was released in November 2008.

In her foreword to Living Learning Libraries, State Librarian Regina Sutton says:

I am pleased to introduce new standards and guidelines which reflect the contemporary information landscape and acknowledge the context of public libraries in New South Wales. Living Learning Libraries will provide information that enables councils and public libraries to compare current performance within a meaningful framework and to ascertain whether library services are capable of meeting the needs of their residents.


The steering committee for this project was:
Leanne Perry (State Library), Linda Bathur (Waverley), Cameron Morley (State Library), Kathleen Bresnahan (State Library), Chris Jones (Great Lakes), Michelle Mashman (Canterbury), and Noelle Nelson (Newcastle).

Libraries Alive! Project Team:
Ian McCallum
Sherrey Quinn
Margaret Hyland

In addition we would like to acknowledge Joanne Potter (Wyong) as well as Chris Jones and Michelle Mashman for contributing case studies for the publication.

Cameron Morley
State Library of NSW (on behalf of the Committee)

Enriching Communities and Living Learning Libraries are available on the State Library Website.
Building a positive organisation

As part of Fairfield City Council's focus on improving organisational culture, the Library Service has been encouraging staff to become more blue, in reference to a model of organisational behaviours used by Human Synergistics <www.human-synergistics.com.au>

Each team was asked to come up with three ideas to help build a positive culture. The styles we are encouraging are Achievement, Self-Actualising, Humanistic-Encouraging and Affiliative.

What behaviours will the team display which enhance this style?
• Co-operation, Friendliness, Getting to know each other better
• Help others to grow and develop, be a good listener, encourage others, help others to think for themselves
• Be open about self; be spontaneous; share feelings and thoughts; communicate ideas
• Information sharing and goal setting

What initiatives will the team implement to promote this behaviour?
• Annual Blue Culture Day
• Actively mentor library staff (and each other) to increase IT knowledge and skills and to sell our IT activities and projects (e.g. Symphony and Self check outs).
• Share something about yourself at each team meeting, possibly bringing in show and tell.
• Team meeting monthly, i.e. Tuesday 2-3 pm

How will the team know that they have achieved an improvement in the identified style?
• We will see ourselves as a team not a group of specialists.
• There is observed improvement of IT skills among Library staff.
• Positive feedback is received from Library staff.
• Regularity of communication (e-mails, articles etc.) about IT projects.
• Greater understanding of each other. Developing team awareness and understanding of individual team member’s skills, interests and talents.

The Outreach Team decided to attend the screening of the ABC's First Tuesday Book Club for our first Blue Culture Day. We took some flex time and headed into Ultimo, to hear the panel, including children's author Mem Fox and actor Richard E. Grant, discuss the chosen books with passion. Host Jennifer Byrne's knowledge of the books discussed both by the panel and the audience was extremely impressive. She’d be great in a readers’ advisory capacity!

Did it help build our team’s culture in positive ways? The general consensus was that it was really hard to take the time off work – we had grant applications, annual reports and any number of other issues causing stress. However, having made the commitment to take the time as a team, we really enjoyed the opportunity to get together in an entirely different setting and, of course, to have lunch together. We even indulged in a bit of retail therapy afterwards – naturally enough, at a bookstore.

Does the focus on improving our organisational culture bring long-term benefit to the library service? We recently took part in a Council-wide organisational culture survey which showed that our staff measured their team’s results in a very positive way. If people can see personal achievement in an environment that stretches, as well as supports and encourages them, job satisfaction and productivity will inevitably follow. A positive organisational culture is a great foundation for productive individuals and teams to flourish and grow but it takes concerted effort from management and staff to continually model positive behaviours. Positive organisational change only happens when we all walk the talk.

- Carolyn Bourke
  Fairfield City Library Service
Knit-In @ your library

Camden
Camden Council Library Service has for the last 3 years participated in the annual Wrap with Love charity Knit-in event held in conjunction with ABC Radio 702 and this year was no exception! Keen knitters armed with needles and brightly coloured balls of wool were determined to beat last year’s tally of knitted squares and completed wraps. The library was a hive of activity on August 1st with volunteer knitters of all ages donating their valuable time to this wonderful charity. Six weeks of knitting sessions at both Camden and Narellan Libraries culminated in this special day. The final tally was 58 completed wraps and 542 squares!! This is an amazing effort from our community. We are a designated drop off point for squares and wraps and they are still coming in!!

Click Clack and Yak is a spin off from Wrap with Love. So many patrons wanted to continue with our knitting sessions that we now have weekly meetings at both libraries, with knitters enjoying a cuppa, socialising and sharing their craft with those who want to learn. Every week there seem to be more people joining Click Clack and Yak. What is it they say? Knitting is meditation for the mind! I think it’s so much more than that and it’s wonderful that this can all happen in our Library.

The wool and knitted wool squares were given to Wrap with Love to be donated to Australian charities and also to countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and South America. Local charity, Camden Conference of St Vincent De Paul, assisted with the pick-up of over 60 boxes of tinned food – well over 1,000 tins that were distributed to local families in need of assistance.

Henty
Members of the community and the local Peter Mac Group were invited to spend the day at the Library, knitting. Library staff provided morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea for the happy knitters. Many squares were completed throughout the day, with lots of talking and laughter. The final total sent in the big red bag was ten lovely warm blankets and many extra squares. This was a great initiative and not only enabled a lot of knitting, but also encouraged members of the community who may not normally access the library, the opportunity to have a look at the resources available. The program will definitely be an annual event, promoted and supported by the Henty Library. The staff at the Henty Library would like to thank everyone involved in this wonderful program, which has enabled many blankets to be sent throughout the world.

Leeton
Buoyed by the success of last year’s knit-in, we decided to try again this winter. Our local ABC radio station in Wagga was coordinating the delivery of knitted squares to Wrap with Love in Sydney. We held two Knit-ins on consecutive Thursdays during July. These were highly
In the Libraries

successful – 11 completed blankets and 108 individual squares, and the knitting continues! The knitters were keen to make the knit-in a permanent fixture in the library, and now meet every Thursday morning to knit, chat and have coffee and cake. Since our extensions in 2007 we now have plenty of room for lounges and coffee tables to be used by all sorts of groups. It’s lovely to see the interaction of these ladies with one another and other library users. Once a month the knit-in coincides with storytime and the ladies get to answer lots of questions from curious preschoolers who are keen to know what are you doing?

Dapto
For the last few years Dapto Library has participated in ABC radio’s Knit-In promotion by being a collection point for the knitted wraps. This year we wanted to do something a little different. So in June we invited the Dapto Knit and Knatter knitting group to come to the library every Friday until the final Knit-In day in August. The Dapto Knit and Knatter group normally meet elsewhere in the Ribbonwood Centre, but they readily agreed to come to the library instead. The Library hosted an increasing number of ladies coming to the library to knit, have a chat and enjoy the morning tea we put on for them.

We were very pleased with the results. Lots of people dropped off squares and unfinished pieces of knitting, some of which the Knit and Knatter group or our own Sandra Rock, took away and put together as per the instructions. Many people dropped off competed wraps. And, of course, Knit and Knatter contributed many completed wraps. Altogether, the Dapto Library contribution was 44 wraps and 150 squares.

Susan Kane, Henty
Julie Barningham, Wollongong
Sandra Watson, Leeton
Annette Chaplin, Camden

Coolamon Library
The Coolamon Library has been amazingly well supported by the community of Coolamon and surrounding shires since opening in December – the very first static library in the Shire. In the past we have relied on the mobile from Riverina Regional Library.

Memberships are high, with a lot of young readers, school aged children and senior citizens all joining the library. Our first storytime program was held in early January with a huge group attending – around 70 children and carers. We had rather a busy morning!!! Our storytime sessions are held the second Friday of each month.

We had a very special event in March with visiting author, Rachel Tonkin coming to Coolamon. All our primary schools supported the day, with two reading sessions being held in the library. Many thanks to Rachel. Other special groups that have attended the library are the children from our day care and preschool centres, and local class groups from within our shire are all enjoying the new service.

I would like to thank the Riverina Library staff in Wagga for all the support and guidance they have given me since we have been opened. It is very much appreciated.

Helen McLoughlin
Coolamon Library

Happy and healthy
Manly Library recently hosted a series of health related sessions for those over 55 years of age. Trained health educators conducted interactive information sessions, which ran for about one hour on four consecutive Wednesdays. The sessions increased in popularity as we progressed (due more to word of mouth awareness
than subject matter) bringing in much bigger crowds than we had anticipated. Those who attended were asking for more and those who missed out have requested that they be repeated. Sessions included:

**Moving Right Along: Falls – Prevention and Mobility**
How to identify risk factors and prevent falls, and information on services and support available to older people.

**Beyond Maturity Blues**
Increase awareness and understanding of depression in older people; empower them to discuss related health issues; and enhance their quality of life through health promotion strategies.

**Quality Use of Medicines**
Learn how to get better results from prescribed medication and how to avoid medicine mix-ups. Generic medicines, and how to choose.

**Sweet Dreams: The non-drug management of insomnia**
What is normal sleep? Alternatives to sleeping tablets in overcoming sleep problems.

Vicki Smith
Manly Library

**Readers Week**
At Singleton we decided to hold Readers’ Week from 15 to 20 September (after our frenzied Book Week celebrations!). I just love my staff’s can do attitude! At our brainstorming meeting they came up with so many ideas I thought I’d share them with you all.

Approach local businesses, organisations and locals and ask *What are you reading?* and take photos of them with their books. Use the photos as posters for display using the READ software program we recently purchased. (Two days after that meeting we had a photo of some current and former Knights players, and the next week we had the mayor, Bob Hawke and a number of locals that our borrowers will all recognise. We’ve put the Read posters all around the library.

We hosted casual morning and afternoon teas where library visitors were invited to write down on a post-it note what they were currently reading and the post-its were displayed on a board. The winner of the following competition was announced at the afternoon tea.

We held a motivational reading poster competition using flickr. The Library awarded a prize of a $100 Big W voucher for the best poster. Youth Night was in that week and we encouraged them all to post entries in the competition as an activity on the night.

We set up a display on readers’ advisory resources (Nancy Pearl etc), and arranged displays and lists of the Top 50 books most-borrowed in the Junior, Youth and Adult sections, Fiction and Non-Fiction, and allowing patrons to place reserves without charge.

Robyn Tonks
Singleton Library

**Sea Eagles triumph!**
In the Libraries

Have you done your homework?
Yes, we did; and it paid off. Central West Libraries won the prestigious 6th International Marketing Award with their campaign to introduce the yourtutor Online Classroom to student library members. The Award is offered each year by the Management & Marketing Standing Committee of IFLA (the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) and, in 2008, was sponsored by Emerald Group Publishing. The winning applicant had an expenses paid opportunity to go to the IFLA Congress and Conference in that year and also collected US$1,000 to further the library’s marketing efforts.

Having prepared the submission, I was very excited when I was informed that we had been chosen for the Award and that I would be going to IFLA in Quebec City. The official announcement was made at the Congress Press Conference where I was also able to meet members of the Jury and accept the Award from Eileen Breen from Emerald Group Publishing. There had been entries from 16 countries. The Jury members come from Switzerland, Senegal, India, the USA and Spain and consider each application according to rigorous criteria including the strategic approach, creativity, potential to generate widespread public visibility, effectiveness, evaluation and on-going commitment.

Jury Coordinator, Christie Koontz, said that the Have you done your homework? campaign was picked out as a winner because it showed strong evidence of the way that marketing principles had been applied to the project. Jury Chair, Daisy McAdam, reported that our international Jury unanimously agreed that yours was outstanding in efficiency, replicability and simplicity.

I presented some of our @ your library merchandise to the Jury members, the sponsor and to Nichole Gilbert, the Young Adult Library Services Program Officer with the American Library Association in appreciation for the work of the Jury, the support of Emerald and for ALA’s continuing advocacy. The bookmarks and the USB wristbands were a huge hit and completely unexpected.

The IFLA experience was inspiring, impressive and overwhelmingly large. There were almost 4,000 delegates including about 40 Australian and New Zealand librarians.

I would like to thank the State Library for its encouragement and support. With inspiration from the Learning 2.0 project, I created a light-hearted look at the Congress which you can view (and still contribute to) at http://my-ifla.livejournal.com. There are also posts by others on the IFLA Congress website which link to social networking sites.

Ros Dorsman
Central West Libraries

ADULT WEST LIBRARIES’ WEEK

Fairfield
Invest In Learning: healthy minds and healthy bodies was the theme used by Fairfield City Library and Museum during Adult Learners’ Week 2008.

Information sessions, workshops, health checks and classes were held in six venues across the Library and Museum Service. An Adult Learners’ Week team comprised of staff from each of the libraries and the Museum contacted local health providers and retailers, such as chemists, leisure centres, community health providers, and teachers. The resulting program had something for everyone including sessions on podiatry, cycling in Fairfield, diabetes, chronic disease management, blood pressure checks, heart health, colds and flu, healthy eating and looking after children’s teeth, weight loss, tai chi classes and much more. There was even a Book Club event with a local historian and author. The presenters gave their time and resources freely to run sessions in each of the venues.

We ran 24 sessions with a total of 291 participants. The attendances for some sessions were not very high, but all who attended were very happy to ask questions and obtain health information from the wide variety of health professionals. The feedback from customers was very positive and indicated that such sessions should be held more regularly.

Morning tea and light refreshments were served at each session. Each of the attendees was given a library bag containing health information, samples, health bars, tennis balls and other goodies thanks to the grant from NSW Adult and Community Education organised the State Library of NSW. The photo shows local
The first event was Dollars & Cents: Financial Literacy for Adult Learners, which was held on Tuesday, 2 September. This was an information session on managing money, debt, savings and goals. Presenters were solicitors Nicole Scott and Lisa Lu from the National Assessment & Action Group at the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC). If anyone wishes to have Financial Literacy sessions conducted in their own libraries, feel free to contact Ann Bounds at ASIC on 02 6250 3840 or email her at ann.bounds@asic.gov.au.

The second event, Waste not, Want not: an information session on sustainable environment, took place on Wednesday, 3 September. Presenters were Liverpool Council’s own Waste Project Officers, Valerie Lebon and Yara Mrad who brought along lots of sample recyclable materials plus a worm farm and showbags of handouts and fluorescent light bulbs. This was a very good follow-up to the first session which dealt with money-saving tips. This time the focus was on environment-saving tips.

The third and fourth events, a Line Dancing class and a Creative Card Making Workshop were limited to 15 participants only. However, 16 people showed up for the Line Dancing session and 20 people joined the Creative Card Making Workshop. Among those happily making cards were four Buddhist monks, Monk Souk, Chhay Chhay, Sokun and Sormvang! Volunteer Tutor Choon Smith showed the participants the line dancing steps to the tune of Achey Breaky Heart, while Liverpool Library’s Systems Officer Kellie Husband introduced the participants to the art of card making. Both sessions were very much enjoyed by the participants, with everyone wishing for more sessions!

The fifth and last event was Liverpool Council’s Discovery Tour. Thirteen students from the Library’s English Language Conversation Beginners’ Class went on a bus trip which started at the Council Chambers. Council staff representing the Civic Office, the Sustainable Environment and Recreation and Open Space Departments, spoke briefly about their programs.

Liverpool City Library marked this year’s Adult Learners’ Week with five activities spread out over three weeks.

pharmacists Diane Le, who presented a talk on vitamins, and Linda Lu, who presented a talk on how to stop smoking, with some of the audience.

The Adult Learners’ Week team was given the opportunity to learn new skills in promotion and marketing. They were involved in promoting the event through the Fairfield City Council Intranet, homepage, events calendar, community e-lists, media releases, and the designing of posters and fliers. The team was also responsible for the organisation, the displays and promotion and running of the events at each venue.

Though our library service has never done anything on this scale before, this pilot program has opened up opportunities for future partnerships and for providing practical information and demonstrations on a range of health topics for our local community, which can be presented within the library. In fact, one of our local pharmacies is already planning to run regular library information sessions. Investing in lifelong learning and good health is beneficial to the community at large and what better place for a venue than your local library!
In the Libraries

and services. From the Council Chambers, the students proceeded to Collingwood House. Bev Barfield, secretary of Friends of Collingwood House, gave a brief history and tour of the house. The Discovery Tour ended at Chipping Norton Lakes where the participants enjoyed the scenery and their packed lunches.

Jacqi Ayo, Fairfield City Library and Museum
Carmel Martin, Liverpool Library

Blokes and books
The Olympics, footy, grand prix, World Cup. These are the things that thinking men do – or is it? In September, Randwick City Library Service launched The Thinking Men's Club – an opportunity for men to meet, get up to date with blokey information and generally have a great time. For the first meeting Gerry Brady, wood turner extraordinaire, joined the group for a unique show and tell. In October, the Club was treated to a fascinating talk on the evolution of the Chinese language, with special reference to the recent Olympic Games.

The Library also offers the Half Time Sports Club for members who enjoy their armchair or active sports. An impressive line up of speakers keep the group entertained monthly. Whether it’s bowls or boxing, racing or racquet ball, the Half Time Sports Club keeps our blokes coming back for more.

Michelle Kline
Randwick Library

Blue Mountains fitout
At its meeting on 19 August, the Blue Mountains City Council resolved to accept the tender submitted by CK Design International for the provision of consultancy services for the design and documentation of the fitout of the new Katoomba Library. CK Design has extensive experience in library interior design and a strong commitment to sustainable design.

The new library will be a two level, open plan design with a floor area twice the size of the existing Katoomba Library. The new library will share common access ways and foyer with the Cultural Centre, and will relocate to the new building on Parke Street once the facility is complete.

Councillor Terri Hamilton, Chairperson of the Katoomba Library Technical Advisory Panel said, The design objective for the library fitout is to provide a state of the art facility with a welcoming, exciting environment and an educational hub that will provide for future generations. The new Katoomba Library will be a substantial improvement on the current facilities and will be a significant community asset alongside the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre.

Vicki Edmunds
Blue Mountains City Library

Kellie and the monks

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Blokes and books
The Olympics, footy, grand prix, World Cup. These are the things that thinking men do – or is it? In September, Randwick City Library Service launched The Thinking Men's Club – an opportunity for men to meet, get up to date with blokey information and generally have a great time. For the first meeting Gerry Brady, wood turner extraordinaire, joined the group for a unique show and tell. In October, the Club was treated to a fascinating talk on the evolution of the Chinese language, with special reference to the recent Olympic Games.

The Library also offers the Half Time Sports Club for members who enjoy their armchair or active sports. An impressive line up of speakers keep the group entertained monthly. Whether it’s bowls or boxing, racing or racquet ball, the Half Time Sports Club keeps our blokes coming back for more.

Michelle Kline
Randwick Library
Crime scene

Agatha Christie visited Newcastle City Library in April to offer her assistance in an event entitled Crime without punishment, which was held in the beautiful Lovett Gallery.

Mrs Christie’s alter ego, local actress Roma Duff (who is 87 years old) and a number of well known local performers provided an entertaining hour of readings, singing and even a quiz for the 65 people who attended. Peter Trist devised the script and the cast including Auriel Andrew, Ben Freeman, and the library’s own David Ebert, performed a diverse program of readings from writers including Dashiell Hammett, Agatha Christie, Carl Hiaasen, Patricia Cornwell and James Ellroy.

Auriel displayed her musical talents with a couple of criminal songs – namely Frankie and Johnny and Folsom Prison Blues. The quiz was keenly contested with the audience testing their criminal (genre) knowledge. The day was rounded off with a beautiful afternoon tea and the general consensus was that it would have been a crime to have missed out on such a wonderful day. The Library will hold a similar program involving romance, travel and adventure writers in the future.

Pat Annetts
Newcastle City Library

Grey Mardi Gras

October 1 is International Day of Older Persons and Australia’s theme for 2008 was Social Inclusion, a phrase which has been aired quite a lot in recent library journals and conferences. One of the social inclusion agenda aims is to create opportunities for individuals to participate, not just in economic life, but also Australia’s civic and social life. Public libraries are recognised as playing an important role in these areas, being both a venue for group activities and for providing access to community information. In this role, Southern Tablelands Regional Library (STRL) was invited to take part in the Grey Mardi Gras.

The Grey Mardi Gras, which was organised by the Goulburn Workers Club, U3A and the Friendship Club, was held in the Workers Club Auditorium where lots of stalls were set up from different health resources, support groups, social groups and clubs that are relevant to older people. Staff from STRL gave demonstrations of Audio-Read and Playaway talking books as well as making attendees aware of all the other programs that would be of interest to them. Distributing our library show bags, which included pens, book marks and brochures, gave us the opportunity to poll the community as to what they want their library to be, which collections they use and whether or not they are members. It was surprising to find out how many people, who had been retired for some time, were not library members. Lack of awareness was rarely the reason given. More often than not we were told that they simply hadn’t had time yet! A nice reason when one thinks of it.

Howard Boyle,
Southern Tablelands Regional Library
In the Libraries

Science Week
To celebrate Science Week in August, Goulburn Library hosted the Questacon travelling exhibition *Science on the Move*. This fabulous hands-on exhibition included a range of displays from testing the gravity on different planets, checking your fitness and making your own music with water bottles. The exhibition was visited by a large number of primary school children in their school classes and many returned with their families for a second and third look.

Janet Smith
Southern Tablelands Regional Library

Library volunteers
Library volunteers are an absolute blessing. At Great Lakes we’ve got around eight volunteers to every staff member. Now many in the profession may throw their hands up in horror at the concept but just pause to ponder this. We offer bucket loads of great programs and have launched a new Outreach Service along with a Home Library Service. Most of the stuff these sections are doing is totally new ground for us. It’s odds-on that the bulk of activities simply wouldn’t happen if we didn’t have volunteers. Volunteers aren’t a threat to our workforce – in fact, our staffing levels have been steadily increasing for years – they are just a really cool way to liberate your staff from a lot of fairly routine non-professional tasks. And the volunteers love doing it. There are heaps of retired people out there looking for meaningful things to do with their time, so we all end up winners.

In appreciation for everything that the volunteers have done for us we held a luncheon gathering at Forster Library, which drew a great crowd. We followed this up with another luncheon at Tea Gardens for our southern volunteers. They all deserve every accolade they get.

Chris Jones
Great Lakes Library

Art in the library
Ku-ring-gai Library has for some time been displaying an assortment of paintings, (many of which were long term residents), wall hangings and photographic displays at Gordon, and we decided it was time to make some changes. We decided that the space should be made available for local artists or groups of artists who may not otherwise have the opportunity to exhibit their art in a public place. A set of guidelines for exhibiting and an Agreement contract were developed, and art groups were notified. *Art in the library* mounts four exhibitions annually, each lasting three months. The exhibitions seek to display works of art, initially paintings and drawings, but may include other forms as the program gains acceptance. This is an additional community service for less prominent artists/groups of artists who may wish to exhibit their works. It is acknowledged that the facility does not detract from the main functions of either the Library or the Art Centre. The artworks are available for sale. During December 2007 and January 2008 an exhibition of art by people with a disability was held and this was followed by an exhibition from the Bicentennial Park Art Group.

Ray Amos
Ku-ring-gai Library

Bookclub getting better
In the March edition of *Public Library News* we mentioned that our newly formed Bookclub service was really striking a chord with local book clubs. Well the good news is that it’s just getting bigger and bigger. The basis behind our Bookclub program is that we hold collections of titles that book clubs can borrow. Membership to the program is given to any club that donates multiple copies of a book title up to the number of members in the club. e.g. a club with eight members donates eight copies of a title of their choice each year to access all the collections available. In February we had 28 titles in the collection. That’s now grown to
47 titles, great for the 20 book clubs across our entire region (that we know of).

A great feature is our annual gathering of the book clubs. These evenings are a fun way to bring like-minded people together and for us to get some feedback on how to improve the service. To spice up the night we provide a guest speaker. Our first guest was our own State Librarian, Regina Sutton. Since then we’ve have Gabrielle Carey (of Puberty Blues fame) and, most recently, Debra Adelaide, author of the bestselling work The Household Guide to Dying. Every night has been really well received and it looks like they’ll be a permanent feature on our social calendar.

Chris Jones
Great Lakes Library

Gunnedah goes it alone
Gunnedah Shire Library, from 1st October 2008, has embarked upon a new direction in providing Library Services to its local community. Gunnedah Shire Library is now providing an independent library service. The library currently employs three full-time library staff and two casual employees. Staff are all enjoying the variety the workplace is now offering, with creative flare being developed.

Local businesses have always supported the library’s activities, and this is continuing and expanding, with displays that are supporting our collection and therefore promoting our resources more fully.

As the Shire Librarian I know we still have much to learn as a team and processes to develop. However, I would like to thank all the helpful people at the State Library of NSW and the many library staff throughout the state for all the assistance and guidance that I have received through this major change.

Sharon Tollard
Gunnedah Librarian

A morning with Jennifer
On Thursday 9 October keen gardeners from around the Hawkesbury district gathered at Hawkesbury Central Library, Deerubbin Centre, Windsor to spend the morning with noted horticulturalist and author, Jennifer Stackhouse. Jennifer is the author of several books, and her articles on gardening topics have been published in numerous newspapers and magazines. She is currently the editor of the ABCs Gardening Australia magazine. Jennifer has just launched the updated version of My gardening year, which was originally created by her mother, Shirley Stackhouse in the 1980s. Radical changes in garden design and practice over the intervening years resulted in the necessity for the work to be completely revised and rewritten.

It was interesting and revealing to hear about the rewriting process and how elements of the former publication such as her mother’s lovely line drawings were reinterpreted to suit the modern publication. Jennifer also described the way in which growing up in the Sydney suburb of Killara with her mother’s love of gardening had influenced her future career.

The morning included a Q and A session in which some participants had brought along samples of problem plants. Being a local Hawkesbury resident Jennifer demonstrated her practical knowledge and experience in growing a successful garden under sometimes extreme local conditions. Richmond bookstore, Wiseman’s Books, was on hand to sell copies of My gardening year which were signed by the author following her presentation. The store donated a copy as a lucky door prize. The winner (and only male participant) was thrilled with his prize.
In the Libraries

Several factors contributed to the success of the function including the friendly personality of the speaker who was totally at ease and the plentiful opportunities for interaction between speaker and audience. The function began with morning tea, which allowed Jennifer time to mingle with the audience prior to commencement of the talk. Time was then allocated after her presentation for book purchase, signing and photo opportunities. Library staff hope that this will be the beginning of many successful author talks held at Hawkesbury Library.

Cathy McHardy
Hawkesbury Library Services

Hollywood comes to Maroubra
Randwick City Library Service is developing an enviable reputation for The Author Talks series. Dr Anita Heiss, Kathy Marks, the Hon Bob Carr, John Birmingham and Nelson Aspen have all entertained and enthralled Randwick’s residents in the past quarter. With Mem Fox choosing Bowen Library to speak to parents about the importance of reading to children, we have a tough act to follow… but we just may do that with Don Bourke in December!

Michelle Kline
Randwick Library

100 years of Anne
June was a month of festivities and giveaways throughout libraries in Shellharbour City in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Lucy Maud Montgomery’s classic tale Anne of Green Gables. Highlight of the celebrations was an impressive Anne of Green Gables display at Warilla Library, showcasing information about Anne and the books of L. M Montgomery, as well as a pictorial display of Cavendish including Avonlea Village and Green Gables.

Making sure the celebrations included something for all ages, we ran a colouring competition open to library members 7 to 16 years of age with iPod shuffles and DVDs up for grabs. It was a wonderful celebration for a story that has captured the hearts of many since it made its debut in 1908.

Michael Jazbec
Shellharbour City Library Service

Home library heritage bus tour
Customers of Shellharbour City Library’s home library service were treated to a free heritage bus tour as a part of Seniors’ Week 2008. This was a joint project between Council’s libraries and museum. Customers were picked up from their homes and museum curator Tamara Hynd gave a colourful and interesting talk about some of Shellharbour’s historical sites.

Also, while visiting Minnamurra school house (1883-1907) property owner Margrit Stocker not only gave us a tour of the old school house, but invited us in for a tour of her home which used to be the old headmaster’s residence. The tour concluded at the Tongarra Museum with a delicious morning tea.

Michael Jazbec
Shellharbour City Library Service

Five days in September
During 15 – 20 September, Swansea Library was electric with lots of activities to engage, educate, and entertain the local community. The week began with the official launch of the Caves Beach Public School Art Show fundraiser. This is the first year the show was held in the library, bringing the library to life with fantastic and colourful artworks. The school’s band and guitar group performed at the launch early on Monday morning with all staff, guests and visitors head banging to INXS, AC/DC and The Angels!

Throughout the week, classes visited the library to view the art work, enjoy a storytime and library tour. Loans,
visits, and new memberships increased as many children returned to the library with parents and friends to show their artwork.

Tuesday had a technology focus as friends from a metropolitan library visited to take a look at Swansea’s RFID system. They also toured our multi-purpose centre that houses meeting rooms, Community Cottage, Youth Centre, and the Library.

On Wednesday, staff attended a Seniors’ and Disability Expo. Organised by the local Stroke and Disability Awareness Group, the Expo was a great success with many different stallholders and visitors. The library’s outreach programs and services were promoted at the event, with connections made with other community services groups.

Swansea Library’s focus shifted to early literacy on Thursday and Friday with visits to local preschools and our regular Friday storytime, presented by Nana Sue. Around 50 children regularly attend these storytimes, with Nana Sue promoting an environmental message with our worm farm, to the families that attend.

Over these five days, we entertained 500 children and had just over 3000 people through the door. Like the guitar group sang, it was TNT, dynamite!!

Julie Dunn
Lake Macquarie City Library

Gold gold gold
Kogarah Library was pleased to host a visit by paralympian, Heath Francis. Heath won two gold and one bronze medal in the recent Paralympic Games. Heath’s visit was to highlight the theme of Resilience for Mental Health Week and he proved to be an inspiring and engaging speaker. Heath was sponsored by Workcover, who have a Paralympian Speakers program, aimed at promoting safety in the workplace. Check the Workcover website for further details.

Linda Heald
Kogarah Library and Cultural Centre

Mental Health Week
Inverell Shire Public Library celebrated Mental Health Week (5-11 October 2008) with Meditation @ the Library, and a very successful interactive Gratitude Display. The library acquired funding through the small grants program administered by the Mental Health Association NSW, to purchase meditation resources and host a couple of beginners’ meditation sessions.

The theme for Mental Health Week 2008 was Building Resilience: appreciate the small things in life. Meditation was suggested as a way people could calm their thoughts so that they could appreciate the small things. Library customers had expressed an interest in borrowing meditation and relaxation resources (especially audio materials), and many had remarked that there were no group meditation sessions available to attend in town.
In the Libraries

Community members who attended the meditation sessions at the library were very happy with the sessions, and the person who led the sessions is now offering weekly group sessions. The presenter was already thinking of running group classes, and the library sessions were a motivating force towards the actual commencement of the course.

The library displayed the materials (posters and postcards) sent out by the Mental Health Association NSW along with relaxation and meditation resources held by the library. The library also mounted one of its interactive feel good displays in the form of a Gratitude Display and a Gratitude Diary. Staff members actively promoted Mental Health Week to customers and asked customers if they would like to write in the Gratitude Diary or complete a Gratitude slip – *Today I am grateful for …* – which was then placed on a three-dimensional display board. Over one hundred people contributed their thoughts. Lots of community members spent time reading the entries in the Gratitude Diary and the content on the Gratitude slips. The display encouraged interaction among staff and community members, and helped people focus on their immediate fortunes in life. Coincidently, Mental Health Week 2008 occurred in the second week of October when the world’s financial situation was at a record low.

The Mental Health Association NSW has some very useful fact sheets on its website at <www.mentalhealth.asn.au> The fact sheets could be useful when answering customer inquiries and when looking for resources to assist staff development and wellbeing. The theme of Building Resilience is extremely relevant in today’s fast-paced and complex world.

Inverell Shire Public Library staff were happy to be involved in this year’s Mental Health Week promotion and highly recommend the promotion to other public libraries.

**Kate Wanchap**  
*Inverell Shire Public Library*

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**Living Library Lane Cove**

**LIVING LIBRARIES**

**Lane Cove**

Lane Cove held its first Living Library as part of the annual Cameraygal Festival. The festival theme was *Speaking your Language* and the Living Library concept was a natural fit.

The Living Library consisted of six best selling books – Adoption, Growing up in South Africa, Living in Iran and experiencing the Iranian revolution, Lane Cove's Martha Stewart, the Bahai faith and Local History. The Living Books underwent extensive cataloguing and processing. The Library was open for two sessions and experienced heavy reservations. All Living Books were enthusiastic and loved jumping off the shelf to engage with their readers. The 30 minute loan periods whizzed by and before you knew it there were more readers excitedly waiting for their reserved books.

All Living Books were returned in good condition, with no food or drink being spilled over them. However, several books were so popular that they were returned late and incurred overdue fines. The Library waived them this time, but next time . . . .

**Campbelltown**

Campbelltown Library held its first session of Living Library on Friday 3 October 2008. Funding for our Living Library was secured from the federal government’s National Community Crime Prevention program, and was administered by council’s community safety section.
Following six months of promotion and planning we hosted our first session during the October school holidays. Our books included a Poor Clare nun, an indigenous elder, two people living with cerebral palsy, and volunteering in the community. Books looked great in their T-shirts and Living Library pens and balloons were distributed to promote the session. Readers of the books were surprised and fascinated by the different lives and experiences of the books on offer.

In 2009 we are planning to take the Living Library to RiverFest, council’s outdoor cultural and environmental festival and look forward to reaching more readers.

Karen Mitchell, Lane Cove Library
Carolyn Young, Campbelltown City Library

Mystery books
To help promote Readers Week in (1-8 September 2008) Inverell Shire Public Library provided Mystery Books for adult readers. A basket was filled with 50 randomly selected books wrapped in silver and gold (and sometimes rose) paper and set up near the adult fiction shelves. There were a mixture of genres, and authors ranged from Juliet Marillier to Jonathan Nasaw. A sign was posted next to the basket, which explained the mystery book idea with strict instructions not to unwrap the mystery book until you got it home.

There seemed to be some hesitation from our patrons about these mystery books as they stayed in the basket for a few days, but once they started to slowly trickle out, our patrons couldn’t enough of them. They were such a hit that the basket was often found to be empty, and staff had to choose and wrap more books, eventually doubling the number that we started with.

Comment cards were available to allow patrons to write about their mystery book experience or to write a book review. Needless to say there were some mixed feelings from various patrons about their mystery books. Many patrons came back for more after they finished their book, regardless of whether or not they liked their previous mystery, and some patrons even found a new author to read.

The mystery book promotion was originally only going to run for two weeks, but staff have decided to keep it going for a while longer due to its popularity. This idea is highly recommended as a Readers Advisory activity, as it is simple to set up and maintain, and the intrigue of not knowing what you are borrowing invites patrons to step out of their comfort zone and try something a bit different.

Maria Mutimer
Inverell Shire Public Library

Ride for Mental Wellbeing
Narrabri Library hosted a talk by Sam Thompson, who was riding from North Queensland to Southern Victoria to tell his story and promote awareness for Mental Wellbeing. As a child Sam was bullied and as a consequence developed a variety of mental health issues. Now he has recovered he wants to help others understand there can be positive outcomes for those suffering from mental health problems. Sam spoke to 17 people at Narrabri Library, and this was a great way to let people know that Narrabri Library was working on a Mental Health and Wellbeing Resource Kit, launched in Mental Health Week in October.

Jenny Campbell
Narrabri Librarian
In the Libraries

**Best Business Award**
Narrabri Library was among 72 businesses to be nominated for a business award in Narrabri’s Best Business Awards, which were held on September 19th. We won the Best Customer Service Award for 2008, which was a great way to finish the day’s Talk Like a Pirate promotion!

Jenny Campbell  
Narrabri Librarian

**Linking Aboriginal pasts and futures**
Liverpool Library recently held a discussion on the way new research allows us to build a continuous history of Aboriginal people’s presence in the area since early settlement. We continued by discussing the implication this has for contemporary Aboriginal roles and directions in the area. This highly informative presentation was by Professor Heather Goodall, historian, and lecturer from the University of Technology, Sydney, who writes on environmental history and life stories, including the recently completed *Rivers of Resistance: Aboriginal People and the Georges River National Park*. This was a very rich presentation, and well received by our audience.

Joanne Morris  
Liverpool Library

**Rugby league and pies**
Parkes Shire residents celebrated 100 years of rugby league in Australia with beers and pies at Parkes Shire Library’s opening night for *League of Legends*, a travelling banner display from the National Museum of Australia in Canberra.

The *League of Legends* banner display offers a snapshot of rugby league history through text panels and images exploring some of the game’s greatest moments. This display is a travelling component of the major exhibition *League of Legends: 100 Years of Rugby League in Australia* and was hosted by Parkes Library from 10th October to 3rd November.

A local exhibit was included with the banner display and featured photographs from the Parkes Rugby League Club and Parkes Leagues Club, signed guernseys from local football fans and other memorabilia.

This exhibition, which appealed to young and old footy fans, brought a range of people into the library, many of whom were not regular visitors. Holding a beer and pie opening captured the interest of the town and hopefully chipped away at the old fashioned views so many still hold about the Library.

Shellie Buckle  
Parkes Library

*Biddy Giles from Dharawal country*
Talking heads

As part of our popular Talking Heads visiting authors program, Campbelltown’s HJ Daley Library hosted indigenous author, Uncle Norm Newlin on Wednesday 15 October 2008. Uncle Norm is a Worimi indigenous elder whose published works include My Worimi lovesong dreaming and Where there’s life there’s spirit.

Norm has appeared at numerous writers’ festivals including this year’s Sydney Writers Festival and Celebrating the Voice 8 – Indigenous Writers, a festival hosted by University of Wollongong and the South Coast Writers Centre. Norm began writing as a mature age student at Sydney University in the 1980s and his works have since become resource material for students of Aboriginal Studies. Norm also spoke about his own life experiences, growing up in the country, leaving school before finishing primary education, knocking about, settling down and staying sober. Norm currently volunteers for the Department of Corrective Services visiting indigenous prisoners. Audience members were amazed and saddened by the stories he was able to relay but also heartened by Norm’s resilience, courage and sense of humour.

Carolyn Young
Campbelltown Library

Beatlemania

In 2008 our colleagues at the Liverpool City Library, United Kingdom produced an exhibition entitled Another Hard Days Night. Due to the successful collaborative relationship with our library colleagues in England, they have kindly allowed us to mount this exhibition using their Beatles archival documents. The exhibition will remain up until February 2009.

The exhibition chronicles the Fab Four’s homecoming on July 10th, 1964 to a grand civic reception at the Town Hall and the northern premiere of their first feature film A Hard Day’s Night at the Odeon Cinema, London Road later the same night. It includes correspondence between the Lord Mayor’s office and Beatles manager Brian Epstein, giving the background story of how The Beatles were invited to the Town Hall for the historic event. Drawn from the Lord Mayor’s official archives, which are held by Liverpool Libraries and Record Office, it is the first time the documents have been publicly displayed. In addition, the exhibition includes the original guest list for the event and newspaper cuttings.

There are other historical connections between The Beatles and Liverpool, Australia. Namely the visit much talked about, that never happened to Liverpool, Australia. To launch our exhibition on October 15th, we had the rock historian, Glenn A. Baker, present a highly engaging talk on The Beatles, and all were delighted by his visit.

Joanne Morris
Liverpool Library
What’s on at Wyong?
Family History Week was celebrated at Tuggerah Library with a talk by Gail Davis from the State Records Authority of NSW. Gail braved the cold winter weather to travel by train to Tuggerah to address 30 enthusiastic family historians. Topics covered included what’s held at State Records, how they can assist in family history searches and how to use their web page. Never wanting to miss an opportunity, patrons asked many questions and swapped notes about research problems.

During History Week, Tuggerah Library hosted a display of historical items depicting the history of Wyong Shire. Phil Morley from the Wyong Museum and Historical Society also spoke about why it is so important to preserve our local heritage and showed some wonderful historic items from the Museum.

As the proud recipients of a $200 grant from the Mental Health Association NSW Inc. Tuggerah Library purchased some books in keeping with the 2008 Mental Health Week theme of Building Resilience. Maria Blackburn from Central Coast ARAFMI (Association of the Relatives and Friends of the Mentally Ill) came along to discuss how carers can build resilience. We also had a display of promotional items from the Mental Health Association as well as posters and the ever-popular wrist bands from Beyond Blue. A small but enthusiastic group, who included mental health workers, found Maria’s talk very informative and her ideas on resilience very helpful.

Author Barry Maitland attended Tuggerah Library in September to discuss his latest book *Bright Air*. An enthusiastic crowd was also treated to Barry providing insights into his popular *Brock and Kolla* series. Patrons and Barry chatted over morning tea whilst copies of his books were sold by Borders.

Cheryl Koenig wrote *Paper Cranes* to help other people who find themselves in a similar situation to her family. Her son Jonathon was hit by a car and doctors told them he would not survive. Cheryl spoke of the hope, faith and determination her family showed in giving Jonathan the rehabilitation he needed. This talk was advertised to a local disability support group who came and discussed their personal situations with Cheryl who is adamant that it is vital to never stop believing you can achieve your goals.
Playaways were introduced at Tuggerah Library early this year. Our new pyramid display was put to great use with the wide range of titles of Playaways, together with posters and information. Free bud headphones were given to the first 100 people who borrowed the Playaways.

These little pocket audio books have proved a favourite with commuters, gardeners and anyone else who loves audio books but who doesn’t want to carry a bulky CD player or walkman.

Michelle Goldsmith  
Wyong Shire Library Service

Writing Workshops

As part of our Cameraygal Festival local author, Jeni Mawter presented two writing workshops at both Lane Cove and Greenwich Libraries. Her workshops focused on How to write a novel and Writing for Children and Young Adults. Jeni is best known for her Freewheelers series and the So feral and So gross books. Jeni outlined the best way to get started, how creating a setting is like a character in itself, what elements are essential in developing plots and character development.

Over a glass of wine afterwards, many aspiring writers sought Jeni’s advice on the best ways to get published and what other resources are available for new writers. The sessions were extremely popular and will hopefully encourage new Australian authors.

Karen Mitchell  
Lane Cove Library

Author talk

Pamela McGlinn, author of A Distant Dream and its sequel The dream Fulfilled spoke at Toukley Library about her research and writing experiences. Pamela shared information about the research she has undertaken in preparation for writing. As a family historian Pamela discovered some very interesting details of the lives and times of her ancestors. She found discovering information about her ancestors was a fascinating and rewarding experience that she wanted to share with many others.

Pamela’s interest in writing began after completing some U3A creative writing courses where she learnt the craft of writing and developed the skills necessary to write material for publication. Pamela’s first book, A Distant Dream, is predominantly written around her own family history. It is a pioneering saga centred around two ordinary families who left England midway in the 19th century to travel 12,000 miles to begin a new life in Australia. A Distant Dream was joint fiction winner in the 2007 NSW Writers’ Centre Openbook Prize Competition. Pamela’s second novel The Dream Fulfilled is purely fictional and follows the lives of the Williams and Daniels family in Australia.

Andrea Edwards  
Wyong Shire Library Service

Writers & readers

It’s been another wonderful year of good reading and discussion at the Woollahra Library’s Writers & Readers program. Featured authors were Sabina Wolanski on Destined To Live, her story of surviving the Holocaust; Paul Ham on Vietnam: The Australian War; Myfanwy Horne on Dying: a Memoir written with her husband the late Donald Horne; Susan Wyndham on Life in His Hands about neurosurgeon Charlie Teo and his patient, pianist Aaron McMillan; Jacqueline Kent on An exacting heart: the story of Hephzibah Menuhin and most recently poet Robert Gray on his memoir, The Land I Came Through Last.

Until this year we were very fortunate to have the late Andrea Stretton chairing our Writers & Readers events. We now call on a pool of talented people including Irina Dunn, Kate Fitzpatrick, Sally Loane, Caroline Baum and

Jeni at Greenwich
In the Libraries

Geordie Williamson to interview our guest authors. This new approach has been very successful.

In November the Woollahra Library Friends will host a special Writers & Readers evening in memory of Andrea Stretton, featuring former Premier of NSW, Bob Carr speaking with Andrea’s great friend, journalist and academic Brian Johns, about his book My Reading Life.

Janet de Bres
Woollahra Library and Information Service

Bo-ra-ne Ya-goo-na Par-ry-boo-go

In 2007 Willoughby City Council was successful in receiving an Indigenous Heritage Program grant through the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts which Council matched dollar for dollar. The grant was to research and write an Aboriginal History of Willoughby from pre-settlement until the present day. As a result of this grant Council’s consultant, Jessica Currie, completed writing the book Bo-ra-ne Ya-goo-na Par-ry-boo-go: Yesterday Today Tomorrow, an Aboriginal History of Willoughby in June 2008. The title for this book is from the vocabulary compiled by First Fleet Judge Advocate, David Collins based on information supplied by Bennelong. The story begins with Creation and takes the reader on a journey through prehistory and then the early contact period, to an ongoing story of survival and adaptation. Aboriginal people, their culture and heritage, have come to be embraced in an attempt to achieve understanding. One of the Aboriginal people interviewed, Aunty Beryl Timbery Beller, passed away in March 2008 and the Mayor Councillor Pat Reilly dedicated the book to her memory, at the Yarn Up launch at the Aboriginal Heritage Office. Willoughby City Council will donate a copy of this book to each school in the area.

Kerry Counsell,
Willoughby City Council

NAIDOC Week

Read any good books lately? That’s what we asked some of the Aboriginal elders in our community and they were only too happy to share their love of reading with everyone. The theme for NAIDOC Week this year was Advance Australia, both Fair and Dark and during NAIDOC Week the library shone the spotlight on some of our Aboriginal elders who want to advance Australia by encouraging more people to read.

We were inspired to create our own local READ posters because we wanted to show the community that celebrities are not the only role models who could encourage others to pick up a book. Ten local elders spoke about their favourite book and why they love reading so much. They conveyed the importance of reading to children and talked about why they love reading.

These posters have been so successful we have also used them to promote Indigenous Literacy Day and we intend to make them available to our local schools to support their reading programs.

Geordie, Robert and Ross Steele

Eddy READS!
20 years young!

Wollondilly Library and Information Service turned a youthful 20 on the 12th September during History Week. So what does a young, energetic, exciting library, with a big future ahead of them do? Well, obviously we celebrate with a week-long birthday bash. We asked the public to tell us why they loved their library and each declaration of love was attached to a purple balloon to decorate the library. We had a lot of balloons! Presents were given away twice a day, every storytime was a party theme and on the big day we had an enormous birthday cake, music and a library full of people ready to party.

We took this opportunity to honour our dedicated volunteers by acknowledging their valuable contribution to our service and each person was personally thanked and presented with a gift from the Mayor. The entire experience was a fun time and a reinforcement of how much the library service and staff is appreciated by our community. Our 21st should be even better!

Gail Dunn
Wollondilly Library and Information Service

HISTORY WEEK

Goulburn

Goulburn Library was privileged to host one of the History Council’s annual Off the Beaten Track lectures. Professor Emeritus Jill Roe AO, President of the History Council of NSW, introduced a lively and informative session titled Brains from the Bush: Creativity and culture in rural and regional New South Wales, from Miles Franklin to Marie Bashir. Focusing mainly on Miles Franklin due to her well-known historical links with this area, Ms Roe proceeded to enhance the known, and reveal the hidden, from the life and times of this most famous author! By placing Miles Franklin into context both in this area, and within the broader tapestry of international society, Ms Roe raised many fascinating points. The diversity of the discussion following Ms Roe’s presentation is testament to the interest of our very appreciative audience. And we are still considering the question – why did this the Southern Tablelands produce so many influential women writers during the early 20th century including Miles Franklin, Dame Mary Gilmore, and Mena Calthorpe, but so few men?

We would like to thank the History Council of NSW, the Copyright Agency Limited and Ms Jill Roe for the opportunity to host this important event.

Camden

The theme for History Week was The Water’s Edge and Camden celebrated the role of the Nepean River in the location and life of our town and area. Camden Council Library Service and Camden Historical Society asked the community to donate photographs relating to the river to be copied for their online image database, HistoryPix, accessible through the library website. Photos are still being received which relate to the indigenous, recreational, agricultural or industrial uses of the river as well as images of floods, bridges and boats. We also participated in The Water’s Edge online exhibition of photos relating to the river with other western Sydney libraries on our joint website at www.westernsydneylibraries.nsw.gov.au/

We ran two events at the Camden Festival, taking advantage of the crowds. Children made and decorated model boats, from Aboriginal canoes to SES rescue boats and displayed them centre stage. We also hosted a Living History Fair, with forty five people from ten groups including Sydney Ancients, 73rd Regiment of Foot, Wayward Medieval Musicians and groups from local schools, dressed in period costume and re-enacted historical events. Over two hundred people visited the stalls and further crowds enjoyed the street performances.

Gail Dunn
Wollondilly Library and Information Service
In the Libraries

Wagga Wagga

The History Week theme of *At the water’s edge* was perfect for Wagga Wagga, as a town on the Murrumbidgee. The river is an integral part of Wagga Wagga’s identity and has been the source of both good and bad times over the years.

We celebrated with two events. *Bridging the divide* – a walking tour of Wagga’s bridges was held on the Monday afternoon and enjoyed by all. The weather was glorious and the history of our bridges fascinating. We arrived back at the library and had scones and tea by the lagoon.

And on Tuesday evening we held an event called *Crowing at the water’s edge* where four speakers explored different parts of Wagga’s history relating to the river. We heard about the steamships in the 1860 and 70s, the devastating floods throughout Wagga’s history, Dixieland, the jazz hall on the river in the 1920s, Wagga Beach, the Gumi festival and the legend of the 5 o’clock wave. The evening brought back wonderful memories for many who attended and reinforced a love for the river and a wish to see it return to its former glory.

The Wagga Wagga Local History wiki was launched at the evening event. It is hoped that this wiki will not only be a great source of local history information on Wagga, but that the community will be involved in making it a true record of our stories.

Liverpool

Our Antique Jewellery event was a real gem! A very popular event was held on a Saturday afternoon, Antique Jewellery with valuations, by Elizabeth Stevens, a specialist in antiques and antique jewellery; Elizabeth is a regular on Radio 2UE on John Kerr’s program, Antiques and Collectables. Elizabeth was superb, providing a show and tell talk regarding aspects of antique jewellery, suffragette jewellery, mourning jewellery, Australian jewellery; and in the second part of the afternoon she did valuations for a small fee of $5.00. I would highly commend this event to my colleagues, as a real crowd-pleaser.

History alive

We were very pleased that Alan Atkinson’s most useful, readable and informative book *Camden*, about the history of the area and village life in the 1850s has been reissued. Atkinson gave an author visit for History Week at which he launched his book, signed copies, presented a talk and chatted to those who attended over Devonshire tea.

The Narellan History Prize announced in March this year elicited many high quality entries which have furthered research into the history of the Narellan area. An exhibition of extracts from the entries and related images was held throughout September at Narellan Library.

History Week at Camden was a colourful and informative time for all ages in the community.
**Tumut**

As part of the week-long series of events the Tumut Library hosted the Off the Beaten Track lecture series, *Brains from the Bush: Creativity and culture in rural and regional New South Wales, from Miles Franklin to Marie Bashir*. Professor Emerita Jill Roe AO, President of the History Council of NSW, presented the lecture. Jill has a particular interest in the relationship between biography and history and served as Chair of the Editorial Board of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* from 1996 to 2006. Her biography of the Australian writer Miles Franklin will be published by HarperCollins later this year.

The lecture was of particular interest to many in the Tumut community with the mention of Miles Franklin, who was born at Talbingo. Many of those who attended the afternoon lecture are able to trace their family ancestor to that of Miles Franklin. Professor Roe kept the group well entertained with her discussion on successful women from rural backgrounds, whilst lending the majority of the discussion to the life of Miles Franklin. A sumptuous afternoon tea concluded what was a wonderful afternoon of historical discussion.

**Ryde**

During History Week in September I presented two talks. The first was titled *Demolished houses of the Parramatta River*. It was an imaginary boat ride along the river beginning at Melrose Park and ending at Putney. It examined six substantial private residences that once adorned the river bank: Ermington Park, Helenie, Lauriston, Glendower, Cleves and Dudhope. Such a talk would not be possible without good illustrative material and we were fortunate to locate wonderful images from both Ryde’s collection and other institutions. What were the images that meant the most? Generally, those that told a personal story. Lauriston was designed and built by James John Shuttleworth in the 1880s, and I had located a child’s autograph book which James, his wife Philippina and their three daughters had all signed. It was evocative of the family and family life. Their house was a mansion by any standards and had a ballroom which was reputed to have the best sprung floor in Sydney. The image of an advertisement for Miss Irex Gorrie’s dancing studio which operated in the house and provided *special classes for married folk* raised more questions than it answered!!

Not only were stories and information given but they were received. The descendants of one of the families attended and provided additional photographs which will be added to the local studies collection. With such talks, even though you can’t bring back the houses, you can bring back the lives of the people who lived in them.

The second talk showed people how they could research the history of their own house. Both talks were well attended and are to be repeated due to popular demand – proving that interest in the history of our local area is alive and well!

**Bega**

History Week at Bega Library offered loads of variety this year. You could be inside listening to oral history recordings or outside enjoying the fabulous early spring weather at the Bega Cemetery.

About 18 months ago Bega Meals on Wheels started a local oral history project. Local History Librarian, Linda Albertson, has been involved along the way and has formed a partnership with Meals on Wheels who have agreed to supply the library with copies of the recordings, with permission of the interviewee. This will create a fantastic resource for the future. During History Week, the library hosted a presentation about the project and people could listen to some of the recordings that have been produced so far, while enjoying a cuppa.

Later in the week local researcher, Fiona Firth, led a tour of the Bega Cemetery which proved fascinating,
In the Libraries

especially, as the original cemetery was situated right in town and was moved in about 1906 to accommodate the high school. With recent extensions to our high school, there have been interesting archaeological excavations. Cemetery tours are always popular and this is the fourth one we have organised in the last few years.

Lynn Bonomini, Southern Tablelands
Kathryn Baget-Juleff, Camden
Amy Heap, Wagga Wagga
Joanne Morris, Liverpool
Kristin Twomey, Tumut
Angela Phippen, Ryde
Linda Albertson, Bega

ADULT LEARNERS’ WEEK

Coffs Harbour
The Library conducted online demonstration sessions at each of its branches during Adult Learners’ Week. The sessions focused on Web 2.0 and Social Networking, building on knowledge gained by staff from the State Library’s Learning 2.0 program.

The sessions were kept short, with only 15 minutes per topic and included How to create a blog, Friends and Facebook, Librarything and Coffs Harbour Library’s online member services

Lake Macquarie City Library. The classes covered basic computer skills including Internet searching and email, and basic Word and Excel, using thecomputerschool.net online tutoring system. Hundreds of comprehensive entry-level computer training tutorials are available through <www.thecomputerschool.net> The tutorials range from basic computer and internet skills to specific programs including Photoshop CS3 and Publisher 2007. Thecomputerschool.net is available at no charge to all Lake Macquarie City Library members when accessed through the Library website.

Library’s Technology Officer, Renee Morante tailored the Computer Confidence classes to people looking to update their skills and improve employment options. An Adult Learners’ Week Small Grant (organised by the State Library) allowed each participant to receive a USB stick to save work completed during the tutorial, and course notes.

Job seekers were targeted through local employment agencies, and neighbourhood and community centres. Local radio station 2NUR included a segment about the classes in their morning program, which resulted in numerous inquiries from seniors, and three additional sessions were quickly booked out.

Bega
As part of Adult Learners’ Week, the Bega library hosted a presentation on how our community can plan for a better future. With a recent donation of books and DVDs on peak oil and climate change, we took the opportunity to bring it all together with a presentation from South East Transition Towns in the local art gallery. Transition Towns is about responding to peak oil and climate change by developing an Energy Descent Action Plan within communities. The idea is to turn problems into opportunities such as working on local food production, energy solutions and transport solutions.

We had a great turn out and the display of donated items generated a lot of interest.

Enzo Accadia, Coffs Harbour
Julie Dunn, Lake Macquarie
Linda Albertson, Bega
Libraries are for everyone

Bellingen Branch Library is part of Clarence Regional Libraries which incorporates 10 branch libraries across three shire councils, Clarence Valley, Bellingen and Nambucca Heads, and our new Library (partly funded by a Library development Grant) is now a physical entity. However, it did not come easily nor quickly. Numerous possible construction sites were investigated and dismissed until we realised that the current Western end of the Council building, housing the Environmental Health and Planning and the Engineering and Operations departments, was the perfect floor space to renovate. This site was chosen because of its close proximity to the CBD, the availability of adequate parking and this people place is within the existing community and cultural precinct of Bellingen.

Opened on Saturday 16th August during the town’s annual Jazz & Blues Festival, the new library blitzes its predecessor, with over 400 metres square of floor space compared to the former library space of 155 square metres. The library has new shelving and furniture, the latest floor coverings, vibrant paint colours, a large customer service area, and space for civic functions and exhibitions. The Internet access machines have doubled from five to ten and the installation of solar panels on the roof of the library combined with the use of natural lighting will result in energy efficiencies of around 30% annually. A system monitor and display inside the library will serve to educate the community about the performance of the system and solar energy.

Accessibility and layout are major components of the design. The practical adaptation of the space creates a workable and attractive library with large open spaces to make it easier for staff supervision and provides greater long term flexibility. The library is more accessible for people with disabilities and those who are mobility impaired and incorporates on-site accessible toilet facilities. Young people have also been specifically catered for in the design with separate areas for junior and young adult reading, together with space to host special activities such as story telling.

It is exciting to have such a welcoming space, filled with natural light and it is hoped that the new building raises the profile of libraries within the community.

Sharon Uthmann
Branch Librarian Bellingen Shire
Clarence Regional Libraries

Database usage

It is possible to increase the usage of online databases with minimum effort. Some database providers supply MARC records for full-text content, and the process is as simple as uploading records to the library management system just as we do when using Libraries Australia. Once the records are in the catalogue, users have access via a link to the full text content of the resource in the database.

One of the biggest problems with database usage is the amount of information within them and the lack of content knowledge. Singleton has been including the MARC records in the catalogue and has found it to be any easy way to encourage usage. Staff and users alike stumble across the database content within normal search results and do not have to do separate searches in different resources. Suppliers providing records in this way have support available to help with the process. They offer flexible options to streamline and update the process. Unfortunately not all providers make these available, however if more of us were using them they would see the importance of ensuring this was just a normal part of the service they offer.

Nicole Lonsdale
Singleton Public Library
Coffs Harbour
Local library users and the wider community are set to benefit from a partnership established between Coffs Harbour City Council and local bookshop, The Book Warehouse. Customers who produce a library card while paying for their purchases at the Book Warehouse will have 5% of the total amount donated towards a Coffs Harbour Library fund held by the store. This is a great idea that means the library users buying items at this local store will be contributing to the stock of books and other resources they get to use at the library, said Coffs Harbour Mayor, Councillor Keith Rhoades, who launched the partnership.

The 5% share will be held by the Book Warehouse and used by Council’s library staff to buy further resources such as books, DVDs and audio books. We’re hoping to expand this type of partnership with other local businesses in the future, said librarian Carolyn Elmes. Chris Verey, Manager of the Book Warehouse in Coffs Harbour, said they were delighted to be involved, The libraries offer a wonderful service to our community in so many ways and we’re very happy to be able to support our local community with this partnership.

Coffs Harbour City Library had a very busy October. Five author talks were conducted including Grace Gawler, Cheryl Koenig, Yvonne Quadros (Black Dog Ambassador), Gael Drum, and Vic King. Poets near and far attended an informal evening of poetry reading, Soup and stanzas, to celebrate National Poetry Week, which included special guest poet Judy Vale. The event was conducted in partnership with the Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery (located next door to the Library). Although the gathering was not large (20), all who attended were very enthusiastic and enjoyed it immensely.

We also hosted Books Alive 2008 Ambassador, Michael Robotham, for a very successful author talk. Robotham was promoting his new thriller Bombproof – exclusive to the Books Alive campaign. Over 50 people crowded into the space available to listen to his talk and get signed copies of the book.

Coffs Harbour City Library members can now receive Library notices via SMS instead of by post or email. SMS notices can be sent for Reservation Available notices and First Overdue notices. Take-up has been positive, particularly amongst young members. SMS notices are not only convenient for many users but also cheaper to produce and distribute than posted notices.

Enzo Accadia
Coffs Harbour City Library & Information Service

Escape Artfest
Ulladulla Library hosted three events in conjunction with the Annual Southern Shoalhaven Arts Festival. In partnership with the local Angus & Robertson Bookstore we enjoyed An afternoon on writing with award winning writer, Celestine Hitiura Vaite. Celestine shared her experiences and enthusiasm with an appreciative crowd and left a trail of inspiration in her wake.
We then held a launch of the Hands On! Exhibition of hand made books, cards and paper craft. Eight local women artists took part in a Community Learning Connections program run by the YWCA NSW and the exhibition showcased their works, which they developed as a creative enterprise.

Local children’s author, DC Green packed the house with his entertaining antics as he launched his second Erasmus James novel, *Erasmus James, King of Kids’ Paradise*, the following Saturday. A hilarious time was had by all!

Dorothy Swoope
*Shoalhaven Libraries – Ulladulla*

Congratulations Beverley!
Former President of the Metropolitan Public Libraries Association, Beverley Giegerl, was presented with her Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) by the NSW Governor on September 19. *For service to local government and to the community, particularly through the provision of library services*. The Award recognises Beverley’s more than 17 years of service in local government and her efforts in promoting libraries.

Dorothy Swoope
*Shoalhaven Libraries – Ulladulla*

Life in miniature

Photo by John Veage, St George Leader

Beauty of research
Biology and beauty seem an unlikely match, but a photographic exhibition held at Wallsend District Library proved that science can be visually stunning. *Through the Lens* was an exhibition held at the library to coincide with the beginning of Medical Research Week in June. The exhibition included an amazing selection of photographs and photomedia works captured through the lenses of microscopes, cameras, DNA sequencing and scientific equipment used by talented health and medical researchers in the Hunter.

Researchers from the University of Newcastle, Hunter New England Health and Calvary Mater Newcastle responded enthusiastically to the competition. The results produced an array of photographic images offering a different view of medical conditions, from fertility to premature birth to cancer.

The exhibition was an opportunity for the library to partner with Hunter Medical Research HMRI and for the community to celebrate their wonderful research. HMRI is a partnership between Hunter New England Health, the University of Newcastle and the community.

Carol Edmonds
*Newcastle Library*

Author talk
On the 25th September 2008, Grace Gawler talked to 22 people at Ballina Public Library for more than an hour about her memoirs and her latest book *Grace Grit and Gratitude*.

Grace’s talk was truly inspirational. She engaged the audience from the beginning and enthralled everyone present with her life story and also shared some of her strategies for enhancing your recovery and life during and after cancer. Members of the audience were given an opportunity to share their thoughts on overcoming and dealing with cancer or chronic illness. At the conclusion of her talk Grace stayed back to talk to individuals who were keen to obtain further information about her books and workshops.

*Photo by John Veage*

Nicole Don
*Reader Services Manager*
*Richmond Tweed Regional Library*
In the Libraries

Visiting writers
Camden Library Service’s Visiting Writers Program goes from strength to strength. Eleven authors have visited so far this year, with three more to go before 2008 expires – a local author, Reg Lang, launching his memoirs, David Smeidt, author of From Russia with Lunch: a Lithuanian Odyssey, and Tamara McKinley, Australian family saga writer extraordinaire!

Don Tate, Vietnam veteran and author of The War Within, his starkly realistic memoir, was Camden’s guest in August. Often confronting and at times deeply moving, the audience listened in complete silence as Don spoke about his experience of the Vietnam War and showed a short film depicting life during this time for him and his fellow soldiers. This was a very affecting, worthwhile and well-attended evening.

Another August visiting writer was medium, Anthony Grzelka, who was publicising his new book, Life & Beyond: a medium’s guide to dealing with loss and making contact. This was an unusual author event, in that as well as discussing his book, which gives hands-on mechanisms for coping with grief, and addresses many types of loss, including loss in men and how to use a medium’s spirituality to recover, Anthony then did audience readings in a similar style to John Edward. The event was booked out within days and we had to cap the number at 100 to fit the room! Anthony proved to be a popular and entertaining guest and his visit was a real experience.

A fascinating visiting writer was Xinran Xue, who spoke about her new book China Witness: voices from a silent generation, in September. Xinran is known for her seminal book about Chinese women’s lives, The Good Women of China, and her new book did not disappoint. It’s the personal testimony, recorded by Xinran, of a generation of Chinese people whose stories had not been told until now – the grandparents and great-grandparents who describe the vast changes that have overtaken China’s people over a century. Once again, the audience listened in awe and then asked many questions of this inspiring woman. She also signed copies of her book, as do all the visiting writers in our program.

Camden’s Visiting Writers Program is now well-established and enjoys an enviable reputation considering the size of the service and its geography. The events are always great fun and considered very worthwhile by the audiences they attract.

Amnesty!
Camden Council Library Service held its popular Library Fines Amnesty throughout the month of July. During the amnesty borrowers with overdue library fines were encouraged to return outstanding items, and then in exchange for a donation of tinned food, all overdue library fines were waived. The fines amnesty was held during the same period as Wrap with Love, and wool and knitted wool squares were also accepted as donations. Camden Council Library Service would like to thank our local community for their generosity – many borrowers donated food in excess of the amount of their fines. The 2008 Amnesty is our most successful with over 1500 donated items.
Happy customers
On 27th August 2008, Epping Library, a branch of Hornsby Shire Library & Information Service, won the Northern District Times 2008 True Local Business Award in the Community Service/Not for Profit category. The library was one of six finalists in this category.

Our Library team was ecstatic about winning the award as we were happy just to be nominated as a finalist by our customers. The finalists went through a rigorous judging process whereby the Branch Coordinator completed a questionnaire about the library service and the standard of customer service was tested by a visit from a mystery shopper.

Staff who attended the Awards function were stunned to be announced as the winners. Winning the award and a beautiful trophy is a wonderful recognition of the effort that staff and volunteers put into their work, to provide a great customer focussed service.

Mani Veeramuthu
Epping Library

Shellharbour Soiree
We recently held an adults’ only soiree, with an Antarctic theme. Instead of me telling you how wonderful the event was, here is a letter from one of our customers, Susan Russell.

I would like to extend a very warm thank you to Warilla Library and Susan Barnett for the most enjoyable and educational evening we had tonight; our winter soiree with the penguins. It went from 2 until 9pm, starting with two Wollongong University students giving a talk on the different types of moss found in the Antarctica, with a slide presentation. We then had a live call with Narelle Campbell, the Station Leader at Mawson Station in Antarctica. It was crystal clear and each one of us had the opportunity to ask her questions. We then watched March of the Penguins, incredible – no wonder it won an Oscar! And went on to make our own postcards, using crayons, drawing, paint, and collage, to be sent down to Mawson Station – WOW! After supper – pizza, cheese and biscuits, dips, fruit, more coffee, tea and juice – we enjoyed a penguin puppet show, singing, karaoke, dancing – the library staff were just fantastic. A quick Antarctic quiz finished the evening off. Everyone in attendance was absolutely thrilled with the whole event, and the rest of Shellharbour City had no idea what they missed. We would love to see similar events conducted on a regular basis.

Michael Jazbec
Shellharbour City Library Service
# Multicultural News

## 2008 Multicultural Seminar

Professor Gerry Turcotte, Executive Dean, School of Arts and Science, Notre Dame University gave the opening address at the annual Multicultural Seminar held recently at the State Library, and to quote from the evaluation sheets, *The fabulous and interesting talk by Gerry was a grand opening. I loved that you began the day with a Living with language ghosts – it was such a personal account and the photographs were a really nice touch.*

The next presentation by Carmel Martin from Liverpool City outlined the many programs the library runs for its very diverse population, including Arabic, Vietnamese, Hindi, Italian, Spanish, Serbian, Chinese, Tagalog, Greek and Assyrian speaking communities.

The library provides a number of programs, collections and technology to assist migrants to develop their English language skills. The English Language Learning Conversation Group is one of the most successful programs run by the library. The aim of this program is to assist migrants and humanitarian entrants to develop or improve their communication skills; learn, understand and appreciate the cultures of others; enhance their self-worth or self-confidence; participate actively in the life of their community; and feel a sense of belonging. In order to provide a venue for independent learning Liverpool developed a Language Learning Centre. This centre has a multimedia language lab, a TV, video and DVD player and headphones, four computers, and 27 learn English CDROMs suitable for beginners, intermediate and advanced learners.

One of the most recently developed programs is easyREADs. This program aims to develop a love of reading amongst the CALD participants; to develop, improve or enhance the participants’ vocabulary, as well as their comprehension, conversation, listening, pronunciation and social or interacting skills; and to boost their self-confidence.

The easyREADs program is held once a week for eight weeks during school term. The materials used are read-along kits, and the same title is read by participants at home. The accompanying CD is played at the meeting while members follow the story by reading the book. This is to allow the members to listen to how words are pronounced and to reinforce the learning process. At the end of the story and discussion that follows, there are exercises given to the participants to test their comprehension.

Sharon Tollard from Gunnedah Shire Library told the audience how all the staff work together to provide a multicultural library service to their community because it is everyone’s responsibility to provide excellent services and recognise cultural diversity. Using bulk loans of CALD material from the State Library they are able to provide a small, but diverse collection that is refreshed regularly. They provide services to minorities...
even if it is only to one person. The Gunnedah community includes small numbers of people from many backgrounds and cultures, and in the library they celebrate and embrace this diversity.

The final presentation was from Lucy Kinsley, about Lismore’s Living Library. A living library encourages and celebrates diversity; it promotes mutual respect and appreciation of people in the community, and it helps to counter prejudice, hostile attitude and stereotyping.

**Multicultural Excellence Awards 2008**

The Multicultural Excellence Awards were established to recognise, promote and encourage excellence in the field of multicultural library services, and are coordinated by the Working Group on Multicultural Library Services. The Awards recognise a public library service and an individual practitioner for demonstrated excellence in the delivery of multicultural library services. This year the Awards were presented by Frances Sims, Director, Public Library & Community Learning Services, State Library of NSW.

The Organisation Award honours a NSW public library which has demonstrated excellence in the provision of multicultural library services. This award has a cash price of $1,100. And the 2008 winner is… Parramatta City Library for their project *Promoting Equality in Diversity – publishing the Library brochure in 13 Languages*. The languages include several from emerging communities such as Dinka, Hindi, Persian, Burmese and Swahili. This project allows Parramatta City Library to engage people from CALD communities, and enables them to access appropriate Council services and facilities.

The Individual Award honours an individual practitioner working in a NSW public library, who has demonstrated innovative, dedicated and outstanding service to the multicultural community. And the 2008 winner is… Pauline Chan, Multicultural Services Librarian at Parramatta City Library.

Pauline is innovative and committed to assisting the community, especially those from CALD backgrounds, in using the library and its resources. She organises programs that assist people to gain living skills. She has organised health talks, police talks, Centrelink sessions etc in community languages. She contributes to her local community and is proactive in sharing her programs and contacts with the network of multicultural librarians. In 2007 Pauline worked with the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) to prepare bilingual leaflets and organise talks in Mandarin and Cantonese to encourage community members to protect the environment. She was nominated for this Award by DECC.

**Oriana Acevedo**  
*State Library of NSW*

**Mylanguage**

The national marketing campaign for the MyLanguage website (<www.mylanguage.gov.au>) was launched in November 2007 by Regina Sutton, NSW State Librarian and Chief Executive. Mylanguage is a national portal designed to deliver information and complement library services to multicultural Australia, using a number of innovative web-development techniques and scripting languages. MyLanguage is a joint partnership between the State and Territory libraries of New South Wales, Victoria, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Australia Capital Territory Library and Information Services.

The marketing of Mylanguage involved YouTube videos in a number of languages and the distribution of bookmarks and banners to the participating State and Territory libraries. Across Australia 70,000 bookmarks were distributed to public libraries and community
organisations and each State and Territory received five banners, which since November 2007 have continuously travelled across public libraries in the country. The bookmarks have scripts from different languages, and the banners reflect cultural diversity in their design.

In June 2008, on behalf of the participating State and Territories libraries, we commenced the recruitment of video talent using the tagline So you want to be a film star – Now recruiting! The project involved the production of a number of short and friendly video clips encouraging use of the website, in some of the languages covered by Mylanguage, and English. The video clips were then uploaded to the Youtube video sharing web site.

The videos were filmed between July and August 2008, using thirty volunteers, including staff from the State and public libraries and members of the community. The clips were filmed, edited and uploaded by Wesley Kington from the University of Western Sydney. All participants were native speakers of the languages which included Dutch, Dinka, German, Kannada, Korean, Portuguese, Swedish, Macedonian, Hindi, Slovak, Serbian, Somali, Italian, Arabic, Vietnamese, French, Bosnian, Tatar, Cantonese, Mandarin, Tamil, Polish, Gallego, Filipino, Turkish, Serbian, Croatian, and Thai. Participants signed a release form that allowed us to upload the videos onto YouTube.

In order to respect cultural differences, participants were provided with basic instructions only, not a script. For example, it was suggested that participants avoid specific greetings such as good morning or good evening, and simply invite the viewer to explore Mylanguage. Each participant used the most appropriate language according to their own culture. Some languages have different levels of proximity to the person to whom you are talking, and language can be formal or informal. These sensitive and complex aspects were left to the person delivering the message. Messages could be precise or chatty, brief or longer. Many of the participants dressed in national costume for the filming.

I’d like to thank all the participants from public libraries, who helped make this project a reality:

Gyatri Krishnamurthy (Tamil)
Vivien Chung (Cantonese)
Kemal Serdar (Turkish)
Maria Santiago (Spanish and Galego)
Magnolia Szabo (Spanish)
Patrici Hatzigianiss (Greek)
Valeria Griyadunova (Russian)
Billy Zhang (Madarin)
Katarzyna Malicka (Polish)
Nancy Tangsilsat (Thai)
Evelyn Uyloan (Filipino) and
Mirdada for organising the participation of Snejezana and Sladana Matijek (our Bosnian stars)

Thank you all for your ongoing commitment to the provision of library services to CALD communities.

For technical enquires please contact Andrew Cunningham, State Library of Victoria at andrewc@vicnet.net.au

For Marketing and promotion contact Oriana Acevedo, State Library of New South Wales, oacevedo@sl.nsw.gov.au

Oriana Acevedo
Multicultural Consultant
State Library of NSW

STOP PRESS

The Mylanguage project was named winner of the Technology Category of the National Multicultural Marketing Awards in late November. Congratulations!
BOOK WEEK

Queanbeyan
Children’s Book Week roared into action with about 2000 local preschoolers and school children walking, racing and riding on buses to the Queanbeyan City Library where their minds were filled with a program of stories, movie and racing game. Staff, attired as pit crew, transformed the Activity Room into a race track complete with colourful racing cars being driven by all the short-listed books, a trophy cabinet and petrol pumps filled with mind fuel.

All the local schools were invited to create banners, mobiles or models depicting our racing theme. These made a wonderful eye catching display for all our library visitors. Many children returned after school to proudly show parents and grandparents. Parents and teachers enjoyed helping children during our Read ‘n’ Race trivia game by making paper planes, blowing up balloons or balancing eggs on spoons for various races. Each child received an original ten-page Fuel Your Mind racing activity magazine and bookmark designed by library staff. They also received a racing car lolly from our trophy cup to enjoy during their return to school.

Leeton
Book Week was a great success at the Leeton Shire Library this year. As happens every year there was the What are we going to do with this theme panic and the We’ll never be ready panic. We decided Fuel your Mind called for a restaurant theme, so we set the restaurant table with the winning books, crockery, cutlery, a cardboard turkey, rubber vegetables, borrowed candelabra and the stockpot full of riddles. Library assistants Sandra Watson and Elizabeth Wylie dressed as chefs Cordon Lambsey and Reada Pages, and we were ready to begin.

Every year in Leeton we invite six local primary schools, the preschool and the playgroups to book into the library for half hour sessions of reading, dancing and jokes. It’s first in to get a spot and this year we hosted 32 classes and one play group.

Our formula for each session was the same for the whole week. We greeted each class at the door of our meeting room in our chef’s outfits. We brought them in and did the chicken dance with them (with DVD accompaniment). Then we invited the children to sit on the floor while we explained a bit about Book Week, read one or two of the books and then invited the children to come up the front and choose a riddle (without looking) from the stockpot. This provoked much hilarity as the stockpot also held a frog, a stretchy rubber chicken and gruesome toy sheep’s eyeballs. Then the children had a tour of the library with their teacher and participated in a couple of simple Book Week competitions.

All the classes seemed to really enjoy their time in the library. One of the main benefits to us is that we always
get children coming to join the library after Book Week because they think it’s a fun place to come

**Rev heads at Casino**

Children’s Book Week was a big success at Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library (RUCRL) with around 1400 children sharing our 2008 regional celebrations at the Central library in Casino, and our branches at Evans Head and Kyogle, and through special visits to early intervention centres and the like around Casino.

We went with a fun racing car theme using the catch-phrase RUCRL Fuel – Fuels your mind. Staff were the RUCRL Race Team pit crew and naturally our race cars were book and information fuelled. With the help of several local businesses, our library and Children’s areas were transformed into a grand prix race track. We were also very fortunate to have Richmond Valley Council Mayor Mr Charlie Cox visit as a surprise special guest storyteller.

Children, grown-ups and staff all had loads of racing fun with all the children receiving racing car themed colour-ins or puzzles and special gold medal chocolates, just like the Olympic athletes and the gold medals on the CBCA prize winners.

**Blacktown**

Children, parents and grandparents joined in the fun of Children’s Book Week celebrations at Blacktown Library, enjoying displays, fancy dress competitions and special event storytelling provided by library staff every day during Children’s Book Week. It’s fantastic, said Jennifer Burrell, Manager of Library Services, A really dynamic presentation. The kids loved it – so did the parents!

Luckily we had chosen to present *Pearl Barley and Charley Parsley*, by Aaron Blabey, as it won the Book of the Year prize in the Early Childhood category. The two staff members presenting the story, Lee Castledine and Annette Sowsun, easily took on the roles of Pearl and Charlie.

**Maitland**

Maitland City Library kicked off Book Week with a visit from acclaimed children’s author John Heffernan. John had the children captivated with tales about life on his farm and the animals who also call the farm home. The library’s expert storytellers enthralled 1076 children with *Stories from the Shortlist*, bringing the stories to life through a range of techniques including puppetry, magnet board and projection. Library staff selected three stories from the shortlist to share with local school children and used different methods to tell each story. *Lucy Goosey* came to life through projection, and *Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsley* entertained the children through stick puppetry. Everyone was captivated by the little mouse’s escape in *Shh Little Mouse*. Each session concluded with a reading of *Parsley Rabbit’s book about books*.
The library’s storytelling team visited three schools and one preschool and received positive feedback from each group – including mentions in school newsletters and thankyou cards and letters! Three schools and two preschools attended Stories from the Shortlist sessions at branch libraries, with staff from the Library Programs team combining with branch staff to deliver a very special programme.

*Stories from the Shortlist* provided Maitland City Library with a great opportunity to engage with local school children about the importance of books and reading. Many children who had not previously visited a library got their first insight into the role of libraries and the joy that reading can bring.

**Richmond Tweed**

Book Week once again was a busy time for all branches of the Richmond Tweed Regional Library, with some branches not finishing their class visits until mid September. Local schools in all areas showed a keen interest in the Book Week books and displays. As well as reading and responding to the 2008 shortlisted books, Branch library staff were fuelling the minds of readers by encouraging them to read widely. This was achieved by showing children the catalogue and where to find their books of interest.

Jasmine Andrews and Julia Gollan, *Maitland*  
Sandra Watson, *Leeton*  
Emma Ciechan, *Queanbeyan*  
Corinne Hughes, *Casino*  
Lee Castledine, *Blacktown*  
Nicole Don, *Richmond Tweed Regional*

**KOALAs**

On the 22nd of October five public librarians went KOALA watching, it was a thoroughly planned and orchestrated endeavor. We found our KOALAs at the Blacktown Library. If you are wondering what a KOALA is, check out www.koalansw.org.au to find out more.

This year Duncan Ball, Ursula Dubosarsky, Anna Fienberg, Kim Gamble, Catherine Jinks, Chris Milne, and Emily Rodda joined our brave librarians in Blacktown along with a very large contingent of children from across the state. It was a great day despite the weather. As Val Noake, KOALA Secretary commented, *It’s the first time that authors have had to come through snow to attend Awards Day!*

Thanks to the KOALA Committee for all their hard work, and to the Blacktown City Libraries for having us.

Alexander Mills  
*Children’s and Youth Services Librarian*  
*Ashfield Municipal Library*

**Spring Life Art Project**

In the dawn of Friday 10th October, long before the library doors opened, a little bird peered through the children’s library window and saw a Children’s Librarian tottering upon a very large ladder, with a series of equally large canvases full of vibrant energy and whimsical wonder. At 10am on that very same morning 120 small children loudly and busily hurried in for a picnic in the library to view the abstract expressionist paintings created by the children of Ashfield. The purpose of this project was to allow the children to clearly mark the Children’s Library as a kid’s space, and they have. The pictures can be seen from the front door and call to those among us who still contain a mere hint of playfulness.

The project was coordinated by Council’s Artist in Residence, Cher Breeze and involved five preschools and a parents group, Jumpin’ Joeys, who created a series of abstract expressionist paintings reflecting Ashfield in the spring time.

Each of the six canvases was a communal work completed by many hands. This shared creative experience means that these works truly reflect the
vibrancy and uniqueness of the Ashfield community through the eyes of children.

**Alexander Mills**  
*Children’s and Youth Services Librarian*  
*Ashfield Municipal Library*

**Books and writers**
On August 6, Frances Watt and David Legge, the author and illustrator of the award winning *Parsley Rabbit’s Book About Books* visited Guildford Library as part of the Books Alive promotion. Frances read her book in a very interactive way, quizzing the children about the features of a published picture book and their own reading interests. David followed this lively telling of the story with a demonstration of some of the techniques he employs to illustrate picture books. David sketched the outline of a dancing Panda Bear composed of geometric shapes (cylinders, circles, triangles) which he then shaded in with energetic lines to suggest the volume. He also did a sketch of Parsley Rabbit engaged in reading. The session concluded with many of the children purchasing copies of the book, which were then signed by the author and illustrator. David drew Parsley Rabbit on each child’s book with a personalised dedication. The 60 children attending from Guildford Public School thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were completely spellbound by the presentations of Frances and David.

Nadia Wheatley spoke to an enthralled group of sixty local primary school students from St Patrick’s and Guildford Public schools on Wednesday 19th August at Guildford Library. Nadia’s presentation lasted an hour in which she discussed the generation of her ideas (place, character and plot) and their realisation as a written text that includes rough illustrations. Nadia emphasised that her thinking about the place she set her stories was paramount. She showed the audience original artwork from several of her books including *My Place* and *Highway* and discussed the moods evoked by the illustrations.

Nadia has an affinity with Aboriginal culture and people and gave assistance to students at Papunya School to produce a book about their country and its history. With her friend, the artist Ken Searle, she has taken both indigenous and multi-ethnic groups of children on drawing and writing excursions in the Australian landscape. One specific example mentioned was the 16 children from south-western Sydney schools who spent time in Wolli Creek Valley (land of the Eora people) closely observing nature and producing photography, drawings and poetry based on what they experienced that day. The aim of the project was to foster harmony between children from vastly different cultural backgrounds and to develop a greater sensitivity to the natural world. This was such an inspiring story and the resulting publication *Going Bush* documents the outstanding work created by these children. Nadia’s sympathy with Aboriginal people was further revealed in her reflection that she had always conceived of time as being a spiral form which continuously moves back and forth, having no beginning or ending, and by coincidence, when she was working with an aboriginal artist on the *Papunya School Book* she discovered that the same spiral motif was in fact drawn on the earth by the aboriginals to represent time.

The children who attended Nadia’s talk were attentive and asked some very thoughtful questions about her motivation to write and her relationship with the illustrators she works with to produce her books. As Nadia remarked, they were on the ball when it came to answering the questions she asked of them. Her interactive style with the students was impressive and the content of her talk was informative and refreshing. It was a very special Book Week event for these school children who shared with Nadia the value of collaboration and a genuine love of books and reading.

**John McBeatty and Ann Hobday**  
*Guildford Branch Library*
**Camden’s babies**

Camden’s Babies into Books (BIBs) early literacy initiative has grown with another developmental milestone. New babies born after June 2008 in the Camden Local Government Area now receive a free board book upon joining the Library. We are shouting it from the rooftops – Babies are never too young to join the Library! The Library strengthened its partnership with Focus on New Families, which helps us place our BIBs promotional details and voucher to redeem baby’s free board book, into the hospital Blue books provided at birth.

Our BIBs program began in 2002 with one visit to a local playgroup. Since then we have grown from strength to strength, and we are thrilled to be able to congratulate our newest residents with a special gift.

The program is currently offered once a week across the Service, at either Camden or Narellan Library. January 2009 will see BIBs double in size, providing weekly lapsit sessions at both Libraries. It wasn't a hard decision to stretch the regular children’s budget to allow the purchase of these special gifts that would give our community’s newest members a head start at valuing the meaning of books and reading. It’s wonderful to think that we have the potential to put a Library card in the hands of every resident, and it’s even more of a thrill to put a book in the hands of each newborn.

Thanks to a partnership between Allen & Unwin and Moreland City Libraries and Eastern Regional Libraries, purchasing our board books has been possible at a significantly discounted price. Fingers and toes are crossed, hoping 2009 will bring a repeat of this special price!

**Barbara Jenkins**  
Camden Library

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**Its School Holiday Time…**

At the Bathurst Library we are all about fun for our children and youth, and when it comes to the school holidays we make sure that our kids don’t get bored! We work with the Bathurst Regional Art Gallery to put on an exciting array of holiday activities every time.

Programs such as the Playstation2 Play Offs have become very popular, where children can challenge each other to a game, play teams or sit back and watch the contest on the big screen. Hair and makeup classes are also a popular activity for budding young stylists. These programs are hosted by locally renowned hairdresser Cheyliegh Giaahn and her team and provide the basics in hair care, skin care and how to achieve the latest vogue looks.

We have also had great success with beading classes, hosted by a local artist/designer and bead shop owner. Children can design and make their own jewelry or take something special home for mum!

Blossoming artists do not miss out either, with the Art Gallery presenting clay modelling, drawing skills, photography and Impressionist workshops. All the art classes are hosted by local artist and workshop tutor, Jane Davidson.

Of course, books and storytelling are not forgotten with the Children’s Storytime, which is always a dazzling show of singing, dancing, stories and craft for young and old. In October Storytime goers discovered all about springtime and plants with stories such as *The Thirsty Flowers* by Wilson & Knoblock and Susanna Davidson’s version of *The Secret Garden*. The kids also got their hands dirty in the garden outside and finished with a free pizza lunch and cupcakes fresh from the CWA ladies’ ovens!

Since our holiday program started running, we have had to increase the amount of activities every time to keep up with the demand from the public. We must be doing something right!

**Natalie Apps**  
Outreach Services  
Bathurst Library

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*Baby book!*
Children’s News

Cartoon Dave Comes to Town
Children were given a treat last school holidays when the very popular Cartoon Dave visited our libraries in Batemans Bay, Moruya and Narooma. Dave set imaginations alight with his drawing techniques, and the children were encouraged to create cartoons of all shapes and sizes.

One of Dave’s rules when drawing cartoons is There are no rules! So three-headed dogs and aliens with five eyes and octopus legs were readily accepted creations. Dave’s inclusive technique meant that all the children became actively involved. A fun, creative and educational time was had by all.

Deb Nolan
Eurobodalla Library

Turtlin’ away
The Great Lakes Library Service recently launched its Tiny Turtle program. This is aimed at 0-2 year olds and their parents and is based on the Baby bounce model. Tiny Turtles has received very pleasing and steadily growing patronage and we’ve extended the program to our Tea Gardens Library branch. The Library now has a complete and fully turtled series of programs for children and youth! As well as Tiny Turtles (for the very young) there’s Turtle Time (for 3-5 year olds), the Turtle Club (for 6-12 year olds) and Turtle Terrors (for 12-18 year olds). If you’re wondering why so many turtle references have a look at our logo some time.

Chris Jones
Great Lakes Library

Kogarah’s crazy pages club
The Club was developed over the last term to cater for the 6 to 9 year age group. At Crazy Pages we aim to introduce creative ways for children to explore and develop their storytelling skills and creativity using drama, art, music, writing and reading. The program includes a story, some craft and activities based around the theme of the story.

This term each child will be writing their own short story relating to the theme You be the Champion. Children will have the opportunity to artistically create themselves as the champion of their own short story which will be displayed in our exhibition space over the Christmas holiday period. This will tie in with our Summer Reading Program which has the theme of Get in the Game – READ.

We are excited about the growing enthusiasm the kids in this age range display and hope to encourage and strengthen a love of reading.

Linda Heald
Kogarah Library and Cultural Centre

In-library experimentation
Laboratories were set up in Lake Macquarie City Library during National Science Week (16-24 August 2008) with the support of an Australian Government National Science Week grant. Local school children had the opportunity to hypothesise, experiment, and analyse with scientists from Springboard Science and CSIRO Education when the Library hosted 11 You Become the Scientist workshops. The hands-on sessions, for children from Year 3 through to Year 10, included It’s A Gas, The Colours of Light, Looking at Liquids, and Working Scientifically, aimed to demonstrate how science is interesting and relevant to everyday life.

The budding scientists experimented with eggs and salt to learn why water is so important; milk, food colourings, detergent, and water reveal the properties of light; and, vinegar and bicarbonate of soda were two of the materials that unraveled the mysteries of gas. Older students...
worked scientifically with fruit batteries, disappearing sugar, and used models to explore gears and pendulums.

Students and teachers enjoyed the sessions with a typical response being *it was fabulous! There were lots of smiles and high engagement!*

**Julie Dunn**  
*Lake Macquarie City Library*

**My what a big footprint you have**

In September, Randwick City Library Service’s *Eco Heroes Club* found out just how big their carbon footprints were and resolved to change things. The children, aged 6 to 8, meet on a monthly basis to discuss issues relating to the environment and how they can make a difference, no matter how small. Following a discussion on greenhouse gases and their impact on the environment, each Eco Hero painted their pledges onto canvases – they promised to switch off lights, use less water, walk to school and buy food with less packaging.

The group met in the October school holidays for a fun and educational ponding activity at Centennial Park. The Heroes learnt about the pond critters and how humans impact on this fragile ecosystem. They followed a winding path through a forest and discovered the source of the natural stream which pumps fresh water into Centennial Parks ponds.

*We’ll be talking recycling next!*  

**Michelle Kline**  
*Randwick*

**Ahoy, ye scurvy dogs**

September 19th saw around 100 little pirates come to Narrabri Library to celebrate International Talk Like a Pirate Day. We held four sessions during the day to cater for preschoolers, class visits and after school pirates. The staff and volunteers dressed up as pirates and held treasure hunts, told stories, sang songs and played pin the pirate on the treasure. Every child left with a newspaper pirate hat and most children left with a pirate bookmark. The after school children even left with a painted pirate moustache!

**Jenny Campbell**  
*Narrabri Library*

**Hands on Science**

Questacon Science Play is an exciting hands-on science program for children aged 0 to 6. Parkes Library hosted the program for over 50 children recently. Science Play aims to encourage young children to explore and learn about the world around them. The program includes hands-on science activities which explore science themes such as light, sound, liquids and living things. Positive feedback was given by the teachers and parents, attending with the children. The fantastic time had by the children was evident in their smiling faces, rapt attention and inquisitive questions.

**Shellie Buckle**  
*Parkes Library Services*

**Arthur enthralls**

Over one hundred children took part in National Simultaneous Storytime in four Newcastle Region Library branches. This event has proved to be a popular
Children’s News

outreach to local preschools and again a number joined us for the special occasion. At Wallsend District Library a stage was set up as Mrs Humber’s pet shop and children enjoyed helping to act out the antics of Arthur and his friends. The animal headbands were also a big hit. Newcastle City Library held their storytime in the park and attracted both preschools and the public. Arthur was a popular choice and enjoyed by all.

Julie Swane
Newcastle Region Library

Standing room only!
During the school holidays Sutherland Shire Libraries celebrated Circus Fun. Many of the staff dressed as clowns and entertained the kids with some great circus stories, activities and a juggling ball craft. Our Central Library and Caringbah branch also were visited by Ben Trez the Magician. Ben had come highly recommended from Amber at Botany Library, and we certainly did not regret our decision to book him through Woo Hoo Entertainment.

Our morning show was held at the Central Library and as the starting time approached the audience grew bigger and bigger and within minutes our Southern Lounge area was at full capacity! 230 littlies and biggies (yes he was so entertaining the adults did not want to move away,) sat for an hour and a half amazed by Ben’s tricks and wonderful personality. He had two white doves, one who helped with his tricks and another that just sat patiently for the entire show resting on top of one of our bookshelves. She flew back to him at the end of the show. Highlights included the floating orb, putting the rope through the middle of one nervous volunteer and the countless number of eggs Ben was able to fit into his mouth! The afternoon show at Caringbah attracted 110 eager attendees. It was a great day and the feedback we received was fantastic. But I’ve just realised I haven’t yet checked the top of the bookshelves for any dove poop!

Melinda McNaughton
Sutherland Shire Libraries

Parramatta kids
Hula, Hip Hip Hop, Merengue and Indian Dancers were just a few of the acts that took part in Parramatta City Library’s inaugural mini talent quest held at the library over the holidays. The audience of over 50 children and adults voted on their favourite acts. It was so popular it is sure to become an annual event.

Staff at Parramatta City Library have been saving their milk and egg cartons, cardboard tubing and old CDs plus more, to be used for the recycled junk art activity held at the library during the October school holidays. Representatives from Transpacifc Cleanaway mingled with the 80 plus kids as they created their masterpieces chatting about waste management. From the pile of junk came such wonderful items as a Hannah Montana party stage and elaborate robots. Staff are gearing themselves up to save even more stuff for the January Holiday Junk Art Spectacular.

Narelle Adams
Parramatta Library

Indian dancing!
School holiday activities
In the July school holidays Woollahra Library celebrated NAIDOC week with indigenous storytimes and dance performances by Les Saxby as well as a celebration of the upcoming Olympics with a mini Olympics run by Sports Fundamentals in the Blackburn Gardens surrounding the Library.

In the October school holidays our talented Children’s Library staff held paper craft workshops which included making some basic and advanced origami models of everything from cups to water bombs to paper cranes as well as a series of workshops on the finer arts of making paper planes and one incredibly popular paper helicopter.

Michelle Goldsmith
Wyong Shire Library Service

Ermington
Ermington Branch Library hosted two school holiday activities with a difference. During the October school holidays the Library hosted Pirates, and as part of the activities the children made pirate craft – hats, eye patches, parrots and spyglass telescopes! The children loved making the best pirate images.

As part of the holiday fun the Library hosted a drama workshop for children from five to eight years old, presented by a dynamic and professional theatre company called Monkey Baa. The drama workshop was based on the book Milli, Jack, and the Dancing Cat, written by Stephen Michael King. The workshop was tailored to the needs of young participants, and the book was brought to life through basic drama games, improvisation and movement. The children had a lot of fun and the exercises and games in this workshop encouraged teamwork and enhanced participants’ creativity.

Janet de Bres
Woollahra Library and Information Service

10!
Coffs Harbour City Library celebrated 10 years of regular weekly storytime in October. The Library celebrated with a children’s party at each branch following storytime, including a large birthday cake for everyone to enjoy. Local media also covered the event.

The Library held Foody Craft activities at each of its branches during the October school holidays. The theme was chosen to connect with National Nutrition Week which is also celebrated in October. Over 150 children had heaps of fun making Fruit Loop necklaces, pasta skeletons and play-dough fruit baskets!

Enzo Accadia
Coffs Harbour City Library & Information Service

Jungle storytime
Another evening storytime was held at Tuggerah Library during the school holidays and again proved to be a very popular event. The theme was Jungle Jamboree, and patrons were asked to bring along their favourite jungle animal. After stories, songs and felt board games, jungle juice and jungle treats were devoured alongside the fierce jungle animals.

Michelle Goldsmith
Wyong Shire Library Service

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Danusia Podniesinski
Ermington Library

Pirate hats

Storytime team
Ballina
Three of Ballina Public Library’s very talented library assistants conducted some fun filled school holiday activities during the October 2008 school holidays. First up, Jo Burke enthralled some 15 children with activities and stories based on Anna Fienberg’s character Tashi. Wendy Hoven then encouraged their artistic creativity with a mask making activity. 20 children had a very enjoyable time creating some fantastic masks. And to finish up, Bronwyn Orme helped 22 children hone their enthusiastic origami skills in a paper plane making workshop. The children folded their planes and decorated them with coloured stickers.

Nicole Don
*Richmond Tweed Regional Library*

Taking to the road
Rockdale Library and Community Information Service teamed up with Council’s Environmental Strategy Department to take kids on the road or rather to the park, as part of the spring school holiday activities.

This was an experiment for us, as we always run our activities inside the library – for obvious reasons. However, all staff members involved loved the idea of the kids getting their hands dirty and planting seedlings in a local park. We were all pleasantly surprised that the activity was so popular, particularly since families needed to make their own way to the park. A local bush care coordinator attended the session and explained some weird and wonderful facts about Australian plants, but the majority of the time was taken up by lots and lots of planting activity. A risk assessment nightmare – but well worth the effort.

Heike Ohrmann
*Rockdale Library and Community Information Service*

Under the Big Top
Roll up, roll up, roll up!!
Over 1000 children attended Ryde Library Services’ Under the Big Top school holiday activities in October.

We made juggling balls, balloon animals and clown costumes galore!!

Our children had fun making balloon animals or popping lots of balloons trying. The juggling balls were great to make, but unfortunately actually juggling them was a little more difficult. We then magically changed the younger children into laughing and funny clowns with a clown costume making workshop. There were smiles all around.

Masked! In the park
Clowns
The wonderful Magic Jester wowed an audience of over 800 children and parents showing sleight of hand and magical disappearing bunnies. He was a fantastic addition to our school holiday activities and not only showed his great magic tricks but everyone had a huge laugh at all his jokes.

Stay tuned for the next school holiday activities in January.

Gabbi Wyllie
Ryde Library services

Wagga kids
Young insect fans joined bug expert Jacqui Love at a recent Wagga Wagga City Library school holiday program, Travel Bugs. Travel Bugs offers a hands-on experience with a range of species including centipedes, millipedes, stick insects, beetles, spiders and caterpillars.

For a small fee of $5 participants were able to hear Jacqui’s stories about her life as a zoo keeper at Taronga Zoo as well as gain interesting insights into the hidden world of butterflies, as Jacqui spent a number of years as a Butterfly Keeper at the Sydney Tropical Butterfly House. Later in the session children were able to hold various insects and ask specific questions about the individual mini beasts and insects. An enthralling program and one I would recommend without hesitation.

Over 4,000 children attended the Wagga Wagga City Council’s annual children’s activity day called the Little Big Day Out. The Wagga Wagga City Library ran a side show alley with classic games like can stack, quoits and hobby horse wrangling.

Enthusiastic staff from across the library service got into the spirit of the event donning cowboy hats, pistols and sheriffs badges. The Little Big Day Out is a great opportunity to showcase the library facility, services and programs.

Michael Scutti, Chrissie Bolton, (Wagga Wagga City Library) Anne Reardon, (Riverina Regional Library) and Anne’s partner Sean Reardon recently formed a Children’s Band and performed at the 2008 Little Big Day Out. The Jumping Beans had the crowd bouncing about with their vibrant mix of contemporary children’s songs, ordinals and golden oldies. (Available for your next library children’s event – at a substantial fee).

Chrissie Bolton
Programs Coordinator
Wagga Wagga Library

Chatterbooks
In 2008, Blue Mountains City Library launched its latest literacy venture, Chatterbooks, a book group for primary children (6 to 12 years). The aim of Chatterbooks is to fill two literacy needs in the community: firstly, to encourage children who are not great readers to give it a go, and convince them that reading is fun; and secondly, to help those children who are interested in reading gain a real understanding of what they read.

Following on the heels of Blue Mountains Library early literacy programs such as Books for Babies, Babytime and Storytime, Chatterbooks extends the literacy programs into the school years. The children talk about a variety of topics, such as the books themselves, elements of stories, characters, different kinds of writing, and more. They write their own poetry, stories and book reviews, and play character games. Chatterbooks has been a huge success at Katoomba and Blaxland Libraries. Blue Mountains City Library are planning to extend this program even further, adding more groups and building on what has already been achieved in the early sessions.

Melissa Stortenbeker
Blue Mountains City Library
Young adults update

HSC @ Camden
This year Camden Council Library Services diversified our HSC program. As well as our ever-popular lecture series, we also held DeStress Your Head to highlight Stress Less Day, and an HSC Lock-in complete with tutors.

120 students participated in lectures in Ancient History, Modern History, English and Legal studies. The Ancient and Modern History lectures were presented by Bruce Dennett who always proves incredibly popular with the students. English – The Journey was presented by Larry Grumley and was once again our most well attended lecture. Wayne Gleeson, our legal studies presenter, engaged the students in a four-hour workshop rather than a lecture. Participants agreed that this in-depth study of the Legal Studies curriculum was more attractive than a lecture and all walked away confident of exam success (if a little exhausted!)

These lectures are evidence of the successful partnership built between Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly Libraries as they are planned and promoted across all three Macarthur councils. Combining the resources of three library services in close proximity is effective in utilising our budgets as well as our students’ time most effectively. The partnership allows for better promotion as well as ensuring we don’t double up on less popular speakers. Feedback from the events was overwhelmingly positive and we are looking forward to providing this valuable service again next year.

In addition to the lecture series we also received a grant in conjunction with Council’s Community Services department, for Mental Health Week. The grant allowed us to hire professional masseurs to provide HSC students and other young people with free neck and shoulder massages. Destress your Head gave 40 students a valuable break in the exam lead up and provided a welcome relief in what is undoubtedly a stressful time for young people.

The final event for HSC students this year was an HSC Lock-in. Held after hours the event attracted 60 students. Zones were set aside for silent study, group study and relaxation. English tutors were employed to help students with last minutes questions. Due to the overwhelmingly positive feedback, the event will become a regular part of our HSC program.

HSC study haven
HSC support at Auburn Library has been an integral part of our library life for many years and all staff make a great effort to ensure our HSC students are aware of the services that Auburn Library offers to support them.

Apart from a specialised HSC collection of resources and a range of seminars and subject support sessions, the library has also recognised the need for a quiet study area exclusively for the use of HSC students. The open design of Auburn Library makes it difficult to ensure quiet study areas so in the weeks leading up to the HSC Library staff supervise a study area in one of Council’s meeting rooms. The area is marketed as the HSC Study Haven, and operates on weekdays between 3.30pm to 6.00pm. The study area has proven to be very popular with almost 200 students taking advantage of the space and peace.

Auburn Library has also recently subscribed to the Yourtutor service and many of our HSC students are taking advantage of this online homework help service.

The HSC Study Haven at Auburn Library makes an ideal place for individual, quiet study and our senior students are demonstrating their appreciation by utilising the service. The library will be evaluating the services for HSC students and will continue to develop services and resources to support local students.

Annetta Kucharska.
Auburn Library
**Mosman teens get gory**

Local teens were invited to come to Mosman Library during the October 2008 school holidays to learn how to get gross, gory and downright disgusting. Professional make up artist Natasha Shae Donnelley conducted a workshop all about the amazing special effects make-up seen in TV and the movies. Participants learned how to do gross bruises, bloody stitches and realistic black eyes.

The workshop came out of some input from our youth consultants committee. They expressed an interest in activities that were a little less traditional and ones that appealed to both guys and girls. The discussion then came around to the idea that we should do something for Halloween, and a special effects make-up workshop was born!

We found the make-up artist through a staff member and she organised all the supplies. Natasha came along on the day and started by giving me a black eye (much to the delight of the young people) then everyone broke up into groups and learned how to do black eyes, bruises and stitches. Everyone really got into the workshop and Natasha had them captivated. It was a great surprise to us all when our two hours were up. By the end of the workshop it looked more like fight club than a library activity.

The *Mosman Daily* came along to the event and took some great photos. The young people loved seeing their names in the paper and we have had some great feedback from both participants and parents. This workshop was definitely a departure from our normal activities, but it was very well received and I would highly recommend it.

**Amy Barker**  
*Mosman Library*

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**John Marsden at Kempsey**

Australia's leading teen author, John Marsden visited the Kempsey Library and local high schools in late September. The visit was made possible by a grant from the State Library to the Mid North Coast Library Cooperative. John shared his unique brand of wisdom with over 400 students and interested people.

First stop was Melville High School where John spoke with two groups of students about the writing process, developing writing skills, where to get ideas and how to develop them. John spoke about high status and low status in terms of the way people interact with each other. The sessions were very interactive with John getting students to play act with him to demonstrate these ideas.

The afternoon took us to St Paul's College where John spoke with a group of year 11 students about the HSC theme *Belonging*. People traveled from all over the shire [which is a rather large area] to take advantage of John's talk at Kempsey Library. Many of the parents attending credited John with encouraging their children to read. A consistent comment was *My child never read anything until they discovered your books – now I can’t stop them!* Many people had bought John's books along which he kindly signed for them.

The following morning there were two sessions at Kempsey High School where interested students had been doing Marsden Mania for the previous three weeks. The students had put together various works, which were on display when we arrived. John took the time to look at all of these, sign them and make encouraging comments. One student had put together a screen saver which was visible on all the computers in the Library where John spoke. He had used book covers, John's website and some material from ABC websites *Enough Rope* and *Inside Story*. All the works were impressive with the teachers commenting that the students had never been so dedicated to a project. 160 students attended these sessions where John discussed his novels and how he gets his ideas. It was a real privilege to have an author of this calibre visit the area and provide inspiration to our young people.

**Lisa Beecham**  
*Kempsey Shire Library*
Young adults update

YAMP

In 2007, Gosford City Library (GCL) sent out a call to young adults who would like to be involved in a media project over the course of the year. The project was coordinated by the AV & Multimedia Librarian, Rachel Ritchie and librarians Beckie Copland and Kira Paznikov Barry. The aim of the project was to unleash and showcase the creativity of young people in the local area, allowing the opportunity to make a short film or take photographs on any topic.

The library provided meeting spaces, advice and some equipment, with the group meeting on a weekly basis. Following the teething stages of the project where new members came and went, YAMP (Young Adult Media Productions) was born with a core group of ten teenagers and pre teens. The group came up with its own name via a ballot and designed a logo.

The majority of the group decided to work on a film project based on a Robin Hood theme. For several months the script was fine tuned, rehearsed and finally filmed in November 2007.

Other YAMP projects included a documentary about lapidary enthusiasts on the Central Coast, and a series of local wildlife photographs set to music. GCL purchased Adobe Premier to be used for editing the films.

The launch of the three films took place at a special April school holidays session of Friday Flicks in The Hive. Friday Flicks is usually a popular summer program of free outdoor films organised by GCL and Erina Fair shopping centre (managed by Lend Lease), but it also runs in school holidays throughout the year. All participants were given a copy of their work, with the library retaining copies for its local area collection.

Overall the project has been rewarding for both staff and participants, affording the opportunity for youth in the area to engage with the library in a non-traditional way, together with allowing skill development in the areas of film production and photography.

Kira Paznikov Barry
Gosford City Library

Young writers rock

Randwick City Library Service hosted the inaugural Randwick Young Writers’ Festival in the October school holidays. Children had the opportunity to attend free workshops on story writing and illustration, song writing, play writing and poetry. The workshops were facilitated by well known and respected locals such as playwright, director and actor, Bill Conn; author Joanne Fedler; and local music teacher and song writer Allan McFadden. Visiting leading South African political cartoonist and artist, Dov Fedler, lead the illustration workshops.

Over 100 children aged between 7 and 16 years attended the workshops which were bursting at the seams. This was the first time a writers’ festival has been held in the Eastern suburbs especially for children and will certainly not be the last!

Michelle Kline
Randwick Library

TWILIGHT

Warringah

The night was dark and stormy, the library was dimly lit... staff channeled their inner vampire to set the mood for Warringah Library Service’s Breaking Dawn Release Party, on Friday 1st August 2008.

The meeting room was transformed into a dim dark dungeon of despair. Walls were lined with black plastic and splattered with dripping blood red paint. The goodies table was decorated with candelabras, red roses and black candles. To celebrate the final book, a massive chess board and chess pieces were created...
There was no doubt the girls had an awesome time, with screams, chatter and laughter, but the best fun of all was had by THE LIBRARIANS!!

Megan Tolnay, Mellisa Taylor and Clare Wong
Warringah

Lismore

To celebrate the release of Stephanie Meyer’s *Breaking Dawn*, Lismore Library held a pre-launch party on Friday 1st of August.

Having several enthusiastic staff members it was easy to come up with fun activities and put on a party that would excite the sometimes difficult to impress teenage crowd. With music from Stephanie’s playlists on in the background, the excitable fans started to arrive, and enjoy badge making, t-shirt painting and the Edward and Jacob debate.

The quiz was successful, none of the fans even needing the multiple choice options. The prizes were badges supplied by the publisher and a dip in the chocolate fountain.

At the end of the night everyone went home with a badge and a painted t-shirt or patch. We were thanked for putting on an awesome party and all went home waiting for the release of the book on Monday.

Nicole Don
Richmond Tweed Regional Library
Drug Action Week (DAW)

Drug Action Week at Coffs Harbour City Library was a big event this year, partly due to the funding received from NSW Health, which allowed us to do things on a grander scale than previous years. First and foremost were the *Alcohol is a drug too!* workshops, in which we had 300 years 8 and 9 high school students attend (11 classes). These workshops were run by Joe Gormley from NSW Health and Shelley Rowe, who is completing her PhD and does research into alcohol related harms. The workshops focused predominantly on educating young people on how to reduce the risks to themselves and their friends when they were out in situations where alcohol was available. Students were taught how to put someone in a recovery position and how to ring an ambulance. It was amazing how many students thought you rang 911 in an emergency! In addition to learning the correct phone number, students also learnt the importance of staying on the line in an emergency.

The workshops ran for an hour and were very interactive. The students were involved in role-playing hypothetical situations, and then involved in discussing how they could have reduced or prevented the harm to themselves or their friends. The kids were much more involved in what we were doing. It was more successful than previous workshops we have run, where there was less interaction.

All students who attended the workshops received a DAW bag which contained information promoting our library service, including the drug info @ your library collection and website. The bags also contained various pamphlets highlighting drug and alcohol issues.

As part of our DAW celebrations the library also held a drug quiz based on the drug info @ your library collection and website. With funding received from NSW Health we were able to offer a 16 GB iPod touch (worth $500) as the main prize, which proved very attractive to high school students. One of the main aims of running the quiz was to encourage students to become aware of the drug info @ your library collection, and the types of resources held in it. We had a rather innovative child who emailed some of the questions to our reference desk to be answered! Thanks to the State Library, we were able to offer some of the 1GB wristband USBs as runner up prizes, which the kids thought were pretty cool.

We used some funding to pay for all bus travel transporting students to the workshops at the library. This helped to remove one barrier that had prevented some schools attending in previous years. The other incentive was a collection of drug and alcohol resources to all school libraries that had students attending the workshops. This had the added bonus of strengthening relationships between our library and school librarians.

Carolyn Elmes (team leader) was interviewed by Prime News, 2CH radio and the local newspaper. These all helped raise the profile of the library and DAW events we were holding.

The *Alcohol is a drug too!* workshops were a good example of how effective collaborating can be when coordinating these types of events. The people involved in organising this event all came together with their individual knowledge and skills and were able to create a workshop that was much more effective that if done by one individual.

Liz Thomas
Coffs Harbour City Library

YourTutor Launch

Richmond Tweed Regional Libraries were successful in gaining joint sponsorship with Griffith University and Bananacoast Community Credit Union (BCU) in providing YourTutor services to all students in the Richmond/Tweed areas. A launch was conducted at the Tweed Heads branch library with guests from Griffith University, BCU, the libraries, school principals, keen students and Jack Goodman from YourTutor. The launch was a great success, with the media attending and it was also a chance to promote the library service with colourful photos and articles in the newspapers.

Nicole Don
Richmond Tweed Regional Library
In touch with the State Library

Farewell to Kathleen
After more than 36 dedicated years of service, Kathleen Bresnahan has retired from the State Library. Kathleen has been a great friend and colleague to both State Library and public library staff over the years. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with her. She is thoughtful, sensitive, thorough, and has a wonderful sense of humour. Kathleen has been an outstanding contributor as a member of the Executive team in the two years that I have worked with her, in her role leading the Public Library Services Division. We could not have undertaken the review of the public library funding model without her guidance, support, leadership and remarkable resilience. It is no wonder that she not only commands the respect of staff but is much loved for her warm and engaging leadership style. Thank you Kathleen for your outstanding contribution to our Library for so many years!!! We will miss her dearly.

Regina Sutton
CEO and State Librarian

Celebrating Diversity
On 28th October 2008 the State Library of NSW celebrated the Festival of Lights, Deepavali. A large number of library staff attended, many clad in traditional Indian outfits. Delicious authentic Indian dishes from almost all regions of India were served.

Nishi Tripathi
Public Library and Community Learning Services

eRecords update
Thanks to NSW Government funding, State Library staff have begun entering electronic records (eRecords) into the catalogue. Project teams are creating eRecords for items in the Library’s Pictures, Maps and Mitchell Library Printed Books collections. In the first year of the project, records will also be created for collections of Rare Books and subdivision plans. The project will change how public libraries and clients access the Library’s collections and use its services, with online access 24/7, shorter waiting periods, more efficient retrieval, and more equitable access for remote areas.

Jennifer Berryman
eRecords Project

drug info @ Newtown Festival
The sunscreen was very popular, the USB wristbands were deemed cool and the drug and alcohol information was useful to the 80,000 strong crowd at our drug info @ your library stall at Newtown Festival. We had visits from a wide range of people - a GP who wanted to know more about Ice, a psychologist interested in referring clients to our website, a coordinator of a young parents’ program, parents of teenagers, young people concerned about the drug or alcohol use of a friend, and health workers who wanted our resources. We had 171 entrants in the USB competition, and the five winners were very happy they’d won such a sought after item. The banners and drug info @ your library material made a colourful display.

Public libraries can borrow a banner to promote drug info at an event. We have two, in different sizes. Contact Kate O’Grady on 9273 1684 or kogrady@sl.nsw.gov.au
In the State Library Galleries

**Bondi Jitterbug: George Caddy and his Camera**
Mitchell Galleries
Until 22 February 2009
The work of amateur photographer, champion Jitterbug dancer and Bondi local George Caddy is displayed for the first time in this exhibition of 60 photographs. These distinctive photographs document Bondi Beach during the late 1930s and early 1940s and feature parading lifesavers, leisure seekers wearing the latest beach fashions and the astonishing gymnastic feats known as ‘Beachobatics’.

**The Magic Pudding: Watercolours by Norman Lindsay**
The Picture Gallery
Until 29 March 2009
The much-loved characters of Norman Lindsay’s classic The Magic Pudding star in this exhibition featuring his 1959 watercolour paintings. These works inspired the Marionette Theatre Company’s Tintookie puppets, which bring Lindsay’s characters to life.

**Unclassified: Creative work by State Library staff**
Various locations throughout the Library
Until 1 February
For the first time, more than 30 State Library staff display personal creative work in foyers, corridors and cases around the Library. You can get to know us through our painting, sculpture, jewellery, graphic art and photography.

**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.

**Coming soon**
Information Online 2009
20-22 January 2009
Sydney
www.information-online.com.au

PLNSW-Country Symposium
24-26 June 2009
Parkes

**Deadlines for Public Library News**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 2009</td>
<td>13 February 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2009</td>
<td>12 June 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2009</td>
<td>16 October 2009</td>
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Image: Science on the move at Goulburn (see story page 14)