Coming soon

2003 to 2012 United Nations Literacy Decade
www.nald.ca/WHATNEW/lnews/2002/undecade.htm
Phone: 02 9262 5111

2005 International Year of Sport and Physical Education

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

Open Road 2006 Conference
Challenges and Possibilities
6 - 7 February 2006
Melbourne
www.openroad.net.au/conferences/2006/

VALA 2006
8 - 10 February 2006

CPLA 2006
Libraries Launch Communities
18 - 21 July 2006
Coomababran
http://www.cpla.asn.au/

ALIA 2006 Biennial Conference
19 - 22 September 2006
Perth
www.conferences.alia.org.au/alia2006/

In the libraries • Multicultural news • Young adults update
Maroochy, muster, mobiles, and mongrels

Maroochy Libraries (Queensland) hosted the 2005 Mobile Library Muster – Driven to Deliver, 9 – 11th September 2005. This annual Mobile Library Muster rotates between New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria providing an opportunity for mobile library operators and library professionals with a passion for mobile libraries, to network, enhance their knowledge and skills, access professional development and explore emerging trends in the mobile library industry.

The weekend conference is designed to promote and develop mobile library services regionally and nationally (and internationally, with a number of New Zealand delegates in attendance). It also raises awareness in the library community at large about the special nature of mobile libraries. This year Muster was hailed as the most successful ever with approximately 90 delegates in attendance.

The Muster commenced on the Friday afternoon with an inspection of the SVM (Specialised Vehicle Manufacture) workshop at Narangbah in Brisbane’s north. In recent years SVM have established themselves as the leading builder of mobile libraries in Australia. Delegates were impressed by the quality of workmanship, attention to detail and customer focus of the company. It was also fascinating to inspect the wide range of specialised vehicles other than mobile libraries under construction (and what is possibly the nearest workshop of any kind in Australia!). A highlight of the bus trip south to Narangbah was passing the northbound convoy of mobile libraries heading to Maroochy. An impressive sight indeed! Ten mobile libraries were at the Muster for inspection.

The conference proper on Saturday commenced with The Zen of Libraries presented by Angela Randall, Louise Bauer and Kerry Corini. The speakers presented a big picture view of the role of libraries in community capacity building, how they strengthen individuals and connect communities, moving on to the sustainability of services and specialist mobile library services. Ron Coyle, Managing Consultant of Integrated Team Systems presented a very entertaining session, Understanding ourselves and others. This was an interactive personality typing exercise, great fun and a very enlightening expose of the wide range of personality types that make up the industry. It also clearly displayed the advantages of having a diverse range of personality types in your organisation. After lunch, State Librarian of Queensland, Les Giles-Peters gave delegates an update from IFLA and also highlighted some of the more unique mobile library services she had encountered in her extensive travels.

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The remainder of the afternoon was concentrated on technology:

• Niall Milton, Managing Director of CalibreNet detailed the latest developments in Mobile Satellite Broadband.
• Maks Maksan, General Manager of Naskam Security Services gave a very impressive presentation Security on the Move in which he demonstrated state of the art security technology with a particular emphasis on the lone operator situation – an issue of growing importance to all Mobile Library operators.
• Brendan Freshwater, Director, SVM then spoke on the latest developments in Mobile Library construction techniques, materials and engineering.

As you would expect from an industry renowned for early nights, sobriety and restrained behaviour, delegates flocked to the previous evening’s Muster dinner. His morning session, Engaging your audience – Children had delegates enthralled. Marco’s talent to provoke side-splitting laughter and heartfelt touching realism from everyday situations was the ideal way to start the day.

The Gold Coast Mobile Library team shared their Mt Cotton Driver Training Experience with delegates. The session, which included a brief test, highlighted the dangers of complacency and the need for regular updating of skills and awareness of current National Heavy Vehicle Reforms and road regulations. Occupational Health and Safety is a huge issue for mobile library operators. Genevieve Hawkins from the ARK
The International Conference on Engaging Communities was an initiative of the United Nations and the Government of the State of Queensland and was held in Brisbane 14-17 August 2005. The Conference was a resounding success, with over 2000 delegates from 44 countries attending to share experiences and network with colleagues old and new. Diverse issues relating to community engagement were discussed and speakers addressed the experiences, challenges and research, which affect all citizens, governments and organisations alike.

When I first visited the Engaging Communities website, I was blown away by the sheer size of the program. In fact the reaction of nearly everyone I spoke to was, ‘Oh that conference with the huge program’ I was exhausted just thinking about its implications for me. Luckily I was more resolute in my approach (maybe it’s the benefits of my personal trainer finally kicking in) and on a gorgeous August day I was Brisbane-bound. Mindful of the range and diversity of presentations I had spent some time prior to leaving home plotting my Conference movements. With an overwhelming 14 strands (equating to 133 consecutive sessions, each with at least 4 presentations) most of which had great relevance to libraries and local government, this was not a task entered into lightly. In many ways it was akin to being confronted by a fabulous smorgasbord! Should I focus on one cuisine, a balanced diet or just go silly and pile things on my plate with gay abandon? Social capital, ICT, key target groups, consultative practice and toolskits, engaged government or a combination of them all? This in addition to the eight keynote sessions!

In the end my planning came to nought. My decision as to which session to attend was made on the hop depending on the capacity of the room and the popularity of each session. However this serendipitous approach (albeit enforced) exposed me to some stimulating and challenging presentations, which made me seriously rethink the way in which we engage with our communities. I’d like to share some of those thoughts and impressions with you.

The passionate and challenging presentations from the keynote speakers during the Conference were highlights for many delegates, myself included. Big picture discussions from Mary Robinson, Jose Ramos-Horta, Tim Costello and Robert Putnam (the guru of social capital) laid the groundwork for delegate sessions and ongoing discussion. But it was the presentation by Professor Stephen Colemen from the Oxford Internet Institute, Why Governments Should take E-Democracy Seriously — A Practical Policy for Online Engagement that resonated most clearly and made me question how effectively libraries are engaging with our clients in the ‘e’ environment, and have we lost our early Internet advantage? After my initial exposure to a Toolkit for Engaging Practice session I was beginning to feel uncomfortable. How many of us (myself included) revert to the same, tired ways of engaging with our communities, using familiar techniques, or variations on a theme, and inviting a seemingly unchanged line up of stakeholders to provide input? Do we go down this path because we want the community to validate the decisions we’ve already made or is it because we don’t know that other processes exist? Librarians are committed to continuing professional development but perhaps we need to broaden our thinking and ensure that consultative techniques are an integral part of our training and ongoing growth.

By day three I’d become a Toolkit junkie (as evidenced by the number of publications I subsequently ordered or downloaded) and arrived home determined to introduce at least some of these techniques into our consultative processes. Community deliberation, Creative Practices of Hope, Community Mentoring, Listening Sessions, Speakouts — the possibilities are enormous. Fortunately we’re in the middle of a city-wide planning process and while it’s some months too late to say ‘let’s start again’, we have been able to incorporate some new tools and techniques into the project, to the liking of the community who were in danger of boredom by over consultation. Always alert to funding opportunities I made sure that I found a seat at the sessions dealing with community and
Read Aloud Summit

The focus of the Whoever you are, wherever you are, you can read aloud summit was the importance of reading aloud to children 0 to 5 years. An initiative of Julie Urquhart, CEO of the Dymocks Literacy Foundation, and Mem Fox, author and literacy educator, the summit in Sydney on 31 August to 1 September drew an international audience of more than 200 delegates. The speakers included a wide cross section of paediatricians, researchers, early childhood educators, literacy experts, project coordinators, authors and librarians. Reading aloud to very young children has a number of key benefits. It:

• fosters a special bond between parent and child
• develops emerging literacy skills, vocabulary, the ability to identify the names and sounds of letters, an ability to identify and manipulate sounds, and an understanding of print conventions (eg. the right way up to hold a book, turning pages, recognising that the symbols relate to the pictures) and
• enhances brain development.

Research has also found that children who have not developed emergent literacy skills by school age are unlikely to catch up with their peers. There are too many early literacy projects under way around the country to name them all. Some samples include the Babies who read, succeed book packs on loan in Tasmanian libraries, the Early Words literacy program in Western Sydney, the Better Beginnings family literacy program in Western Australia and the Let’s Read program offered by the Smith Family in NSW.

Many public libraries also hold very popular lap-sit or baby bounce and rhyme time programs. Libraries make very good partners in early literacy projects, so look out for opportunities in your community. For further information go to Let’s Read - A Literature Review <http://www.rch.org.au/emplibrary/ccch/LetsRead_2pgSummary.pdf>

Mylee Joseph
Children’s Young Adults and Older Persons Consultant
Public Library Services
State Library of New South Wales
Whoever You Are, Wherever You Are
The Summit provided an opportunity to focus on the importance of reading aloud to very young children and the positive impact this has on both literacy and broader educational outcomes. The Summit highlighted and encouraged good practice and innovation in read aloud programs designed for the years prior to school, both nationally and internationally. Outcomes of the Summit will be valuable to a wide range of stakeholders, including government, education, community and health sectors. Although the content of the conference was as interesting as it was diverse, somewhat alarmingly for public libraries (and libraries in general) this sector had been all but overlooked by the Summit planners. Lynne Malin (Upper Murray Regional Library), Jan Richards (Central

Read Aloud Summit

West Libraries) and I requested an opportunity to make a presentation to the Summit about the many babies and books programs that are operating in Australian public libraries. We also emphasised the capacity of Australia’s 1,700 public libraries to take a leading role in achieving the government’s literacy commitments.

Libraries are now firmly on the agenda as discussion progresses about the development of a national Read Aloud program that will ideally incorporate current initiatives and best practice examples within a sustainable framework.

Robert Knight
Director
Riverina Regional Library

A challenge for public libraries

During his opening address to the 200 delegates at the recent Read Aloud Summit, Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training Brendan Nelson committed the government to funding a second summit in 2006, important because the first Summit produced no tangible outcomes. It was more a voyage of discovery and connection about how a number of agencies are responding to the issues, sometimes in isolation from each other.

The program consisted of workshops and several keynote papers. Speakers included:

Frank Oberklaid, the Director of the Centre for Community Child Health at the Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne which, in partnership with

The Smith Family, has developed a research-based literacy promotion program called Let’s Read <www.letsread.com.au> His presentation looked at why reading aloud to young children is so vital to ensuring the greatest chance of each child reaching their full potential.

Jennifer Connor has been an early childhood teacher, school principal and curriculum manager and has held the positions of National President for the Children’s Book Council of Australia and for the Australian Literacy Educators’ Association. She spoke about how sharing books at home plays a central role in laying the foundations for literacy learning and explained how families, librarians, carers and early childhood teachers can draw children’s attention to particular structures and features of books, to build their concepts about books and print and to bridge them into enjoyable literacy learning.

Julie Urquhart, Chief Executive Officer of the Dymocks Literacy Foundation spoke on a Newspoll survey, commissioned by Dymocks, that found that while 100% of people think reading to children is important, almost half of Australian parents do not read to their children on a daily basis. Dr Robert Needlman, Associate Professor of Paediatrics at Case School of Medicine (USA) spoke about the program he has developed, Reach Out and Read (JOR). More than 3,200 clinics and offices participate in JOR, in the US and abroad. The JOR intervention has three parts:

business partnerships. The power of these presentations by representatives of BHP Billiton, NRMA, Westpac and Unilever made me reassess the value of in kind support and how this could be harnessed at a state and national level. At the other end of the scale Noosa Shire Council’s presentation on their Shine project demonstrated the strength of community involvement and participation.

Given the considerable amount of research and discussion in recent years on the connection between public libraries and social capital I was amazed both by the absence of presentations on libraries (they were referred to in only two abstracts) and at the lack of colleagues in attendance. How could we have failed to take up this opportunity to highlight the library’s role in community building to an international audience? Increasingly we have been instrumental in inviting ‘outsiders’ to address our conferences but if we want to be taken seriously we need to step firmly outside our own comfort zone.

While there was a dearth of library colleagues in attendance amazingly seven delegates came from Orange, drawn from the education, welfare, rural, environment, health and local government sectors. As a way of ensuring the momentum of the Conference isn’t lost we are meeting on a regular basis to further explore some concepts, broaden our skill base and engage in cooperative projects. In social capital terms we’re ‘bridging’ (though true to library tradition we’re doing it over coffee, lunch or drinks). I returned from the Engaging Communities Conference incredibly inspired and, a month later the motivation to rethink our library’s engagement with the community still burns brightly. We have already taken the first steps towards this – though the tale of our Speakout will form the basis of a future Public Library News story! However I believe that the Conference themes and outcomes offer our profession remarkable areas for stimulating discussion and I think that it is in our best interest to start that conversation now.

Further details about the Conference, including the program and presentation abstracts are available at: <http://www.engagecommunities2005.org/home.html>.

Jan Richards
Manager
Central West Libraries

Engaging communities
Read Aloud Summit

- volunteers or students read aloud with children in the waiting room (in many clinics, the wait is an hour or more!)
- during check-ups the doctor provides personalised, culturally sensitive guidance to parents about reading aloud, including demonstrating ways to enjoy books with their babies; and
- at each visit from 6 months to 6 years, the doctor gives the child a beautiful new picture book to take home.

Mem Fox was an Associate Professor of Education at Deakin University for 20 years until 1996. As well as being, of course, a great writer of books for young children, she is now an international consultant in literacy, and the major Australian exponent of the importance of reading aloud to babies. Mem’s presentation was very interactive and focused on how to keep everyone awake and entranced during a reading aloud session, no matter how old or young the audience. Delegates read together in the ways Mem directed – loudly, quietly, slowly, quickly, with pauses. Great fun!

Rosemary Clarke joined the UK Booktrust in 1998 and helped to establish UK Bookstart as the first national books for babies program in the world. Similar programs linked to UK Bookstart have now started in Japan, Thailand, Korea, and India. Several Australian public libraries are also linked with UK Bookstart. Her presentation provided an overview of Bookstart (<www.bookstart.co.uk>), the research supporting the benefits of early reading aloud and book sharing; how the program began with 300 babies in Birmingham in 1992 and grew to two million children in just one year; and then made the transition from a comprehensive national initiative to an internationally adopted program.

Dr Leonie Rowan, a senior lecturer in education at Deakin University, spoke on the challenges of engaging boys in literacy education and on the importance of ensuring they have positive experiences with books and with reading from a very early age. A key strategy is reading aloud to young boys and the presentation outlined some of the most effective ways to engage young children – and especially young boys - with a variety of books. It also identified some of the common pitfalls that people encounter when working with boys and reading, and highlighted the importance of having a robust set of strategies to draw upon in creating a bridge between boys and books.

The papers from the Summit will soon be available at <www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au>

Fairfield City Library was represented at the Summit by Carolyn Bourke who, as the ALIA representative, took part in organising the Summit, and me. A number of public librarians were also there. This was fortunate. At the beginning of the Summit many of the other delegates clearly had little idea that public libraries are already heavily involved in early childhood literacy support programs and have the great potential to do more.

By its end, the Summit delegates would have been left in no doubt about the major partnering role of libraries in early childhood literacy. They would have also been left in no doubt about the importance of a nationally coordinated Australian program, following Rosemary Clarke’s presentation that emphasized the critical importance of public libraries to Bookstart in the UK. Their contribution to Bookstart is now a government impact measure for them.

Whilst it produced a consensus that a program for reading aloud is a national issue, the Summit did not take Australia any closer to national action. Three states and one territory, individual organisations such as the Dymocks Literacy Foundation and The Smith Family, and individual public libraries (sometimes with the support of their friends) are developing commendable responses to the issues. For example, Fairfield has been running lap-it-up programs called Babystart for several years backed up by parent training sessions. These are informal sessions where reading, singing, finger plays etc are modeled to parents, then library staff talk about brain development, the importance of using family language, reading, talking and singing with babies, often using a translator to facilitate understanding. More formal approaches include the six week Cool Babies course run by library staff through Macarthur Community College, funded by Families First. This course is interactive and encourages young mothers to make their own books to share with their babies as well as understand the significance and value of published books in their child’s development.

Whilst these programs and others like them are commendable, they are still locally based and cannot hope to achieve the same levels of success as a nationally funded program. Yet at the current rate of progress it will be at least a decade before a national program will be available to all parents and their babies — and for every baby that is not read to there is potentially another semi-literate or illiterate Australian who will not develop their full potential. Can Australia afford to wait that long?

So here’s my challenge to public libraries:
- read the papers when they appear on the Summit website
- find out what your Council’s strategic policy is on early childhood and parental support, and whether it makes any reference to literacy development
- find out what our state government is doing about the issue
- discuss the issue with your colleagues
- understand that this is a social, health, economic and educational issue
- read Mem’s book Reading magic (Sydney: Pan Macmillan, 2001)

Daniel Ferguson
Outreach Services Librarian-Adult Community
Fairfield City Library Service

Off the beaten track

Off the Beatent Track: The History
Council’s travelling lecture series During History Week 2005, the History Council of NSW launched Off the Beatent Track, a travelling lecture series designed to showcase outstanding and innovative historical scholarship and deliver a high-quality history experience to people living in regional NSW.

The inaugural series featured Professor Richard Waterhouse, renowned historian of colonial history from the University of Sydney, presenting a lecture titled ‘Agrarian Ideals, Pastoral Realities: the Use and Misuse of Land in Rural Australia, 1788-2004’ at three regional centres – Orange, Kempsey and Waggga Wagga.

In a captivating series of lectures, Richard explored the central role the bush has played in Australian society and culture, presenting a rich and complex story of the land and its people that resonated with local audiences. He noted that growing up in a rural area he had been advised by parents, teachers and neighbours that ‘If you want a job go to Dubbo or Grenfell or Orange. If you want a career go to Sydney’. And yet looking back at the history of rural Australia, it had not always been so. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, life on the land had very often been associated with promise, prosperity and opportunity.

Having touched on the historical tensions between the city and the bush throughout the lecture, he argued that Australians no longer consider that the rural type constitutes the typical Australian but reflected that nevertheless, ‘we should not forget the critical role that rural Australia has played in determining our prosperity, our imaginations about our place in the landscape and our vision of what kind of society this nation should become’. At a time when the effects of the drought and questions about land use have cast a shadow over the future of regional NSW, Richard reminded his audiences that the history of rural Australia is characterised by dreams and disillusionment, by cycles of optimism and gloom. And that understanding the history of rural Australia can help to illuminate the present-day realities of regional life.

The inaugural Off the Beatent Track series was generously supported by the NSW Ministry for the Arts.

The History Council of NSW is planning to run the Off the Beatent Track lecture series in 2006 in three more regional centres and is seeking suitable regional partners (libraries, museums, galleries, universities) to assist with local arrangements. To express your interest in hosting an Off the Beatent Track lecture, email the History Council of NSW at <office@historycouncilnsw.org.au>

To find out more about the History Council visit <www.historycouncilnsw.org.au>

Carolyne Carter
Executive Officer
History Council of NSW
Off the beaten track

Orange

Libraries in Orange, Kempsey and Wagga Wagga hosted the History Council’s Inaugural Travelling Lecture Series, Off the Beaten Track, during September in conjunction with History Week. The bush has always played a central role in Australian society and culture, but its history is not a simple one. Professor Richard Waterhouse presented a wonderful series of lectures, exploring the dreams and disillusionment that have characterised Australian perceptions of rural life from 1788 to the present. Richard Waterhouse is Bicentennial Professor of Australian History and Head of the School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry at the University of Sydney. A renowned historian of colonial history, he is the author of a number of books and articles on Australian and United States social and cultural history, including his recently published work The Vision Splendid: a Social and Cultural History of Rural Australia (2005). Four generations of Richard’s family – extending back to his great-great grandparents – all made lives for themselves in the bush.

Off the Beaten Track was an initiative of their commitment to provide a voice for history across New South Wales.

Jan Richards
Manager
Central West Libraries

Kempsey

History Week

Off the Beaten Track, the History Council’s Inaugural Travelling Lecture Series stopped at Kempsey Library on Monday morning the 19th of September. Professor Richard Waterhouse, a specialist in Australian rural history gave a fascinating lecture on the use and misuse of land in rural Australia, titled Agrarian Ideals, Pastoral Realities. The History Council sponsored the professor and his expenses and also contributed to the library’s costs in providing chairs and refreshments.

Members of the Macleay River Historical Society were thrilled when we contacted them regarding the lecture and they networked with all of their friends and relations so the library received a $2,000 grant from the Kempsey Shire Library.

Wagga

Happy Birthday Tumut!

On 26 May Tumut Library celebrated ten years in its current location. To mark the occasion we hosted an informal morning tea with an open invitation to all residents to visit the Library. The Library building was officially opened on May 26, 1995 by Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair, former Governor of NSW, and at the time it was the largest single building project Tumut Shire Council had ever undertaken. The local newspaper Tumut & Adelong Times featured a three page special on the Tumut Library. The article outlined the Library’s history from 1961 when Tumut Shire Council first began to operate a local public library, to current day services that the Library provides to the community.

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Kabi Brie
Shire Librarian
Kempsey Shire Library

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Not bad for a 10 year old

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Mylee Joseph, consultant, Public Library Services, State Library, Helen Pelham, Director of Finance and Administration for Bourke Shire Council (and Master of Ceremonies for the day), and Peter Black, state member for Murray Darling.

Aboriginal family history
It is amazing how much information is actually available regarding Aboriginal family history. Ronald Briggs, Indigenous Services Librarian at Mitchell Library, enlightened both library staff and members of the public in two separate workshops held in July. The public workshop was well patronised by members of our local Aboriginal community and as one participant remarked, ‘it’s a great opportunity for us to get to know some of the local Aboriginal people in our area.’ Ronald took us through past NSW Government policies, which has given us an understanding of the role of Government records for Aboriginal family research. Wallys Lake, which was both a mission and a reserve, is in the northern part of our Shire so the knowledge we gained from the workshop is highly relevant to our local history.

Laura (l) and Ann

Morning tea!
The launch was further promoted through our community radio station, 2WEB and the Indigenous radio station, 2CUZFM.

Ann McLachlan
Library Manager
Bourke Public Library

Linda Albertson
Local and Family History Librarian
Bega Valley Shire Library

Drawn together
Drawn Together – the drawing lives of Nora Heysen, Judy Cassab and Margaret Woodward opened at the Parramatta Heritage & Visitor Information Centre on August 5 and ran until October 30. The exhibition, generated by the Centre, is an extraordinary gathering of drawings and associated prints and paintings that span the lives of these three artists and covers nearly 80 years of art making in Australia. Heysen was the first woman war artist in World War II and the first to win the Archibald Prize, in 1938. Cassab won the Archibald Prize twice and Woodward has won the Wynne Prize and Portia Geach Portrait Prize twice. These three artists have all made a lasting contribution to art in Australia. This amazing exhibition is an exploration of perceptions, passions, insights and the range of human emotions that only great artists can elicit so easily from each of us. The works are drawn from major state and national collections as well as private collections including the artists’ own studios. The curator Gay Hendriksen commented.

Gay Hendriksen
Curator
Parramatta Heritage & Visitor Information Centre

Nora Heysen, Judy Cassab and Margaret Woodward by Judy Cassab, Judy by Margaret

Accompanying the exhibition will be a catalogue and education kit. This exhibition is supported by Visions of Australia, an Australian Government Program supporting touring exhibitions by providing funding assistance for the development and touring of cultural material across Australia. The exhibition received funding because the content is culturally significant, according to Senator Rod Kemp.

Nora Heysen, self portrait, Margaret Woodward

Go Team
Camden Council Library Services Team was recently recognised by In Focus. In Focus is the local government newspaper, and the awards are for teams which have performed at a high level. Our Library Team was selected as the team winner from New South Wales, and was profiled in the newsletter.

Over the past five years the Library Services Team has undergone an enormous amount of change, signalling a new era for our libraries. Our team members are extremely hard working and dedicated and we attribute our success in change management to the following:

• staff are skilled in their role and functions
• all staff are involved in developing operating plans, and vision and values statements regardless of their position/title
• there is a supportive atmosphere, where creativity and innovation is encouraged
• library staff have varied professional backgrounds and training
• staff are proud of the service; and finally
• we all have a great sense of humour!

Celebration
Narellan Library and Community Space was officially opened on 30 June 2005 by the then Premier of NSW, the Hon Bob Carr, MP, State Member for Camden, Geoff Corrigan, MP and the Mayor of Camden, Fred Anderson.

Narellan Vale Public School performed We’re dancing for the Premier and official guests and local women’s...
A fitting way to end our official opening – a grand opening!

The opening was a huge success and well received by those who attended.

Drumming group, Lavoz, welcomed guests with some raw beats in the foyer. The opening was a huge success and well received by those who attended.

In the libraries

Despite the rain we had about 190 people attend this event which was an opportunity to celebrate this new facility and to thank and acknowledge the amount of work Council staff put into this project. It was wonderful to have so many Councillors attend the celebrations. We were also thrilled to have Dagmar Schmidmaier AM, State Librarian and CEO, attend in the evening as our official guest speaker.

Kathryn Baget-Juleff
Manager Library Services
Camden

Sydney Writers @ Campbelltown

Catherine Jinks visited Campbelltown Library on Thursday 26 May as part of the 2005 Sydney Writers’ Festival. Catherine is the award-winning Australian author of more than 20 books for children and young adults, including the Pagan series. Catherine talked about her new book, Evil Genius, the process of writing and lots more. Evil Genius is set in Sydney and the plot revolves around a young boy called Cadell Pigott, an only child, who by the time he is a teenager, is studying world domination at university. The book has been likened to J K Rowling’s Harry Potter.

Over twenty people attended, ranging in age from ten to eighty, demonstrating Catherine’s appeal and versatility as an author. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed Catherine’s presentation and the ensuing discussion over refreshments. Campbelltown Library is looking forward to a larger contribution to the 2006 Sydney Writers’ Festival.

Carolyn Young
Extension Program Coordinator
Campbelltown City Library

Catherine and her fans

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In the libraries

Not the Canterbury Tales

No it wasn’t the Canterbury Tales, but it was certainly literary. Canterbury embraced the idea of National Poetry Week great gusto. We held a series of Random Poetry happenings throughout the week as well as a Liquid Poetry happening.

Random Poetry is based on an American idea where poetry readers approach commuters on trains and at railway stations to recite assorted snippets, or indeed lengthy items, of poetry. For our inaugural celebration the concept was confined to Campsie, our central library. Members of the public as well as staff read poems throughout the week in assorted time slots. Poetry ranged from original material to that by well known poets. Readings included Sylvia Plath, Robert Frost, Roald Dahl and the lesser known William Ernest Henley. Henley's poem, Invictus, gained some unanticipated infamy when it was read as the last statement of the Oklahoma bomber, Timothy McVeigh, at his execution. Our poets and poetry readers ranged in age from about eight to eighty, so we certainly attracted a broad range of people. It was a lot of fun and will certainly be repeated, but what did we learn from the exercise? Well … A PA system would have been a great idea, as some voices didn’t carry as well as others, and probably our idea of random was just a little too random!

In hindsight, it would have been better to have listed specific times so that those with a leaning towards the poetic could have planned to attend. There was so much interest by some of the participants that we are now investigating the idea of a Canterbury Readers and Writers group.

Interest has also been shown in our Liquid Poetry project. This takes the form of a communal poem which was initially started by a member of staff. Since then, budding poets have been invited to add their four line contributions to the butcher’s paper attached to a display board. The poem will be put on our website in the near future.

Next year we’ll do National Poetry Week even bigger and better, maybe a Poetry Pizzaz night complete with competitions!

And the secret behind our success – the terrific staff. I have a tendency to grab hold of an idea, saying, It would be really great if we did something for…… and then wait for the ideas to roll in and for other people to do all the hard work! So, many thanks to all concerned, because it wouldn’t be possible without their support and great planning.

Construction Capers

After a couple of years of planning, two of our libraries have recently had significant construction work taking place.

The Lakemba Library has had a total makeover, a la John Stanley, following the recommendations of his retailing strategies report prepared in 2002. This once somewhat depressing space has been given a new lease of life, with the once almost unnoticeable library remaining open and we now have a new circulation area. The builders did a brilliant job of doing quite significant structural work whilst the library remained open and we now have a new circulation/infomation desk. We’ve gone from two separate desks to one dual purpose desk and apart from being more aesthetically pleasing we believe there’s a real customer service bonus. The old layout had staff with their backs to library visitors once they had entered the library. With the new desk, staff are facing the lending floor, willing and able to help anyone looking like they might need assistance.

Michelle Mashman
Manager
Canterbury City Library

Our beautiful new desk!

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Michelle Mashman
Manager
Canterbury City Library

A fitting way to end our official opening day was with our Opening Celebration evening.
New in Carrathool

Carrathool Shire Council recently held its opening of the new W G Parker Memorial Library and Rural Transaction Centre (RTC) on the 10th of June 2005. The building was officially opened by the Hon John Cobb MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Transport and Regional Services, and federal member for Parkes.

The $1.5 million project undertaken by Carrathool Shire Council has culminated in a magnificent multipurpose building. $150 000 was received in Library Development Grant Funding and $258 000 from the Rural Transaction Centre Funding. The building has a total area of 730 square metres and includes much more space for books; a popular children's area, with facilities for story time activities including a sink and vinyl flooring and an enclosed play area; computer room with eight Internet access computers; a separate study room; a large local history room, and a garage and book loading area for the mobile library. A Centrelink access booth is also located in the library. The RTC side of the building includes a tourist information centre, two offices for hire, meeting room facilities that are on a par if not better than those available in major metropolitan areas.

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In the libraries

The children’s play area has proven to be a real hit for both mothers and kids alike. And everyone loves our beautiful red gum circulation desk!

We look forward to a creative and bright future for our library.

Helen Underwood
Library Manager
Carrathool Shire Council

Happy birthday!

Coffs Harbour update

Behind the scenes @ your library

With great gusto Coffs Harbour City library staff got “behind” the scenes @ your library campaign. After being subjected to probing interview questions relating to their reading choices, staff were portrayed as Ripe Fruit on the Tree of Knowledge. The books we most loved were displayed among the trees of knowledge and members of the library were able to gain insights into the books our staff enjoyed reading. Even the books we all loved as children were on display!

The Mayor of Baulkham Hills Shire, Regan cut the cake!

The Mayor of Baulkham Hills Shire, Regan cut the cake!

Ripe Fruit

The mayor’s birthday cake is a hit with children and staff alike. The children’s play area has proven to be a real hit for both mothers and kids alike. And everyone loves our beautiful red gum circulation desk!

We look forward to a creative and bright future for our library.

Helen Underwood
Library Manager
Carrathool Shire Council

Happy birthday!

In the libraries

System Upgrade

Coffs Harbour City Library has just undertaken an upgrade of our Library Management System, now providing enhanced customer services via Civic’s Sydus & Library management system. Members of the library can now access our current Alerts Service, which emails them when we obtain new items matching their profiles. Other enhancements include improved management of the Housebound Service and a greater degree of administrative independence with advanced reporting capabilities.

Judy Atkinson
Programs Officer
Coffs Harbour City Library

Excellence in customer service

Cootamundra Library was recently nominated for the local business award for excellence in customer service. Sponsored by the Cootamundra Development Centre, library staff were surprised and delighted to hear of their nomination. Unfortunately the library did not win the award, however staff had a good night at the presentation ceremony knowing that their efforts are appreciated.

Of course the Library always strives to provide the best possible service to all our customers. Sometimes this can be a challenge especially when you consider what a busy regional branch library it is. However, it good to know that they could still have access to the same level of library services should they choose to move to a country area,” Ms Biggin said. It was easy to tell them that country libraries pride themselves on their fantastic customer service and in providing a range of services that are on a par if not better than those available in major metropolitan areas.

Library Staff Talk Up Region

Services provided by country public libraries have been highlighted as part of the Country Week Expo held in Sydney recently. Central West Library Manager and secretary/treasurer of the Country Public Libraries Association (CPLA), Jan Richards, and Bega Valley Shire Council’s Library Services Manager Janice Biggin represented the Country Public Libraries Association, talking up the advantages of living in rural and regional Australia. I found the expo very stimulating, and was very impressed with the number of people who stopped at the CPLA stand to chat about their fabulous local public libraries and were keen to know whether they could still have access to the same level of library services should they choose to move to a country area.” Ms Biggin said. It was easy to tell them that country libraries pride themselves on their fantastic customer service and in providing a range of services that are on a par if not better than those in rural and regional Australia.

The expo attracted more than 70 exhibitors from regional and country NSW, and the CPLA stand promoted
the benefits for those considering a change from the city rat race to regional NSW.

We certainly highlighted the advantages of living in some of the great country regions of NSW – including outstanding library services, Ms Biggen said.

The expo also explored business opportunities in county NSW, as well as employment and financial issues. The seachange/treechange phenomena is happening, and the enthusiasm for public libraries by so many throughout this expo clearly proved to me that libraries can, and do, change lives – and in so many ways, Ms Biggen said.

Janice Biggin
Manager
Bega Valley Shire Library

Editor’s note: Congratulations to Janice who was awarded the 2005 Colin Mills Scholarship. Janice will travel to the United States to study the challenges facing libraries that are in sea change/tree change and baby boomer areas where there is rapid demographic change. She will research programs in California, Arizona and Colorado that specifically target lifelong learning and community engagement of their older populations through public libraries.

Poets on wheels tour

To celebrate National Poetry Week from the 9th to 18th September, the Poets Union of NSW selected three poets to tour the South Coast, conducting readings and workshops. Michelle Carter, David Gilbey and Anna Buck read their own work at the library on Saturday evening to a very appreciative crowd. This was followed by eleven local writers covering a diverse range of ages and writing styles, from bush poetry to free verse. Local writer, Marian Devitt’s poem about Les Murray was judged by the trio as the best of the locals on the evening, followed by Craig Green’s poems and third place went to Jennifer Edwards for her very entertaining poems. Deb Benson compered the evening and wine and nibbles were supplied by the library.

Fairfield News

Libraries are great!

Fairfield City Library is currently participating in the University of Western Sydney Cooperative Program to produce a DVD which aims to get the message out to the public that Libraries are Great!

Linda and Daniel interview Homework Centre teacher Bill Bourke

The aim of the UWS Winter Research Awards Program is to provide industry partners with the opportunity to solve a workplace problem or develop a small project at nominal cost. The Cooperative Program has allowed the library to do a project, which we normally would not have the time, expertise or resources to do.

Daniel Tanner, a second year Bachelor of Electronic Arts student is working with library staff to produce the DVD. Daniel and I have been visiting all five Fairfield libraries and interviewing and filming library program participants for their thoughts on the worth of libraries. Daniel then views the footage and compiles the DVD in consultation with library staff.

Programs covered include baby time (for 0-2 year olds), preschool story time, family literacy programs, high school programs, English conversation classes, Homework help, book clubs, computer training classes and local studies events.

Services such as newspapers, Chinese character catalogue, IIAC, Internet and electronic databases are also highlighted and our library volunteers are featured.

The DVD will be 15-20 minutes long and will be subtitled in our four key languages. It will be launched before November 2005 and plans are now underway to conduct a major promotional campaign in 2006 in shopping centres, at service clubs and on festival days.

Linda Dunn
Facilitator/Client Services
Fairfield Library Service

Renovation rescue

Fairfield library is an exceedingly busy library on the edge of the Fairfield CBD. It recently received a makeovery with the installation of new shelving and a redesign of the interior to improve customet flow.

The brick building, which formerly had neutral colour walls, is now painted in two vibrant colours; Jules (a burgundy red) and Anchor Point (a grey-blue). These colours combine to give a warm, contemporary, welcome feel to the library. The predominant burgundy red colour has also been echoed in the new easy to read signs located around the library.

In accordance with recommendations from the Fairfield Retail Development Report by retail expert John Stanley, the previously underutilised area to the left of the entrance has now been converted into a comfortable community language space and separate children’s area has been created.

State of the art flat screen computers have been attached to shelf ends in the library thus allowing library patrons to do online book searches within easy reach of the bookshelves.

A morning tea was held to celebrate the new space with contractors and library patrons joining in the celebrations.

Linda Dunn
Facilitator/Client Services
Fairfield Library Service

Shelf end OPACs

Fairfield Library, a busy branch of the Fairfield Library Service, was refurbished in August 2005 and we have had many positive comments about our new look library; especially our new state-of-the-art OPACs. The flat screen monitors are the same as those on our service desks except that they have been wall mounted onto the shelf ends. Cabling was suspended from the ceiling to the shelf end in an enclosed duct and it was then concealed behind the shelf end. All the wiring is contained to avoid occupational health and safety hazards.

The desktop has one small hole where the mouse cord drops into the Central Processor Unit box.

The great new OPACs

The OPACs look fabulous and together with the bold colour scheme make the library look funky. It has been an attraction to our younger customers who enjoy looking up the catalogue. Wall mounted OPACs are huge space savers, no seating space is needed and patrons can search and access the shelves quickly. The only minor design issue is with the keyboard shelf, it could be slightly larger to allow easier
movement of the mouse. Patron feedback has indicated that this is one of the most popular innovations in our new refurbishment.

Gloriama Amarasingham
Fairfield Customer Service Librarian
News from Lake Macquarie

Feng shui your life
Want balance and harmony in your life? Looking to improve your health, wealth and career? Around 50 people attended a special seminar at Belmont Library on Wednesday 13 July to learn more about Feng Shui, the ancient Chinese art and science of placement and energy.

June Turner, from June Turner Designs and Lifestyles, discussed the fundamentals of Feng Shui (pronounced Fung Shway). Ms Turner is a member of the Feng Shui Society of Australia and has been a Feng Shui practitioner for over 13 years. She is also a licensed and has been a Feng Shui practitioner for over 13 years. She is also a licensed

Fengshui specialists and classic librarians

Barbara (l) from Hunter Community College and Madeline Randall, ABC Newcastle

Promotions Librarian, Jo Smith, said the days were a great chance for people to meet up and find out about the wide range of activities available in their local community. ‘Visitors were not only able to see a great range of demonstrations form 20 local community groups, it was also a fantastic way to meet people and get involved in the social, artistic and cultural life of the community.’

Lake Macquarie City Library hosted the event in celebration of Adult Learners Week. ‘Libraries are the perfect venue to host such an event as they provide a large range of resources covering topics from practical tips on crafts and gardening, to information on recycling and writing,’ Ms Smith said.

A highlight of the Leisure, Living, Learning Information Days were the free demonstrations, which included worm farming, printmaking, gardening, stamp collecting, computers, and a special talk on How to Start Tracing Your Family History.

NAIDOC week
Lake Macquarie City Library celebrated NAIDOC week with an Aboriginal art exhibition and two storytelling sessions. Bush preacher and special guest speaker, Gary Simon, launched NAIDOC Week at Toronto Library on Monday 4 July at 3:30pm. The theme for 2005 NAIDOC celebrations was Our Future Begins with Solidarity.

Mr Simon presented two storytelling sessions. Koanana – How to Survive in the Bush was an informative and interactive story time, suitable for all ages. Mr Simon talked about bush survival skills and told Dreamtime stories about old Koori ways. Participants learnt about what to eat, what not to eat, and where to find medicine in the bush.

In his second session, My Story, Mr Simon shared his experience as part of the Stolen Generation. He told of how his own children were taken from him and his courageous journey to be reunited with them.

The Koompahtoo Local Aboriginal Land Council and Westlakes Aboriginal elders organised a special art exhibition highlighting profiles of local Aboriginal community members and their achievements. At the exhibition, local artist, Raymond Smith, also showcased his artwork.

NAIDOC Week display
Library Assistant, Sherah Scully, said, ‘NAIDOC Week is an important celebration for the local community. The Library is very excited to be involved with the Koompahtoo Land Council to increase community awareness of the achievements of local Aboriginal people’, Ms Scully said.

Kylie Duncan
Promotions Department
Lake Macquarie City Library

Newcastle News

Flowers from the South Pacific
Tahitian gardens, water hyacinth and fifteen different varieties of orchids are now part of Newcastle Region Library’s Local Studies Collection. The Flowers of the South Pacific collection is sure to bring pleasure and delight to thousands of gardeners and flower lovers.

The collection of pen and watercolour works on paper was painted over a 20 year period by well known artist Judy Cuppaidge. Judy’s travels have taken her to the East Coast of Australia, to off shore islands as far south as Chatam and as far north as Tahiti.

The collection has been donated to Newcastle Region Library by a number of owners who were keen to keep this invaluable collection together. Newcastle is of special significance as the artist’s family is based here and her daughter has works which hold a significant place in the Newcastle Region Art Gallery’s collection.

Flowers of the South Pacific
The Library is delighted to accept this donation and is proud to be the custodian of this exquisite collection of illustrations. The paintings are an important acquisition and they complement the Library’s strong collection of antiquarian books containing early examples of local Australian and international flora.

The works have been collated into a book, The Flower Seeker: A Painters Travels (Citrus Press), a celebration of flowers combined with stories about the writer’s adventurous travels to find them. The author, a self-professed lover of gardening from an early age and a landscape designer for many years, visited the Library to hand over the collection and to attend the opening of an exhibition of the Flowers of the South Pacific. Lady Mayoress Cathy Tate officially accepted this delightful gift to the City.

Carol Edmonds
Education and Promotions
Newcastle City Library

Linking literacy to information literacy
During the first half of the year Newcastle Region Library ran a pilot program for adult Aboriginal literacy learners as part of the Department of Education, Science and Training’s Adult Innovative Projects. Developed in conjunction with Newcastle Council’s Guraki Aboriginal Advisory committee and the Awabakal Elder’s Group of our local land council, the project combined the teaching of literacy with the teaching of information literacy in a public library setting. The training was targeted to Aboriginal people from the local area and was designed to be culturally affirming and appropriate to their interests, values, identity and learning styles. With this in mind, the theme of family history research was chosen for the training.

The course was run over 10 weeks for two hours each Tuesday. In addition, participants took part in an excursion to the State Library of New South where they met with the Koori Librarian, and the majority of participants chose to attend a further three weeks of class at the conclusion of the formal training, where they
In the libraries

Christa Herridge
Outreach Librarian
Newcastle Region Library

Wollongong Wollongong
Spydus launch
Purple was de rigueur when Wollongong City Library launched its new management system on 30 June 2005. But why? I hear you ask. Purple is the signature colour of Civica, the producers of Spydus software for libraries, so we went all out to splash it about. All staff wore purple t-shirts. The Lord Mayor, Councillor Alex Darling cut a purple ribbon. Guests used purple serviettes. The launch was held on a wild and windy day in Wollongong and the atmosphere inside matched perfectly as we had a truly fabulous time. A group of gorgeous young men played really hot jazz throughout the morning. It was loud and vibrant and set the mood for a celebration and we had a lot to celebrate. After months of budget negotiations, tendering, data merging and training we finally had a new system to enjoy. Spydus offers many functions that our staff and customers had never dreamed possible and here we were going live! So we got all dressed up in our purple, enjoyed the jazz and the swanky catering, a few speeches and then the ribbon was cut and we were live.
Our 70 or so official guests all received a sample bag to take home. It contained a computer shaped stress ball emblazoned with the address of our new web catalogue, a message minder for keeping borrowing receipts safe, and an @ your library pen. The message minders have actually been a huge success and we have been handing them out to customers in the months since the launch.

Susan Roberts, Library Manager and Cr Alex Darling cut the cake
Throughout June staff teased customers about the upcoming launch with displays of giant jigsaw puzzles. Each day a new piece would be revealed until at last the message ‘Spydus is here could be read. The spy theme was used to good effect with displays and banners asking customers if they had Spydus @ their library. On Go Live day staff donned oversized ID tags with silly spy names like Tiger Lily or Miss Moneypenny. The new system has certainly had a big impact on how we do business and we will continue to do so as we roll out more functions and refine our skills. The frivolity of the launch helped us celebrate everyone’s hard work and dedication to the project and was a day to remember.

In the libraries

Gold stars
Gold stars are popping up all over Wollongong’s libraries. Customers are being encouraged to add a gold star to any book they liked enough to recommend to others so the fiction collection is now twinking. This promotion forms one part of a major focus on readers’ advisory services for Wollongong City Library.

New book night
Wollongong City Library recently held its first new book night on 4 July 2005. Wollongong like any large library receives a lot of new books but if not displayed effectively they quickly disappear into the collection. Staff were frustrated by customers’ comments that there are never any new books. A new approach was needed, so all new adult and junior books as well as CDs and DVDs were stockpiled for a month. Pyramid display stands were wrapped up in ribbons to tease customers. Local jazz pianist Lewis Mitchell provided background music. Then at 6pm all was revealed.

Jodie Healy
Adult Services Librarian
Wollongong City Library

Great Lakes News
Song and dance
The Friends of the Library have been at it again. In what now appears to be an annual event the library hosted a Friends-organised choral concert, featuring local singers A Company of Voices. And as if that isn’t enough, the conductor of the group is one of our Councillors – that has surely got to be a winner all round.
The events have now become so popular that we basically sell out (which is around 80 people) and for a night the Forster Library becomes a performance venue. (Thank Heavens for shelving on castors). The combination of music (very good

continued to conduct their research and collate their information. For the first hour and a half of each class, the Literacy Trainer took the participants through a range of activities including reading, writing and oral communication exercises which were linked to aspects of their families and culture. In the final half-hour of the class, the Outreach Librarian undertook the information literacy section of the course, which included a tour of the Library and instructional sessions on searching the catalogue and the Internet, and using the information technology resources. The curriculum of the course was designed to provide the participants with the range of literacy and information literacy skills needed to research their family history and compile the information found into a booklet. While the project was not without its challenges, all involved felt that it was an extremely valuable exercise. Participants benefited in a multitude of ways - their literacy skills were tested and built upon, they become familiar and comfortable in the Library, they learnt how to find and use information to achieve set tasks, and benefited from the social interaction. For the Library, the project allowed valuable and lasting partnerships to be built with Aboriginal organisations and community members. This is a project that could be easily replicated by public libraries across Australia wishing to provide targeted training opportunity for their Aboriginal communities. For more information about the project, contact me <cherridge@ncc.nsw.gov.au>.
In the libraries

**Sharon Smith**
Acting Reference Librarian
Wagga Wagga City Library

**Henty Library AND Rural Transaction Centre**
On 14th August 2005 the Federal Member for Farrer, Sussan Ley officially opened the new Rural Transaction Centre (RTC) located at the Henty Library/Urban Office. The opening was extremely well supported by the public, who showed great enthusiasm for the new services offered at their library. With the additional Federal funding, Council has been given the opportunity to add the additional services of an RTC to the library and council services already available. These include computer and Internet access, colour photocopier, digital and video camera and a data projector for hire.

**Kate Jennings – something of a homecoming**
New York based internationally renowned writer, Kate Jennings, in a recent visit to her childhood home of Collumbally, took time out from her holiday to give a reading at the Wagga Wagga City Library. This Author visit was made possible through a partnership with the Booranga Writers’ Centre. Those in attendance were warmed by a glass of red, as Jennings gave readings from her novel Moral Hazard (2002) and Women Falling Down in the Street (1990) a collection of short stories and from her book of poetry Cats, Dogs and Pitchforks (1993), much to the delight of the 50 strong audience, a wonderful turn out for a stormy Tuesday evening in Wagga Wagga.

**Chrisiss Bolton**
Community Liaison Officer
Wagga Wagga City Library

**Keeping the past alive**
As part of Lane Cove’s annual spring festival Cameraygal, Lane Cove Library hosted a seminar on oral history entitled Keeping the Past Alive. The seminar was facilitated by Rosie Block, Curator of Oral History at the State Library of New South Wales and was attended by a very appreciative group of people. Rosie spoke about oral history as a means of keeping memories alive for future generations. Using overheads of photographs depicting historical scenes of Australian life she triggered childhood memories which prompted the audience to participate and share their own childhood stories. Some of the participants discovered contributions by relatives in the published print collections of oral histories which were brought along as examples. Rosie also talked about how people’s memories could be triggered by the senses, such as the smell of baking bread reminding one of visiting the local baker and how the sounds of the horses travelling up and down the road reminded people of when the butchers and milkmen visited local households. Rosie provided tips on how to capture oral histories such as coming prepared with a pre-determined topic or several points to stimulate a conversation. Tapes of oral histories of people who first settled in Australia in the 1950s and 1960s, in which they described their experiences in the new country, were played. The participants were then asked if they had similar experiences to relate. By the end of the evening everyone was contributing to the seminar with either questions or anecdotes from their own personal backgrounds. Thanks to

**Bundy to talk about the value of a public library service to its community.**
Alan spoke to interested audience of around 40 people and plenty of informed discussion ensued (and a bit of wine was consumed along the way). This really was another very effective pro-library event. Not only did it showcase the library as a good public forum – it pushed the message of funding. And we got maximum value from Alan’s visit, as he also addressed the Library Committee (comprising three Councillors) the next day – pushing the message home where it really counts.

**Donation**
The Great Lakes Library Service has a truly beneficial long-standing relationship with the local RSL Club. The RSL donates $1,000 towards the Library every year and in return the Library puts book plates in around 50 books that recognise RSL members who have recently passed away. The Library also has a plaque on the shelving near the World War History section acknowledging the donation and a further sign on the Library’s sponsorship board. This relationship has proved to be really positive for all concerned and gets plenty of coverage in the local press. Of course, the $1000 is appreciated too. At the moment we’re also lining up a $500 donation from the local community hospital. Stay tuned for more!

**Musings**

**In the libraries**

**Plenty to crow about**

Wagga Wagga City Library (WWCL) has developed an exciting new avenue for library promotion. Their online e-newsletter Crow About currently has in excess of 180 subscribers and is still growing. Crow About’s value to WWCL as an effective communication tool with library clientele has been measured by the volume and varied submissions of the volunteer subscribers to the service. Membership is anonymous but we can ascertain from the addresses that we have Crow About members from Wagga Wagga businesses, regional community organisations, Australian and overseas residents, primary and secondary schools, universities and TAFE.

Complementary to WWCL’s traditional marketing activities, Crow About took up its proud position on WWCL’s webpage (<www.wagga.nsw.gov.au/library>) in November 2004. It has been instrumental in effectively informing members of over 40 events, services and WWCL achievements. The WWCL Crow About project was assisted by Adam Bell, Wagga Wagga City Council’s Web Developer. We thank him for his assistance and his enthusiasm. Adam’s advice and suggestions continue to be an invaluable component in the collaboration between Council and Library. My favourite response from Adam is keep the ideas coming.

**Riverina News**

**Enjoying the new library**

Renovations had to be undertaken to allow all this to happen, with the old library room being turned into the RTC, a new office for the Library and Council Staff and most importantly a new children’s section was created where the old circulation desk was with bright colourful cushions and display boards for storytelling. The Henty Library is now able to offer

**music), food, wine, Friends, the night time and the Library is really something special.**
The fact that the Friends always make a profit is a great bonus.

**A Company of Voices**

The concerts have been so well received that when we did a survey of males using the library one thing they wanted was more concerts. Once you light the fire it’s sure to keep burning (a sad evocative reference considering a fire before it opened back in the eighties). To be a success you need a willing Council, great Friends, a class act and of course, the help of your staff. As always, the staff are the unsung heroes and like the Friends deserve all the praise they get.

**Bundy and Coke**

Or more accurately, Alan Bundy and a glass of wine (or non-alcoholic beverage if desired). Once again the Friends of the Great Lakes Library Service (FOGLLS) put on an event and once again it was well received. The Friends invited President of Friends of Libraries Australia (FOLA) Dr Alan Bundy to talk about the value of a public library service to its community.

**Rooftop renovation in Henty Library**

In the southern part of the Riverina, Henty Library has undergone a major expansion and renovation of its space. The previous roof was open and now a new roof has been added, making the space more functional and efficient. The new roof will provide better insulation and reduced heat loss, leading to energy savings and improved comfort for library users.

**Rooftop renovation in Henty Library**

The Henty Library has been undergoing significant improvements to its facilities. As part of this project, a new rooftop has been installed to enhance the library’s functionality and energy efficiency. The new rooftop will contribute to reduced energy consumption and improved indoor comfort for library users.

**Rooftop renovation in Henty Library**

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In the libraries

Rosie’s enthusiasm and expertise the audience left with a new appreciation of the valuable part that oral history plays in keeping our past alive.

Karen Mitchell
Acting Manager Library Services
Lane Cove

Miles Franklin returns to Tumut

During the month of June the Tumut Library was fortunate to host the State Library of NSW’s travelling exhibition, *Miles Franklin: A brilliant career?*

Paul Brunton, Senior Curator Mitchell Library was kind enough to visit the Tumut Library on June 17th & 18th.

During his visit the library hosted two free informal public talks on the Life and Diaries of Miles Franklin. Paul’s enthusiasm and knowledge of Miles Franklin was very entertaining and appreciated by the many people who attended both talks. Paul answered a wide range of questions on Miles’ life at the conclusion of both talks.

The young Miles

The travelling exhibition was supported by the Tumut Library Miles Franklin collection along with selected pieces from the Mitchell Library collection which Paul brought with him. Several pieces of Miles Franklin memorabilia from the Tumut Historical Society completed the display.

The State Library of NSW kindly donated the travelling exhibition to the Tumut Library; and it has now found a permanent home at the Tumut Museum and Historical Society where it forms the centrepiece to their permanent Miles Franklin display.

Kristin Twomey
Librarian In Charge
Tumut Shire Library

Just Kidding Around!

Kiama Library recently hosted a Play and Folklore evening with authors Dr June Factor and Dr Gwenda Beed Davey. In 1979 Factor and Davey established the Australian Children’s Folklore Collection which is regarded as one of the world’s most significant collections of its kind and was recently placed on the UNESCO register as comprising irreplaceable segments of Australian history.

 Located in Melbourne, the collection documents children’s games, rhymes, riddles and language from the 1870’s to the present day. It reflects the continuing diversity of Australian childhood and includes over 300 games and toys from Australia and around the world.

Despite our library currently being located in temporary premises at the Showground Pavilion, the evening was well attended. Participants found themselves recalling happy memories of their schoolyard games. Davey and Factor’s research has shown that lots of games are commonly played around the world with variations on the rules. Playing elastics or trying to make a cat’s cradle or the harbour bridge from a loop of string or wool turned out to be common pastimes.

In the libraries

Dr Davey, who received the Order of Australia in 1998, compiled the Dictionary of Australian Folklore, co-edited the Oxford Companion to Australian Folklore and has written a number of other folklore books. Dr. Factor, an internationally recognised expert on childhood folklore and language, has compiled popular anthologies of schoolyard rhymes including *Far Out Brussels Sprout! All Right Vegemite! and Unreal Banana Peel!* She has also compiled *KidSpeak*, a dictionary of children’s colloquial language.


Fleur Creighton
Information Services Librarian
Kiama Municipal Library

When in Rome!

Kiama Municipal Library

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Central West News

Central West Libraries

Turning purple

Central West Libraries (CWL) has said farewell to its Dynix Library System after nearly 15 years of service. On June 21 2005 CWL opened with the latest version of the Civica Spydus LMS up and running at its branches and online.

The patron reaction was immediate and positive — especially since we had been running a limited offline circulation function and had had no OPAC facility for the previous week while the last of the circulation data was transferred from Dynix to Spydus. Balloons, ribbons and staff in colour coordinated Welcome Spydus polo shirts probably let slip that something different was happening. Many people in the region had also seen good coverage in a TV news item on opening night.

The updating of the Library Management System had been planned for some time and with the library services covering seven branches in a geographically diverse region, there were many issues, including funding, to be overcome. In December 2002, vendors were invited to respond to an Expression of Interest to supply a new system and the responses were used to secure a Library Development Grant of $200,000 from the Library Council of NSW. It also enabled staff to make an assessment of what was in the marketplace at that time. The delay in calling for open tenders was used to Central West Libraries’ advantage as many of the future desirable features in the EOI responses were in use when the tender closed in September 2004.

A seven-member evaluation working party was formed to consider the systems tendered and to make the recommendation of the preferred system to the CWL Library Management Committee. The working party had representatives from the functional areas of the library service.
In the libraries

and included branch staff and Orange City Council Information Services staff to provide the necessary IT expertise. The group was unanimous in selecting the Dynix Horizon and Civica Spydus systems as the two best fits for our requirements.

Following a series of product tests, vendor demonstrations, reference checks and site visits, the Civica Spydus LMS was selected and the implementation plan developed for 2005. The Working Group continued to oversee the implementation as the inevitable challenges were resolved.

Telecommunications issues were probably the most difficult to handle during the process. Orange City Council’s IT staff investigated a number of different solutions which ranged from the don’t you think it’s too cheap to work to a Rolls Royce system more suitable for national security than for our needs. The costs were commensurate with the offerings. A Telstra IP-WAN connecting the branches and Civica was established, but only after long delays in having the equipment and lines connected caused us concern about meeting our go live date.

CWL opted for a Managed Service solution so that we could forward budget for future improvements, and would be relieved of the housekeeping and monitoring functions of the new system. The higher annual cost of a Managed Service compared with annual software and hardware maintenance charges works for our situation as a regional library.

We also included additional days of training in our implementation plan. This meant that everyone, including part-time and casual staff, had a targeted level of instruction from Civica trainers. Technical Services staff have subsequently used the basic training program for recent appointees, and for refreshers training as needed. Almost 40 people have attended sessions so far. The training manuals are also most comprehensive and an adjunct to the online Help functions.

The transition from Dynix to Spydus occurred fairly smoothly. Staff have found that they needed to make a big shift in the way they think about their work flows, and we are tweaking and adjusting the system as we identify what can be changed. The System Support and User group’s assistance has also been helpful and worked effectively for us.

CWL also purchased some add-on functions which enhance the service to patrons. The most obvious is the Syndetics subscription that provides cover images, content and reviews for titles in the catalogue. In addition to email notices which are standard in Spydus, we will be sending reservation notices via SMS to those patrons requesting this. Some other functions such as profile matching alerts, online equipment bookings and online reference services will be introduced in the near future once we have become confident with operating the main functions of Spydus.

New equipment purchased for the project included 32 PCs, 9 laser printers, 8 receipt printers, barcode scanners as well as 14 copies of MS Office software for staff and system use.

In the libraries

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In the libraries

Gary Furnell
Coonabarabran Branch Manager
Macquarie Regional Library

News from STRL

Yass library promotion day

On 16 June, it was all hands on deck for staff to run a promotional day at Yass Library. The day was aimed at bringing a large number of local residents into the library to see just what is on offer! There was a full program of activities throughout the day and hopefully something for everyone!

With a theme of Let’s Break the Drought pre-school children listened to rainy stories, made a rainmaker, ate a cloud cake and discioed to songs which had any mention of rain (remember Eddie Rabbit’s I love a Rainy Night)! … and it worked! Yass had its first decent rain in many months by the time the dancing stopped.

The program also included a Tai Chi demonstration to promote the library’s related collection as well as training and demonstrations on the library’s website, online catalogue and our wide variety of online products. Lunch in the library was provided before a gardening talk by Mr Cedric Bryant, gardener with the Canberra Times newspaper. Staff also coordinated meetings for people interested in joining a library reading group and community representatives of U3A, community colleges and Friends of Yass Library spent time in the library recruiting new members. The library also took the opportunity to ‘launch’ its Books for Babies Program in the Yass Valley area as well as the new Kids Online Centre which has proved popular with younger children wanting to use the kid friendly computer furniture, kids’ web pages and online games. In the afternoon the older children came into the library to check out our new Graphic Novel Collection and watch a movie.

The day proved a great success, thanks to the commitment of Councillors and staff who not only worked flat out on the day, but also ensured that the library was looking its best by mounting displays and moving furniture.

Photo competition a winner!

The third Southern Tablelands Regional Library (STRL) photographic competition has just ended. The theme of this year’s competition was History In Focus: In The Shed and more entries were received that in any other year so far.

As the name suggests, this year we focused on sheds across the Southern Tablelands region – the people in the area keep in their sheds and what the sheds look like. Thanks to major sponsorship of the competition by a local car dealer, a special category was introduced just for this year.

This category, The Holden in the Shed may have been responsible for the increase in interest shown in the competition. It seems from many of the photos submitted that the local male population especially were much more interested in taking and showing photos of their cars than of more traditionally historical aspects of the region.

Janet Smith
Regional Manager
Southern Tablelands Regional Library

A winning shed!

Bathurst News

Delivering more than books

Data line Turondale! I first worked on a mobile library about 25 years ago. It was an overly dusty, overly hot, cramped, ex-public transport bus that was completely painted sky blue … nothing else! When we were driving along the bus shook and rattled with the springs squeaking in protest while the books fell from the wooden shelves. At each stop there was a mad scurry to get the fallen books back up on the shelves before the patrons came onboard.

My word, haven’t things changed!

I’ve only been at Bathurst Library for 5 months, and one thing that drew me here was the thought of the rural life and its people. The mobile library is one of the areas that I supervise.

There’s nothing exceptional about our bus, it’s a Ford Transit van stocked with about 500 items and services an area of approximately 3.821 square kilometres. New library staff experience being part of the mobile service by going on the Turondale run, one of the mobile’s stops. Turondale is not a town nor a village, but rather an area, not defined by a church or a pub. It’s about 40 kilometres due north from Bathurst along winding roads (some of them dirt), up and down hills and through beautiful valleys (that are currently a lush, fertile green). It is seen as a treat to go on this particular run and I also consider it a privilege. However, it’s the interaction between the mobile library staff and their very individual clientele that I find so rewarding about this job. Our customers in the Turondale area gather together at a friend’s house at which the van stops. They have generously opened their hearts and homes to the mobile library staff. So much so, that at each visit to Turondale, staff on the van are invited for a catered brunch of home cooked – cakes, slices, sandwiches, quiches and more, accompanied with a hot cup of tea in willow patterned china and the setting is complete.

Our hosts, and their guests, have frequently expressed their appreciation for the library van visiting Turondale. I’ve been told that the mobile is a ‘wonderful service, coming all the way out to us’, as if, for some reason, we are doing something way beyond the expected. It seems that these patrons can’t thank us enough or speak too highly of Trudy and Karen (our driver and assistant). They know about how much time is spent in the careful selection of specific requests, the processing and transfer of items, the monitoring of services and updating the collection.

To express the library’s thanks to Bill and Fay Thomas for their hospitality and to wish Turondale a Merry Christmas, the library took brunch out to them and their friends. Two large placers of delicious sandwiches and fresh fruit along with a real homemade Christmas cake! I was lucky enough to share this occasion – the last visit for 2004. And yes, out came the willow patterned china and properly brewed tea.
In the libraries

For the staff at Bathurst Library, Turondale is not just a mobile stop – it’s about visiting friends and delivering friendship.

Beth Hall
Information and Lending Services Librarian
Bathurst Library

Seniors’ Week

Seniors’ Week saw Bathurst Library try something slightly different from past years, with a focus on introducing seniors to the Internet.

We are extremely fortunate to have a separate conference room where we were able to run an Internet Information Session. As opposed to ‘hands-on’ training, this session allowed for use of a data projector to project ‘hands-on’ training, this session allowed use of a data projector to project...

Seniors’ Week

Beth Hall
Information and Lending Services Librarian
Bathurst Library

Gardening to the point

Libraries usually have a largish, well used gardening section in their collections. However, when it starts to come down to specifics some titles somehow just don’t meet the requirements. Recently, Bathurst Library identified a real need for a very specific resource - Gardening in Bathurst. Yes, there’s gardening in general and gardening in NSW and gardening in cooler climates and even gardening in the Central West. But gardening in Bathurst, with Bathurst rainfalls and Bathurst soils, producing plants which might actually grow in my yard, now that’s something to read! For the amateur gardener (that’s me) who has recently moved to Bathurst, I made a real discovery... As opposed to ‘hands-on’ training, this session allowed for use of a data projector to project ‘hands-on’ training, this session allowed for use of a data projector to...
In the libraries

Full house
Earlier this year Griffith Mayor John Dal Broi officially opened Griffith City Library extensions and renovations in the presence of devoted local and regional library supporters, and Assistant State Librarian, Ms Kathleen Bresnan. This was the culmination of not only a major community project for Griffith, but also a coup for her heritage preservation and reincarnation of a significant local icon.

In this 60th year of public library service in Griffith, it was an appropriate time for Griffith City Council to recognise the very great need to cater for the phenomenal growth of the city by providing a wonderful library that will meet the needs of the community for many years to come.

Griffith City Library occupies the original 1935 Wade Shire Council Chambers in a building which is a cherished historical icon in the somewhat cosmopolitan and urban streetscape which forms the heart of the city’s central business district. In 2004, following the appointment of Griffith architect Steven Murray, the Library was extended and refurbished to cater for this growing city’s needs.

Externally, the extension retains the wonderful elegance of the original building, whilst simultaneously providing a 21st century interior environment rivalling those of its metropolitan counterparts. The façade on the street now features a wonderful curved ceiling to floor window facilitating not only natural lighting, but providing a viewing platform for passers-by of people using and enjoying the library. An additional 432m² was added to the library, with ALL of that space dedicated to public use areas - new public computer area, study rooms, toilets, wide aisles, public display area and informal areas. New low shelving with attractive wood grain ends give uniformity to the shelving throughout the building and the user friendly charging desk, complete with sitting area to join new members, has quickly become the hub of the building.

Total cost of the project was $860 000 - with the majority funded by the community through Council and a $150 000 grant received from the Library Council of New South Wales.

The community has enthusiastically embraced the redesigned library with visits increasing by 20% since opening, and internet access sessions increasing by a massive 200%. More and more people are visiting the library to read, relax and enjoy the communal and safe atmosphere. Reading areas are constantly full with people just browsing or reading the newspapers and the additional ten internet access PCs seem to have done little to relieve the growing daily demand for access to the net.

The creation of a people place was a major outcome highlighted in the original proposal, along with retaining the heritage integrity of this gracious old building. These goals have been well and truly exceeded and the staff and the community are delighted with the end result.

Pam Young & Christine del Gigante
Joint library managers
Griffith City Library

LGSA Library and Information Services Reference Group

The Local Government Association and Shires Association of NSW (LGSA) recently called for nominations for a number of reference groups that provide advice, support and assistance to various LGSA standing committees. Included amongst these is the Library and Information Services Reference Group, which reports to the Standing Committee on Community Planning and Services. The first meeting of the newly convened Library and Information Services Reference Group was held on Tuesday 13 September. The Group is broadly representative of the NSW public library network, including councillors, council officers and library managers:

Kathleen Bresnan
Assistant State Librarian
Public Library Services, SLNSW

Cr Beverley Giegerl
Chairperson and LGA Executive member

Noel Baum
Strategy Manager – Community, LGSA

Cr Steven Chaytor
Campbelltown City Council

Anne Hall
Manager Library & Museum Services, Fairfield City Council

Chris Jones
Library Manager, Great Lakes Council

Robert Knight
Chairperson, Public Libraries Australia; Director, Riverina Regional Library

Lynne Makin
Executive Director, Public Libraries Australia; CEO/Library Manager, Upper Murray Regional Library

Cameron Morley
Manager Funding & Advisory Services, SLNSW

Alison Murphy
Manager Community and Library Services, Kogarah Municipal Council

Cr Sonya Phillips
President, MPLA

Mayor, Baulkham Hills Council

Jan Richards
Secretary, CPLA

Manager Library Services, Central West Libraries

Frances Sims
Secretary, MPLA

Library Service Manager,

Wilkoughby City Council

Cr Ewan Tolhurst
Chairperson, CPLA

Cr Gareth Ward
Shoalhaven City Council

Grant White
Manager Library Services, Campbelltown City Council

The roles of the Group are as follows:

• Providing advice, support and assistance to the Standing Committee on Community Planning and Services and Associations staff on dealing with, development delivery and support of Library and Information Services by Local Government

• Reviewing and updating the Associations’ policy statement covering Library and Information Services, for consideration by the Annual Conferences of each of the Local Government Association and the Shires Association

• Liaising with councillors and staff representing the Associations on external committees relating to Library and Information Services, such as the Public Libraries Consultative Committee

The Library and Information Services Reference Group meets three times per year. The next meeting on 29 November will include a planning session to identify current and emerging issues for the library and information sector from a local government perspective.

Robert Knight
Director
Riverina Regional Library
In Touch with the State Library

Across the state, but virtually face-to-face

‘It was the coolest experience to listen and talk with Andrew Daddo’, ‘Andrew Daddo is the best!’ ... the workshop has helped me in producing ideas and being more creative, it was fun.’ These are just a few comments from finalists who recently participated in a Nestlé Write Around Australia author workshop in NSW. But this was no ordinary workshop. It was the program’s first virtual face-to-face creative writing workshop. The inaugural event was presented by children’s author (Spiung, You’re Dropped, Dog of a Day) and TV celebrity Andrew Daddo.

The Nestlé Write Around Australia program has been operating nationally through the State Library of NSW since 1996. It consists of a creative writing competition and creative writing workshops conducted at host public libraries by well-known Australian children’s authors. In the competition phase of the program 960 finalists were selected from the 48 zones around Australia (14 zones in NSW). As part of their prize, the finalists were invited to a creative writing workshop run by a published Australian children’s author. The virtual workshop was developed for those finalists in remote and regional areas of NSW who were unable to attend a live face-to-face workshop at their host public library due to distance. The workshop was filmed at the State Library of NSW using the latest video conferencing technology and the expertise of staff at the NSW Department of Education and Training (DET). It was broadcast via satellite in real time direct to the finalists sitting in DET studios in Wagga Wagga, Griffith, Muswellbrook, Broken Hill, Dubbo and WallSEND.

HSC 2005 – links and tips

For all those people who were unable to attend the recent HSC Online workshop!

HSC Advice Line
13 11 12

No matter where you call from in the state, the HSC Advice Line only costs 25c, and is open every day from 9am - 10pm, Saturday 10am - 6pm, Sunday 10am - 10pm. The advice line is staffed by experienced teachers. For more information go to <www.sl.nsw.gov.au/pls/professional>.

NSW HSC Online
http://hsc.csu.edu.au/

One of the key goals is to alleviate the ‘tyranny of distance’ experienced by students in rural and isolated areas. The website includes a section for parents explaining the HSC (with some parts available in translation).

If you are interested in hosting Nestlé Write Around Australia at your library and being part of this exciting program, please contact the NSW State Coordinator at the State Library of NSW on tel: 02 9273 1610.

Suzanne Bennett
Community Programs Librarian
Nestlé Write Around Australia
State Library of NSW

HSC English Navigator
http://www.atmitchell.com/

This new service from the State Library includes resources on the web and in NSW.net databases, as well as items available at the State Library of NSW.

At Mitchell.com
http://www.atmitchell.com/

Particularly useful for resources on Journeys e.g. Finders and Antarctica, and Indigenous Australian History e.g. Protector of Aborigines.

Infocus
infocus.sl.nsw.gov.au

Infocus is a searchable website with online ordering available. You can place ‘standing orders’ to ensure you get all the new titles on a particular topic area.

LIAC
www.liac.sl.nsw.gov.au

The new Crime @ your library PowerPoint (sent on CD to all libraries) is useful for HSC students and teachers of legal studies.

NSW Board of Studies
www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/

This site has all the 2004-2007 curriculum documents, though students will need to find supplementary reading material in the following “journey” categories; Physical, Imaginative and Inner journeys.

HSC programs

Contact the following libraries if you want more details on their successful HSC programming:

In Touch with the State Library

HSC Wave, a cooperative HSC lectures program presented by Randwick, Botany, Woodfordia and Waverley libraries (contact Barry McGuren at Randwick);

HSC-focused newsletter, which is distributed to local high school libraries each term (Jon Sloggez, Kogarah);

Study/coping skills workshop (Alyson France, Camden);

Moanman Library’s elist which allows students to sign up and be notified electronically of new resources, relevant links and any lectures or programs aimed at HSC students (Jane Broadbere).

Mylee Joseph
Public Library Services

Drug Action Week 2005

Drug Action Week® is a national week of activities which aims to raise awareness of alcohol and other drug issues and inform and involve communities in reducing drug related harm in Australia. This year Drug Action Week® was held from 20 to 24 June and during the week public libraries were involved in a range of activities promoting the drug information @ your local library (di@yli) service and alcohol and other drugs resources to their local communities.

Many libraries set up a display of the di@yli resources in their libraries and had pamphlets and promotional materials available for their patrons to take. Libraries also promoted the di@yli service at information stalls in shopping centres, council buildings etc.

Ride the HSC Wave, a cooperative HSC lectures program presented by Randwick, Botany, Woodfordia and Waverley libraries (contact Barry McGuren at Randwick);

HSC-focused newsletter, which is distributed to local high school libraries each term (Jon Sloggez, Kogarah);

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In Touch with the State Library

Navigator
On 26 August the State Library launched its newest on-line service, Navigator. A Navigator is an electronic service which takes clients through the research process, from refining their inquiry through to choosing relevant resources, searching those resources and obtaining copies of the information they need. Navigators refer clients to a range of different resources, including web sites, databases and books.

Clients can then tailor their searching according to their level of interest and the time available.

The first Navigator to be launched is for HSC English students. This Navigator is based around the HSC English syllabus and guides students through three different types of searches:

- Research to find information about a known text, covering books (fiction and non-fiction), film and television, music and Shakespeare
- A search for texts relating to a theme or genre; and
- Research on different writing styles. As they move through the search process, the Navigator gives students tips and hints to help them with problem areas. Secondary students are often unfamiliar with electronic databases and catalogues, so the Navigator seeks to help them with this by providing step-by-step instructions for searching, including suggested keywords and different ways of searching specific databases and web sites.

The Navigator refers students to both hard copy and electronic resources, and, at several points, alerts students to the fact that the information they need may be available through their local public library as well as at the State Library. To prepare public libraries for student inquiries about the Navigator, a special overview package for public librarians has been developed and is available through the State Library web site. <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/pls/professional>

The State Library Navigator team is keen to receive feedback about the Navigator from staff in public libraries. A structured research program is being planned to collect detailed feedback on specific features of the Navigator and its impact in relation to public library staff. However, any general comments, questions or observations are also very welcome. These can be sent to me.

The HSC English Navigator can be accessed by going to <www.acnnsch.mitchell.com> and clicking on HSC students in the Navigator area. More Navigators are in the pipeline, and over the next 12 months the Library plans to launch Navigators for family historians, business students and researchers, public librarians and picture researchers. We will be sending out more details about each of these as they are ready for public release.

Gillian McAllister Researcher, Navigator team <gmcallisler@sl.nsw.gov.au>

Change of research hands
The Public Library Network Research Program committee recently said goodbye and thank you to some of its founding members, Lyn Barakat and Anne Hall representing the Metropolitan Public Libraries Association (MPLA) and Noela Lim and Grant White representing the Country Public Libraries Association (CPLA). These members have provided invaluable support in establishing the program and conducting its first major project NSW Public Libraries and eGovernment. The committee will continue this important work with some new members, Jill Web and Chris Jones from the CPLA and Linda Bathur and Michelle Marshman from the MPLA.


Kerrie Burgess Co-convenor PLN Research Committee

Multicultural and Alternative Format Loans
The Bulk Loans service is provided to public libraries throughout NSW by the Reader Services Division at the State Library. Bulk loans consist of large print and talking books, captioned videos as well as books and talking books in languages other than English and English-as-a-second-language (ESL) material. There are currently 42 languages in the multicultural collection, with Albanian due to arrive soon. Each language consists of fiction, non-fiction and junior fiction material.

This service is extremely popular, and demand has grown. Document Supply, Reader Services receives on average 35 multicultural bulk loan requests and 10 alternative format bulk loan requests per day from New South Wales public libraries. Requests are received via email, Ilanet and Kinetic Document Delivery. Due to the high number of requests we receive on any given day staff can be responding to 170 separate bulk loan requests. This includes collecting the material, checking the material out, creating a packing slip on Excel and packaging the material.

Libraries have recently asked if we can provide readily identifiable, sturdy boxes for bulk interlibrary loans. With this in mind, Preservation Branch at the State Library is assisting us with the supply of durable, reusable boxes that give protection to items on loan. Libraries have also asked for an electronic list of bulk loan items. This would assist in the tracking of items.

We are currently working with our eLibrary Services Division to provide this facility.

The multicultural collection is weeded on a regular basis by the Multicultural Consultant, Oriana Acvedo. Oriana has a team of volunteers who regularly weed the collection, inspect for damaged books and catalogue new books. Any requests that we are unable to supply are given to Oriana. Some languages are difficult to obtain and Oriana goes to extraordinary measures to obtain resources for those clients.

Maria Weimers and Di Jackson Reader Services

Celebrating culture
It’s been a busy time at Canterbury celebrating our diverse community. In July we held a Vietnamese Cultural evening which featured a children’s Martial Arts demonstration, a Vietnamese Seniors group performing ball room dancing, a traditional fashion display and a musician playing a zither.

And of course, wonderful food! Most recently we had a Chinese Moon Festival Celebration. Food was once again a highlight and this time we learned from past mistakes, and carried the food around on plates rather than placing it on tables for our enthusiastic attendees to demolish in a matter of moments! We also had a musician playing an Er Wu (a traditional string instrument), a seniors group presenting Tai Chi, dancing and singing traditional Chinese songs, and another group performing a Tai Chi Fan Dance.

Our events would not be the success they are without the wonderful efforts of the team at Canterbury, and enormous thanks are extended to all of them.

Michelle Mashman Manager Canterbury City Library

A not-so-quiet Vietnamese American
The second Sydney Writers’ Festival event at Fairfield City Library, on Friday 27 May, was a success by any measure. About 120 people, mostly members of the local Vietnamese community, packed into the ground floor of the Whirlwind Library to hear a talk by the Vietnamese-Australian writer, radio commentator and journalist Andrew Lam, and participated vigorously in the following discussion.

Andrew Lam, who was touring as an official guest of Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre and the Sydney Writers’ Festival, is a renowned writer on Vietnamese-American identity. He is an editor with Pacific News Service, and a commentator on NPR, National Public Radio. His essays have appeared in dozens of newspapers and magazines across the United States and his short stories have been published in many literary journals. A collection of his stories is about to be published.

Born in Vietnam, where his father was a high-ranking officer in the South Vietnamese army, he was 11 years old when he fled with his family to the United States in 1975, as the war ended with victory for the Communist forces. He recently featured in the PBS documentary My Journey Home, in which a film crew followed him on a visit to his ancestral homeland, Vietnam. He has written extensively on the problems of living between two cultures, as one of the transnational generations born of the Cold War.

At the Whirlwind Library, after a formal welcome on behalf of the Fairfield City Library, Andrew was introduced, in English and Vietnamese, by Cuong Le, the Asian-Australian Community Cultural Development Officer with the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre. His address, titled Globalisation,
Multicultural news

Andrew Lam

These divisions are political, but also generational. Andrew has confronted this division within his own family. In the US the former Vietnamese refugees have contributed much to their new homeland, and have begun to be politically active as well. However, this has not always been a positive development, according to Andrew Lam, as it has tended to reinforce cold war-type prejudices that the world now needs to move beyond. Much of what he had to say on this topic was confronting, to say the least, to some people in the Cabramatta audience, (though I certainly missed much of what was said!). What was clear however was that Andrew is a thought-provoking and engaging speaker, a ‘captivating communicator’ as he has been described. While he may not have won over all his critics on the night, it was, in the end, a good-natured meeting, and many, including the President of the Vietnamese Community NSW Chapter, Mr Bich Dong Phan, joined Andrew for a photo session.

To conclude the night, a recently made TV documentary was screened. Sanyo USA portrays dramatically the struggles over identity and political direction at the heart of the Vietnamese-American community in Southern California. It helped to provide a deeper understanding of the challenges they face, as they come to terms with the loss of their homeland and the need to make a future in the wider American community. The fact that this community often displays racist attitudes and an astounding ignorance of Vietnamese history and culture, does not make integration easier. Andrew repeated the remarks of one American who wanted to know why there were so many Vietnamese people in the US. ‘After all, you guys won the war didn’t you? So why come over here?’

Noel Willis
Outreach Services Librarian – NESB Community

Fairfield City Library

Moon festival

Rockdale City Library celebrated a very exciting event on 15th September 2005 - to coincide with the traditional Chinese Moon Festival, the Library launched its newest collection of over 1,000 Chinese DVDs and VCDs. The DVDs and VCDs in this brand new collection are for both junior and adult patrons. The subjects include cookery, health, music, parenting and travel. There are also operas in different Chinese dialects and lots of Hong Kong movies with English subtitles.

The junior collection contains many educational resources and there are a number of DVDs and VCDs that have gentle exercises which are very popular with the elderly.

A number of distinguished guests attended the launch including Mr Yali Yin, Consul for Cultural Affairs at the Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China and Ms Xiaoxu Liu, also from the Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China. The Consulate donated a number of DVDs to Rockdale Library which were accepted by Mr David Mitchell, Council’s Manager Community Services. A crowd of library patrons also attended and enjoyed a performance of the famous Chinese Gu Zheng and Yang Qin, traditional Chinese instruments which are similar to the zither and the dulcimer. Everyone also enjoyed the special moon cake morning tea to celebrate the Chinese Moon Festival, which followed the official part of the proceedings.

Adding a collection of DVDs and VCDs in the Chinese language to Rockdale’s collection did present our Technical Services team with a few challenges and required some innovation on their part.

For the last three months a group of 13 young Korean students learning pre-intermediate English made Lithgow Library Learning Centre their home with their Australian teachers, while preparing for missionary work overseas.

The members of the group have been taking advantage of the meeting room, the computer room, group study room and relaxing in the reading areas including the courtyards (even when it snowed)!

Ms Liu, Mr Yin and Mr Mitchell

The English classes for the Koreans were brought to Lithgow following interest shown by Lithgow families to billet them out. In the library, staff and members of the public especially the local high school students have formed networks with the Korean students.

Susanna Waller
Library Services Coordinator

Rockdale City Library

Lithgow Learning Centre

An international role for the Lithgow Library Learning Centre, and we all had a great time!

Library staff and students

The English classes for the Koreans were brought to Lithgow following interest shown by Lithgow families to billet them out. In the library, staff and members of the public especially the local high school students have formed networks with the Korean students.

Penny Hall
Community Manager
City of Lithgow Council

World Refugee Day

Staff at New Lambton Library have been investigating the delivery of services to refugee clients in recent months. A recent success has been the implementation of story telling sessions for students from St Therese’s School in New Lambton. St Therese’s is one of three schools in the Newcastle area that run Intensive Language Units. Students attend classes for 8-12 weeks to learn English or improve their language skills before attending their local school.

Smiles all round!

Teacher Denis Murphy brought a group of six Sudanese students to New Lambton Library on Monday, 20th June, which also happened to be World Refugee Day. Ages of the students ranged from 6 -15, with English skills varying. Some of the students who come to Denis have no English, while others have basic skills, depending on which refugee camp they came from. This obviously presented a challenge for library staff, but with a few tips from Denis we felt more than capable. Most importantly we had to choose straightforward stories and keep the children interested. With that in mind staff chose 3 stories for the initial session. Where is the Green Sheep? By Mem Fox, Who’s in the shed by Brenda Parke (large format) and a magnetic board story of Pamela Allen’s Ms McGee (kindly lent to us by Lake Macquarie City Library). Using a variety of resources the students were engaged and even enjoyed the story of the Green Sheep.
of formats certainly helped to hold everyone’s attention.

After the first story Deni demonstrated how the children love to re-tell a story. The magnetic board was perfect for re-telling as the children could stick up a part of the story and relate their understanding of each picture. As the session progressed towards a craft activity the shyness of the children disappeared and there was much chattering amongst the two staff and the children. The session was valuable to the children not only because they learnt a few new words, but they made a connection within the wider community by engaging with library staff. We’re not sure who learnt the most at this session, the library staff or the children, but we look forward to the next session.

Kieran Odonoghue
New Lambton Branch Librarian
Newcastle Region Library

Read Philippines Project

The Mayor of Fairfield, Nick Lalich, and a representative of the Consul General of the Philippines, Mrs Luzviminda van Ospal launched a new language collection of Filipino resources on 11th June at Wetherill Park Branch Library. Also present was Josie Musa, Director, Philippine Community Council along with many members of the Philippine community. Local author Michael Estepa’s book. When darkness falls was also launched in the presence of his proud family (originally from the Philippines) and friends.

Noel Willis, Daniel Ferguson, Marisa Machado and Baves Ventura (a library staff member formerly from the Philippines) organised this very successful event. As a result of this event Maria Theresa P Lazaro, Consul General of the Philippines, has since visited the Mayor and the library manager. At the invitation of the Consul-General the library will be taking part in the Read Philippines Project that the Consul-General has previously successfully organised in New York. In this project a community organisation will act as coordinator to solicit donations, organise events and provide information on the Filipino celebration. The coordinator in Fairfield is the Vice-President of the Philippine Australian Society for Senior Citizens Inc. (PASSCI) Nancy Alvarez Casado.

Launch of Read Philippines Project

The Read Philippines Project was launched on 20th August 2005 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of PASSCI held at Merrylands RSL Club. I spoke to the 300 strong audience on the role of public libraries generally and the value of partnerships such as this Project. All present were urged by the Consul-General to support this project by donating to their local library. As the majority of the Filipino speaking population live in Fairfield and Blacktown, Fairfield will be the initial focus, followed by Blacktown Library (as it is in the process of moving to new premises).

The Read Philippines Project is seen by the Consul-General and me to be of value to all libraries that would like to participate. An interesting outcome from this project has been the learning that Filipino is the recognised language of the Philippines not Tagalog, so I would encourage all libraries with this collection to change their signage accordingly.

I had a fabulous time at the anniversary celebrations, it was a vibrant and exciting occasion full of warm hearted people who knew how to enjoy themselves and, boy, could their 92 year old president, Federico Rafanan talk!!!!

Anne Hall
Manager, Library and Museum Services
Fairfield City Council

Children’s Book Week across the state

Clarence

Each year, Clarence Regional Library promotes Children’s Book Week in order to highlight the benefits of reading for all children. This year to celebrate Book Week, the Library conducted a competition for school age children in three categories:

- Kindergarten – Year 2: solve a maze
- Years 3 – 4: design a poster advertising Book Week
- Years 5 – 6: write a rock song with the theme Reading Rocks to the tune of another well-known song.

The competition entry forms were sent out to all schools in the area, and we had a very good response, receiving over 500 entries. First, second and third prizes were awarded in each category, with all member Councils donating money for book prizes.

Clr Gundry and winners

Mayor of the Clarence Valley Council, Councillor Ian Tiley, presented the prizes for the Lower River winners at Maclean Library, followed by afternoon tea. About 40 people attended the prize giving, including the nine children who received prizes and their family and friends. The Upper Valley winners were presented with their prizes by Deputy Mayor of the Clarence Valley, Councillor Shirley Adams, at Grafton Library, also followed by afternoon tea. Approximately 45 people attended, including Councillor Richie Williamson, the General Manager, Stuart Macpherson, and several teachers from local schools.

The Bellingen/Nambucca prize winners were presented with their book prizes by the Chair of the Clarence Regional Library Committee, Councillor Margaret Gundry at Urunga Library, with the nine prize winners and their family and friends enjoying the refreshments.

Nicole Don
Information Services Librarian
Clarence Regional Library

Coffs Harbour

Coffs Harbour City Library & Information Service

Children’s Book Week an ageing Rock Star

At the Culcairn Library in Children’s Book Week an ageing Rock Star hosted the classes from both primary schools and the preschool. A total of nine classes walked, in the company of supervising teachers, to the Library where they heard about the short listed books and the winning titles in the Children’s Book Council’s Children’s Book of the Year Awards. Some of the short listed books were read to each class, followed by a craft related to the story. 3D Mutt Dogs, Mr and Mrs Noah and cats in the Ark, green sheep; sculpted foil dogs, decorated postcards, Dougal Bear and Bumble Bee stick puppets and decorated stories about personal trips in Australia were all made this week. The Rock Star read excerpts from The Silver Donkey by Sonya Hartnett. This title was the winner for the Book of
the Year Younger Readers category. The children of both Year 5 and Year 6 classes were engrossed with the story. The most popular activity for kindergarten to Year 4 was the making of Pet Rocks! Everybody, including the Rock Star, had a great deal of fun making those little critters!

Greater Taree

Stephen Michael King spent two days at Taree Library during Book Week, sharing his love of books and delighting us with his wonderful whimsical drawings. Enthusiastic audiences, including children, teachers and parents from local schools and pre-schoolers from Story Time, were treated to readings of Mutt Dog!, Patricia, The man who loved boxes and Henry and Amy. Of course, Mutt Dog! was a favourite and the kids were all rapt to hear Stephen talk about Muzzy, the real Mutt Dog! Characters from Stephen’s books came alive in front of our eyes as he worked with ordinary, run of the mill pastel crayons on huge pieces of paper. He talked about writing and designing books, and showed us bits of his ideas journals. He encouraged the children to write down or draw their ideas – ‘because everyone has good ideas’. Some classes had brain-stormed questions and came with them written down. Stephen happily answered all the questions about his work, and enjoyed comments offered by the children. It was a special moment when a young boy in Kindergarten told him ‘You’re a really good drawer!’ after he finished a huge picture of Mutt Dog! Everyone who attended the sessions with Stephen took something special away with them – each class was able to keep the drawing he did for them, but the really important thing they were given was a sense of how important it is to follow your dreams.

For the other three days of the week Infants classes and pre-school children participated in sessions based on a number of the short-listed Early Childhood books. All up, more than 600 children visited Taree and Wingham libraries during Book Week this year. Stephen Michael King made it a Book Week we’ll all remember.

Debbie Horgan

Children’s and Young Adult Services
Greater Taree City Library

Gunnedah

Book Week in Gunnedah would normally run for the same time that Book Week would run in any other place in the country. However, due to Ag-Quip events we just kept doing Book Week activities. We had to extend school visits and the time frames on all our competitions. This resulted in an increased number of entries in competitions, schools visiting the library from outlying villages that have never been to the library before and participation from other local childcare providers that had never visited the library before. We went with a Flint Stones theme throughout the library and, yes we dressed for the occasion as well! Our team considered running our first lapsit program during book week, until we went over board with ideas and creativity. This is probably my fault, as I don’t ever seem to be able to run with anything that is simple. So 0 to 4 year olds took part in Rhythm & Rhyme. We all (and I do mean all) played the keyboard and sang, and some of us have more talent in this department than others.

Sharon Tolland

Gunnedah Library

Lake Macquarie

The flint stories

For our teens we held one of our Pizza & Paperback evenings where we gave the group the opportunity to select their own music CDs for the collection. To top of this activity Eagle Boy’s Pizza was delivery by the Eagle pizza & Paperback Road Show! featured Roxanne Rocks and Miss Roll who entertained the children with short stories and attached an array of objects to make large papier-mache rocks. We learnt a lot about starch, flour and water glue, wallpaper paste and chicken wire! Fifteen schools from our Shire took up the challenge to decorate a large papier-mache rock to go with a book from the 2005 Children’s Book Council’s Book Week Shortlist. Students and teachers painted, collaged and attached an array of objects to their rocks. Every rock was different and a real credit to every student’s imagination and creativity.

Over 100 people gathered at Port Macquarie Library to launch the Reading Rocks Breakwall on Friday 19th August. Mayor Rob Drew welcomed guests and thanked all those involved in this project. Two local students both shared with the launch audience how reading rocks for them. Like all our junior borrowers, they are very enthusiastic about the magical world of stories offered by our wonderful libraries. Their enthusiasm and public speaking skills made this event extra special for us.

Local school, St Columba’s provided the musical entertainment with their jazz band and guests shared rock cakes, afternoon tea and a launch of new Playstation Games, DVDs, comics and books on CDs after the official opening.

All our Library visitors enjoyed the rocks after the launch and admired the talent of our local community.

Virginia Cox

Children’s/YA Librarian
Port Macquarie-Hastings Library

Roxanne Rocks and Miss Roll

Rockin’ and rollin’ around the Lake, Lake Macquarie City Library celebrated Children’s Book Week during August with competitions, story times, and dancing with our Reading Rocks Road Show. The Road Show* featured Roxanne Rocks and Miss Roll who entertained the children with short displayed stories including Where is the Green Sheep?, Are we there yet? and Mutt Dog! Over 950 children participated in the story times and activities at all 10 branch libraries around the lake.

This year’s Book Week competitions included drawing a sheep character from Where is the Green Sheep, while older children were encouraged to design their own CD cover based
Children’s news

on their favourite book. Branch staff were overwhelmed at the number of fantastic entries received and it made judging the competition a major feat. The staff at Belmont Library held a Rock and Roll Dance Hour with library staff members June and Hugh Shaw demonstrating swing dancing and rock and roll. Looking forward to next year! * Kylie as Roxanne and Sherrah Scully as Miss Roll

Kylie Duncan
Promotions Technician
Lake Macquarie City Library

Newcastle

Stephen and Sue Dary, Beresfield Branch Library

The workshops and activities provided an excellent opportunity for children to meet and interact with award winning children’s book illustrators and authors. To complement the week, the library also hosted an exhibition of original artworks from well-known picture book illustrator, Bronwyn Bancroft. The exhibition Through My Eyes featured work from a number of her children’s picture books including, Leaving, Dirrangun and Sun Mother Wakes the World.

Carol Edmonds
Education and Promotions
Newcastle Region Library

Orange

The Children’s Book Week theme, Reading Rocks allowed us to let our imaginations run wild. At a branch meeting we decided it was best to have a bat both ways - we would do a large Rock to display the nominated books and we would have a rock concert as part of our storyline activities.

\[ Image \]

Heather Halley
Orange City Library

Central West Libraries

Queanbeyan

Staff at Queanbeyan City Library created a rocking dinosaur kingdom to celebrate Children’s Book Week. Large painted dinosaur characters, all playing musical instruments transformed our Activity Room walls into a colourful display. From the musical instruments came a trail of musical notes and the covers of all the short-listed books within large musical lines. All the local schools were invited to design banners or mobiles depicting dinosaurs or musical instruments. These made a wonderful eye-catching attraction for all our library visitors.

The entries certainly made Bowen receive a gift of a free book and a pamphlet containing helpful hints and advice on how to share books with babies and toddlers. An estimated

Children’s news

was practising). My favourite part, however, came when I was reading Where is the Green Sheep. As I paused for the children to supply the answer for Here is the … … sheep one little boy kept calling out WHITE sheep. He was right of course! Heather Hanly
Orange City Library

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**Children’s news**

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**Bringing knowledge to life**

Parramatta City Council Library Services have taken the initiative to once again provide a Homework Support Program at Ermington Library. Back by popular demand, Homework Support has been widely commended as a successful supplement to the education of the children that live in the local area. The program has been re-established with many improvements and is greatly welcomed by local parents who affirm the benefits to their children. This program aims to improve educational outcomes for marginalised young people who mainly come from a non-English Speaking background.

The program runs at Ermington Branch Library every Monday from 4 pm - 6 pm during school terms. Last year the program was restricted to years 9 and 10 students, and was funded by Meadowbank College of Technical and Further Education. This year, however, we included both high school and primary school students as we had insufficient enrolments from the original class groups. Currently there are 15 students enrolled in the program, all benefiting from the individual attention. We felt that it would be best to initially run the program for just one day a week until we found enough volunteers and responses from students. If numbers increase, on both sides, then the program will be expanded to run on Thursdays as well.

Library staff have embraced the program, sending letters and flyers to universities, colleges TAFE and Australian Community Languages schools in order to recruit more volunteers. The response was excellent with the library being inundated with phone calls from potential volunteers. **A helping hand**

The University of Western Sydney expressed great interest in the program, as a placement option for their Education students. From the huge pool of volunteers’ applications we were able to select four experienced teachers who can teach most school subjects. A media release in the local newspaper also generated a great deal of community interest.

The Ermington Homework Support Program is part of the Parramatta Library Services Outreach program and is being run in collaboration with Dundas Area Youth Service. It welcomes people of all cultures, and we hope that it is successful in nurturing the youth of our community.

**Gargi Mallik**

Branch Librarian
Ermington Library

**Holiday fun**

**Puppet making:**

Coffs Harbour City Library hosted a Bring a Sock and make a Puppet fun day for the children last school holidays. Wish 105 participants the day was loads of fun. The children improvised with all the craft materials available and not only made puppets, but a whole range of electronic gadgets that they are so familiar with – there were many remote controls made out of kitchen sponges, for instance! Coffs Harbour City Library is looking forward to expanding their fun @ your library sessions to further provide school holiday activities.

**Judy Atkinson**

Programs Officer
Coffs Harbour City Library & Information Service

**Books for Babies**

On Thursday 24th March 2005 Campbelltown City Mayor Clr Brenton Banfield launched our Books for Babies program at H J Daley Library. Over sixty-five parents, babies and representatives from local organisations attended the launch. Guests were entertained and enlightened by our speakers; Lisa Forrest, author, media presenter and ex-Olympian, and Emma Brown, a local speech pathologist. A lap-sit storyline session was presented by our Children’s Librarian, Sue Threlfall, and parents and babies then received their Books for Babies package.

All our guests, including the babies, enjoyed a light lunch. Increasingly, reading to young children is recognised as an important step in developing intelligent and confident children. The Books for Babies programs are an important introduction to reading and literacy for children and their families. The aim of the program is to provide every newborn baby in the Campbelltown local government area with a free book bag, containing a range of items to promote the importance of reading to babies.

The kit contains a Penguin book, a placemat, a bib, and pamphlets with information about the benefits of reading to 0 to 1 year old children. Successful partnerships have been developed with Focus on New Families, a local Uniting Care Burnside organisation, who are distributing information about the Books for Babies program to new mothers at Campbelltown hospital, and Macarthur

**Children’s news**

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The July school holidays were filled with activities for children, including a stegosaurus, a raptor, and a saurican display from the Library of NSW. The Kids’ Reading Club at Minto Community Library, including a stegosaurus, raptor, and a saurian, was soon to be launched junior reading club. The project is funded by the City of Campbelltown and aims to improve school readiness as well as promote a love of books and reading, ensuring that kids get off to a better start at school.

The City of Canada Bay Library Service held its Nestlé Write Around Australia Zone presentation on Saturday 17 September 2005. There was standing room only in the Bay Room at Five Dock Library as the twenty zone finalists and their families arrived. Mayor, Angelo Tsiros presented the finalists with their backpacks full of Nestlé goodies and a certificate for themselves and their schools. The room was buzzing with anticipation as the Mayor opened the envelope and announced the two zone winners, one from year five and one from year six. Congratulations to Molly Bennett and D C C, the Year five winners. Congratulations to Therese Vaughn and Dorothy Swoope, the Year six winners.

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Children’s news

day of its worldwide release. Forty copies of the new Harry Potter book were available for loan from midday on Saturday July 16. Borrowers on the waiting list for the title were the first to have the opportunity to read the new Harry book. The Harry Potter phenomenon not only encourages children to extend their reading, it has also placed a greater focus on children’s literature in the community,’ Ms Moten said.

Kylie Duncan
Promotions Technician
Lake Macquarie City Library

CrocFest

4300 school children from all over New South Wales participated over two days in Australia’s biggest CrocFest held at Kempsey on the 14th and 15th of September. CrocFest is staged by Indigenous Festivals of Australia and is a cultural festival with reconciliation, career information and community building as the main themes. It was set up in tents and marquees on local playing fields and the weather was magnificent. The library had a stall in the careers and education tent. Two heroic staff members spent two days talking themselves hoarse to youngsters who stopped to look at posters, brochures, and folders of DVDs, CDs and computer games held by the library. Sample bags were handed out to students, and slightly more substantial packs (using the @ your library bags) were given to teachers, who were most appreciative.

Several local children have already visited the library looking for items they spotted advertised at CrocFest. Lessons learnt! That these events always repay the time and effort put into them and that we need a decent banner advertising the library!

Gabri Brie
Shire Librarian
Kempsey Shire Library

Woollahra Kids Go Live

www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au

A new children’s website has been designed to help children and their parents access the library’s collections, events information, competitions and online databases.

The website

A major function of the site is to help children and parents who are not confident in searching the Internet to find age-appropriate study resources and leisure information. The site is regularly updated and 15 new reading lists such as What to read while you are reading. In the website you will also find a couple of chess sets in the Youth Zone, right near the Sony Playstation and is proving incredibly popular, with most items out on loan at any given time.

Michelle de Mari
Acting Children’s and Youth Librarian
Faye Lawrence
Library Manager

Bathurst Library

SWAT team visits Leichhardt

The Bathurst Library SWAT team (Story Telling With Attitude) took the country experience to Leichhardt Library with a storytelling session. It was the first part of a cultural exchange between the two libraries. The Bathurst team brought a sheep and some ducks and chickens to the City imparting a real country feel to the occasion.

Aniko Koro
Outreach Programs Officer
Bathurst Library

Young adult’s update

Getting Graphic

Our library is constantly updating collections and services to keep pace with new trends encouraging young people to read and enjoy books. Our most recent new collection is Graphic Novels, purchased courtesy of the wonderful Special Purpose Grant funding from the State Library. The collection was launched by the Mayor of Canterbury City, Councillor Robert Furolo at the end of June this year. The collection of more than 300 items is strategically located in the Youth Zone, right near the Sony PlayStaion and is proving incredibly popular, with most items out on loan at any given time.

Michelle Mashman
Manager
Canterbury City Library

Mate!

Leeton and Narrandera Libraries are both finding a couple of chess sets in a quiet corner to be a good way to attract some new users into the library.

Gail Dunn
Library Services Team Leader
Wollondilly Library and Information Service

Forster gets graphic

This may sound rather risqué and I guess Great Lakes has been a bit cheeky at times but the truth is somewhat different. In August the Mayor Councillor John Chadban launched the Library’s new Graphic Novel collection. The collection was made possible thanks to Local Special
Young adult’s update

Projects money (God bless it) and a donation of $3,500 from the Friends of the Great Lakes Library Service – the incomparable and completely lovable FOGLLS.

The graphic Mayor Chadban

The success of the new collection can be found in the lending rates. As I write this around 40% is on loan – and that’s with a limit of 4 items per person. In a year when budgets are very tight the ability to launch a new and popular collection is wonderful and a great news story. Being graphic does have its advantages!

Chris Jones
Manager
Great Lakes Library Service

Woollahra Teens Go Live
www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au

A new teen’s website has been designed to help young adults and their parents access the library’s collections, events information, competitions and online databases. The Woollahra Teen Web was launched as part of the library’s contribution to National Youth Week 2005. The site was designed to be teen-friendly but also useful for teens who are studying and who would benefit from our various collections, such as the HSC and online databases.

The website

Other collections highlighted by the site include our new Anime, Manga and Graphic Novels collections. During Youth Week the site was displayed at the Youth Week Workshops and focus groups were held to determine what the teens thought were the site’s strong points and what needed fine-tuning. This feedback proved very helpful in making the site more teen-friendly.

Michelle de Mari
Acting Children’s and Youth Librarian

Faye Lawrence
Library Manager

Youth Focus in the Manning

We got them in with pizza – and kept them there with a huge collection of new YA fiction, graphic novels, magazines, and the latest, coolest CDs and DVDs! Yes, the focus was on young people at the Greater City Library early in June, at an Open Day launch of new youth resources. Over eighty hungry teenagers ate their way through an enormous amount of pizza and enthusiastically browsed through the stands and shelves. There was genuine surprise at the range of material in the library, with lots of those attending admitting that they hadn’t been in the library since primary school! New library cards were issued left and right, with a number of junior memberships upgraded to adult cards. It was great to see so many boys at the launch, with almost an equal number of boys and girls attending. While the interests of both sexes were taken into account in the selection of the new resources, particular attention was paid to the interests of young adult males with regard to the graphic novels and new magazine titles. Borrowing rates of these materials have so far indicated that we have hit the spot – the next challenge is, of course, to keep them reading!

Focussing on youth from another angle, we have been running a Year 7 @ your library program out to three other local high schools; we look forward to the Year 11 study skills program in Term 3; and our new YA collection continues to grow with suggestions from young people coming in. It’s all good!

Debbie Horgan
Children’s and Young Adult Services
Greater Taree City Library

Graffiti encouraged

The Bathurst Library team has been working to make the Young Adult section a more comfortable space for teens. As part of this process we have created a new image for the area based on the results of a Teen workshop. This was held to help us create a space for teens that is somewhere they have real ownership of. The workshop was well attended and the flow of ideas was undoubtedly helped by provision of free pizza and drinks in the library!

Karen Golland
Outreach program assistant
Bathurst Library

Young adult’s update

Parents in tow to join up, or to update their junior cards. Greater Taree’s Youth Focus project was supported by a Library Development Grant of almost $14,000. Council’s budget also provided some bright new furniture and display shelving which has opened up the YA area and made it an inviting space. Looking up the stairs from the circulation desk, it’s great to see fresh young faces browsing the display stands or sitting and reading on the funky red seats. It’s an exciting start – we have plans to take our Year 7 @ your library program out to three other local high schools; we look forward to the Year 11 study skills program in Term 3; and our new YA collection continues to grow with suggestions from young people coming in. It’s all good!