Coming soon

Literacy Decade
www.nald.ca/WHATNEW/hnews/2002/undecade.htm
Phone: 02 9262 5111

2005 International Year of Sport and Physical Education

CPLA Conference
A Feast of Formats
19-22 July 2005 Gosford

National Literacy and Numeracy Week
29 August - 2 September 2005
http://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au

Read aloud summit
31 August - 1 September 2005
"Whoever You Are, Whatever You Are - You Can Read Aloud"

National Simultaneous Storytime
Friday 2 September 2005 11.00am EST
"Wombat Stew" by Marcia Vaughan and illustrated by Pamela Loftus

Mobile Muster
10 - 11 September 2005 Maroochydore, Qld
Contact: Valda Gliori on tel: 07 54 757161 or email: glioriv@maroochy.qld.gov.au

Welcome: a seminar on public library buildings
10 October 2005
Blacktown Library, Flushcombe Road, Blacktown
Contact: Jan Witcombe on tel: 02 9273 1527
jwitcombe@sl.nsw.gov.au

Public Libraries Australia Conference
9 - 11 November 2005 Albury
Contact: Robert Knight on 02 69269777 or Knight.Robert@wagga.nsw.gov.au

In the State Library Galleries

2003 to 2012 United Nations
Reclaiming Felix the Cat
Unit 7 August 2005
Mitchell Galleries

A magnificent spectacle
To April 2005
Theatre posters from J C Williamson’s, 1905 – 1914
Macquarie Cases

Jaques Cadry Memorial Art Prize
Until 7 August 2005
Mitchell Galleries

Heritage Collection
Supported by the Nelson Meers Foundation this exhibition showcases some of the most beautiful and significant items from the Mitchell, Dixon and Rare Books collections.
Mitchell Galleries

Mr Mitchell’s monument
An architectural history of the Mitchell Library
Ongoing display
Dalgety Walkway

Deadlines for Public Library News
November 2005 issue 15 September 2005
Please remember that images supplied must be high quality originals or high resolution scans (300dpi) saved in eps or tif format.

A premier opening at Lithgow!

Youth Zone Queanbeyan

Wagga Library goes shopping!

In the libraries • Multicultural news • Young adults update
Library staff working in isolation

The Riverina Regional Library Advisory Committee has compiled an issue paper relating to staff working in isolation in libraries. The following is a summary of the paper, which is available from Riverina Regional Library. The enquiry posted on the NSWPLN listserv elicited a healthy and interested response from 16 library managers and branch library staff who were either facing the same issue themselves, or had implemented risk management strategies to maximise the safety of library staff working in isolation. Mobile library operators, who generally work alone, were identified as a major risk amongst respondents.

The following are the scenarios that were identified as presenting major risks for library staff who work in isolation:

- Intimidation
- Verbal abuse
- Physical abuse/violence
- Stalking
- Sexual abuse
- Damage to library property
- Theft of library material
- Armed hold-up

The following strategies have been implemented in a number of libraries (both metropolitan and country) to address the risks identified above:

- No night time opening for single staff branches
- Minimum of two staff members working at all times
- Collaboration or co-location with other Council services to increase staffing levels
- Installation of panic buttons at library counters (back-to-base system)
- Issuing staff with personal alarms
- Installation of closed circuit television
- Establishing close contact with other agencies that work in the same building
- Establishing a system of Council backup where the library is located either within or adjacent to the Council building
- No surnames on staff name badges
- Establish a close relationship with local police
- Ready staff access to emergency numbers
- Employ security staff
- Implement a “buddy” system for staff to escort each other to their vehicles at night
- Provide night staff with undercover counters (back-to-base system)
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The space is the name of Liverpool City Library's new youth area launched in December 2004 by the Honorable Paul Lynch, State Member for Liverpool and Gabrielle Kibble, Administrator, Liverpool City Council. The space was funded by a Library Development Grant of $149,045 in the 2003/04 round of grants, as well as Liverpool City Council funding.

The space has primarily been designed for young adults, aged 12 to 19 years living in Liverpool. These ages correspond to the years that young people attend high school or go out into the workforce for the first time. While it is acknowledged that some of the resources and programs provided appeal to young people who fall outside of this age range, the space has been specifically tailored to the needs of this group.

Over 10,000 people in Liverpool are aged between 12 and 19 years, which is 11% of the total population. This is slightly higher than the average for the Sydney Metropolitan area, which is 10%. Furthermore, Liverpool has a significant number of people aged between 5 and 11 years who make up 11% of the population. Over the next few years this age group will contribute 11% of the City Library's total population. The library is no longer experienced as an extension of the school library, but as an enjoyable, recreational space. The space is accessed by a diverse range of young people, including those who had never used the library before.

A safe place to go also reached some interesting conclusions with regard to the use of libraries by youth. For example:

- Some libraries provided services specifically for youth, such as HSC resources and quiet areas in which to study. These libraries had high usage by young users, and tended to leave these users to themselves much more than other libraries. Quiet interaction was encouraged, and ample, comfortable areas were provided for them to work in. These libraries also reported the least trouble with youth.

- In June 2002 Liverpool City Council conducted a survey of young people in the Liverpool CBD to identify their needs and concerns. The survey results supported the concept of creating a youth space at the City Library, finding that young people want:
  - a place to hang out and meet with friends.
  - to have access to a range of services to young people.
  - to feel comfortable to hang out.
  - to provide access to a range of services to young people in Liverpool.
  - to make the Library more relevant to young people in Liverpool by engaging them in the development of services and programs.
  - to form working partnerships with other youth service providers.
  - to develop an integrated approach to providing recreational and informational services and programs.
  - to attract young people who currently do not use the Library.

For the youth area to be successful the involvement of and consultation with young people is critical. The need to cooperate with young people in the design of library services is emphasised in Guidelines for Young Adult Services.
available in the Library.
- A message and notice board.
- The following types of library materials have been selected for inclusion within the space:
  - books, mainly youth fiction and popular non-fiction. Research and study needs will be met by the Library's non-fiction collection situated on level four.
  - interactive video games, such as PlayStation™ games.
  - DVD videos.
  - music CDs.
  - youth magazines.
  - lifestyle pamphlets which are free to take. Examples would include health and legal pamphlets, concert and party fliers. They are displayed on pamphlet stands. Other service providers will provide some of these pamphlets. This approach will expose young people to other services that were previously unknown to them.
- copies of free music papers such as Revolver, 3D World and Drum Media.
- Other library materials aimed at young people, such as recreational books, are available in the adjoining area on Level 2 and research and study needs are catered for on Level 4. The Children's and Youth Services Librarian coordinates the selection of materials. A community based selection meeting has been conducted with young adults and it is planned to host these on a regular basis.
- In addition, a range of youth programs will be provided both by the Library and other youth service providers using the presentation facilities that are available within the Space. A number of pilot programs will be conducted during the first year of operation so as to enable the Library to identify what types of activities work and don’t work within the area. The aim is to present a mixture of recreational, informational and life skills type programs.
- Some planned workshops include advanced Internet search skills workshops, job-hunting skills workshops, young mothers’ group sessions, DJ skills workshops, HSC survival skills workshops and art and craft workshops. Early indications are that the Space is going to be a big hit with Liverpool’s young adults. As a result consideration is being given to developing similar spaces in one or two of the Library’s branches.
- The Space is becoming a place for young adults to hangout and meet in a safe and fun environment.

Paul Scully
Manager
Liverpool City Library

The Challenge for Libraries

In 2001 when the Premier of New South Wales, well-known as a keen reader and author, issued a challenge to students in years 5 to 8 to read 20 books a year, no one realised the impact this would have on school and public libraries and on kids’ reading. Originally intended as a way to extend good readers, the Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) quickly metamorphosed into a program for readers of all abilities over and beyond the next two years was extended to years 3 - 4 and then K - 2.

2002, the first year of the PRC saw 5900 students awarded certificates. By 2004 the number had grown to 35,520. Currently 212,728 students from 1287 schools are registered and 50,000 – 100,000 are expected to qualify for a certificate in September. This year will see the presentation of the first Gold Awards for Reading to students who have qualified for a certificate for the last four years.

The PRC is administered by the Department of Education and Training (DET) on behalf of the Premier. The lists of recommended reading are compiled by a book panel convened by the DET and made up of representatives from the Department including teachers and teacher librarians, the Primary English Teachers Association, the Board of Studies, the Australian Society of Authors and the State Library of NSW. Every title on the list must be read and recommended by three members of the panel before it is listed. Potential titles for the recommended lists come from Notable Australian Children’s Books from the Children’s Book Council, the Premier’s Literary Awards, Don’t Leave Childhood Without published by the Specialist Children’s Booksellers, lists of overseas award winners as well as recommendations from students, teachers, librarians and members of the panel.

The recommended reading lists are updated annually with the addition of new titles. Last year the list for Years 5 - 8 was split into one for years 5 - 6 and one for years 7 - 8 and a review of titles on these lists was undertaken resulting in 40 (mainly out of print) titles being removed. It is not anticipated that many books will be removed from the lists in 2005. A list of the new books added appears on the website in the genre section of each booklist.

Both school and public libraries have reported that students are reading more broadly to meet the requirements of the Challenge. They are moving from just reading a particular series or genre to trying and enjoying a wider range of authors. Many classics that sat neglected on the library shelves are being discovered and enjoyed as a result of their appearing on the recommended lists. It has also been noted that boys are well represented on the Honour Roll of students awarded certificates.

The PRC website outlines all the rules and includes the recommended reading lists which can be downloaded in various formats by author, title or genre, and with or without annotations. <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premierreading/PRC/index.htm>.

For most public libraries, the PRC has meant an increase in junior memberships and in some cases a doubling of junior loans, but it has also challenged resources and staffing. Whilst the school library is the primary source of books for students, inevitably public libraries are called on for support. Neither school nor public libraries have received any additional funding to cope with the increased demand for titles generated by the PRC.

In a nutshell, this is a very valuable program which appears to have increased our loans of picture books and also brought new children into the library: but it has put a strain on our budget and a strain on the staff who take it personally if a customer wants a book right now and they can’t deliver. It has also added extra cataloguing and processing work.

Randwick Library

Parental expectations have tested public library staff. Parents arriving with a list of books are disappointed and sometimes annoyed to find they will have to check catalogues and reserve books as few (if any) are available on the shelves. Librarians have also reported that many parents do not understand the rules, particularly in relation to the free choices available for students in years 3 to 8 and that students can, if appropriate, read titles from the list above their current year level.

I have found that there is a lot of work involved in meeting the needs of parents who come in search of the PRC books. A lot of our parents are from non-English speaking backgrounds and therefore require extra assistance. For many this is their first time asking for help at the library and it gives us an opportunity to give them a positive (if time-consuming) experience as an introduction to our services.

Some libraries have reported over enthusiastic parents wanting children to read everything on the recommended, lists not just the required number of books. Kids who have finished reading the prescribed number of books, want to go on to read all of them (great, but there are limited resources for those who have not completed the Challenge). Parents whose kids are not participating in the PRC at all, see the sign and want them to read all the books on the Challenge because that seems like a good thing to do (again great, but there are limited resources).

Randwick Library

Here are some strategies for managing the PRC:

Print out the lists and mark holdings.
Although this involves a lot of work those libraries that have completed it feel it is worthwhile. Some libraries have added subject headings to their cataloguing records or are using Bestseller or other system facilities to produce holding lists. I have printed off all the lists, then modified them with location holdings. So the lists have beside each title the library closest to Sanctuary Point that holds it, if it can’t be held here. When the Premier’s Reading Challenge really started taking...
The Challenge for Libraries

off, we had a lot of very harried parents and kids coming in desperately crying out for help, both in finding out what books are on the lists and where they could get them. Now they are more than happy to read through the lists and check the shelves for any items that are available.

Since the lists have been provided, the number of times staff have been asked for help has reduced considerably and the parents really seem to enjoy hunting for books with their child.

Sanctuary Point Library

Label books and/or set up a special area of shelving. Most libraries have devised their own labels but PRC labels are now available for purchase from www.sysbasins.com.au

Having checked by genre, created lists and labelled books we are finally establishing a system whereby staff, parents and kids are happy with finding books and meeting the challenge.

Kogarah Library

Personal choice titles make up one quarter of the 3 - 4 and 5 - 6 lists. This provides a great opportunity to showcase parts of the junior collection. Highlight what you have!

Lake Macquarie Library

Work with your local schools.

Educate the parents. A template for a press release which could be sent to the local paper to get some coverage about what your Library is doing is available from <prc@det.nsw.edu.au>

We advise parents to read any material that the school has given them about the PRC and to be very clear about what their child is expected to do. The lists K - 2 booklist will be doubled and some new titles will be added to all the lists. Every attempt will be made to only include titles that are currently in print. However, with the demand for some out of print, this may be difficult. With the demand for some out of print, this may be difficult. With the demand for some out of print, this may be difficult.

Randwick Library

The number of titles in series such as Tashi and Selby that are eligible will be broadened to take the pressure off the limited number currently appearing on the lists. The K - 2 booklist will be doubled and some new titles will be added to all the lists. Every attempt will be made to only include titles that are currently in print. However, with the demand for some out of print, this may be difficult.

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Hitchhiker's guide to a successful library career

It is an honour to be invited to join the celebrations this evening. This ceremony is more than just a celebration that all of your assignments are completed, all exams finished and lessons are over; it represents the end of the first stage in what I hope will be a very fulfilling journey for everyone here - your library career.

As I wondered what I could say that would be really useful to everyone I have been thinking about the many different libraries you will be working in. Each library has its own culture, its own customs (eg. rosters, running circulation desk), even its own language (I know of at least three different terms in current use to describe tiding the library shelves!).

What you really need is a Lonely Planet guide book or perhaps a Hitchhiker’s Guide to a successful library career! So here are my tips for your journey along with a few helpful quotes from the Hitchhikers guide to the galaxy!

Those of you who are familiar with Douglas Adam’s Hitchhiker’s Guide to the galaxy will know that on the cover in large letters are the words DON'T PANIC. This is very good advice in almost any profession including ours! You may need to remember this when your supervisor asks you to take on a huge new project, you suddenly find you are a new team leader or you find yourself dealing with a very difficult customer.

When I first began working as a children’s librarian I remember sitting in my car before my first ever story-time visit to a preschool. I was terrified but I realised I had two choices. I could stop and worry every time I had to do something new or I could just do my best and see how it turned out! This has continued to be my strategy ever since, even when I have found myself speaking at Council meetings, dealing with difficult staff situations and in front of large groups like this one! The trick of flying is learning how to throw yourself at the ground and miss. You have joined a dynamic and constantly changing profession (are there any other kind?) There are a few important facts you need to know for the future:

- things change; some people will resist change and these are unchangeable laws like gravity! You will always need to keep learning to use new library systems, new databases and new technologies for the rest of your career. You will learn to work in new teams, new organisations and new roles. Along the way you will encounter people who are not comfortable with change.

This is not a new phenomenon. Greek philosopher, Heraclitus in about 400 BC said, ‘Nothing endures but change’. The trick, I think, is to remember that new opportunities can come with change. Things will be different; but they might be better. (eg mobile phones have presented a real challenge for public libraries yet at Kiama Library they introduced a new reference service where clients can send their queries by SMS to the library). I have a personal formula for managing change, I have developed while working on projects to introduce changes in public libraries. Try to understand what the people involved need; listen to their concerns; show how the change helps achieve the things they need and keep the lines of communication open.

As new graduates you have really well-developed skills for learning new things: networking with your colleagues, reading journals, blogs, sites, RSS feeds and seeking information on new topics. Cultivate those skills and you will find that new ideas and developments will help you to maintain your interest and enthusiasm throughout your career.

Sometimes change is forced upon us by changes in our environment, for example; budget cuts, new departments, changes in our client groups (eg. multicultural services, ageing clients) and that is when you need to apply what I consider is the most useful strategy of all - attitude. ‘Right’, said Ford, ‘I’m going to have a look.’ He glanced round at the others. ‘Is no one going to say, No you can’t possibly, let me go instead!’ They all shook their heads. It’s really easy to sit back and let someone else blaze the trail, try out something new, work on the new project while the rest of the crowd sit back and complain about things. One library manager I worked for many years ago used to tell us that if you aren’t part of the solution you are part of the problem! There is a grain of truth in that statement. If you can see what’s wrong with something, put together your ideas for possible solutions before you go marching into your supervisor’s office to complain about it.

Remember that as a professional you are a very important part of the team and it is your responsibility to contribute to ensuring things run effectively. Anyone can complain, it takes creativity and ingenuity to suggest solutions.

The New Graduates group of ALIA found it quite challenging when people said ALIA should do this, ALIA should do that, so we developed a saying that is a corruption of Gandhi’s ‘be the change you want to see in the world’. We say ‘be the change you want to see in the organisation’.

Arthur: ‘I really wish I’d listened to what my mother told me when I was young’. Ford: ‘Why, what did she tell you?’ Arthur: ‘I don’t know, I didn’t listen’.

One of the hot topics in our profession at present is the impending retirement of many library professionals (baby boomers) and the effect that is going to have on libraries. I think it presents some very exciting opportunities for you as you enter the profession but it also presents some challenges.

You will hear a lot of people muttering about the importance of succession planning - who will take up the positions as some of our older colleagues retire? One of the ways you can develop your skills is to participate in mentoring opportunities. These may be formal programs offered by ALIA, in your workplace or you may form a group of your peers to support and mentor one another.

Look around you in the profession and in your workplace and find people who have skills and attributes that you would like to develop. Take note of how they chair staff meetings, write reports, network with other departments, deal with their staff, and manage change and other activities. But don’t forget to ask for their advice. Most people are flattered to be asked for their opinion, particularly if you have already put together your ideas and want them to suggest refinements.

In a few years time you will be the experienced library officers in your workplace and it will be important to nurture the new recruits in turn. Look for opportunities to share what you have learned: you may present papers at conferences, contribute to library e-lists and write articles for publications.

Successful professionals have one thing in common: something, or more usually someone, has inspired them to achieve their goals.

From my own experience, I cannot recommend any strategy more highly than networking. The easiest step is to join ALIA, if you haven’t already, and particularly to participate in the Library Technicians group and the New Graduates group. The Library Technicians group is a vital part of the association (and some people say they have the best conferences!). Library technicians contribute a great deal to the association and one of my colleagues here tonight, Kevin Dudeney, is currently on the board of directors for ALIA.

Get involved - be an active member. The New Graduates group is a great place for new members of the profession to start. Active participation in the Association will build your network of professional colleagues and give you insight into other aspects of the profession.

In conclusion, I would like to offer my congratulations on your graduation as library professionals. I look forward to seeing many of you in a variety of different roles over the coming years.

Mylee Joseph
Consultant, Public Library Services,
State Library of NSW
Graduation Address for Diploma of Library
and Information Services
Sydney Institute of TAFE, Ultimo
Friday & May 2005
In the libraries

Library and Information Week 2005 across NSW

Gosford City Library

As you all know Library and Information Week is a time to showcase our libraries and thank our loyal library members. This year Gosford City Library hosted a series of displays, talks and seminars, special storytimes, book clubs, teddy bear picnics, and more throughout our eight branches to ensure that we celebrated our week in style. Here is just a taste of what we had on offer.

Throughout the whole of the week Kincumber Library held a series of 45 minute, one-on-one Introduction to the Internet sessions while Kariong, Gosford and Niagara Park Libraries displayed some of the wide range of materials and services available throughout the library service. Erina Library celebrated Family Reading Month with a display of books to read as a family, while Umina Library showcased Writers and Writing and Woy Woy Library exhibited some of the photos from Gosford City Library’s Local Studies collection.

Tuesday saw the start of our special one-off events with Woy Woy Library hosting Professor Frank Mobbs, a theologian, who spoke on The Do Vinci Code: History or Hoax? to a packed session. This was the second such talk by the professor held at a Gosford City Library and the response was once again outstanding. The day also saw Niagara Park Library include a talk on Choosing books for your preschooler in their regular storytime, which proved to be as good an excuse as any for morning tea of course.

On the Wednesday Erina Library held its Introduction to the Internet seminar aimed at people interested in learning the basics. This was another fully booked session with an eager group left on the waiting list for the next time. The day also saw Kincumber Library host an afternoon tea where people were invited to come in and meet the staff and share some coffee and cake.

Thursday was our busiest day across the branches as Gosford Library participated in Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea, with all proceeds going to the Cancer Council of Australia, while Gosford Junior Library held a lively and fun Teddy Bears Picnic for local children. Many well-loved and special bears enjoyed a lovely morning at the library (some even managed to get their own slice of cake I’m sure!). Wyoming Library also launched Covers and Cookies, a book club for adults, along with morning tea, and Erina Library hosted its first Young Adult book club, themed Fantastic Fantasy and aimed at 12 to 18 year olds.

With a sigh of relief, our final event was held on the Saturday when Erina Library again celebrated Family Reading Month by having a special weekend storytime. Children aged 3 to 5 were invited to bring their aunts and uncles along to the library to hear stories, sing songs and make some craft, all aimed at celebrating their special relationship. So, as you can see, energetic staff full of plans, ideas and enthusiasm made Library and Information Week 2005 a success throughout the branches of Gosford City Library. Our aim now is to continue with and build on the triumph of this year’s events and displays by making 2006 just as big and maybe even more exciting for library members and staff alike. I look forward to telling you all about it next year.

Kristen McElroy
Erina Branch Librarian

Macquarie Regional Library

Macquarie Regional Library is now part of the World Wide Web following the launch of our new website during Library and Information Week. It was with great anticipation that large crowds gathered at all the Branch Libraries as Councillors of each of the four local government areas were on hand to flick the switch and provide access to the website to their communities and the world.

This was an in-house project, developed by the staff, and we are very excited about being able to provide another customer service access point to our collections of books, magazines, audio books, videos, DVDs and electronic databases. Feedback from the public is already positive with many enquiries for PIN numbers so clients can access their records online and information enquiries via the Contact Us form. The web site will be a fantastic resource for our service region which covers an area of 25,184 square kilometres with a population of 63,095 and will allow people in remote areas greater access to the Library Service. The presence of local media and a huge display of new books and resources adorned with helium balloons added to excitement of this event. At all the Branches, members of the public enjoyed afternoon tea while having a demonstration of the website features including the Library catalogue, readers services and NSW.net databases.

John Bayliss
Director
Macquarie Regional Library

Rockdale

Library Week 2005 was celebrated by Rockdale residents escaping to their Library. The theme encouraged people to escape their daily routine by attending a series of activities at the Library that were supported by items from the Library’s collection including books, videos, DVDs and CDs. The week started with a well-attended demonstration of French cookery which included a tasting which (not surprisingly) was very popular!

On Tuesday we invited people to cake and morning tea at the Library, which gave them a chance to have a look at the display of works by Sans Souci photographer, Joseph Brokenshire. On Wednesday a group of very enthusiastic young people attended a Manga Art workshop where they learned to draw their favourite characters in the Japanese comic book style. For the littlies we had a great musical storyline which complemented the Library’s special music collection.

Thursday and Friday were more physical, with demonstrations of the martial art dance blend of Capoeira and a dance class where people learned the Cha Cha, Samba and Fox trot in their lunch hour. Bexley North Library also hosted a morning tea and special face painting storytime which proved very popular with the regulars.

Everyone who attended these activities agreed that they had managed to escape and learn a bit more about what’s on offer inside their local Library.

Susanna Waller
Library Services Coordinator
Rockdale City Library

Wagga Wagga

Wagga Wagga City Library took the library to the Wagga Marketplace on Thursday 26 May from 8am – 8pm to showcase library services, join new members and issue CDs, DVDs and books to the shopping crowds. We also showed people how to use online resources and the kids had a great time in the impromptu storytelling area.

While many new shopping centres have libraries in them, it is a new concept in Wagga Wagga and caused quite a stir. There were three laptops live to the Internet with wireless connections provided free of charge by Telstra, and IT support from Wagga Wagga City Council. Using a light version of the Libero management we were able to join new members online and allow them to borrow on the spot.

All the staff participated on a dual roster that kept both the main library and the marketplace library open all day. We gave away over 400 hand pumped balloons advertising storytime and also joined 55 new members. So it was a huge success and certainly challenged the perceptions of non-users in our city. Although we are a little concerned about where the 400 balloons recipients will fit if they come to the storytime sessions next week as we normally average about 50 kids at each of the 4 sessions per week lut.

We also had a prize of $50 donated by our Friends of the Library for any new member that joined on the day. This caused one person to ask ‘How much does it usually cost to join?’ So we all had a long day but we also gained lots of good ideas and feedback about how we are perceived in the community.

Claire Campbell
Executive Officer

News from Southern Tablelands

State Records

Goulburn Branch Library’s local and family historians always enjoy
presentations by NSW State Records personnel, and a recent visit by Christine Yeats, Manager Public Access, proved no exception. Christine joined us on 15 March during Goulburn’s Festival of Heritage and Roses to present a lively and informative talk on colonial land grants, leases and purchases. A wide range of interested participants attended this session from as far afield as Sydney, the Central Coast and even central NSW. During the course of Christine’s presentation, which featured family and property names from around the Goulburn district, participants gained a general overview of the history, context and practicalities of colonial land grants and later leasing and purchasing systems. We were introduced to the types of land records held by State Records, and the various methods of access to sources such as the Colonial Secretary’s papers, the Surveyor General’s records, Court of Claims materials, maps and plans, etc. Christine described how these materials can be accessed using our locally held Archives Resources Kit, the online ‘Archives Investigator’ search facility and various other relevant guides and indexes, many of which are also accessible via the internet.

As always, Christine’s talk was enthusiastically received by all participants. She encouraged questions and provided well-informed and pertinent answers. Mention of Soldiers’ Settlements opened up a lively discussion, and highlighted an area of interest that could be pursued in a future session. We would like to thank Christine and all of her team for their enthusiasm in working with us and other public libraries across NSW, to educate and promote the Archives Resources Kit.

**Family History at the Australian War Memorial**

In a pre-ANZAC Day event, Southern Tablelands Regional Library continued its focus on historical topics with Crookwell and Goulburn Branch Libraries hosting a series of presentations on Family History at the Australian War Memorial (AWM). Beginning at Crookwell on 20 April, then moving to Goulburn Library for a repeat performance in the afternoon, Margaret Lewis and Robyn Van Dyk of the AWM Research Centre jointly presented a series of fascinating and informative sessions on the resources and services of the AWM. Margaret began by introducing the AWM, discussing its purpose and highlighting its continuing vision. Using examples taken from the rich store of resources maintained by the AWM including books, medals, newspaper items, journal entries and other items of memorabilia, she demonstrated the ways in which family historians could access and utilise these resources. Margaret introduced the AWM’s online nominal rolls and biographical databases, and then told some personal stories related to the ANZAC campaign, including those of a submariner in the Dardenelles, and some personal stories related to the Darienępol incident.

Continuing on from Margaret’s introduction, Robyn highlighted the features of the various online databases maintained by the AWM including the Roll of Honour, Commemorative Roll, other nominal rolls. Embarkation Roll and Australian Red Cross Wounded and Missing files and the AWM’s continuing work in these areas. She also discussed methods of searching the online sources, providing some extremely useful hints and tips. The session finished with a look at the accessibility of personal service records held by the National Archives, discussion of unit searches and unit histories and a short question time and lots of handouts.

We would like to thank Margaret and Robyn (and the AWM) for their generous donation of time and enthusiasm in attending and presenting these talks.

Southern Tablelands Regional Library would like to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge the enormous contribution in time and effort that is put in by both individuals and organisations, allowing us to present events such as those mentioned above, generally at no charge. With so much emphasis on ‘user pays’, it is great to know that public libraries can continue to support and be supported in providing free or next-to-free services and events. A big thank you to State Records and to the Australian War Memorial for their assistance – your efforts are much appreciated!

Sylvia Brook
Officer in Charge
Goulburn Branch Library

**In the libraries**

**JP service**

In conjunction with the NSW Justices’ Association, Parramatta City Library now offers a free JP service to the community every Friday morning from 9:30 am to 12 noon. The volunteers who come to our library already operate a popular free service at Stocklands shopping centre at Merrylands and at North Rocks so have a proven track record. The functions of our JPs are the usual ones:

- administering oath declarations or affidavits, and taking statutory declarations and affirmations;
- witnessing signatures and
- attesting and certifying documents.

In the first six weeks of the service they have put a total of 597 signatures on various documents - not bad for a service which operates just two and a half hours a week!

The Parramatta Sun ran a big article recently which generated a great deal of interest in the service, even generating an enquiry from Ohio, USA! The article is on the Justice of the Peace website at <www.nswja.org>.

Roger Henshaw
Manager
Parramatta City Library

All aboard! Bankstown station eXpress

Bankstown station eXpress is a great opportunity for people who don’t visit traditional library outlets. Using the service is simple - commuters just need to be a member of Bankstown City Library. Those that don’t have a library card simply fill out a membership form and are issued with a card on the spot. Two library staff keen enough to start at 6:00 am operate station eXpress. This ‘we bring the library to you’ vision was inspired by the success of similar services in Frankston, Victoria and Springwood, Katoomba, Gosford and Woy Woy railway stations. Station eXpress reaches an average of 9,000 Bankstown commuters daily and provides access to over 800 of the latest fiction and non-fiction paperbacks, as well as resources from our multicultural collection. Commuters can also place specific requests for books held within our main collection.

This initiative was successfully launched on April 26 at Bankstown Railway Station, with the assistance of Bankstown City Mayor, Councillor Helen Westwood, a passionate supporter of our libraries.

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 Roger Henshaw
 Manager
 Parramatta City Library

All aboard! Bankstown station eXpress

Sydney’s first metropolitan commuter lending service, Station eXpress, is already on track to be a runaway success. Started thanks to funding from the State Library of NSW, this new outreach library service operated by Bankstown Library and Information services at Bankstown Railway Station has gained 61 new library registrations and checked out 383 books in only one month of operation.

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This initiative was successfully launched on April 26 at Bankstown Railway Station, with the assistance of Bankstown City Mayor, Councillor Helen Westwood, a passionate supporter of our libraries. Another great spin-off is that Station eXpress has been enthusiastically embraced by the Vietnamese community and is proving to be particularly popular with male high school students.

This innovative outreach service was instigated by Ferial Naidu, Team Leader, Lending Services and is another example of Bankstown City Library’s commitment to providing services to the wider community. We also acknowledge the support and enthusiasm of Bankstown Railway Station staff for their help and cooperation during the planning and implementation phases. The service is available at Bankstown Railway Station from 6:30 am to 8:30 am weekdays.

Christine Cane
Customer Service Coordinator
Bankstown City Library and Information Service

**New look Ashfield**

Ashfield Library closed for building works from 8 May to 12 May, but what we thought would be a mini
The refurbishment turned out to be considerably more. It took long hours and fantastic commitment from all the library staff but we managed to open as planned on Friday 13 May, which all of us at Ashfield now consider the luckiest day of the year!

Features of the new look Library include:
- Collections have been reorientated to reflect patron needs more appropriately, for example the large print and community language collections are now situated at the beginning of the collections and near the service desk so staff can provide help in accessing those collections.
- The height of shelving units has been reduced.
- A new leisure reading area has been created. This has involved dismantling two office walls, transferring community information to new wall display units, and moving magazines and newspapers to this area. New easy chairs will also be placed in this area.
- A new technology space with fourteen computers has been installed. Also included are two office walls, transferring community information to new wall display units, projector and screen system. Reluctantly we had to close display units and move shelving, chair and ottoman for the long waiting list to read her books.
- The Children’s area has been重新organised to create a more open look. The front wall of this area has been removed, collections arranged against the remaining walls and the storytime area has been opened up.
- The study area has been relocated to a quieter space adjacent to the Library’s western wall and additional study tables are being ordered to increase the number of study spaces available.
- Blinds have replaced the very old curtains on both eastern and western walls.
- The Library’s walls, kitchen area and display cabinet have been repainted in a modern range of colours.

Several features of the new look are either on order, being developed or yet to be installed. These include new easy chairs and an ottoman for the leisure area, display end panels for shelving units, projector and screen for the technology training area, new lighting for the service desk and technology area and multilingual signage. The reorganisation of the Library has resulted in improved access to resources and services and better promotion of the Library as shared community space.

Community support for the project has been considerable. Many regular patrons of the library have developed a sense of ownership of the refurbishment and ask for regular progress reports on the project.

Linda Bathur
Manager
Ashfield Municipal Library

Author visit

Best selling Australian fantasy fiction author, Traci Harding, visited the Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library on 24 May 2005 and spoke to 50 captivated patrons. This was made possible by a Library Development Grant from the State Library.

Traci is the author of two trilogies, The Ancient Future and The Celestial Triad and also the recently released new title Gene of Isis. Traci told of how she sees herself as a storyteller rather than a writer and how she uses music for inspiration and to help visualise her stories and characters. Traci was also very inspirational to both the public and to staff, who enjoyed her visit which included a dinner the night before.

The Library has had to purchase more Traci Harding titles as there is now a long waiting list to read her books.

Gary Ellem
Regional Library Manager
Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library

Happy birthday!

Lane Cove Library recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. Pictured above are l to r: James O’Loughlin, ABC, Kathleen Brenahan, Assistant State Librarian, Mayor Ian Longbottom and long-term library user, Mrs Judy Payne.

Law Week in the libraries

Central West

In conjunction with NSW Law Week, Orange City Library hosted a screening of the video Secrets of the Jury Room on May 19. Invitations were sent to the 14 high schools and three TAFE Colleges in the Central West Libraries area. Media releases in local newspapers, posters and flyers in our seven branches, and an interview on the local radio alerted the general public to the impending event.

We were overwhelmed by the response, from both the schools and interested patrons. Space became an issue and the venue had to be moved on two occasions as we sought a bigger area for seating purposes. Finally it was agreed that the screening would be held in the back area of the library. Unfortunately we had to close bookings when 90 acceptances (75 students and 15 interested clients) were received. After the screening of the video Ms Ruth Townsend from the local legal firm Campbell, Paton and Taylor participated in discussion, explaining the role of the legal profession and the path she pursued to become a solicitor.

Following light refreshments our local registrar, Mr Peter Byrne provided the audience with an understanding of court proceedings and the role of jurors and judges in the justice system.

Peter explained his personal role in the running of the Orange Court House. Magistrate Ms Jan Stevenson then kept the audience enthralled as she spoke about her much travelled lifestyle over a period of years, as well as her changing roles in the legal system.

Gosford

Gosford Library ran a series of events to celebrate Law Week 2005. The first involved 42 senior Legal Studies students from Terrigal High School who attended the screening of the short film Secrets of the Jury Room followed by an hour-long question and answer session. We were fortunate enough to have four speakers: Laurie Kingthott, who was involved in the making of the film as a juror, Colin Shaw, Prosecutor with the Department of Public Prosecutions, John Arms, Registrar of the Gosford Local Court and local Coroner, Ms L Back, from the Sheriff’s Office.

Feedback from the attendees was very positive. They found the video informative and thought-provoking. The students asked many interesting questions, on the roles of the various speakers, points of law, jury duty and career advice.

Session 2, Wills and Power of Attorney, was aimed at the general public. The talk was given by Patrick McHugh, a solicitor based at The Entrance. The session also included a brief talk by library staff on the resources available in the Legal Information Access Centre collection at the Library. Attendees were able to ask many questions, and also enjoyed a delicious morning tea.

16 people attended on the day and all were very appreciative of the chance to hear about this topic.

Throughout Law Week a display was featured at Gosford City Library. The aim of this display was to show the community the large variety of

Wendy Rayner
Central West Libraries

Not guilty!

Question time continued for over an hour and the audience became quite animated. A key topic for discussion from the students was seeking advice on alternate career paths in the legal system. Reluctantly we had to close discussions towards 1pm as our guest speakers had to return to work.

Afterwards the students were able to browse both the Legal Tool Kit and our pamphlet collection, which was housed in a new stand purchased with money from our 2004 LJAC Excellence Award. The general consensus following a very successful morning was that the accused in the murder trial in Secrets of the Jury Room was not guilty due to lack of evidence.

Wendy Rayner
Central West Libraries

Vol 11 No 2 July 2005

Happy birthday!
In the libraries

the Great Lakes Library Service held an information session during Law Week on Wills and Probates and ran it under the banner of Justask@yourlibrary. And it went down a treat. The talk was presented by local Solicitor Joan Hagan (organised through the Law Society of NSW and free of charge) and a very pleasant morning tea was provided by the Friends of the Great Lakes Library Service (again free of charge, God bless ’em). A crowd of fifty people picked into Forster Library and the whole shebang ran for close to an hour and a half, with the audience asking heaps of questions. It was so popular that we’ll certainly think about doing something like this again next Law Week.

Chris Jones
Manager
Great Lakes Library Service

Lane Cove Library
Buying or selling a house is said to be one of the most stressful events we encounter in our lives. With the well-being of our community in mind, and with the assistance of the Law Society of NSW, Lane Cove Library hosted a free talk by local solicitor, Emma Grimes, on the legal issues associated with a venture into real estate.

Over 40 people attended the Library on Wednesday 18 May to hear Emma’s presentation on the rules and regulations that apply to real estate transactions. She certainly convinced the audience of the benefits of having legal advice before undertaking the complex negotiations that accompany the buying or selling of real estate. Emma fielded a variety of questions from the audience, many of whom were taking notes! She also provided free advice after the talk to a long line of individuals who approached her with very specific questions.

The event raised the Library’s profile as a provider of information and helped us to create new links with our business community.

Chris Brimble
Reference & Community Information Librarian
Lane Cove Library

Shoalhaven
During Law Week Nowra held special sessions on Wednesday 18 May with members of the Illawarra Legal Aid from Shoalhaven and Wollongong giving interesting and informative talks. Around 15 people attended the morning session on Family Law information. Richard Hughes of the Nowra Branch of Legal Aid presented the session. Our next speaker had been held up so Richard agreed to speak a little longer. He managed to talk for two hours and still hold the interest of the audience! As he said he is a Solicitor and he could talk all day! Richard was a librarian in his previous life, so perhaps that explains it!

Our second speaker, Margaret Pancali from the Wollongong Legal Aid Office, spoke about Power of Attorney, Guardianship and Wills. The audience was extremely interested in this and the questions came thick and fast.

Those present have obviously discussed the morning with others and I have had a few requests for further sessions. Fortunately both Richard and Margaret are happy to talk to groups anytime.

Lyn Hawkins
Manager
Shoalhaven Libraries

Richmond Tweed
Richmond-Tweed Regional Library held a couple of different events to celebrate Law Week and promote our LIAC resources to the community. On 18 May Ballina Local Court and Ballina Library co-hosted an Open Day, with the theme Relationships with the Law. The celebrations ran from 10 until 3 pm commencing with a brief opening at the Court House and then members of the local theatrical company (dressed in period costume and convict outfits) set off down the street to create as much interest for the Open Day as they possibly could.

Over 20 government agencies, local legal service providers and the library had information stalls and were available to answer questions and provide information and legal advice to the community members who visited on the day. Several of the Court Officers visited during the day and some of them confessed to never having visited the library and not being aware of LIAC. So we were quick to show them what was available and also hope to make a visit to one of their staff meetings in the near future to show them the new Powerpoint presentation about the LIAC network.

Kerrie Fairlie, Ballina librarian (far right) with Legal Studies students

Our display in the library created a lot of interest throughout the whole week, with many people stopping to ask questions, check out the LIAC resources and pick up pamphlet materials on various topics. Below is a photo of a year 11 Legal Studies class who came to the Library and learnt a lot about LIAC and the wonderful resources we have to assist them with their studies.

So we feel that this event was very much in keeping with the theme of Law Week 2005, Opening the Door to the Law and with the theme of the Open Day, Relationships with the Law. We were very happy with the number of visitors on the day and the interest in our display in the library throughout Law Week.

The second event we held during Law Week was a lawyer visit to Mullumbimby Library for year 11 Legal Studies students from Mullumbimby High School. Andrew Sochacki kindly agreed to speak to the students on the theme of ‘Young people and the law’. This was a very interactive and informal session with many, many interesting topics being covered and a lot of questions being asked of Mr Sochacki.

We arranged for our speaker via the Law Society’s Speakers Bureau Service and it honestly could not have been any easier. We were very pleased with the whole event and the students seemed to get a lot of value out of the visit. Of course, while we had them in the library, I gave them an overview of the LIAC resources and an introduction to the LIAC website and pathway.
In the libraries

To quote a song from many years ago (showing my age a bit!) As any Newcastle lad knows…don’t you ever let a chance go by.

Pauline Leeson
Reference and Information Librarian
Richmond-Tweed Regional Library

Wagga Wagga

Wagga Wagga City Library enjoys an ongoing, successful collaboration with the South West Slopes Law Society and Law Week 2005 was the latest by-product of that association. On Monday 16 May Barrister, John Weir discussed Criminal Law in the context of the HSC syllabus with Wagga Wagga students and members of the Wagga Wagga community. We also announced the winner of the Law Week Essay competition, sponsored by South West Slopes Law Society, Matthew Pryor and Bonnie Pryor and the winner of the Law Week Essay competition, sponsored by South West Slopes Law Society, Matthew Pryor and Bonnie Pryor.

We then moved immediately into our Law Week Launch kechune, which was well represented by the legal organisations throughout Wagga Wagga. The Mayor of Wagga Wagga, Councillor Kerry Pascoe joined us to launch the 2005 edition of Wagga Wagga City Library’s Legal Resources in Wagga Wagga brochure, winner of the 2004 LIAC Centre of Excellence Awards. Guest speaker, Charles Sturt University representative, David Gilby, made the official launch of Law Week for 2005 with an inspirational speech on the subtle influence of law in our lives.

On Wednesday Mr Severian Hill, Registrar of the Local Court, Mr Joe Saffour of the Sheriff’s Office, and Tonya Adamsom from the Department of Public Prosecution were our guest speakers at a night screening of Secrets of the Jury Room. In a comfortable atmosphere over tea, coffee and lollies, visitors took advantage of the knowledge and experience of our speakers. In addition, Mr Saffour also presented Our Juries, Our Values and helped to allay some misconceptions about jury duty. On Thursday visitors to the session on Family Law: Divorce and De Facto Relationships fired questions to the three guest speakers and each response initiated a fresh round of discussion.

The Legal Tool Kit provided us with a highly visible and effective exhibit. With the addition of two new pamphlet carousels, the Law @ your library display maintained prime position within the library for Law Week. Also in heavy demand were the Law Week information bags were and a handy carrier for additional pamphlets from the LIAC collection. Part of the display included an independent Law @ your Library Powerpoint presentation provided by the State Library of NSW, which encouraged the public to enquire about the service. Additional activities included a screening of the video So you have to go to court, and the Museum-in-a-box display of 1920’s gang weapons and police law enforcement tools, provided by the Justice and Police Museum.

Overall, every component of Law Week 2005 generated interest from the community and strengthened the ties between the Library, legal service providers, and the people of Wagga Wagga.

Sharon Smith
Reference Librarian
Wagga Wagga City Library

Barooga’s new library

Guess who doesn’t work in a ‘public toilet’ anymore? The person with the biggest smile of course! This bright, modern and practical multi-purpose centre is four times the size of the old demolished building that was commonly thought to be a public toilet (it was the size of a public toilet and of red brick). The official opening of the Barooga Library and Technology Centre took place on Friday March 11. Since we moved to the new building at the beginning of the year, new members have been streaming in to enjoy the wonderful atmosphere. Facing north, the glass windows and doors offer a view of Barooga’s main street, while the southerly aspect gives tranquil views of the tall river gums and the Bullengunya Billabong. The entrance into the foyer is surrounded by glass doors and walls offering the Library to left.

In the libraries

Wagga Wagga News

National Archaeology Week.

National Archaeology Week has three main endeavours: to increase public awareness of Australian archaeology, to showcase the work of Australian archaeologists and to underline the importance of Australian archaeology.

Wagga Wagga City Library hosted an inaugural event in conjunction with the Museum of the Riverina, Wagga Wagga. Under the title Discover the Romance of Archaeology the romance and reality of archaeology were explored and examined by three presenters. Michelle Madsen, Curator, Museum of the Riverina Wagga Wagga delighted the audience with a virtual trip through Pompeii. Michelle’s first-hand experience of Pompeii combined with her years of study produced an exciting and illuminating look at the ancient disaster. Judy Buik, Collection Manager, Riverina Regional Library is a life-long archaeology enthusiast. This was evident when Judy re-lived her recent trip to the U.K. which traced the advance of Roman troops through ancient Britain. Michelle Miller a G I S and Natural Resource Management Officer with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources spent part of January 2005 on a dig in Western Victoria. Michelle brought the reality of archaeology home to the audience with her description and photographs of a wind-swept paddock near Penshurst, Victoria. Light refreshments were served by Wagga Wagga City Library and the large audience were wholehearted in their enjoyment of the evening.

Eilagh Rurenga
Local Studies Librarian

Heritage Week Hotel talk

Heritage Week is an opportunity for Australians to be aware of and involved in the preservation of sites that are of historical significance and Wagga Wagga City Library has a tradition of marking Heritage Week with a public event. This year a nostalgic evening investigating the history of past and present hotels of Wagga Wagga and district was held on April 13 in the children’s area of the library. Geoff Burch, who has researched the subject over a number of years, explored the role played by hotels in the public life of the city since 1829 and their social and physical significance. To augment the evening a large number of artefacts were on display for the entire week including.
In the libraries

an original Wagga Wagga demi-john and crockery, bearing superseded hotel names. Library staff were instrumental in preparing a photographic display which incorporated photos of previous licensees, current hotel buildings and how buildings appeared in times gone by. A map was prepared showing the location of hotels old and new in Wagga Wagga together with a list of all the hotel names ever used in Wagga Wagga. These last two items generated much interest from local historians throughout the week.

Eilagh Rurenga
Local Studies Librarian

Down and Dirty at Wagga Wagga

Disaster Training proved to be a very dirty business as Wagga Wagga City Library on 16 and 17 May as over twenty five librarians from all around the South West Zone, Kiama, Queanbeyan and Gordon converged for some hard work, good food and excellent training. Participants came from TAFE, university and public libraries as well as one from the museum sector. The two day training course was designed and presented by archivist Kim Morris, from Art & Archival in Canberra, who has a well deserved reputation as an excellent trainer.

Participants were unanimous in their comments about how the training had exceeded their expectations of what they had hoped to learn. Disaster planning involves four main steps: disaster prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. To properly address these steps and ensure a capacity to respond and recover well in the event of a disaster, it is essential to have a well prepared, well maintained disaster plan. However, we learned that disasters can be unpredictable and it is not until an actual incident occurs that plans are fully tested. Among the casualties at our workshop were the priceless faux Rembrandts that were quickly whisked away and dumped in a heap, as eager librarians rushed in to rescue items in the simulation. So it was a good lesson; remember the theory of the first day about going slowly and prioritising our collections.

Claire Campbell
Executive Officer

Great Lakes News

Fantastic Friends

Great Lakes is blessed with an awesome group of Library Friends that go by the rather cute acronym of FOGLLS. This crew put on two brilliant events in Forster Library recently. The first was a night of jazz music in the library. This is the third jazz concert we’ve hosted and each time it gets bigger and bigger. Around 90 people attended and spent several very pleasant hours listening to a local jazz band and dining on the fine nibbles provided by the Friends. This event is now so popular that we’re confronted with having to set a cut-off limit.

Belinda Brown fanning the pages of precious books

The course was a combination of theory on day one, and then a practical simulation in the murky depths of the Council building car park on day two.

Les at the Lakes

Then a week later we were privileged to be able to launch Les Murray’s 2004 anthology of Australian poetry. Again the library was packed with poetry enthusiasts and we were very fortunate to have Les on hand to read selected works from the publication. A real treat, and it wouldn’t have been possible without the Friends.

Both functions were fund-raisers for the FOGLLS but the biggest pay-off for the library is the profile it has in the community. As one contented jazz listener commented ‘the library really is the de facto culture centre of the community’. And on a personal level, you really do get a great buzz out of a big crowd of people having a wonderful time in the library. The music, food and a glass of wine on a fine evening probably helped as well.

Local Government Cultural Award

The Great Lakes Council, thanks to the library, is the proud recipient of a Local Government Cultural Award for Information and Library Services, and boy has that bought us some kudos within Council! I now appreciate even more the achievements of the past winners, and also wish to pass on our congratulations to fellow winners, Broken Hill and Baulkham Hills for their awards. We won the Collaboration Award for the wonderful relationship we’ve developed with the local indigenous organisation Tobwabba Art.

Mosaic artists at work

Over the past couple of years the Great Lakes Library Service has been forming a strong bond with the local indigenous community and this has seen many things come to fruition. Last year, thanks to grant funding, we hung three major local contemporary indigenous artworks at Forster Library. This year, again thanks to grant funding, we’re in the process of mounting an awesome mosaic on the front of Foster Library. As well as this, we’ve just hosted an indigenous genealogy workshop conducted by Ronald Briggs and Melissa Jackson, from the State Library of NSW. So all up, thanks to a bit of a vision and a lot of support from the indigenous community (and not forgetting grant funding), we’ve had some deadly outcomes. We’ve got a great new interior and exterior, we’ve...
In the libraries

developed a strong relationship with the indigenous community and we’ve just won a Local Government Cultural Award for our efforts. If you’re opportunistic, and the right breaks and open-minded people come your way, it’s amazing what you can achieve.

Give Us a Hand

Give us a hand!

Thanks to grant funding from the Library Council of NSW, Forster Library has been able to really revamp its interior. There are heaps more comfy chairs, some end-panel shelving and a whole range of new shelving options. We’ve also given the youth and junior sections a real makeover.

There’s plenty of trendy new furniture including shaggy cushions, a lounge and, most popular of all, a great big blue hand!

Website launch (again)

The world is a changing place. In 2003 we’ve launched three public websites. The launches in the library definitely had a high profile in the community, which helps promote the event, but we’re still not at the heart of it all.

Third, the library is a highly accessible and attractive public venue, we’re getting closer. In truth, the main reason why we’re holding launches is that we’ve done a few now and we’re getting REALLY good at them. The coordinator of the Domestic Violence project asked us to hold the launch because ‘you’re so good at doing them’. It’s always nice to know that the library has staff that provide such excellent service.

Chris Jones
Manager
Great Lakes Library

Seniors in Gunnedah

During Seniors Week Gunnedah Shire Library launched a new service to complement its Home Library Service. Anyone that has ever delivered books to people in their own homes is probably aware of the client who is skilled in the art of conversation. Not that anybody really minds, however, when isolation is the main element that drives and motivates the development of this skill! You start to think, hmmm. Well, my hmmm turned into the development of a new service, Readers on Wheels.

Readers on wheels!

Readers on Wheels is a joint project between Gunnedah Shire Library, Community Transport and the Home and Community Care (HACC) Multi-Service outlet. The service picks up the frail aged, the person with a disability or their carers who are unable to access the library. Our clients are then brought to the library where they have the opportunity to select their own reading and recreational materials and socialise over morning tea. Afterwards we return them to their own homes.

Although, it is really too soon to evaluate the success of the service, it would seem that so far it is working well.

Sharon Tolland
Gunnedah Branch Librarian

Inverell Idol

Idol mania hits Inverell! That was the newspaper headline that greeted the residents of the Inverell Shire in April 2005. Following the success of Inverell Idol I staff at the Inverell Library received numerous queries as to when we would be hosting Idol 2. Ever eager to create programs that portray a youth-friendly, modern image for the Library we decided to go ahead with the idea and began a lengthy search to find the best hosts for the job, selecting two very energetic locals, Shawn Findlay and Troy McLachlan who donated their time to help out.

The event was again held in National Youth Week and coincided with Blue Ribbon Week (an initiative of the Mayor’s Drug Advisory Board whose goal is to promote awareness of the dangers of drugs through it’s KNOW drugs campaign).

The crew

Julie Paine
Outreach Services Officer
(Children & Youth Services)
Inverell Shire Public Library

Librarians take it all off

Owing to the popularity of Idol 1 we were able to secure sponsors for the event quite easily which, combined with the fact that tickets started selling reasonably well.

Shawn Findlay and Troy McLachlan who donated their time to help out.

The hopefuls

Six brave souls chose to take it all off while countless others sprayed their hair wild and wacky colours to promote the event. Channel Ten broadcast the weather and the shave live from the library which was very exciting and great promotion for us. The Channel Ten team headed by Frank Colletta charmed us all with their manner and professionalism.

Sutherland Rotary provided a sausage sizzle, generously donating the proceeds to the Leukaemia Foundation. A local hairdresser was on hand to do the shave and to colour spray patron’s hair for a $2 donation to the cause. The event was a great, fun way to promote the library and to raise money for a worthwhile cause. If it is something you have thought about taking part in, then be brave and take it all off!

Amr White
Branch Librarian
Cronulla Library

On the move

The City of Sydney Library Network is undergoing some exciting changes; the major one being the relocation of our Town Hall branch to a brand new library at Customs House at Circular Quay. Find more information on the move and the closing and opening dates of the library branches involved at <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/catz_th_library_relocation.asp>.

Naomi Rickerson
Inter Library Loans
City Of Sydney Library
In the libraries

Richmond Tweed News

New Mobile Library Trailer

It’s a frame-up!

Our busy semi-trailer mobile visits sites in all four constituent Councils, and provides a very popular service in small villages and hamlets like Nimbin, Federal, Ocean Shores and Wardell. Our original Brimmarco trailer is nearly ten years old and has given excellent service over this time. However, it was built before disabled access and hydraulic pods were readily available so is showing its age. Thanks to a Library Development Grant and to many years of paying substantial funds each year into a restricted reserve fund for the purpose, we have been able to tender for a new trailer. SVM Queensland was the successful tenderer and our new trailer is now over half an hour of questions from the audience of approximately 60 librarians where Lynne was able to meet with an audience of approximately 60 librarians who attended went into a prize draw. Two lucky participants received their own worms, to start worming at home!

Tai Chi Master Chris gave a short talk followed by a demonstration of the ancient art of Tai Chi at Morisset Library. This was followed by supper, where the audience had the opportunity to ask questions.

Rachel Mallaby
Promotions Technician

Lake Macquarie City Library

Campbelltown Seniors

On Wednesday 16 March 2005 the Campbelltown Library celebrated Council’s program of activities for Seniors Week by hosting a morning tea for thirty of our Home Library service users. Library staff transported our Home Library Service people to and from the library on council’s community busses and a group of ten frail aged visitors from Kibride Nursing Home at Rosemeadow also attended the morning tea.

The morning consisted of a packed and varied program with speakers from the Royal Blind Society, a trivia quiz with some very difficult questions and a scrumptious morning tea. The morning gave our Home Library Service users an opportunity to visit the library, meet the library staff, meet each other and have fun.

Carolyne Young
Extension Program Coordinator

Campbelltown Library

Following her very professional presentation I received several responses from Queensland libraries thanking Richmond-Tweed Regional Library for organising the event. I hope to catch up with Lynne again while at IFLA in Oslo in August.

Martin Field
Manager

Richmond Tweed Regional Library

You’re never too old…

Lake Macquarie celebrated Seniors Week and the contribution of older people to our community with free activities for seniors from 14 to 19 March. Activities held were wide and varied, all proving popular with people of all ages. Some of the highlights included a Law talk at Belmont Library, presented by Warren Perram from Thomas Mitchell Solicitors. His talk, Senior Citizens and the Law, covered such topics as retirement living, wills & estates, and enduring guardianship.

We also held introductory Internet and catalogue workshops at Charlestown Library. Seniors were given the opportunity to learn and practice their surfing skills on the net. In the catalogue sessions participants were introduced to the library’s new online catalogue. By the end of the session they were able to search for items, access their records and place reservations on items. At a session presented by Council’s Waste Education Officer participants enjoyed a hands-on demonstration of worm farming at Morisset Library. Participants learnt the benefits of worming, starting a worm farm and caring for your worm farm. Everyone who attended went into a prize draw. Two lucky participants received their own worms, to start worming at home!

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Super librarian at Wollongong

Nancy Pearl, the model for the library action figure and author of Book Lust and More Book Lust, was a guest of librarians from the South East Zone of the CPLA on Saturday 21 May. As Nancy was attending the Writers’ Festival in Sydney we thought that it would be wonderful if we could entice her to the South Coast. An email to her in the US suggesting a trip for lunch to the South Coast was warmly welcomed and thus the luncheon was organised.

In our various emails back and forth Nancy was informed about the Readers Advisory activities of the South East Zone and was very interested in the process and outcomes from the training.

Ellen Forsyth, South East Zone consultant from the State Library, offered to bring Nancy down to Wollongong for lunch. The weather was magnificent, so the coast and country looked beautiful. We had a
The hope was to bring together knitters talking, in typical library fashion, often strengthening exercise to help seniors helpful ways of safer home maintenance and to incorporate the brand into all branded look was varied. Risk factors for falls were exposed and their own end-of-shelf signs, invitations, Centre. During the session various staff have been competently creating demonstration of simple exercises. Half-day training sessions are available it. Seniors asked many questions and would like to hear from other speaker, Denise Edgar presented matter of fact information on the and would like to hear from other speaker, Denise Edgar presented about discussing the taboo nature of not take their eyes off them, clapping instances of falling down in your own polkas and hornpipes. Incontinence problem or embarrassing happily to the rhythms of reels, jigs, and handouts, exchanging their experiences and sharing information. The great finale was the vigorous performance of Irish dance provided by Fogarty School of Irish Dancing. The young dancers in colourful costumes tapped and kicked their feet to traditional Irish tunes showing off their talents. The invigorated audience could not take their eyes off them, clapping happily to the rhythms of reels, jigs, polkas and hornpipes.

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There is still a lot of nervousness about discussing the taboo nature of incontinence problem or embarrassing issues at home. However, such topics were freely discussed at Auburn Library among 33 eager participants of Seniors health@ your library seminar. The National Continence Foundation speaker, Denise Edgar presented matter of fact information on the subject and urged the audience to gather up the courage to talk about it. Seniors asked many questions and were given practical advice followed by demonstration of simple exercises. Prevention of falls and falls injury in older persons is a major public health issue. This problem was the topic of the next presentation by local community therapists, Dawn Baker from Auburn Community Health Centre. During the session various risk factors for falls were exposed and helpful ways of safer home maintenance were given away. The therapists demonstrated an easy leg muscle-strengthening exercise to help seniors stay on their feet. At lunch time, amidst the bustling sound of library staff serving coffee, tea and delicious fresh cut sandwiches (provided by the local Wellspring Café), seniors continued their lively talk about the topics, looking at the brochures and handouts, exchanging their experiences and sharing information.

In the libraries

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Air conditioning has replaced the old resources that enriched her research.

shelving, a new children’s area, a special

Grapeshot feature walls, rearranged

floor space. ‘lists’ of requests that challenged,

internet and word processing PCs have

installed. Publicity brought in participants from

outside the target group so we added

students and also easy to use. All

they had to do was to book a couple

days in advance, give us an idea of it when needed as another way to

accessed many of the rare and precious

databases that would be relevant to

the students and also easy to use. All

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connect@your library.

Heather Hanly, IPT*

Librarian

Orange City Library

Ros Dorman, IPT*

Technical Services Librarian

Central West Libraries

*Internet Personal Trainer

Book launch

On May 30 the Orange City Library
together with Louise Windley

and John Spring proudly hosted the launch of Kilcolman Parish Registers (1793-1814 & 1824-1900, County Kerry, Church of Ireland, the posthumously published work of Jane Vivian Spring. Following Jane’s death in 2003 her

sister, Louise Windley of Mudgee, felt
compelled to ensure the publication of Jane’s exhaustive and painstakingly meticulous research, research

conducted over a number of years and a

number of continents and completed

only days before her death.

Jane retired to Orange after a
distinguished career with the Australia

Council to pursue her passion of

research into the Spring Family in

particular and medievalia research
generally. Follow researchers and

genealogists in England, Ireland and the

USA regarded Jane highly for her

exacting standards and methods, her
determination and perseverance, and

her generosity with her knowledge.

The Orange Library proved a fitting

venue for this launch as it was through

our Inter-Library Loan service that Jane

accessed many of the rare and precious

resources that enriched her research.

Jane is fondly remembered for her

‘list’ of requests that challenged,

integrated and enlightened library staff.

Her drive to uncover the life and times

of her ancestors was to say the least

impressive.

Kilcolman Parish Registers was officially

launched by Helen Colman, AM., Jane’s

friend and former colleague, who gave

a brief insight into Irish history of the
time that most interested Jane and a

glimpse of the wealth of information

that Jane has encapsulated.

The publication is a tribute to a

remarkable researcher and a testament
to the love and pride of her family.

Vicky Prestwidge

Senior Library Officer

Central West Libraries

New Lithgow Library

The new state of the art Lithgow

Library Learning Centre was officially

opened by the Premier Bob Carr on
February 9 2005 in the 125th year

of operation of a library service in

the Lithgow area. Various dignitaries

including the Member for Bathurst

Gerard Martin, Assistant State

Librarian, Kathleen Bresnahan and the

Mayor Councillor Neville Castle

all spoke at the proceedings. Ceonne

Towers from the Wiradjuri tribe gave a

warm welcome to the many guests and
told of her positive library experiences

while doing her undergraduate studies.

The morning was hosted by Lithgow

Council’s Manager of Environmental

Services, Mr Muir. He thanked all the

people involved in the establishment of

the new site – library staff, Council staff, sponsors including Delta Electricity and

the builders and architectural teams

involved in the construction. The

Premier toured the building looking

Computer use:

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Circulation statistics:

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People counter:

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<td>107</td>
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Entry and exit per person counted as one unit.

New borrowers:

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<tr>
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<td>54</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>82</td>
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The total number of borrowers for Lithgow at the end of March 2003 was 7457

The total number of borrowers for Lithgow at the end of March 2005 is 8349

Preschooler Storytime:

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>Jan 2004</th>
<th>Feb 2004</th>
<th>Mar 2004</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>connection@your library</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
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The total number of borrowers for Lithgow at the end of March 2004 was 5793

The total number of borrowers for Lithgow at the end of March 2005 is 8349

In the libraries

Central West news

Connect@your library

We devised a novel way of celebrating

connect@your library and promoting

the NSWnet databases to the Orange

community. The program was based on

the proven power of individual

coaching, with a ratio of one Internet

Personal Trainer to a maximum of two

participants.

As we were targeting senior high

school students, a one-hour training

session was organised for weekday

afternoons during February. We

selected a range from the NSWnet

suite of freebie and our ops-in

databases that would be relevant to

the students and also easy to use. All

they had to do was to book a couple

days in advance, give us an idea of

their subject interests (and/or pick a

database from the list on our flyer) and

turn up. No charge.

I featured in the local newspaper and

on regional ABC radio (unexpectedly

also giving a creditable précis of the

Dewey Decimal Classification System,

now there’s a topic for scintillating

discussion). The response to this

publicity brought in participants from

outside the target group so we added

health care professionals, a lawyer,

and a couple of conscientious mothers

with less than enthusiastic offspring. A

total of 120 participants.

They learned that the Library had

resources additional to a Google search

and that when we said genealogy sites

were excluded, that ‘no’ really meant

‘never’! We learned that the concept of

subscription databases was not well

understood, that it was helpful to

match participant’s skill levels, that

there was still a need for basic Internet

searching sessions, to be flexible, and

to send Mum away to do something

other than badgering the disinterested

into paying attention.

Since then we have used the Internet

Personal Trainer model with individual

students and will continue to offer it

when needed as another way to

connect@your library.

Heather Hanly, IPT*

Librarian

Orange City Library

Ros Dorman, IPT*

Technical Services Librarian

Central West Libraries

*Internet Personal Trainer

Book launch

On May 30 the Orange City Library

together with Louise Windley and

John Spring proudly hosted the launch of Kilcolman Parish Registers (1793-1814 & 1824-1900, County Kerry, Church of Ireland, the posthumously published work of Jane Vivian Spring. Following Jane’s death in 2003 her

sister, Louise Windley of Mudgee, felt

compelled to ensure the publication of Jane’s exhaustive and painstakingly meticulous research, research

conducted over a number of years and a

number of continents and completed

only days before her death.

Jane retired to Orange after a
distinguished career with the Australia

Council to pursue her passion of

research into the Spring Family in

particular and medievalia research
generally. Follow researchers and

genealogists in England, Ireland and the

USA regarded Jane highly for her

exacting standards and methods, her
determination and perseverance, and

her generosity with her knowledge.

The Orange Library proved a fitting

venue for this launch as it was through

our Inter-Library Loan service that Jane

accessed many of the rare and precious

resources that enriched her research.

Jane is fondly remembered for her

‘list’ of requests that challenged,

integrated and enlightened library staff.

Her drive to uncover the life and times

of her ancestors was to say the least

impressive.

Kilcolman Parish Registers was officially

launched by Helen Colman, AM., Jane’s

friend and former colleague, who gave

a brief insight into Irish history of the
time that most interested Jane and a

glimpse of the wealth of information

that Jane has encapsulated.

The publication is a tribute to a

remarkable researcher and a testament
to the love and pride of her family.

Vicky Prestwidge

Senior Library Officer

Central West Libraries

New Lithgow Library

The new state of the art Lithgow

Library Learning Centre was officially

opened by the Premier Bob Carr on
February 9 2005 in the 125th year

of operation of a library service in

the Lithgow area. Various dignitaries

including the Member for Bathurst

Gerard Martin, Assistant State

Librarian, Kathleen Bresnahan and the

Mayor Councillor Neville Castle

all spoke at the proceedings. Ceonne

Towers from the Wiradjuri tribe gave a

warm welcome to the many guests and
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The morning was hosted by Lithgow

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the new site – library staff, Council staff, sponsors including Delta Electricity and

the builders and architectural teams

involved in the construction. The

Premier toured the building looking
In the libraries

particularly at the local history area, stack area, and the IT facility with its sixteen Internet computers with high speed access. He then visited the children’s area and he held his audience of young citizens engrossed as he delivered a very special storytime. His press conference was held in the community meeting room upstairs.

L to r: Les Pettocz, former Chief Librarian, Dr Leslie, Cr Collou, Cr Moran, Penny

The multipurpose centre houses the Lithgow Regional Library, the technology centre and the Learning Shop all under one roof. The architects have worked wonders in transforming the former drab and dreary Woolworths building into a high-tech, people friendly community meeting place and information service in Lithgow’s central CBD. The community is now enjoying the exciting facility and this is reflected in the statistics in all service areas since the move to the new site.

Penny Hall
Library Manager

BookChat

The discovery of an author outside one’s regular reading habits is one of the joys of reading. This experience is the focus of Liverpool City Library’s BookChat book discussion group which has been meeting monthly since late 2003. BookChat has approximately ten regular participants who collectively select the titles to be read by the group. The library supplies the books to the group so there is no cost for participants.

Bookchatters!

BookChat covers a wide range of genres and styles in fiction and also popular non-fiction titles. Comments from participants reflect this, ‘I really enjoy it. We read things we wouldn’t read otherwise, so it broadens your outlook’ and ‘we read so many different books, I think we learn how to better appreciate different styles of writing’. This broadening experience can apply to the library staff who facilitate the group as much as to the group participants themselves!

For some the monthly meeting is a much anticipated opportunity for social interaction and, as confidence has grown, discussions have become livelier, often covering a range of related topics inspired by the book of the month. As one participant commented, ‘it’s good when we don’t all feel the same way about a book, because otherwise there’d be nothing to talk about. Sometimes participants will refer to issues in their own lives which have resonance in the book which has been read by the group.’

More recently an evening offshoot of BookChat has commenced for those who are unable to attend meetings during the daytime. The attendance figures for BookChat: AfterDark now rival those of the daytime group.

Michael Selby
Liverpool City Library

Jean Arnot memorial fellowship

Carolyn Bourke, Outreach Librarian, Children and Youth at Fairfield City Library Service, was awarded the Jean Arnot Memorial Fellowship by Mrs Marlena Jeffrey on April 29th at NSW Parliament House. The fellowship is named in honour of the late Jean Fleming Arnot, MBE, FLAA, a former staff member of the State Library of New South Wales, who retired as head cataloguer in 1968 after a distinguished career of over 47 years of service. Miss Arnot was active in women’s organisations and a pioneer in the campaign for equal pay.

The Jean Arnot Memorial Fellowship is funded by a generous donation from the National Council of Women of New South Wales Incorporated and the Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women’s Associations Incorporated as a memorial to Miss Arnot and her achievements.

Carolyn’s paper ‘Building social capital through networking: how public libraries can be more than repositories of information can be read in full on the State Library of NSW website <www.sl.nsw.gov.au>.

In her acceptance speech Carolyn said, ‘In my paper I talk about the importance of having time and space to dream. It is obvious that Jean Arnot had a dream – a dream to see women take their place in the business and professional world and be appropriately recompensed for their work. However, Jean Arnot did not simply dream, she also worked towards the fulfilment of that dream and the results of her work and that of others … are reflected in the privileges enjoyed by my generation and those to come. One of my dreams is to see young people in our community reach their potential unhindered by prejudice, stigma, low literacy, social exclusion or anything else that could be prevented’.

Anne Hall
Manager, Library and Museum Services
Fairfield City Council

In the libraries

Retirement of Alan Barclay

Delegates at the annual meeting of the North East Zone of the CPLA, held at the new Tamworth City Library were saddened to learn of the recent retirement of Central North Libraries Library Services Manager Alan Barclay. Alan has been at Tamworth for over fifteen years, and was always a keen participant in CPLA activities. The meeting resolved to send Allan a parting gift, and so it was with much pleasure, and careful, knowledgeable stock selection, that a half dozen quality red wines were selected and despatched to the Barclay residence.

Martin Field
Regional Library Manager
Richmond Tweed Regional Library
In Touch with the State Library

Public Library Network Research Program Update

2005 is certainly shaping up to be a busy year for public library research. Towards the end of last year, the NSW Public Libraries and eGovernment project was completed and presented to public libraries. The full report and recommendations are currently being finalised. The research has already generated interest within library and research sectors. The Lens project, which is a template with instructions and tips to guide you through analysing database search facilities, was also made available on the NSW.net website for all public libraries to use. This year, our major project is Public Libraries and Sustainable Communities. The research aims to highlight, and importantly, quantify the contribution public libraries make to a sustainable NSW community. We are currently finalising the background report for this project and a steering group as been established to guide the development of the research in the second half of the year. Other projects supported by the program include the review of People Places, the DI@YLL research and evaluation project, a public library network satisfaction survey and possibly research focusing on indigenous library services. For more information about these projects see <www.sl.nsw.gov.au/pln>.

Kerrie Burgess
Convenor
Public Library Network Research Committee

People Places review

A team of consultants has been appointed to review and revise People places: a guide for public library buildings in NSW. It was first published in 2000 and at the time we undertook to assess how well it was going after five years. The successful consultants, selected after a competitive process, are Heather Nesbitt Planning in association with Bligh Voller Nield. It was this partnership which led to the first edition of People places. Members of the team have an excellent track record in successful planning and community consultation, as well as wide architectural experience. When Heather and her associates have been able to develop their program of work and have put together an issues paper there will be a meeting of the Steering Committee. This Committee will help guide and provide feedback to the consultants throughout the process. The Metropolitan Public Libraries Association and the Country Public Libraries Association have each been asked to nominate a representative for this Steering Committee. An experienced local government officer, Richard Morris, Director, Corporate Services, of Jerilderie Shire Council, has agreed to join this Committee, which will also include State Library representatives. The consultants will seek ideas and opinions, so far as possible, from the whole NSW Public Library Network. This will help make the new People places as useful as and up to date as possible.

David J Jones
Library Building Consultant
Building & Planning Advisory Service
Public Library Services

Collection Development Policy project participants celebrate success

In May 2005 State Librarian, Dagmar Schmidmaier recognised the contribution of staff members who participated in phase 1 of the Collection Development Policy Review Project at an afternoon tea given by the Project Steering Committee to celebrate the success of the project. Dagmar thanked staff members for giving generously of their knowledge of the collection, making this information available to clients on the Library’s website. Project sponsor Elizabeth Brown said that the collection development policy had been a major milestone for the Library and that the project would provide an interesting resource and provide an interesting study of the collection development process.

Jerelynn Brown
Manager, Collection Services

National Plan for Australian Newspapers (NPLAN)

NPLAN has been a very successful collaborative project in New South Wales with the participation of public libraries, publishers, historical societies and microfilm suppliers. This report is an overview of activities at the State Library. There are 1907 NSW newspapers in the State Library’s collection including 299 current titles and 1608 dead titles. None have significant unfilmed periods. The State Library’s paper copy is completely filmed for 1.864 or 98% of titles. All masters held are accessible through records on the National Bibliographic Database. In the period beginning in 1990, the State Library expended $3 416 000 on newspaper microfilming to obtain this result.

Newspapers are our most heavily used resource and provide an interesting glimpse of the community. The city/country breakdown is 55% of NSW newspaper titles published in rural areas and 45% of titles in cities. 23% or about 70 titles currently received are in 35 community languages other than English.

During the financial year from July 2003 through June 2004, 1 194 077 pages were microfilmed at a cost of $302 081. 5041 reels were acquired including masters, duplicate negatives and positive copies.

The State Library holds polyester masters for all titles microfilmed since 1993. Microfilm masters, where not held, are being acquired by the Library as an initiative to gain better control of the masters. In 2003/04 masters for 10 titles on 329 reels were acquired. In addition, all permissible cellulose acetate masters recalled for copying are routinely transferred to polyester and quality checked. In 2003/04, masters on 533 reels were copied from acetate to polyester.

The State Library and the National Library participate in a joint project to obtain duplicate negatives for NSW newspapers, where these are not held, for the period 1969 - 1999. Each partner contributed $20 000 in 2003/04, resulting in the acquisition of 457 reels. The State Library is also acquiring duplicate negatives for the pre-1969 period of the same newspapers. This has resulted in the acquisition of 697 reels, making a total of 1154 duplicate negative reels acquired in 2003/04.

The Library is committed to ensuring retrospective NSW newspapers are microfilmed for preservation. At the request of public libraries in New South Wales, the State Library microfilms retrospective New South Wales titles or issues that have not been filmed before. If you have a newspaper in this category, please contact Diana Richards at the Library by email: drichards@sl.nsw.gov.au

Jerelynn Brown
NSW Convenor, NPLAN

IQ Review

A project is under way to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the INFOQUICK (IQ) database in comparison to alternative electronic databases for accessing information in the Sydney Morning Herald now that so many full text products are on the market. The review will take into account previous client research on IQ, consult with stakeholders; and analyse data about the use of IQ and costs associated with providing it. Aspects to be covered in the comparison of IQ and other
Reader Services
posted on progress.
is now underway. We will keep you
project with selected public libraries
progress on reservations. A pilot
efficient tracking of items, including
loans and other requests and to enable
is to simplify record keeping for bulk
loans for public libraries. This
currently working on electronic access

A group of staff in Reader Services is
on loan. We are hoping to introduce
inter-library loans. These boxes are
sturdy boxes for the transport of bulk
-of introducing new, easy-to-identify,
items arrive safely and to make
loans per day. To ensure that these
and 20 - 30 alternative format bulk
requests and will enable you to view or
print your document from our server.
When you send your request to us
please indicate your preferred delivery
method, for example, ‘snail’ mail or
electronic. The mail delivery will be
processed as usual. If your preference
is for electronic delivery we will locate
the item and using Ariel software
scan and upload the document onto
the State Library server. We will then
notify you that the item is ready and
provide you with a unique password
for accessing the document. The
document is available for viewing or
printing within ten days of notification.
All libraries have been provided with
detailed, easy to follow instructions.
There is no additional charge for the
electronic delivery. The current service
options remain the same as previously,
the core service will be responded to
within 5 working days free of charge,
the priority, rush and express services
remain unchanged and the same fees
apply.

Maria Wiemers
Reader Services

In Touch with the State Library

Lending Policy review

The State Library has recently reviewed and revised its policy relating to interlibrary loans. Stakeholders, including NSW public library representatives, were consulted as part of the review. The changes that have been made to the Lending Policy include:

- loans from the State Reference Library collections are limited to monographs published after 1930 due to the increasingly fragile nature of older materials
- materials are to be used principally within the borrowing library
- exceptions are bulk loans of alternative formats and multicultural materials
- protective wrappings will be supplied by the State Library to ensure that items are lent and returned safely
- the replacement cost for lost items has increased to $120.00 per title in line with other major libraries
- replacement cost for alternative formats or multicultural materials remains unchanged at $45.00

The full text of our revised Lending Policy has been forwarded to all NSW Library Managers and will be available on the State Library web site. The Lending Policy follows the guidelines outlined in the Australian ILRC Code 2001 and will be reviewed annually. The revised Policy commenced on 1 July 2005. Any comments and questions can be forwarded to Grazyna Tydya, Coordinator, Reader Services at <gtydda@sl.nsw.gov.au>.

Grazyna Tydya and Maria Wiemers
Reader Services

In Touch with the State Library

Children’s Policy Guidelines for NSW Public Libraries

Young people are core clients of public libraries and are the future adult users and supporters of our library services. NSW public libraries offer a wide variety of popular services for young people. In the current environment such topics as child protection, parental responsibility and the role of agencies that provide services to children have prompted many public libraries to re-examine their policies and services. In the interests of promoting consistency in policies and procedures in NSW public libraries the Children’s Policy Working Group was convened by the State Library of NSW in 2001 in consultation with the NSW Metropolitan Public Libraries Association and the NSW Country Public Libraries Association. The group investigated the policy environment and prepared draft guidelines. After consultation with a number of agencies and the State Library’s legal counsel the draft guidelines were endorsed by the Library Council of NSW for recommendation to NSW public libraries in November 2004. The Children’s policy guidelines for NSW public libraries were published and distributed to all NSW libraries in April, and are also available on the State Library’s website at <www.sl.nsw.gov.au/pls/policies/>

Cameron Morley
Manager, Funding and Advisory Services
Public Library Services

Aboriginal Family History
– A Golden Opportunity for Libraries

Indigenous librarians Ronald Briggs and Melissa Jackson believe that Aboriginal genealogists too often overlook local libraries. ‘It’s a shame,’ says Melissa, ‘because public libraries and local historical societies are usually a goldmine for Aboriginal researchers – in most cases it’s just a matter of knowing where to look!’

‘Many of the family history requests that we receive from Aboriginal clients can probably be answered at their local library,’ says Ronald. He adds, ‘I think that public libraries can really benefit from promoting their family and local history collections, especially to the Indigenous community.’

Jean Matchett, Reference and Information Services Librarian, Great Lakes and Melissa

Ron and Melissa both agree that local libraries and family history societies can be integral to fostering a sense of individual and shared history within communities and that they can practically assist in achieving the ideals of reconciliation. With this in mind Ronald and Melissa have developed a free, half-day training program to assist library staff in NSW. The overall aim of the program is to familiarise library staff with techniques and resources used to assist Indigenous clients. ‘We want to show how libraries can more effectively use the resources they probably already have to assist Indigenous researchers, as well as showcase some of the more significant Aboriginal collections available here at the State Library of New South Wales and elsewhere,’ says Ronald.

‘And of course the Internet is becoming an essential tool for all family historians.’

For enquiries about Indigenous family history training at your library contact Ronald Briggs or Melissa Jackson, Indigenous Services Librarians, State Library of New South Wales. Phone: (02) 9273 1577; or email: rbriggs@sl.nsw.gov.au

Staff from the Great Lakes Library Service and the Forster Family History Advisory Group were trained in Aboriginal family history recently. Chris Jones, Manager, Great Lakes Library Services, is further developing links between the library and Aboriginal communities in the region, building on the relationships already established with the local Aboriginal land council and Aboriginal artists co-operative (Towabba Art). Chris says it’s been a positive experience. ‘Everyone involved feels more confident and has gained significant knowledge in regards to Aboriginal family history, and of the history of Aboriginal people of the region.’

Ronald Briggs & Melissa Jackson
Indigenous Service Librarians
In Touch with the State Library

Health and wellness

The Health Information Service recently visited the Health and Wellness Zone in Baulkham Hills Shire Library Service’s new library at Castle Hill. There we found a welcoming oasis with an armchair, a PC and a collection of new books on a wide range of health topics. The furniture is arranged so that there is a sense of privacy and even the shyest person can feel comfortable.

Natalie O’Brien, Carlingford Library and Lynn Library Manager, Lynn Regan, and her staff came up with the idea of the Zone in response to the growing trend among the general public to get involved in their own health and wellbeing. Nowadays people seek information not only on specific conditions and treatments, but also on improving fitness, eating well and generally staying out of the doctor’s surgery. People often make important decisions based on the information they find, so as librarians we have a role in steering people towards reliable and up-to-date information.

Funding was provided for the Zone by a Library Development Grant. The Health Information Service contributed to the Health and Wellness Zone by providing lists of recommended books, telephone help lines and websites. We also provided a hands-on training session for staff that covered authoritative websites and the Health & Wellness Resource Centre database. If you are interested in any aspect of this work, please contact the Health Information Service by email: <health@sl.nsw.gov.au> or telephone: 02 9273 1684.

Laura Molino
Health Information Service

Library Notices – safe, secure, sealed and simple

Pressure seal lets you do away with envelopes

KEY BENEFITS
• Personalised one piece security mailers
• No need for envelopes
• Ensures confidentiality
• Speed to market
• Saves time and labour
• Save up to 30% of your costs

Want to save time and money on your library notices and be more efficient? The AS200 System from the pressure seal experts at Moore Business Systems is the solution.

It’s the perfect answer for confidential business forms such as library notices and payroll slips. Save up to 30 per cent of your costs by processing your documents in one easy step without needing an envelope.

Cost Saving

The AS200 System allows a single sheet of paper with pre-printed glue lines to be overprinted with personalised information, folded into an envelope format then securely sealed.

You can also eliminate the need for franking or applying a stamp by printing a pre-paid postage mark directly onto your document.

Turnkey mailing solutions

Moore Business Systems also offers a turnkey approach to the development of more efficient mailing applications including:
• Design and engineering of forms in a wide variety of shapes, sizes and folds to suit different applications.
• Pre-printing and perforating of base stock and application of cohesive. This proprietary cohesive is compatible with laser and impact printers and is guaranteed to adhere only to itself, forming a clean, tight and secure seal.
• Sale and support of a range of pressure seal machines for folding and sealing. These range from low volume desktop units to high volume units.

Existing Customers

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40 Darby Street
Newcastle NSW 2300
Telephone: 02 4927 0084
Facsimile: 02 4927 0742
www.moore.com.au
Email: david.robertson@moore.com.au
Multicultural news

Shoalhaven goes multicultural

Shoalhaven is not noted for having a large ethnic population. However, over the past few years this has changed. Although only a small part of the Shoalhaven population, people from other countries are active in our local community. A multicultural group meets in the library meeting room each month and various groups have performed in the library for special events such as Harmony Day. Many members of the group are also heavy library users.

Marathi launch

On Wednesday February 23 Campbelltown City Mayor, Clr Brenton Banfield, launched a collection of culturally significant material in the Marathi language. Marathi is one of the major languages of India, spoken by about 60 million people of Maharashtra. There are approximately fifty-five families or two hundred and fifty people living in the Campbelltown area who have Marathi as their first language with many more in the wider Sydney metropolitan area. Marathi Katta is an informal group of people from India who now reside in the Campbelltown area. Their aim is to provide an opportunity for Marathi speaking families to interact socially both with one another and within the wider community, thus providing a support system to smooth and accelerate the settling in process and, at the same time, preserve cultural heritage and values important to their community. Being able to gain access to material written in their language and demonstrating cultural heritage and values is important to this process as is being able to keep up to date with news of their birthplace.

In 2004 the need of the community to have access to such material was recognised by the library service and discussions with members of Marathi Katta were undertaken to ascertain their specific requirements. The local Marathi community now has donated over 150 books in the Marathi language to the library for inclusion in our collection and their assistance was invaluable in translating titles and subject information for the catalogue entries. The complete range of resources includes books and newspapers in Marathi and Hindi; current affairs magazines in Marathi, DVDs in Hindi and historically and culturally based children’s comics in English and Marathi. This collection is proving very popular with over half of the collection being on loan at any given time.

The Library Council of NSW recently awarded a grant of $93,000 to further develop the community language collections at our local libraries. This is a significant allocation of funds and will lead to a substantial increase in the amount of cultural and linguistic material available to Campbelltown’s growing ethnic population. Council is committed to ensuring that the community language collections at its libraries are selected by the people who will ultimately use them. We aim to enhance and or establish significant collections in several other languages, including Arabic, Spanish, Tagalog, Samoan, Hindi and Chinese, and have started undertaking a similar consultative process with relevant groups and interested individuals from these communities.

Dianne Abbott
Collection Program Coordinator
Carolyn Young
Extension Program Coordinator
Campbelltown Library

Harmony Day

For our Harmony Day celebrations local communities put together a program of activities at Parramatta City Library between March and April, as a way to reflect on and celebrate the cultures, heritages and languages in our community. During our celebrations the public were able to partake in a wonderful Korean Tea Ceremony and watch Korean drummers perform. Chinese script writing was also very popular, as was a demonstration on how to use chopsticks (well attended by our staff)! Other activities and demonstrations included Palestinian cross stitching and Arabic script writing. During the celebrations the children enjoyed Chinese fables, and storytelling in various languages. Cultural displays including interesting artefacts and beautiful national costumes were also popular.

Korean drummers

Health awareness

Between March and June Parramatta City Library hosted a variety of free health awareness seminars which were aimed at the Chinese community. The talks were held in either Mandarin or Cantonese and provided professional advice about a range of health issues which included drug abuse, skin cancer, diabetes and bowel cancer.

Pauline Chan
Multicultural Services Librarian
Parramatta City Library

Author visit wows Richmond-Upper Clarence

Author Geoffrey McSkimming’s alter ego Cairo Jim kept audiences enthralled during a visit to the Casino and Kyogle libraries on Tuesday May 10 2005. Approximately 500 students as well as teachers from local schools were entertained by this popular Australian author.

Cairo Jim

Author of the enormously successful Cairo Jim series, Geoffrey McSkimming regularly travels the world, following in the footsteps of that well-known archaeologist and little-known poet Cairo Jim, and his friends Cairo Jim told the Casino and Kyogle students of his exploits in Peru, Mexico, Egypt, Greece, Rome and Crete with his mates Doris the Macaw, Brenda the Wonder Camel and Jocelyn Osgood. His stories were inspiring and captivating. As a result all of the Cairo Jim books are in heavy demand at the library and more copies have been purchased.

Gary Ellem
Regional Library Manager
Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library

Children’s news

Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library

Author of the enormously successful Cairo Jim series, Geoffrey McSkimming regularly travels the world, following in the footsteps of that well-known archaeologist and little-known poet Cairo Jim, and his friends Cairo Jim told the Casino and Kyogle students of his exploits in Peru, Mexico, Egypt, Greece, Rome and Crete with his mates Doris the Macaw, Brenda the Wonder Camel and Jocelyn Osgood. His stories were inspiring and captivating. As a result all of the Cairo Jim books are in heavy demand at the library and more copies have been purchased.

Gary Ellem
Regional Library Manager
Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library

Children’s news
Luau!

Warringah Mall Library celebrated its fifth birthday in style with a special Hawaiian School Holiday Program, Luau! at the Library. Working in cooperation with Warringah Mall, it was conducted on the Mall’s Centre Stage and included library performers acting out Hawaiian folk stories, interactive games including Limbo, competitions for the best dressed and last but not least, our audience experienced Ngaire Ti-ana Kelly, a traditional Hawaiian dancer from Measina Pacific Entertainment Agency, who performed and taught us a special dance known as Pearly Shells. This program was a great success and was enjoyed by all who attended the program, particularly the Library staff!

Clare J Wong
Librarian. Special Programs
Warringah Mall Library

Holiday activities

In January, Wodonga Library conducted holiday activities with a puppets theme. In our first week we made shadow puppets and finger puppets and the second week we created marionettes and puppets on sticks. We held two, 1½ hour sessions per week, with a maximum of 25 children at each session.

We introduced all of our sessions with a glove puppet show. A staff member narrated the story, with the children performing most of the characters. Our first play was The Wide-Mouthed Frog. The children had to get over their stage fright and learn how to become the puppet they were holding, which tested their imaginations. I was surprised that using a puppet had to be taught but with the high usage of television and computer games to amuse and entertain children, I assume that they are involved less with interactive and imaginative activities. The children really got into the spirit of things by the second week when they performed The Enormous Turnip play.

Our first session was shadow puppets and the children made Indonesian shadow puppets. The puppets were made of thin card, coloured in and decorated with glitter and fabric scraps. Their arms were jointed with split pins and attached to straws. The puppets were then attached to bamboo sticks. To make the puppets move, the children had to learn to move the straws up and down, which was quite a challenge. We had made a large shadow screen and some props beforehand, so once the puppets were finished, the children performed plays for each other.

The bird marionette, a dooca, was a hit with both the children and adults. Made of polystyrene balls, string, pasta tubes and plastic lids, he was a recycler’s dream. We painted the balls and stuck on head and tail feathers for decoration. Although tricky to thread together he was worth the effort and all the children went home with a usable puppet, which looked great. A few parent volunteers were involved with helping to thread the puppets together and I think they also enjoyed the activity.

Puppet mania!

In between waiting for paint to dry and when puppets were finished, the children used a variety of different puppets and stages to perform puppet shows together. We made a Punch and Judy style theatre from a large television box, hung a curtain over a rod between two chairs for finger puppets and made a small box theatre decorated as the Australian bush for the Australian animal stick puppets. My favourite theatre was a refrigerator box painted as a tree. The leafy branches opened to become the stage wings. It was favourite of the children as well. They liked being able to get right inside the box and had great fun with some bird and tree-dweller glove puppets.

The holiday program required a lot of preparation beforehand, making theatres and puppet samples. Our theatres will be used again in the library for pre-school storytime activities, so they will have ongoing benefits. In order for the sessions to be successful, the staff involved had to be very organised as there were a lot of items and craft resources to be set up. We also had to lose any inhibitions about using our own imaginations when we were using the puppets.

One of the comments I overheard from a child was ‘We’re not going to throw this one in the bin as soon as we get home, Mum. This was a huge compliment, to know that we had been able to help the children create something worthwhile that they felt like keeping.

Sharon Cleggett
Library Officer
Wodonga

Book now!

The Biggest Children’s Book Event ever is coming to Sydney 4 to 6 May 2006 at Darling Harbour Convention Centre. It’s the 8th National Conference of the Children’s Book Council of Australia. Many believe there is no future for books because of the competition from so many alternatives. This conference will confront this challenge head on and show that all inspiration comes from writing. This theme will highlight books that have been adapted into other media - film, TV, stage, talking books, etc. Speakers will include authors, scriptwriters, filmmakers, directors, critics, playwrights, publishers, agents. Confirmed speakers so far include Helen Oxenbury, Anthony Horowitz, Cornelia Funke, Lynley Dodd, Diane Roback, Koei Uno and a host of Australians including Anita Heiss, Leigh Hobbs, Doug Macleod, John Misto, Sodhan McHugh, Carole Wilkinson, Terry Denton and Emily Rodda.

As well as the conference itself there will be a huge Trade Display which will be open to the public, exhibitions of artwork by children’s illustrators, a film festival, illustrator studio, performance, storytelling, regional events and the opportunity for conference delegates to dine with an Author or Illustrator. Anyone who attended the first ever CBC Conference at Marly in 1992 will tell you how much fun it was and how inspiring so don’t miss this one, put it in your diary and be there. More details will be available soon on the website http://www.cbc.org.au/conference.htm.

Val Noake
Manager Community Programs

Nestlé Write Around Australia

And they’re off and writing!

The Nestlé Write Around Australia Creative Writing Competition was launched at the Goulburn Library with much fanfare on 17 March. Mayor Paul Stephenson launched the competition with over 60 people attending including school children, teachers and competition judges. To officially launch the competition, Mayor Stephenson cut a red ribbon of Ki Kari with everyone enjoying a Nestlé themed cake and the opportunity to talk to other interested people.

All the students who attended the launch received their own Nestlé Writers Pack consisting of a competition entry form, pen, writing pad and a small chocolate to help with the creative writing process.

Our thanks go to Susanne, Val and Virginia at the State Library of New South Wales for their assistance and reassuring words.

Sylvia Brook
Officer in Charge
Goulburn Branch Library

Cartoon Dave Draws a Crowd

Everyone’s an artist!

Forster Library was fortunate to be able to host a free cartooning workshop conducted by well-known cartoonist, Disney Dave. Dave was travelling up the coast and promoting a new publication of his and approached the library to provide a free workshop on developing cartooning skills for
Children's news

Kids. We grabbed the opportunity with both hands and decided to run the workshop in the body of the library, somewhat unsure as to the crowd we'd attract. The response was fantastic and 70 people attended. Of these 45 were children and 25 were adults who simply couldn't resist being part of it all. Some were parents sharing the experience with their children. Cartoon Dave even provided paper, pencil and a board to work on, and it was great to see people sitting in chairs and stretched out on the floor working away at prospective pieces of art. Well worth doing – and totally free!

Chris Jones
Manager
Great Lakes Library

School's out!

Great fun was had at the three City of Canada Bay libraries during the April school holidays. The magician Greg Hudson entertained and fascinated school holidays. The magician Greg Canada Bay libraries during the April school holidays. The magician Greg

Lake Babies Love to Read

Books and babies!

Books and Babies is a new program for Lake Macquarie City Library. This free program aims to help parents introduce babies to books and reading. Through fun and interactive stories and rhymes, children are encouraged to develop literacy skills from an early age.

Our program runs for a four week block, with a maximum of 10 parents and babies per group. Each week parents, babies and library staff learn songs, action rhymes, and read two books. Each parent has their own copy of the book to read with their baby. At the end of each session, parents receive a copy of the resource sheet of the day's activities to take home.

'Over the 4 weeks I could see the babies develop a deeper interest in the book (even if that meant trying to eat it), and enjoyment of the rhymes and songs. The babies seemed to be listening more intently by the last week than the first, and skills like waving and clapping advanced over this time,' Morisset Branch Librarian, Cathy Shav, said.

The Books and Babies program had its conception a couple of years ago when staff attended the Switching Them on to Reading seminar held at the State Library. After a successful trial at Toronto Library in late 2004, Books and Babies commenced at Lake Macquarie City Library in 2005.

The Books and Babies program was launched at Windale Library in February 2005 by the Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Greg Piper. The program has proved popular with parents and carers with a large number of dads participating in the sessions.

Rachel Mallaby
Promotions Technician
Lake Macquarie City Library

Contact workshops

Online friends meet at Lake Libraries

During 2002, the Year of the Outback, Charlestown Library staff members were instrumental in initiating contact between Baan Baa Public School, located 35kms south of Narrabri, and Charlestown's St Joseph's Primary School. Communication between the two schools focused on children sharing their life experiences, particularly the hardships of living in drought conditions. The schools exchanged stories and artworks that formed part of a very popular display at Charlestown Library to celebrate the Year of the Outback.

The six students, two teachers, and three parents from Baan Baa stayed in person. For many of the Baan Baa students this trip was the first time they had the opportunity to visit Lake Macquarie, Greg Piper. The program has proved popular with parents and carers with a large number of dads participating in the sessions.

Rachel Mallaby
Promotions Technician
Lake Macquarie City Library

Author Visit

Author Elizabeth Honey spent a week in Wagga Wagga recently and visited local schools and ran writers workshops. She also spent an afternoon at Wagga Wagga City Library and delighted the crowd of expectant children and parents by reading her books and chatting over afternoon tea.

Chrisise Bolton
Community Liaison Officer

Closet actors

The staff at Manly Library have just as much fun as the children when it comes to running events for the junior members of the library. Pictured are Louise McMorland at the fortune teller at the Library It's Magic street party; John MacRitchie as the postman, Louise as the Easter bunny and Emma Peart as the tooth fairy at the pre-school story time Christmas pantomime; Jason Slattery as the bear and Marian Gray in pyjamas at night-time storytelling; and Marian Gray and Ines Judd hamming it up with some impromptu puppet fun at the Circulation desk returns chute

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LapSitting
A word of advice for anyone considering a LapSitting program – go for it! At Singleton Library, we had been considering starting such a program for some time. We had been in our spacious new premises for approximately nine months when it was decided to trial a pilot program in May 2005.

We had lots of information and sample programs from other libraries courtesy of PUYVAC and email. Many libraries first applied for grant money to purchase professional looking packs, bags and also giveaways of books and promotional materials such as T-shirts and bits. At Singleton Library, we simply made our own handouts and promotion material in coloured document folders for the participants. Pamphlets included Baby Development and Literacy, Activities, a booklist, a code bookmarks from Southern Scene and a program for each week, complete with rhymes. We also found some great printable sheets at <www.literacytrust.org.uk>. New board books were purchased, including twelve copies of Peek-a-boo baby for us to read together each week. 20 plastic zippered book bags were purchased and enough board and lift-the-flap books to have four titles per bag. These were labelled Baby Book Packs, and have been available for loan to participants. The costs were worked into our existing budget.

Sessions were limited to 10 babies on laps aged from 3 to 15 months. Each program runs once a week for four weeks, with 20 minutes of books, rhymes, fingerplays and puppets, and 25 minutes for morning tea and playtime. Rhymes are written on a board for all to see and copies handed out for use at home. I now often find myself walking around the library chanting from Wribbleton to Wibbleton its 15 miles and other catchy rhymes! Meaningful Mem Fox quotes on the value of books and language at such an early age were squeezed in between the rhymes and stories. It is the interaction between us all that makes it so much fun and worthwhile. During session three we had a father join us, and this was a great opportunity to discuss the value of fathers reading to children, as well as the boys and books issue.

Karen Bruce
Youth and Children’s Services
Singleton Public Library

Go wild!
Rachel and Teneille
Blue Mountains City Library decided their children’s and young adult services needed a makeover! Rachel Besser, our new children’s and young adult coordinator has been a performer for, and with, children for many years and along with her wild assistant, Teneille Bush, has great plans for extra fabulous activities, events and shows to promote the libraries throughout the Blue Mountains area! For a calendar of activities or any ideas you wish to share you can email Rachel on <rbesser@bmcc.gov.au>.

Reading Rulz
State-wide summer reading programs have been held in Australian public libraries for many years and some NSW public libraries have created their own programs since the 1980s. But summer 2004/2005 saw the first ever interstate summer reading program with public libraries in New South Wales, ACT, South Australia, Western Australia, Victoria and Queensland sharing ideas and resources.

Creating, developing and delivering the program was organised via email and an occasional phone call by a group of individuals from state libraries in NSW, Queensland and WA and public libraries in Victoria, ACT and South Australia who believed a national approach was the best way to save on effort and maximise benefits. The promotional kit was designed and printed by a group of public librarians in Victoria. The Consultant for Young People’s Services at State Library of Queensland obtained funding to develop a website and public libraries in ACT, SA and WA created activity sheets. The Community Programs Branch at the State Library of NSW, with assistance from children’s librarians at Fairfield, Riverina and Randwick public libraries, produced a Library Guide and collated the activity sheets.

The promotional kits, consisting of two posters and 100 bookmarks, stickers and postcards cost $60 each and The State Library of NSW provided one free kit to every NSW library service wishing to participate. Sixty-four libraries took up the offer with many buying extra kits from their own funds. Libraries were asked to complete a survey to assist in evaluating the program. Following are some extracts from the report prepared by Maggie McElhill from Policy and Research. For a copy of the full report please contact me by email at <vnake@sl.nsw.gov.au>.

Reading Rulz 2
Kids loved it! – there were children joining in that normally wouldn’t use the library over these holidays. They were excited when we handed out incentives and very appreciative. Some kids used this as an opportunity to read books for the Premiers Reading Challenge.
Children’s news

returned their survey so 5850 is an underestimate of the true participation in NSW). Children aged 8 to 11 years showed most interest while participation by younger, more dependent children relied upon the encouragement of parents and library staff. Young adults aged 12+ years showed interest when they were encouraged to participate. Four respondents expressed surprise at the interest shown by young adults. One commented that the website was a draw for this age group while another said that interest and participation resulted from other Young Adult activities run by the library.

It was great not having to think up everything from scratch. The website, posters, bookmarks, etc. made the program very professional just over half of the respondents strongly agreed/agreed that the program had generated media coverage for the library. The local paper was very supportive and provided media coverage at every opportunity – to launch the program; accepting donations from local businesses; and the securing of sponsorship of a major prize.

Over 85% of respondents strongly agreed/agreed that they would be interested in running the Summer Reading Club again in 2005/06. The Victorian public libraries responsible for the promotional materials are working on a new kit for 2005/06 with the theme Read Around OZ and featuring Jackie French on the poster. More information about the program and how to participate will be available soon.

Val Noake
Manager Community Programs
State Library of New South Wales
Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library has just wrapped up a very successful Reading Rulz program at its Casino and Kyogle branches. This is the first summer reading program the library has been involved in, so we put together 50 reading club kits to start. A total of 179 children registered for the program, which was far more than anyone had anticipated, so it was back to the shops for more lollipops to put into the reading kits!

Wacky party!

Drumming!

Local businesses were invited to support the program by sponsoring lucky draw prizes. There was a tremendous response, with libraries receiving music shop vouchers, pool passes, torches, fishing lures, McDonald’s vouchers, stickers, stationery, Lego and games, just to name a few of the lucky prizes that were given away over the five weeks. As if that wasn’t enough incentive for our kids to read, Casino Betta Electrical and Kyogle Retravision were invited to be the major supporters of the program in their respective towns. They were asked to consider donating a Discman as the major prize for the program and they both did just that! A total of 83 children completed the program and read in excess of 830 books. Some children managed to read 20 or more books over the 5 weeks.

We had a presentation at each branch library to conclude the program. The certificates were presented by the Mayor of each town, lots of cake was eaten and of course two very happy children went home with a Discman as the major prize for the program in their respective towns. They were asked to consider donating a Discman as the major prize for the program and they both did just that! A total of 83 children completed the program and read in excess of 830 books. Some children managed to read 20 or more books over the 5 weeks.

We had a presentation at each branch library to conclude the program. The certificates were presented by the Mayor of each town, lots of cake was eaten and of course two very happy children went home with a Disco...
Young adult’s update

Youth Week 2005

Campbelltown

Campbelltown City Library Service ran a successful program for Youth Week 2005. The coincidence of Youth Week falling in the April school holidays allowed activities to be held during the day, helping to increase attendances at events.

We offered a number of youth activities to teens in the Campbelltown area, most catering to 12 to 18 year olds with one for 12 to 24 year olds, including the following. HJ Daley Library hosted a movie screening for teens on Tuesday. Twenty two kids thoroughly enjoyed Dodgeball starring Ben Stiller. Laughter and lounging (on beanbags) was the order of the afternoon.

On Thursday we hosted a comic book writing workshop at HJ. Daley Library. Fourteen young people aged between 12 and 24 years old attended this workshop. Frank Dirscherl, writer of the comic The Wraith and publisher of Trinity Comics, conducted the workshop. Frank’s workshop explored such topics as the history of comics, what components make up a comic, how to write a script for a comic, and ways to organise an artist for your comic (if you cannot draw yourself) and ways to start writing their own script for a comic. The exercise proved to highlight the talent of some of the youth in our community. Overall this activity was very successful and thoroughly enjoyed. Young people visiting our libraries had a chance to win a $30 CD voucher. Each time a teen, between the ages of 12 to 18, borrowed a book they were given an entry form to go into a draw for a CD voucher. We received 229 entries, which resulted in five very happy winners. Free Internet was provided for youth aged 12 to 18 years. All the usual rules for computer bookings applied eg kids under 18 required a signed Internet permission form.

Overall, Youth Week 2005 was a great success and popular with the youth in our community. As the teens would say IAG (it’s all good).

Michelle Birch
Youth Librarian
Campbelltown Library

Manly

Manly Library opened a new youth area as part of Youth Week 2005. A new space has been created within the Library to cater to the needs of young adults, featuring new lounges, TV and DVD player, music listening posts and a spectacular aerosol art mural. The area was launched with an evening function of 50 people of mixed age groups. The launch highlighted the art work on display and also involved two local youth music groups performing. The concept for the new area has been developed with the assistance of young people in Manly. There has been much consultation with young library users and non-users, and the Manly Youth Council. The new facilities were made possible by funding from the State Library of NSW.

Lounging!

The Library has also extended its DVD and CD collections, to incorporate more youth orientated content. The new Graphic Novel collection is also housed in this area along with magazines and other paperback and hardcover fiction for young adults. Art works by local Year 12 students will be displayed in the new youth area and the Library will also be collecting music by local bands, including demonstration CDs from local talent.

Louise McMorland
Manly Library

Randwick

Randwick City Library and Information Service celebrated National Youth Week this year with a crowd of over 150 guests. Our new Graphic Novels were launched during the week and in no time all of them were borrowed. Staff also hosted two film nights.

Hon Lionel Bowen AC and a Young Writer’s Award winner

The presentation of prizes for the third Bowen Lyon Young Writers’ Award was the finale to end the week. This year 135 entries (the largest number to date) were received and 12 prizes were awarded to young people aged 10 – 18 years. The Hon Mr Lionel Bowen AC and Mrs Claire Bowen were also in attendance at the presentation evening. Our central library at Maroubra, the Bowen Library was named after this local living treasure. During Mr Bowen’s speech he commented on how the library has developed so well, as 40 years ago there was no library in Randwick City. He praised library staff for their hard work and said, ‘I am very proud to live in this city with such wonderful library facilities.’ Booklets of all the entries were compiled and made available for loan. The winning entries were also posted to the library website.

After the official part of the evening music students from South Sydney High School performed the songs they like and the whole evening was a huge success.

Melinda Maybury
Marketing and Promotion Librarian

Youth Zone

The new Youth Zone at the Queanbeyan City Library was officially opened on April 15 by the Mayor, Cr Frank Pangallo.

Youth Zone!

A new Young Adults Area was created in the Library and a competition to name the area was held. The winning suggestion was Youth Zone. A large graffiti artwork incorporating the new name was designed and completed by young adults from the Axis Youth Centre here in Queanbeyan. The artwork covers one wall of the area and looks fantastic. It certainly adds colour to the inside of the Library and can be seen from the outside as well. New furniture, including a funky Hand Chair seems to be a hit and will hopefully get lots of use. It was fantastic to have so many young adults at the opening to see their artwork unveiled and their own area officially opened. A music and dance display by the Youth Centre was also part of the festivities. The project proved to be a great collaboration between the Library and the Youth Centre.

Youn Zone is now home to many resources for use and borrowing by young adults. The YA videos and DVDs are very popular and a new listening post allows users to listen to CDs before borrowing them. The Youth Zone is now an exciting and colourful area for the young adult users of the Library.

Sandra O’Neill
Assistant Children’s Librarian
Queanbeyan City Library

Libraries are loud

LAL is back at Wagga Wagga

On Friday May 20 the Libraries are loud youth concerts resumed with gusto at Wagga Wagga City Library with many new faces amongst the usual crowd. This year we are recruiting the parents...
Young adult's update

The new Manly Library Youth Area is an interesting, innovative and fun place to be. The use of a wireless network enables clientele to loan a CD sitting anywhere within the library. The DVD is accessed through a 32” plasma screen TV which is housed with the CD players. The graphic novel collection has already proved a major success with 100% borrowing in the first week. Manly Library continues to extend its resources whilst keeping abreast with changes in technology. Manly Youth area will increase the usage of the library and its resources as an interesting and technologically aware service to all. It will become a showcase for young artists and a celebration of the youth contribution to our local community.

Response to the new area has been enthusiastic:

‘Just wanted to say that I’m dead enthusiastic:’

Manly Young Adult’s Update

Cootamundra Library rocks!

Since September last year, Cootamundra Library has been rocking away with monthly youth concerts called Libraries are Loud. Held in meeting rooms attached to the library, Libraries are Loud provides a venue for local bands to play to local youth. The concept was introduced by Riverina Regional Library’s Children’s and Youth Librarian Caren Hudson (who has now resigned), who supported and encouraged Cootamundra’s Lynne Thornburn to do this great venture.

Lynne does a fabulous job of organising local youth bands to come along and play for a couple of hours on a Friday night. The bands play for free and put on a great show. Starting Libraries are Loud was the first major event ever directed at youth in the library. It has also appealed to kids who are not regular library users and changed the local perception of what the library is all about.

Although aimed at youth, we get a wide variety of ages coming along. An average number of 63 people attend each concert, with the majority being between 10 and 18 years of age. For $2 they get music, a drink and a hot dog - certainly good value! The event is also drug and alcohol free and once people are in they cannot leave until the end of the concert. These ground rules are aimed at making the event safe and hopefully make parents feel better about leaving their children.

The concerts are run on the night by library staff and a handful of faithful volunteers, whom are a fantastic help. Tickets are available for sale before the concert, however are mostly sold at the door. This can make it difficult to predict numbers, especially with the May concert where 105 people turned up!

Libraries are Loud has been a fantastic experience for library staff. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said “Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail”.

Mandy Proov

Office-in-charge

Cootamundra Branch
Briefly speaking

The ABS + libraries = a winning formula!

Win $1500 worth of ABS products and services! Calling all public libraries to get your entries in for the inaugural Library Extension Program Excellence Award. Entries close on July 31, 2005 for initiatives undertaken during 1 January 2004 and 30 June 2005. Read on...

Libraries are widely recognised as a popular source of information for Australians. There were, in fact, 105 million visitors to public libraries during 2003-04.1 It is no surprise, then, that the ABS Library Extension Program (LEP), a partnership between the ABS and over 500 Australian libraries (including 355 public libraries), has proven to be a very successful way to provide community access to ABS statistics.

The LEP partnership doesn't stop at simply providing free access to materials. It goes beyond, giving LEP library staff free training and support so that they can help their users to find and use ABS statistics to meet their needs. And libraries have risen to the challenge to better inform users.

The ABS values the work of LEP member libraries to promote awareness, understanding and use of ABS information to their communities. And we'd like to thank you! The inaugural LEP Excellence Award, launched during Library and Information Week in Canberra, aims to recognise and reward the efforts of our library partners.

If you've organised initiatives to raise your users' awareness of ABS information, you could be in the running to win the inaugural Award! The prize: a trophy and $1500 worth of ABS products and services of your choice.

So get your entry in or think about entering for next year’s Award. It’s a great way to showcase your training/promotional expertise to the library community. Visit the Library Extension Program pages on the ABS web site for more information about this exciting new award. Select Services We Provide, then Library Extension Program. And check out the May issue of the LEP Newsletter for ideas on what your library can do to enter for the Award. From the ABS web site, select News and Media, ABS Newsletters then Library Extension Program.


Pat Stracey National Manager (Acting) Library Extension Program Australian Bureau of Statistics

Dealing with DVDs

The following are some comments on methods of cleaning and repairing DVDs, compiled by Michelle Mshman, Canterbury Library Service.

Disc Wizard Series III
<diskwizard.allinteractive.com.au/content/test>. While this is an expensive initial outlay of approximately $3,000, it does clean and repair both DVDs and CDs and I think by the end of its first year it may well have recouped the costs. So far no problems only clean discs. It is time consuming to do the cleaning so that needs to be factored in.

The machine comes with easy to read instructions as well as multiple resurfacing pads for different levels of scratches. The results are perfect and the only CDs and DVDs that we have needed to replace are the ones that are deeply scratched. It is easy to use, and only takes a few goes to master the machine.

The distributor is All Interactive Distributors, tel: 1300 855 881. It is simple once you know how but there is a chance that the liquid polish that is used can fly out of the holes if too much is used. This happened to me after I was told to coat the disc with plenty of polish as we weren’t coating the disc enough for any effect. Polish flew out of the hole onto my face! Just warning you to be aware of the danger of having no one-one-one training, it does work well but it is better to have a pile of discs to do rather than one at a time. The papers that are used to polish the surface must be replaced quite frequently. There are different papers for different effects but sometimes you have to change the papers over three or four times for one disc so it becomes rather fiddly.

DiscDoctor <www.diskdoctor.com.au/> There are smaller cheaper machines but this machine really does the job. We have repaired many a disc that would not play at all. We clean all disks after 10 borrowings or when they come to our attention as damaged.

Other methods

Some local video shops clean discs. Ask at your local.

Don’t clean, repair. We use a small business called Discfix which resurfaces our CDs, CDROMs & DVDs. 90% of the discs can be repaired. He charges us about $7 per disk. We send him a batch of disks and he personally delivers them back to us within a couple of days. He provides excellent customer service. Contact Discfix: on tel: 9605 7904 or 0418 605872 or email: <discfix1@hotmail.com>.

Books Alive 2005

Books Alive, the nation’s biggest promotion of books and reading, will offer a specially commissioned book

Hell Island by best-selling thriller writer Matthew Reilly during the campaign this August. Hell Island will be given free with the purchase of any title from the newly produced brochure, The Books Alive Great Read Guide, during the campaign, which runs from July 27 to August 31 2005. The Books Alive Great Read Guide will showcase a selection of 50 remarkable books for adults and children and is the cornerstone of the 2005 campaign. The Guide will be distributed to three million Australians during the promotion.

The aim of Books Alive, an Australian Government initiative developed through the Australia Council for the Arts, is to increase the reading and buying of books and to improve the profile of books in Australia. The target audience is primarily the general Australian population, those who buy books for themselves, as gifts, and importantly, for children. Books Alive has a dual role in promoting titles for both adults and young people.

Books Alive research has found that while people value books and would like to read more, they find it difficult finding a good book—a book they can be sure of enjoying. While those who identify as book lovers relish the experience of browsing in bookshops, this is not an experience shared by many in the wider community. Research indicates that it is not uncommon for people to be overwhelmed by the vast selection of books on offer in a bookshop. The aim of the Guide is to simplify the world of books, says Books Alive chair, Sandra Yates AO.

Most Australian bookssellers will participate in Books Alive 2005 and will stock all or a selection of Guide titles. These books will be stickered as one of the 50 remarkable books for handy identification in-store. Bookstores will display Books Alive posters and many will have their windows dressed in celebration of the campaign. For every Guide title bought, the purchaser is entitled to a copy of Hell Island by Matthew Reilly (while stocks last).

Matthew Reilly will be a spokesperson for Books Alive 2005 and will tour to most state capitals around Australia during August. The details of his appearances will be available on the Books Alive website.

The full list of Guide titles will be released as a lift-out in the August edition of The Australian Women’s Weekly which will be on sale from Wednesday July 27. Copies of the Guide will be also be available at participating bookshops and libraries and over a million Guides will be handed out at shopping malls and major transport hubs around the country. Television and radio advertising will complement the Guide distribution and publicity program.

Libraries can order copies of the Books Alive Great Read Guide from Books Alive to receive free of charge with delivery due late July to tie-in with the campaign. Further campaign details including contact details are listed at <www.booksalive.com.au>.

Margaret Burke Coordinator, Books Alive