Public Library News

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FROM THE EDITOR
Welcome to our first issue for 2011. But don't read it in the dark! We feature the very scary summer reading program, and (possibly even scarier) Library Lovers Day roundups from across the state. And a host of stories and photos that give just a taste of the great things you are all doing out in your communities. Thank you to all the contributors – we wouldn’t have a newsletter without you.

VICTORIA ANDERSON
Editor
iBIMS at Willoughby

Staff at Willoughby City Library were delighted to receive the 2010 Australian VALA Award for the implementation of their innovative Chinese OPAC, iBIMS™. This prestigious award, made biennially, is presented to the Australian library or information centre judged to have made the most innovative use of information technology during the previous two years.

In June 2010 Willoughby City Library introduced this new library service – a Chinese OPAC (iBIMS™) available via the Internet. iBIMS™ the Intelligent Book Information Management System is a bilingual OPAC for non-romanised script languages. It can be accessed from any PC, handheld device or Smartphone with a web browser and Internet connection. Users can retrieve bibliographical information about the Library’s Chinese collection in three different ways, by writing the Chinese characters on a handwriting recognition pad or through any Chinese character inputting software, by inputting the Pinyin (romanised script) or by typing in the English titles. iBIMS™ analyses the stroke count of an author’s surname and displays it in the form of an organised matrix. With this outstanding feature, users who are unable to write characters can now simply hit the Stroke Search button and easily find the author they want.

Willoughby City Library enjoys a reputation for providing excellent multicultural services to the community. With 35% of the Library’s total membership speaking a language other than English, the library has built a Community Language collection in 12 different languages. The loan figures for this collection are high, with Chinese loans reaching 121,575 loans last year, an impressive 16% of the total library annual loans.

The Chinese community is the largest ethnic group in the Willoughby area with 13% of the population speaking a Chinese dialect at home. Over the years, the Chinese language collection has expanded vastly and become the largest language collection in the North Shore area. It has been very popular among the local Chinese as well as visiting patrons from other areas. To improve our service to this group we introduced iBIMS™. It shows the familiar original script; allows users to search anytime, anywhere on the web; establishes a bridge between Chinese customers who don’t speak English well and library staff who don’t know Chinese by using dual language display on screen; and it increases user awareness of new items and forthcoming events of interest within the library.

Connecting to the Library main system, iBIMS™ shows the real time status of an item, such as whether it is on loan, overdue or on the shelf. There is a growing trend towards customers searching iBIMS™ at home before coming to the Library to borrow the items they want. Customers and Library staff were delighted to find that the new system provides a communication link. Staff can now recommend titles to Chinese customers by clicking the Category button, or use a barcode search to identify the item when an overdue notice is received in romanised script.

Willoughby City Library is very proud to introduce iBIMS™, the first truly bilingual OPAC, to our Chinese customers. Three weeks after the launch the access log recorded over 7,600 hits on the Book Information page, proof of its popularity and usefulness among Chinese users. The system will help to increase item turnover by bringing the library’s collection to a much broader user base in the Sydney metropolitan area.

Willoughby Mayor, Pat Reilly, congratulated Library staff, saying that the award was not only a recognition of innovative technology use, but a celebration of services that meet the needs of Willoughby’s diverse population. Willoughby is the City of Diversity. Accolades like the VALA Award highlight the way in which the library and other areas of Council embrace our differences and yet find ways to bridge gaps so that all Willoughby community members can access and benefit from local services, Mayor Reilly said.

CLARE EVANS
Community Information and Promotions Librarian
Willoughby City Library
Summer Reading

**Canada Bay Launch**

The Summer Reading Club was a big hit this year with lots of little locals becoming bookworms over the school holidays as they read to *Scare Up a Good Book*. Our Summer Reading Club just gets better and better with more kids joining and enjoying reading over the holidays. The reading program helps encourage a love of learning and promotes literacy. Kids and youth aged under 18 are invited to check out books on their library card, and record the ones they read. The very little book clubbers who can’t read by themselves are encouraged to join as well, with parents reading to them and sharing in all the fun of the program. Everyone who read more than five books received a certificate at the presentation ceremony at Bankstown Sports Club. Avid readers collected their prizes, everyone was entertained by a brilliant magic show and Club members received their certificates of achievement after another great summer of reading. This year over 600 kids joined the Club and read nearly sixteen thousand books from Bankstown Council’s libraries. Books read for the Premier’s Reading Challenge (which started in February and runs till September) also counted towards the Summer Reading Club if they were borrowed from any of our libraries.

**Canberra**

We launched our club with a magical evening at Concord Library. Kids were invited to come dressed as their favourite witch or wizard; and we listened to creepy stories, cast spells, mixed potions, created a bag of wishes, made magic wands and slippery slime, and finished the evening with enchanted treats! At the end of the Club 109 children had completed their Reading Record. They were invited to a party to be presented with a certificate and enter the lucky prize draw for the chance to win Taronga Zoo tickets, Sydney Aquatic Centre passes and Sydney Football Club packs. Approximately 1500 books were read by these children over the January holiday break.

**Clarence, Bellingen, Dorrigo and Urunga Libraries**

Bellingen, Dorrigo and Urunga Libraries were decorated with bats, skeletons and ghosts to get in the mood for the Summer Reading Club. Over 100 Bellingen Shire children registered for the Club and many collected prizes for each reading achievement they reached. The libraries also offered colouring-in and book review competitions with winners receiving a $50 book voucher. As a finale for the Club, we threw a party with yummy food and face painting, and plenty of congratulations for the kids!

**Coffs Harbour**

Each year the number of children participating in the summer reading club grows, and this year was no exception with a total of 220 children. This is one of those programs that is appreciated as much by the adults as it is by the children and it’s at the core of what public libraries are all about - promoting literacy. Through the hard work of Judy Atkinson, Children and Youth Services Coordinator, we obtained support from local businesses for the prizes and for the party. The party was attended by 60 children who braved the torrential rain, many dressed as their favourite spooky character. We gave out many prizes with the main prize for the best online book review (an iPod nano multitouch), going to nine year old Lauren Hutchinson who had read a whopping 80 books! The program was a huge success and the children are already looking forward to doing it again next summer and, of course, so are we!
COFFS HARBOUR (2)
In conjunction with our Summer Reading Club promotion, Coffs Harbour City Library held a writing workshop for children during the school holidays. Local author Lincoln Law had the 25 children captivated as he worked with them to explain how to turn their idea into a novel. Lincoln, who has three published books, only completed his HSC 12 months ago. His youthfulness and enthusiasm is infectious, and he was bombarded with questions from the budding writers, keen to develop their skills and utilise the techniques he recommended. The feedback from the children was all positive with one commenting; I really enjoyed this event. I learnt new ways of creating ideas and I am now excited and am thinking of becoming a writer!

The library went to town in January and set up a storytelling stand! What a fantastic opportunity to promote the library services to the wider community. We had a great audience that ebbed and flowed throughout the day, and as we were wired for sound everyone in the city centre knew what was going on! We read 25 books and did a little bit of reader’s theatre to keep the kids involved. As we were in the middle of the Scare up a good book Summer Reading Club season, we carried this theme over to the day. Skeletons, witches, and monsters figured in lots of the stories, as well as some old favourites. It was a great activity, which we look forward to repeating throughout the year.

GRENFELL
Summer Reading Club members had a monster-ous good time at the Grenfell Public Library this year. As well as the traditional challenge of reading ten books there was a program of craft and performance events. We started with a make-a-fashion-statement-dress-as-a-monster morning where the children showed great creativity in assembling scary outfits and I demonstrated my flair with bones! The group then paraded down the main street singing (?) to the tune of Baa, Baa Black Sheep, “We are monsters scary and mean, we’re the biggest monsters you’ve ever seen. Come and join us, everyone, for we really do have monster fun!” A bonanza for camera-toting relatives! Other crafts involved making ballistic bats and ghastly ghosts in skeleton trees (thank you, ALIA wiki, for the ideas). Local children’s entertainer Paul Westman and Larry Brandy from Canberra also presented performances which were well received. The Club reached its finale with the Awards Afternoon Tea on 28th February at
which Paul Westman returned with another great comic performance, certificates were presented to everyone, and we all enjoyed fantastic catering courtesy of the Friends of Grenfell Library.

A record fifty-two children registered as members this year and twenty-eight met the challenge and received a $20 cash award. Feedback from parents was appreciative and the front page coverage by our local newspaper validated the Club as a marketing success for the Library.

KIAMA

It’s really quite scary how our Summer Reading Club just keeps on growing. During this past summer Kiama children read almost 2000 books compared to January 2004 when they read just 410. Running such a successful program would not be possible without the support of library staff and teachers and the parents who encourage their children to enrol in the program and complete their diary sheets; local businesses who generously donate items which can be used as prizes and the State Library which supplies the fun kits we use for incentives and the support material on the ALIA wiki and website. However, the success of a program is really measured by comments like this from one of our parents: thank you for encouraging my children to read.

KOGARAH

The arrival of KROG, our Summer Reading monster caused a great stir at our Summer Reading Presentation Night. KROG’s picture had been on the reading records and posters for the primary age group readers. With the help of a magic potion (which he won in an undersea reading competition) he was able to come out of the sea onto the land for the presentation night, handing out the certificates and special prizes such as an iPod shuffle and games vouchers. The presentations were held for each of the age groups, with the 0 to 5s presentation incorporated into storytime and the teenagers’ one into a pizza party. This year we also held an adult Summer Reading Competition with incentives for reading books and writing reviews for ChiliFresh, where you can add book reviews to the library catalogue. This year 249 children and 90 adults participated and read 8,080 books.

LITHGOW

The Summer Reading Club offered us an opportunity to hold some scary summer holiday activities. A three week program with a different theme each week (beginning with Halloween in January, followed by Creepy Crawlies and Adventure Sports) was planned and advertised. The library was decorated in the week leading up to the Christmas break, with bats, ghosts and spider webs mixing with the traditional Christmas decorations. No wonder some of our patrons were confused! The culmination of the three weeks’ activities was to have been a mobile climbing wall. Enough to scare the pants off even the bravest of participants; however the ongoing inclement weather forced the decision to defer this event until later in the year.

Halloween in January activities saw monsters, ghosts, mummies and various other scary creatures being created in craft sessions. There was a Halloween party with craft and games including an eyeball and spoon race around the library. Many children (and one staff member) dressed up in their favourite Halloween costumes and paraded around the library.

Week two was the Creepy Crawlies week and the children were looking forward to a special visitor. Snapper the carpet python, who lives with a library staff member, came along to visit and seemed happy enough to shake tails with all the children and their parents. He left behind a few of his shed skins for some lucky children to take home and scare dad with. Once Snapper’s visit was over there was an opportunity to examine some of the exhibits from the Australian Museum’s Museum in a box. Reptiles, bats, sharks and spiders were carefully passed around for the children to inspect. This display from the museum is fantastic and if you haven’t seen or used it before there is information on the Australian Museum website. A brief first aid session was also held to remind the children of what to do if they get bitten by a poisonous creature. To finish off the week the children made yarn bugs to take home.

Week three was adventure sports week but after we decided to delay the climbing wall until later in the year, these sessions were not as well attended as the previous weeks. However, the craft activity was the most fun of all! A plastic bag, some string and a cardboard cut-out of a man in skydiving gear, on
the mezzanine level combined for a fun and noisy activity. But the main focus of the program was the Reading Challenge. As an incentive to read, some great scary prizes of cave tours were provided by Jenolan Caves. 45 children signed up for the reading challenge and 26 entered the final draw. Approximately 350 books were read by these children in 5 weeks. Not a bad effort! They all received a book prize donated by the local Angus & Robertson bookstore and the three lucky winners are looking forward to the next school holidays for their visit to Jenolan Caves.

Library staff deemed this one of the best summer holidays at Lithgow Library for many years.

**PARKES**

Picture this... a hot summer’s day. Library staff, teachers, principals, the mayor and the library mascot standing in lines, in the library, in front of a group of giggling children. The music begins and things really start to happen; the arms and legs are going in all directions! What’s going on? The Nutbush, of course! Why? Members of the Summer Reading Club were getting their reward for reading above and beyond their target of 3,000 books. Last year they easily surpassed their goal of 1,000 books so this year the stakes were pushed higher! A total of 3,030 books were read by 217 summer reading club members-an amazing feat!

The dancers survived a full length version of the Nutbush on their own and then invited Club members to join them in a second run-through. Phew! Our local paper was impressed with the result too and featured the dancers on the front page.

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EYE BALL AND SPOON RACE
SNAPPER
THE NUTBUSH
SCARY KIDS
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Publicity we usually only dream of! Library staff and friends are polishing up their dancing shoes for next year’s event.

**QUEANBEYAN**

This year’s theme enticed 76 library members to register and read an amazing 1,060 books! After registering, each child who read ten books could bring their completed reading record to the library and receive a small prize and write their name on a token to add to our Scary Display. We also held a colouring in competition and a short scary story writing competition. We celebrated the end of the Club with a Scary party. Majura the Magician made an appearance, dazzling the audience with fantastic magic and tricks that included witches and pumpkins to complement the club’s theme. All the children were able to choose a prize from the witch’s black cauldron, and two twenty dollar Angus and Robertson gift cards were awarded to the boy and girl who had made the most effort with their reading. Participation certificates were handed out to each child and the party food went down a treat!
Sutherland

Although the theme was Scare up a good book, kids in the Sutherland Shire were not frightened away. 1,208 kids took part in our Summer Reading Club, which was open to 0-12 year olds, and read 15,165 books. The kids enjoyed incentives along the way such as chupa chups, stickers, tattoos and pencil toppers. For every five books they read they had a chance in the lucky draw to win books, vouchers and stationery. We also had great major prizes - for the 0 to 4 year olds, a bag of goodies, for 5 to 8 year olds, a digital camera and for the 9 to 12 year olds, an Ipod Touch.

Our Teen Reading Club was open to high school students and the major prize on offer was an Ipod Touch. We also had weekly prize draws of JB HiFi vouchers and Ridge Golf Driving Range vouchers. 100 teens took part in this program and every book they read gave them an entry in the prize draw. The teens read a total of 781 books. On Wednesday 16th February nearly 40 winners attended our presentation. Prizes were presented by Clr Margaret Hargrave and the President of the Tradies, Graham Hill. The major prize winners were surprised to be announced and happily accepted their prizes.

The success of these programs was due to our enthusiastic young participants, our eager staff (happy to encourage the kids) and our sponsors. Our major sponsor, the Tradies (local club) have now supported this program for 4 years. Their support of a number of our programs is most appreciated and President Graham Hill says he loves attending the presentations. Our other sponsors included Sutherland Shire Leisure Centres, AES Library Supplies, Bloomin Books Caringbah, Sydney Tramway Museum, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Australian National Maritime Museum, Child’s Play Australia and The Ridge Golf Driving Range.

Wagga Wagga

At Wagga Wagga City Library we don’t let the primary school children have all the reading fun over summer (even though the primary school children did love the Scare Up a Good Book theme and the Ipod nano prize). We also had clubs for youth and adults, because summer is the perfect time for everyone to get reading.

After the success of last year’s vampire themed youth reading club, Reading Sucks, we went for another popularly gross theme and had a Zombie Reading Club, Great Minds Taste Alike. We created a booklet full of reading suggestions for different genres and sub-genres such as fantasy, werewolves, monsters and lipstick lit. A local music shop donated an acoustic guitar pack as a prize and the teenage girl who won it was thrilled!

Not wanting to alienate those who don’t read a particular genre we called the adults’ club Relaxing Summer Reads. Their booklet was full of reading suggestions with themes such as light and funny, chick lit, crime, literary fiction, biographies and paranormal. Our regular partnership with the Civic Theatre enabled us to give a subscription to the 2011 theatre season as a prize. The booklets continue to be a good resource for readers’ advisory, but for the reading time alone, don’t you wish it was summer all year round?

Waverley

Each year Children’s staff organise the Summer Reading Program for young borrowers. The Library’s younger readers have participated for many years and there is always a lot of enthusiasm and interest in this reading challenge. But like all good books, our program has a twist. Two years ago, staff decided that rather than each child receiving prizes, every book
they read would instead raise 50 cents for a charity dedicated to supporting children in need. In 2008/09 our young readers raised money for the Connect Redfern project, and in 2009/10 they raised money for the Wairoa Special School in Bondi Beach. This year, children were encouraged to Read for Riley in support of Father Chris Riley’s Youth off the Streets education program, designed to help get kids off the streets and back into education.

This year, for the first year, the program was sponsored, with $1,000 donated by Kiwanis International, the second-oldest and third-largest service club in the world. Around 100 young readers from the area registered to take part. Ranging in age from four to 15, they read an incredible 1,600 books. Their fantastic effort resulted in $785 raised for Read for Riley.

All the children and families who took part in this year’s challenge were invited to attend a special presentation ceremony to receive their certificates of participation and enjoy afternoon tea with Waverley Mayor, Cr Sally Betts.

**WOLLONDILLY**

This year has been our most successful ever with 340 young people registering to participate. All together we read 3,190 books over the holidays with some people reading over 100 books each! Lucky winners were presented with their prizes by our Mayor, Cr Banasik at the prize giving ceremony. 26 prizes were awarded this year ranging from toys and games for our youngest readers to movie tickets, JB HiFi and Borders vouchers for our more advanced readers and of course all the prize winners were awarded a brand new book to keep them reading well into the school term. Well done to the young readers of Wollondilly!

**WOLLONGONG**

All our branch libraries participated in this year’s Summer Reading Club. Children from 0 to 12 were asked to register and participate in a variety of activities during our launch parties, where magician Glenn Keeley entertained the kids and their mums and dads. Throughout the summer a number of activities were held across the library service, tied in with the theme of Scare Up a Good Book, including scary storytimes, spooky crafts and weekly prize draws. Library staff did a fantastic job of encouraging junior library patrons to register and participate. We had 803 children register, borrowing a total of 13,875 items. The Summer Reading Club supports young people’s literacy, encourages the use of the library by non library users, enhances the library experience for those who already use the service, increases membership and usage of public libraries by young people, promotes public libraries in the wider community and promotes a sense of community within the library. It was a hugely successful this year at Wollongong.

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Robyn Owens, Bankstown
Wendy Banister, Canada Bay
Kathryn Breward, Clarence
Carolyn Elmes, Coffs Harbour
Judy Atkinson, Coffs Harbour
Anne Gault, Grenfell
Sharon Jones, Kiama
Linda Heald, Kogarah
Maureen Breckell, Lithgow
Debbie Gould, Parkes
Emma Ciechan, Queanbeyan
Melinda McNaughton, Sutherland
Amy Heap, Wagga Wagga
Sam Weir, Waverley
Georgina Konstanta, Wollondilly
Peta Moss, Wollongong
BELLINGEN
As well as Blind Date Books and a Guess the Most Borrowed Book competition, Bellingen Library celebrated Library Lovers Day with a special afternoon tea for invited guests including Council staff, councillors and local teacher librarians. This was an opportunity for us to provide an overview of the new services being offered by Clarence Regional Library. Everyone found the presentation informative, as few of them knew that the Library now provided access to ADSL2+, eAudio Books, online computer training and LibraryThing. It was a great way for Library staff to inform our community, and lots of those who came who rarely visited the Library before, have now become members.

BLAND
The language of love was flowing last week as the Bland Shire Library celebrated Library Lovers Week! We held a competition where patrons had to guess which decade a series of wedding dresses originated from. The winner was Lyn Anderson who won a pamper pack from the West Wyalong Pharmacy, after guessing nine out of thirteen correctly. The celebrations also included a blind date with a book. Some thirty patrons took the plunge and went on a blind date with a mystery book from the Library Lovers book display. These books had been carefully selected by library staff and wrapped up, with a short blurb on the front, and patrons borrowed the books sight unseen for a new reading experience. As encouragement, those who joined in the fun then went into the draw for a bottle of wine and box of chocolates, won by Jade Cumming. The library also held a romance short story writing competition. Romance is obviously alive and well in Bland Shire, as we had an entertaining array of entries. A $50 gift voucher from White Magnolia Day Spa was winner, Jacqui Bolte’s prize for this competition.

But it wasn’t just the adults who celebrated. Thursday morning proved a busy time for library staff with 35 children attending the Library Lovers Day storytime session. The children enjoyed the stories and made Valentine’s cards, most of which were given to mums as a Valentine’s gift. The library sparkled with glitter, red heart, balloons and smiles and we all had a great day.

CAMDEN
Library Lovers Day was a great chance to celebrate how our customers feel about the library. We did lots of talking with our customers, and then we used this great feedback a number of ways to help promote the library. Each branch put together a display of red hot romance books, complete with red feathered cupid wings, candles, presents, roses and ribbons. Next we asked customers to tell us why they loved the library. As encouragement we purchased the largest box of chocolates we could find as a prize. It is amazing what a large amount of chocolate will do! With more than 150 entries, we ended up with some wonderful comments from customers including:

_I love my library because it is an escape from work and a very peaceful place to be during my 2nd trimester of pregnancy. I will be attending the baby reading classes to educate my baby and myself. PS I love my fiancé too._ Danielle, Narellan Library, and

_I love my library because it’s local, kids love coming here, everything you are looking for when you need info on different subjects, and the ladies are lovely._ Karen, Camden Library.

We used these comments to create a word cloud, which we placed on our Library news blog http://camdencouncillibraryservices.blogspot.com/p/why-
do-you-love-your-library.html. This gave us a visual snapshot of what people value about our service. We also ran around on the day and took photos and comments from customers. These were placed on the news blog to run as a slide show, and can also be found on our flickr account, as part of the 365 days of a library set.

In addition to these fun things we hosted a romantic author visit. Author Helene Young spoke about her latest novel *Shattered Sky*, described as suspense, murder and love in the Australian tropics. And as a final add-on, local celebrity dog Myron, was invited to tell us why he loves the library. Myron is an internationally famous dog with no eyes and a Facebook following of nearly 5,000. His owner also happens to work at Narellan Library! Once his visit was posted on his Facebook page, he helped direct traffic to the library’s page.

What did we learn from this year’s Library Lovers Day? We learnt about some of the things our customers value, lots of new ways to engage people and create a more personal library community and also, that chocolate is a great motivator!

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**CANADA BAY**

Bonjour and oo-la-la! The City of Canada Bay celebrated Library Lovers Day in true Fancy Nancy style. The kids were invited to wear their fanciest clothes to a Fancy Nancy soiree - top hats and tiaras welcome. We enjoyed stories about Nancy who loves being fancy - from the top of her tiara down to her sparkly shoes! Spectacular craft items including crowns, tiaras and butterflies were created. And afternoon tea? Decorate your own ice cream parfait with sprinkles, chocolate and more sprinkles! A really successful activity and I’m certain a few more Library Lovers existed at the end of the day!

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**CENTRAL WEST**

Throughout the Central West Libraries (CWL) we have had a pretty busy summertime, so when Library Lovers Day was approaching we looked for a quick and easy way to celebrate.

Poems and quotations about great passion, or dates (blind, disguised or known) with our collections all held some appeal but required a bit more time, effort and organisation than we had available. So... The Quiz was picked to roll out over our seven branch libraries.

The first challenge was to select ten Library Lovers from the list compiled by staff on the staffroom whiteboard and suggestions from the branches. We wanted to use public figures who could be identified from their photograph on the Library Lovers’ Day Quiz Poster and whose advocacy for libraries was encapsulated in a short quote. We ended up choosing nine people using a completely undemocratic method - they were the ones for whom we had a reasonable photograph, who would be recognised from their public exposure and because they had made some
good quotes. Extensive testing by a few staff told us that we might have made the list too hard but, as the posters were ready to go on display, why should we bow to the lowest common denominator and make The Quiz easy? This finding was corroborated by the small number of 100% correct answers and many most correct answers received a prize.

You would have noticed that we had ten Library Lovers but picked only nine celebrities. The tenth person was a mirror. Thus every entrant had at least one correct answer and most had 7 or 8 right. The prizes were chocolates, of course, or a Rewards Card entitling the holder to 10 free reservations.

It was just a bit of fun at low cost and effort by CWL staff. While on the phone to our Cowra Library, I overheard a staff member telling a regular borrower that she had won 10 free reservations with her Library Lovers’ Day Quiz entry. Her surprised and thrilled reaction would have made a game show host proud! Have a look at our blog for The Quiz answers <http://bit.ly/ffpHAh>

COFFS HARBOUR

There’s nothing a librarian likes more than Library Lovers Day. All the staff wore red T-shirts to get in the Valentine mood, including several Get reading shirts. There were hearts galore at each of our three branches, bouquets of heart shaped helium balloons in red, pink and white and the reddest heart shaped cake that you’ve ever seen. We asked people to write their favourite author or book, or why they loved the library, on heart shapes and pin it on the notice board, and take a heart shaped chocolate for their trouble. People continued to contribute to the notice board all day (luckily we’d bought plenty of chocolates). We used the opportunity to launch our new Playaway collection, and we had one playing softly through a portable radio/CD player with mp3 aux connection, to demonstrate the high quality of the recordings. The take up rate surpassed our expectations and they were all borrowed very quickly. Another huge success.

DENILQUIN

Central Murray Regional Library has been celebrating Library Lovers Day for several years. We’ve had blind dates with books; chocolate hearts and competitions. But in 2011 we wanted to step it up a notch and make the month of February a full 28 days of romance, style and elegance. Staff put together a beautiful display of wedding gowns and mementos, ranging from the 1950s through to current day gowns, and we started to discuss what activities we would have on the day. One staff member said; we need a wedding. When the laughter subsided we realised it wasn’t as crazy as it sounded.

We rang the local newspaper, The Pastoral Times and asked for their help with an editorial, asking for any community members who may be interested in getting married or renewing their wedding vows on Library Lovers Day. I think everyone thought we had lost the plot – but the community was talking about the Deniliquin Library, so what more could we want!! We were approached by several marriage celebrants wanting to participate and a wedding coordinator wanting to decorate the library. They all saw it as a good publicity campaign, but still we had no bride and groom.

Finally on Wednesday 9th February, local couple Karen and Roger Barnes, who will be celebrating their ruby anniversary in June 2011, approached me and asked if they could renew their wedding vows in
the library. With the library manager on leave and I having to unexpectedly take a family member to hospital, the mobiles were running hot. We had a wedding to organise!!! Flowers, cake, champagne, the works. The news was travelling like wild fire, and the local radio station and newspapers wanted interviews with library staff and our loving couple.

While this had started out as a library promotion we realised that it was a very special day for Roger and Karen. Wedding coordinator Peata Smith came to lend a hand and transformed the library into a romantic setting and our manager made and decorated a wedding cake (even though she was having a new kitchen installed and didn’t have an oven - thank goodness she is a woman of many talents).

Finally Monday 14th February arrived and staff were getting excited. The flowers arrived for the bride’s bouquet, the glasses were arranged for the guests and love was in the air. Celebrant Murry Druitt officiated at the ceremony with 20 close friends and family attending, as well as many community members listening in as the couple said their vows. There were a few chuckles when Karen and Roger forgot which fingers to put the rings on, before they were once again declared husband and wife.

HAWKESBURY

Surprising and diverse reasons compel many of us to love and hold onto a particular book. Hawkesbury Library Service celebrated Library Lovers Day with a display of much loved books, along with stories about why they are such objects of affection. The exhibit was accompanied by a display of archival storage materials as well as an information leaflet, Caring for your Family Records to help our library patrons learn how to care for their most loved book. Contributors to the exhibit and stories were Council staff and volunteers, each generously lending their books and providing a story that was poignant, personal and insightful. Many of the books were favourite childhood books, or gifts from family or friends or a book prize. Most often they were books passed down through the family, and were kept with the intention of passing onto a child or another family member.

Participants really enjoyed sharing their books and stories and certainly loved the interpretive panels produced for the display which combined images of the family along with the stories and images of books.

HENTY

Library Lovers Day was celebrated in Henty on Friday 11th February, with members being encouraged to take a book on a blind date, and then go into the draw to win a box of chocolates. A cuppa was available with biscuits and chocolates. But the focal point of the day was the cascading decadence of the chocolate fountain, with the smell of delicious chocolate filling the library. Throughout the day our members dipped an array of items such as lollies, strawberries, wafers, marshmallows and dried fruit into the chocolate. By the end of the day library staff (after an intensive sampling process) were experts on what tastes best when dipped in chocolate. Thanks to the Henty Show Society ladies for helping with the melting of the chocolate and passing the good word around about the fountain to members of community.
HORNSBY
Staff at Hornsby Library celebrated Library Lovers Day in style with Jane Austen and friends. The Library was transformed into an Austen-themed Devonshire tea party and the customers were served by staff wearing Regency costumes. The library was decorated with displays of period costumes and artefacts as well as books, CDs and DVDs. 89% of these items have been borrowed with 40% being lent on the day. Traditional Valentine Day hearts were also in evidence. The success of this day was largely due to the support and enthusiasm of the staff.

The crowd was brought to order by our very own Red Coat Officer while a member of the Jane Austen Society, Lyn Drabsch, gave an impromptu reading from Pride and Prejudice. Our guests had asked for an activity and luckily Lyn gave them one. She had heard about the event from our local member, Judy Hopwood. The event was advertised widely with a photograph and article in the local newspaper, information on the council and library’s websites, tweets from the council, flyers and bookmarks throughout the library. All this promotion certainly worked. We had over 300 people in the library that morning. Many people, young and old came specifically to attend including a group from a local retirement home and groups from the local Adult Migrant Education Service and university students who were very curious about what was going on.

At the same time the library was hosting an exhibition entitled 3 Walls, 3 Visions by artists Patricia Crawford, Barbara O’Ryan and John Crawford. Coincidentally Pat is also a member of the Jane Austen Society and had come along to join us for morning tea. Pat and Lyn gave us some good ideas and contacts for another Jane Austen event, for the people of Hornsby have spoken - they are very interested in all things Jane.

To top off a very successful event the staff received a card from Jacqui, one of our members, which read, ‘hank you all so much for the effort you put into the Jane Austen Library Lovers Morning Tea. My son Mathew, friend Ben and I really enjoyed it and we have been motivated to make a chocolate cake after trying the delicious one you offered us this morning. Of course we also had a Library Lovers Day chocolate cake! You can see more photos on our Flickr page at www.flickr.com/photos/hornsbylibrary/sets/72157625919396185/

LAKE MACQUARIE
Swanse Library staff and customers enjoyed a fun Library Lovers Day this year. We all dressed in red and wore our hearts on our sleeve. The library was decorated with lots of fun sayings, red hearts and plenty of loving and romance titles to read and borrow displayed throughout. Every new customer who registered received a little gift pack with a blank Valentine’s Day card, information about the Library and forthcoming events, bookmarks and heart shaped chocolates. The packs had little rhymes on them saying, Thank you for joining. We know first dates can be daunting! Here are some gifts and events to consider for your second date. or Thank you for being a Library Lover, here are some gifts and dates for your diary. We look forward to seeing you again. We also had mystery dates again, carefully selected titles wrapped in brown paper for anyone to take a chance on and borrow. These, as always, were immensely popular, with customers fighting over the last few at the end of the day! This year we added a rating system to the bag, and are eager to hear what our daring customers thought of their mystery titles.

The day ended with our first Movie Book Club for 2011, Yann Martel’s Life of Pi. The group had a wonderful discussion about the varying themes within the book and speculated how the movie that Ang Lee is directing, for release in 2012, will turn out. We also talked about our Summer Reads and had a look at a huge range of new, romance, and book loving titles we had set aside for the group. They are a diverse and interesting bunch of people, who enjoyed nibbling on heart shaped chocolates and chocolate chip cookies whilst discussing a range of library, book
and movie related topics. In keeping with the animal theme, our next book is Sara Gruen’s popular *Water for Elephants*.

**MANLY**

Manly Library set the mood for Library Lovers Day this year with an enthusiastic display of hearts encouraging patrons to *Share a book with someone you love, Go to bed with a book and Love this Book*. Other hearts offered *We’ll help you find the book of your dreams or If you’ve got a question we would love to answer it*. Library Lovers Day bookmarks were circulated, encouraging patrons to share their love of a good book by submitting a review for our *Novel Ideas* blog. Heart-shaped tokens were handed out to all patrons on the day, offering one free reservation to be used within six weeks.

Down at Manly Wharf, Manly Library Afloat encouraged commuters to take a chance and have a blind date with a book on the ferry. Back at the Library everyone who joined between the 12th and 14th February went into the draw for a Library Lovers Day hamper. One of our lovely volunteer JPs drew the winner, Samuel Drake, out of a pile of 43 entries. Mr Drake was very happy to receive the hamper and told us *the gift would come in handy* as he was in the process of restocking his fridge after it had broken down!

**MULLUMBIMBY**

Library Lovers Day was celebrated at Mullumbimby Library with a small display, asking the question, *What do you love about your library?* And we loved the responses!

*We love our librarians and storytime*

*The Mullum librarians are the BEST! X*

*We love the librarians and how they help us find fab books*

*Advice, peace and quiet*

*Network with other book lovers*

*Access to computers*

*This library is a fine space, rather well naturally lit*

*It doesn’t matter if you can’t read there are pictures and it's still a place to learn*

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**RYDE**

Staff shared the love across all our branches this year. We wore pink and red to honour the occasion and joined library visitors and council staff for morning tea. Visitors received library bags, chocolate hearts, and a big smile. A competition was run library wide encouraging people to post a review to win. Over 40 people rated their favourite books online that week with prizes including an ipod and book vouchers. The libraries were decorated with romantic displays and books were lined up in rows, covered in ribbons and lace waiting to be whisked away on a blind date. Only four books were left on the shelf at the end of the week...maybe they should try their luck at Internet dating?

**SUTHERLAND**

Sutherland Shire Libraries enjoyed a heart-filled Library Lovers Day, with each branch outdoing themselves to deliver glorious pink and purple
themed displays showing just how loved the library is. To make the day even more special, Sydney author Elisabeth Storrs visited Cronulla for an author talk on her debut novel *The Wedding Shroud – A Tale of Early Rome*. Thoroughly researched and beautifully delivered, Elisabeth's talk was very well received by the shire community, with many attendees commenting on the author's dedication and passion for research.

But the day was not over! Miranda library held an Introduction to Romance Writing Workshop for all the budding romance writers in the Sutherland Shire. It was a full house, with the all-women group loving the information they received from romance authors Annie West and Cathleen Ross. Much hilarity ensued as the attendees all attempted to write a love scene with a Valentine's Day theme.

**TUMUT**

Library Lovers Day was a great success at Tumut, due mainly to the enthusiastic response from our members. Library members across the Riverina Regional Library network were invited to name their favourite book in a recommendation heart, for display in the library. The recommendation hearts were a big success, with many members filling in multiple hearts because they simply could not choose one favourite book! The hearts were exhibited on a display board for all to see and use as inspiration for their next book.

At the end of the week we collated Tumut’s favourite titles and authors and placed these on a display stand with the Library Lovers Day bookmarks. We have had some excellent feedback from the community with many people finding their next favourite author thanks to the recommendations of other library users.

Two hearts were drawn at random by one of our members, for a prize box of chocolates. Of the two prizes, one went to a long term library member and the other to a brand new member who only joined us shortly before Library Lover's Day. It was lovely to see the spectrum of our readers being represented in this way.

**WAGGA WAGGA**

This year we celebrated Library Lovers Day in a way that allowed all our clients and visitors to join us, and that also gave our staff a morale boost. As usual, the library looked beautiful in red and pink and we gave away heart shaped chocolates to everyone. Borrowers were given special Library Lovers bookmarks with literary love quotes; and we held a quick and easy survey asking people what they love about their library, with a big box of chocolates and a book voucher as prizes. This survey was the most rewarding part of the day as it was so easy to implement and was so encouraging for staff. By far the most-heard comment was that the friendly staff are what they love about their library. Whenever we feel a little harried or harassed we’ll pull out the pink and red slips and read:

*What I love about my library is…..*
*A relaxing place to be to do all my favourite things – read, computers etc.*
*Sweet staff*
*Nothing is too much trouble for your great and friendly staff*
*This is my second home*
*I love the wonderful customer service, friendly smiles and the wonderful variety of BBC DVDs*
*Best library ever!*  

**WAVERLEY**

Waverley Library entered the spirit of things with a popular Library Lovers display put together by Senior Library Assistant, Colette Kilkeary. This year’s display included a colourful selection of books which were eagerly pounced on by Library users. Titles ranged from the tongue-in-cheek, *Screwed – stories about love and sex* to the epic, *Furious Love, the story of Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton* and the fun, *Stop! Don’t plan a wedding without this book*. Colette said she had fun putting the display together: *I have done displays on cooking, courtroom dramas, ANZACS, gardening – anything really. But love and cooking are always the most popular and people always come quietly up to me to ask if they can take books from the display home to read.*
01 WHAT THEY LOVE!
02 LOVE IS IN THE AIR
AT WAGGA
03 LOVE IS ON THE WALL
AT WAVERLEY
WENTWORTH

Wentworth Shire Libraries celebrated with a range of promotions. As always, the most popular program was a blind date with a book. Our careful selection of the titles meant that most borrowers were very pleasantly surprised by their blind date. A library quotations quiz attracted a few entries, but the Why I love my Library competition attracted many heartwarming responses. The most positive comments stressed the satisfaction with the quality of the collections, and the friendliness and helpfulness of the library team. Quotes such as:

Always assured of finding a good read
The staff are so nice, helpful and obliging
A pleasant place to be
It is such a busy, friendly place
Charming staff who just love you to ask questions

were comforting and rewarding for the library team! Posters introducing the library staff members and their reading loves were also popular.

WOLLONGONG

Wollongong Libraries celebrated by running a week long promotion. Library members were asked to share their favourite read by writing an author’s name on a heart. This gave them a chance to win a hamper of Library Lovers goodies. The competition was received with great enthusiasm by our customers, and entries ranged from Stieg Larsson to Maeve Binchy. The hearts were then used by others to find new books to read. The staff got into the Library Lovers spirit by wearing I love my Library T-shirts.

Hearts and cupids were scattered around the libraries along with romantic books, CDs and DVDs. A great fun promotion for our community.

WOOLLAHRA

Love was in the air at Woollahra Library and Information Service this Library Lovers Day. Each Library was beautifully adorned with hearts and flowers and the staff all wore bright red Library Lovers T-shirts to enhance the romance!

Customers were treated to heart shaped chocolates on arrival and received a voucher to place a free reservation on a book of their choice. A special Children’s Storytime at all the libraries continued the theme of love with author Emma Scott reading her Love You Book.

Library Lovers Day provided a perfect opportunity to launch our new 55+ Club and kick start a volunteer recruitment drive for the Library. The 55+ Club is a new program exclusively recognising and celebrating the needs of older members of the community and will be held once a month at Watsons Bay and Paddington Libraries. The call for volunteers will assist in combating social isolation by promoting and expanding our Home Library Service, and through support of other Library activities such as storytelling etc.
Woollahra Mayor, Clr Isabelle Shapiro, Ambassador for Ageing, Noeline Brown and Mylee Joseph from NSW State Library along with many library customers, attended a sumptuous morning tea of scones, cake, iced vo vos, juice, coffee and all the tea (nearly!) in China.

**WYONG**

At Tuggerah Library a wonderful romance book, DVD and CD display was arranged by the staff with *I love this book* bookmarks handed out to patrons. Hearts and red roses were everywhere but it was the heart shaped chocolates that disappeared very quickly from the counter! At Bay Village we asked our patrons to tell us why they love their Library. We received very positive feedback about our excellent service and suggestions for the Library to buy in the future. The display of romance movies and novels was a cause for great delight among patrons.

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Cathy Lange, Bland
Kathryn Breward, Clarence
Elysa Dennis, Camden
Wendy Banister, Canada Bay
Carolyn Elmes, Coffs Harbour
Ros Dorsman, Central West Libraries
Sue Soding, Deniliquin
Keri Whiteley, Hawkesbury
Susan Kane, Henty
Kris Owen and Merilyn Hills, Hornsby
Cathy Shay, Lake Macquarie
Vicki Smith, Manly
Cheryl Woodward, Mullumbimby
Kim Thomson, Ryde
Jessica Small, Sutherland
Kari McRae, Tumut
Amy Heap, Wagga Wagga
Sam Weir, Waverley
Peggy McKenzie, Wentworth
Janelle Smith, Wollongong
Ann Collings, Woollahra
Michelle Goldsmith, Wyong
In the
Libraries

SO MANY BOOKS, SO LITTLE TIME
For all those busy people, AlburyCity libraries have subscribed to Dear Reader, an Online Book Club that delivers books electronically. Each day, Monday through Friday, subscribers receive, via email, a portion of a book that takes about five minutes to read. They are able to read two or three chapters from a book during the week. If they like it, they can then check it out at the library. New books are featured each week; most of them best sellers from 6 to 12 months ago.

With eleven book clubs to choose from, there’s something for everyone. Dear Reader offers Fiction, Non Fiction, Romance, Business, Good News, Teens and Mystery Clubs. There’s also an audio book club where members can listen to excerpts, and a pre-publication club which lets members start reading books in their email before they are published in print. Our library members can now discover great books, even if they’re too busy to visit the library. Members can sign up for the service at the library or on our website at <www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/librarymuseum> Although the service is heavily slanted to American and Canadian publishers, the staff at Dear Reader are happy to receive suggestions for books and authors which they will follow up.

MICHELLE HEAD
Information and Library Collections Coordinator
AlburyCity libraries

ARTIST BOOKS AND ZINES
Artist books and zines are fast becoming prominent art forms around the world, and Manly Library has begun to collect them. Artist books and zines are less mainstream media than library users have previously been exposed to; and offer a wide spectrum of ideas and unfiltered interpretations of the world. Having their work available at a public library also provides much-valued exposure for zinesters and book artists.

A zine (short for magazine) is an independently created publication, containing anything from personal experiences and stories to political ideologies or photography. Artist books are used as a medium for self-expression often using cross-disciplinary media. They may be constructed from a varied range of materials from felt to metal, cardboard to wood and hand-made paper to ceramics. Whatever the technique and material, the ‘book’ encompasses and embraces concepts associated with the fine arts.

Manly Library received grant funding of $15,000 from the Library Council of New South Wales in 2010 to establish the artist book and zine collection. The collection is being purchased from a range of sources, including individual authors, local artists, and established artist book distributors and publishers. The zine collection was launched in September 2010 as part of the Manly Arts Festival. To coincide with the launch an inaugural zine fair and workshop were held, where artists created, displayed, sold and swapped their creations. The workshop was conducted by zinester Vanessa Berry who agreed to return this year to run another workshop. Schools in the area were enthusiastic about our zine workshop and the collection itself, encouraging their students to work on zines as a part of their art studies.

Manly Library will be the first public library in New South Wales to establish an artist book collection. The collection was launched on April 1st with an inaugural exhibition and acquisitive award. The acquisitive award attracted over 70 entries from overseas, nationally and locally. The entries were assessed and judged by Akky Van Ogtrop, Art Historian and President of the Print Council of Australia, and Therese Kenyon, former Director of Manly Art Gallery and Museum. Highly regarded book artists Monica Oppen and Peter Lyssiotis opened the show.

The artist book and zine collection at Manly is extending the role played by our library in the community. The project supports emerging young artists, local established artists in the community and promotes these emerging and stimulating art forms. The project also focuses on one of the strengths of a Library: representing vitality, creativity and relevance to the community. Artist books and zines reflect their local communities, in unique ways, so it...
is important for libraries to collect them as part of the cultural history of the local region. 

WENDY FORD
Community Liaison Librarian
Manly Library

BUILDING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

Deniliquin Library now offers one stop research for local and family history. After months of organising and meetings, the Deniliquin Genealogy Society (DGS) and the Central Murray Regional Library formed a partnership, sharing space in the library to better utilise both facilities.

For many years the DGS had been operating from a dark and dingy office where no one could find them; membership numbers were down and the number of enquiries was dwindling. In the library our Local History Librarian had retired, and not much was happening in the way of promoting our collection. So it seemed only natural for the two organisations to form a partnership. Operating from the library provides a win win situation; it not only makes the DGS more visible and accessible, it also allows the two groups to share resources. From the customer’s point of view it is now one stop shopping; in the past they would visit the library and then perhaps the DGS. Now DGS members and the public have access to both collections, six days a week with Society members available to help researchers with their enquiries.

The library has seen many people accessing the collections and the DGS have had an increase in memberships. The two organisations are now planning to hold some seminars in the near future.

DELL PRICE
Manager
Central Murray Regional Library

CWA COUNTRY OF THE YEAR

In February 2011 Wagga Wagga City Library held its annual Country Women’s Association (CWA) Country of the Year information session on Iceland. The purpose of the session was to highlight the resources that are available to the ladies for their study of Iceland, both at the library and from their home computers. The difficulty this year was sourcing books on Iceland. So with time running out and our usual suppliers not coming through I ordered online from the Book Depository in England <www.bookdepository.co.uk> The books arrived within 10 days and the postage was free! I can highly recommend this company.

With the advent of the Seniors’ Internet kiosks, a lot of the ladies are becoming quite computer literate. So this year, apart from highlighting the more traditional information sources, I also briefly demonstrated a number of social networking sites such as Flickr, where images of the Aurora Borealis over Iceland are quite spectacular, and YouTube where you can find a video of just about anything from virtual tours to Icelandic language lessons. We had a Wonderful morning, and we were all reluctant to say Bless Bless!*

Margot Lumley
Information Services Librarian
Wagga Wagga City Library

*Bless in Icelandic for goodbye

BIODIVERSITY

Deniliquin Library hosted an exhibition of a beautiful collection of snapshots of rare and unusual plants and animals, highlighting the beauty and diversity of the Riverina region. The travelling exhibition was coordinated by Dr Jonathon Howard, lecturer and researcher at Charles Sturt University, and was put together as part of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity. Photographers and researchers living and working in the Riverina donated their work to the exhibition, entitled Region’s Best Biodiversity Photographs, to illustrate the vital role of biodiversity in sustaining life on Earth. Visitors saw a water beetle hunting and catching a native fish, aerial photographs of pink algae that stain the landscape, goannas wrestling in a battle for dominance as well as rarely seen reptiles, frogs and mammals. Attached to each of the 24 images in the display are the amazing stories behind them, plus how-to photo tips and inspirational travel stories. Over 3,000 community members visited the library to see the display, including Mayor Brian Mitch, A/General Manager, Ray Plus and Councillor Lindsay Renwick, pictured.

DELL PRICE
Manager
Central Murray Regional Library

Biodiversity
In the Libraries

JOB SKILLS
Back by popular demand, Ermington Library held a Job Seeking Skills workshop in February. This workshop was made possible through the efforts of our staff and the generosity of our wonderful volunteer, Mary Ann Baker. The workshop was intended for students thinking about their future careers, and for those re-entering the workforce after a long gap.

Initially we thought that we would run the workshop for one day but there was too much to cover. Therefore, we decided to divide the workshop into three parts – writing applications and resumes, interview techniques and selling your skills and networking. We then provided some workplace English content for our CALD customers. The workshop was held over three consecutive days.

The trainer helped ‘groom’ participants using role play and mock interviews. They also had a chance to work in small groups to discuss issues relating to job seeking and the whole process of career/personal development. Her rigorous training provided more than job seeking skills, especially as many of the participants were new migrants with limited knowledge of Australian workplace culture. This novel venture has been widely commended, and can be best summed up in the participant’s feedback:

- All three parts of the workshop were very useful for my personal development.
- The presenter was very knowledgeable and worked really hard with us
- I was able to learn my strengths and weaknesses by attending this workshop

We hope to hold many more workshops like this in the future.

SARAH MORGAN
Library Officer
Parramatta City Library

FREEDOM RIDE
Freedom Ride 2011 arrived in Kempsey late in February, nearly at the end of its 2,300 kilometre journey, retracing the original journey of 1965 through northwest and coastal New South Wales. Freedom Ride 2011 celebrated the significant impact the original ride had on the identity of Aboriginal Australia. Kempsey was an important stop in 1965 as racial discrimination was still institutionalised here.

Kempsey was the location of the notorious Kinchela Boys Home and it was one of the few electorates which voted No in the 1967 referendum to remove the two references in the Australian Constitution which discriminated against Aboriginal people.

Youth Connections from the Central Coast organised a bus load of indigenous and non-indigenous young people, mostly senior high school students, stopping at 18 significant places in New South Wales to talk to other young people about the issues embodied in their slogan - Acknowledging the past, continuing the struggle. They attended a barbecue held in their honour and met members of the Macleay Valley Youth Advisory Council and other young locals.

Ruth Waite, a Wiradjuri woman, our Library Resource Van operator and general fix-it colleague, organised students from the two state high schools in Kempsey, the Catholic college and the SDA school (about 400 altogether) to gather in the hall of Melville High School. They met the Freedom Riders, watched Blood Brothers (a documentary about the 1965 Freedom Ride) on DVD and listened to four local elders speak. Harold Smith, Bob Mumbler, Bob Smith and Fred Kelly described their own experiences with the original Freedom Ride and what it was like to grow up and live through those difficult times.

Ruth and Customer Services Librarian Angie Meers took the opportunity to spruik the library’s indigenous resources and demonstrate display packs of relevant databases to the assembled teachers. The library had on display at the same time, a series of photographs from the Macleay River Historical Society, the State Library of NSW and AIATSIS. Some of the people featured in the display were identified for us by Ann Curthoys, Professor of History at Sydney University, who has written about the Freedom Rides. Angie had managed to obtain...
photographs that even Ms Curthoys had not seen before. This display attracted great interest from local young people, some of whom were astonished that they had not known about the 1965 happenings. The schools expressed huge appreciation to Ruth for pulling this great event together.

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**GABI BRIE**
Shire Librarian
Kempsey Shire Council

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**Great Lakes news**

Yes, you read it right - chanting monks at Forster Library - and boy was it a hit. We were exceptionally fortunate to host the Gyuto monks from Tibet, who performed their deep harmonic chanting. This was the first time they had performed in the area and maybe the first time ever such an event has been hosted by a public library. In fact, the monks are more likely to be seen and heard at the Opera House. The event was made possible thanks to the efforts of our own local Buddhist Centre. The monks clearly resonated (pardon the pun) with the community and over 130 people turned up out of the woodwork. It was standing room only, and well worth considering hosting such an event if you ever get the chance.

We decided that this year we’d do something for our annual gathering of the book clubs that was totally out of left field. So we asked them, and the wider community, to vote for the *Ten Greatest Books of All Time*. The idea was that we would then reveal these, counting down from 10 to 1, with a bit of a discussion about each along the way, at an evening event. Whilst we haven’t yet got to the event the community response has been tremendous with voting flowing in. And though I really shouldn’t reveal the results until the event has happened the truth is you’ll be reading about this after the dust has settled anyway. So here is the *Ten Greatest Books of All Time* list, Great Lakes style:

10. The Guernsey Literary Potato Peel Society
9. Cloudstreet
8. The Grapes of Wrath
7. Poisonwood Bible
6. People of the Book
5. A Fine Balance
4. The Book Thief
3. Pride and Prejudice
2. Lord of the Rings
1. To Kill a Mockingbird

Are you thrilled and possibly shocked at these titles - I certainly was. Maybe you’d like to put in a challenge. Well, you can’t. Our people have spoken - but what about yours? It’s been a heap of fun and maybe in the next issue of this esteemed magazine we might give you the upshot of what people at our evening discussion thought about the list.

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**CHRIS JONES**
Library Manager
Great Lakes

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**LITERATURE AND KNITTING**

Stanton Library in North Sydney started two Literature Groups in 2004, an evening group and afternoon one, and both are still going. Over the years demand has grown and we now have seven groups of up 16 people. In the early days, Stanton provided a lot of support to the groups in assisting with selection of titles, photocopying and sourcing support material. Now, they are largely self-supporting.

At the beginning of the year the groups select the books they are going to read. The more established groups virtually look after themselves – choosing books which they know will be readily available. I check the book lists and ensure we have a copy of each one in the library and group members find a copy to read wherever they can. Each December we book our Conference Room for all the meetings throughout the coming year.

It is not unusual for the group members to hold social activities outside the meetings, for example, moving to the courtyard coffee stand after morning meetings, or meeting for dinner. Requests to join the groups come to me and I set up another group
In the Libraries

when there are enough people who can meet at a particular time. Sixteen is the optimum size for a group. We are about to form our eighth group and the number of people wishing to join up shows no sign of diminishing.

We have only had one unsuccessful group. In 2010 we started a Business Book Club at the suggestion of one of our members. It never really took off and sadly, the numbers dwindled. The general literature groups find it easier to keep members and continue interesting programs.

Stanton Library also has two Wrap with Love knitting groups. A Tuesday afternoon one has been meeting since May 2007 and a Monday evening one has just started. At present, around 15 ladies turn up for a sociable couple of hours knitting or putting together wraps from donated squares. We serve tea, coffee and biscuits.

All these meetings are held in the Library Conference Room, which is a large, quiet room on the 2nd floor of the Library, away from other Library activities.

— FAYE SMITH
Staff Liaison Librarian & Cataloguer
Stanton Library

Family History News

Growing interest in retracing one’s family footsteps has lead to the formation of a new family history group which meets at the Gunnedah Shire Library. Treasurer of the Gunnedah Historical Society, Shirley Coote, comes to the library to advise people where to look and to lend assistance where needed. An amazing number of people have expressed interest in finding out about their family history. More than 25 people have attended each meeting so far and this number is expected to grow as more people find out about the group. As they have featured in The Namoi Valley Independent, we expect we won’t be waiting long! The group meets once a month over tea and cake.

Everyone has been keen and excited to get things going by way of sharing their experiences and knowledge. We have compiled a contact list so there is a lifeline for the rest of the month and have started putting a list of helpful websites together. The Library has a new magazine subscription to Australian family tree connections and over 25 family history CDROMs.

To encourage members of the Library and community we have set up a display highlighting the collection. This display also acts as an ‘information point’ where you will find flyers, bookmarks, website list and notice of the next meeting.

— ROBYN DRAPER
Gunnedah Shire Library

THIRD THURSDAY BOOK CLUB

A great response from local booklovers heralded the inaugural meeting of the Third Thursday Book Club at Hawkesbury Central Library late last year. Meetings have been enjoyed by the fifteen participants who have joined so far, including a Christmas lunch at the nearby Evergreen Café. This month, members are reading a selection of W Somerset Maugham titles from the library collection and next month crime fiction will be on offer.

Library staff member and instigator of the book club, Marie Duncan, says that participants enjoy the way it is organised. Alternating between everyone reading the same book and participants choosing a title within a genre or author selection works well by providing variety and choice as well as expanding the reading horizons of members. Discussions at each meeting have proved to be both lively and noisy with much passionate debate taking place.

The recently created blog Hawkesbury Readers, accessed from the Library’s website, and a joint effort by Marie and couple of enthusiastic volunteers, encourages participation and comment. Those members who have been unable to attend any particular meeting can catch up with the current discussion and find out what’s next on the reading list.

Now the club is well established it is time for Marie to step back and allow the group to run autonomously while she continues to provide advice and source reading material from within Hawkesbury Library’s collection and other library services. Although organising the book club initially takes time, thought and planning the outcomes for the library and participants have been very positive both in encouraging community participation in library activities and by broadening the reading interests of members.

— CATHY MCHARDY
Information and Lending Services Librarian
Hawkesbury Library
KALEIDOSCOPE OF KIAMA

Kiama Council celebrated their 150th anniversary in 2009 and to commemorate the event, Kiama Library put together an exhibition of 100 historical photographs showing the changes to the villages and landscape with photographs from 1880 to 2009. The exhibition was very successful with hundreds of people coming through to see the photographs over the weekend celebrations.

Due to the success of the exhibition and much public pressure, we enlisted the help of our volunteer (who had worked with library staff to put the exhibition together) to create a DVD. My first thought was how hard can it be to put 150 or so images onto a DVD and make it available to the community? But Kiama Library volunteer Steve Leatheam spent hours finding the best DVD creator for our purposes, and I needed to check the images and ensure all the information about each photograph was as accurate and informative as possible. We also had to create the label for the disc and the cover for the DVD case, source music as backing tracks and put it all together. It was certainly more difficult and more time consuming than I ever imagined.

Months later and an enormous number of staff and volunteer hours, we were very excited to have the DVD launched by Kiama mayor, Sandra McCarthy. The library is selling the DVDs for $15 each and we have sold 150 copies since it was launched. The timing of our production was fortuitous as many copies were purchased as Christmas gifts. We have been showing the DVD on our new portable TV/DVD player, which has increased interest by the community, and it is also a great addition to our local studies collection.

LEANNE WEBSTER
Information Services Librarian
Kiama Library

BOOK CLUBS

Ku-ring-gai Library Book Club, held on the first Tuesday of the month, is in its 5th year and brings together people united by their love of reading and good literature. Although from many different backgrounds, their enjoyment of literature, and the honest and explorative conversation about selected titles, carries over into other hedonistic and artistic pursuits. Beyond their first Tuesday discussions the group often goes together to art exhibitions, movies, or author talks and there is always something to celebrate together over dinner. The coordinator and the linchpin behind these activities, Ku-ring-gai staff member Rhonda Cleminson, is always at hand to help with book selection and other material supplies such as tea and her famous butterfly cup cakes.

Selection of titles is by all members of the group and relies mostly on book lists regularly produced by the library’s Information Services, but also from other popular review sources such as the Sydney Morning Herald’s Spectrum or Good Reading Magazine. The Club has no particular genre preferences and all members contribute suggestions at the meetings in their exploration of titles as varied as Nick Hornby’s About a boy or the unforgettable Australian classic A fortunate life by A B Facey. Since the establishment of this first Book Club more than ten new book clubs have emerged across all four branches at Gordon, Turramurra, St Ives and Lindfield. All book club groups fill up as soon as they are advertised and the staff is looking for other ways to enhance and extend this activity which promotes enjoyment of reading for all library members.

MIRJANA DUKIC
Ku-ring-gai Library

MEET THE AUTHOR

The last two meet the author events at Mullumbimby Library were Stephanie Dale in November and Katy and Kevin Hinton on the 2 February. Fifteen patrons arrived to hear Stephanie read from her second book Hymn for a wounded man and listened to her story of living on New Zealand’s south island in the early 90s, which inspired the book. Later Stephanie was available to answer questions about her book and her time in New Zealand.

Katy and Kevin Hinton’s book is How to achieve and maintain a lifestyle for health and happiness. Kevin, with input from Katy, spoke to 30 guests about their
In the Libraries

journey of learning alternative medicine. Kevin told
the story of how they went from being owners of a
health food store on Magnetic Island to experienced
health educators of alternative medicine. I love their
brand name Hinton Health, which I feel describes
their philosophy towards health education.

After both events the authors were available to
speak to guests over light refreshments of cheese
and wine. All in all, very enjoyable evenings. Our
next guest author is Daniel Prokop and his book is
Leaving Neverland: why little boys shouldn’t run large
corporations.

CHERYL WOODWARD
Mullumbimby Library

RFID @ CAMPSIE LIBRARY

Campsie Library was very excited to introduce four
new self checking terminals in December 2010. These
terminals were part of the introduction of Bibliotecha
RFID technology across our branch libraries. This
also included a redesign of the entrance to Campsie
Library making it more open and inviting. Of the four
terminals, three have been placed on the existing
loans counter and one is a stand alone at accessible
level for those who cannot reach the counter.

The community has successfully embraced the new
technology and has found it very user friendly with
a host of advantages: greater independence, shorter
waiting times, faster loans, increased loan limits
and increased privacy. Staff have also welcomed
the new technology. Antennas have been placed on
the returns chute which has allowed for the instant
return of items. This has made the turnover much
quicker, and allows staff to spend more time helping
borrowers.

Our branches have not missed out. Earlwood,
Lakemba and Riverwood have RFID technology
at the loans counter, making checking out quicker
and easier for staff. The new security gates open
up the entrances to each of the libraries, allowing
more space and giving the libraries a more friendly
welcome.

December 2010 also saw the opening of the newly
refurbished Lakemba Library. With the help of a
Community Partnership Grant, the library was
expanded to create a new study area and to hold
the newly created Bengali Language Collection
(also made possible through a State Library of NSW
Library Development Grant).

Both the new refurbishment and the Bengali
language collection were launched with a celebration
of Bengali culture in December. 160 people enjoyed
a presentation by local Bengali community groups
of traditional song and dance, as well as delicious
Bengali food. Oriana Acevedo from the State Library,
and Mayor Robert Furolo, were on hand to launch the
collection.

MICHELLE MASHMAN
Manager, Library Services
City of Canterbury

NOT JUST A LIBRARIAN

If anyone has had to move to a new building or re-
model an existing one then you can empathise with
the recent experience of Parramatta Library staff.
Over the past few months some of us have morphed
into architects, planners and surveyors while re-
designing the ground floor of our main library at
Parramatta. The aim of the revamp was to increase
the level of natural light into the building, enlarge
aisles by re-arranging the shelving, and create more
display and seating areas. The ultimate goal was to
establish a more aesthetically pleasing and modern
looking library. After several meetings staff agreed on
a floor plan to best achieve this.

Staff began marking the floors in early February
to ensure the new design fitted within the available
space (groans from those of us who had to crawl along
the floor and under shelves to get the marks exactly
right!). Fortunately we secured Council approval
for a four-day closure so that our re-design could
occur safely and utilise all available floor space. Our
transformation took place in early February when
we became removalists, cleaners, DJs, caterers, sign writers and interior designers.

The next four days saw a seemingly chaotic but actually well ordered movement of eight collections onto a sea of trestle tables and trolleys (post-it notes on the piles of books to keep them in order were the saviour of the move) and the re-arrangement of the shelves – thanks to the depot guys who cheerfully swung their rubber mallets to dismantle and rebuild the many shelving bays. The newly arranged shelves then received the cleaning of their lives for the next big job - replacing everything onto less shelving with more face-out display shelves, hoping that everything would fit as expected. Luckily all went as planned and everything fitted. The later relocation of the newspaper stand, children’s PCs, self check units, new tables, and AV spinners was a walk in the park by comparison.

After everything was in place the final step was to create new signage and location maps and lots and lots and lots of shelf tidying – the collections have never been in better order. Staff were kept motivated with heaps of chocolate, excellent morning and afternoon teas, lunches and great music – we even had our own personal trainer to remind us all to take regular breaks and switch tasks!

The transformation was completed just in time for Library Lovers Day. When we opened our doors our patrons were bemused and amazed at the transformation. The library has now been open for over a month and there has been positive feedback from staff, council staff and patrons. After moving 392 bays of shelves, 7 carrels, 153,127 books, and making 77 new signs we were very glad to return to our day jobs as library staff!

SHARON PIKE AND SUZANNE MICALLEF
Parramatta City Library

Penrith news

Over the last six months Penrith City Library staff have worked with both Council and community partners to provide a varied program of services and programs for the community. Some of the strategies being developed though the Future Directions Planning process, such as the active development of partnerships, are already being incorporated into the library’s operations to further enhance and encourage usage of the library services. Programs and services with a sustainability emphasis have also been prominent during this six month period, including the provision of more Power Mate units, the Spring Garden Festival and the launch of 90 green computers which included an agreement between council and the supplier to reduce and offset carbon emissions generated by the PCs.

An estimated 500 people attended the Spring Garden Festival at the Central Library. It included gardening talks, demonstrations and displays covering such topics as composting, water wise and sustainable gardening and organic waste recycling. The assistance of other Penrith Council departmental teams from the Sustainability Unit, the Waste Section, the City Parks Department and the Council Bushland Management Section contributed to the success of the program. Five hundred trees and shrubs in tubes as well as plant cuttings and seeds were handed out for free with attendees surveyed saying they really enjoyed the freebies and the displays. The most popular displays were bonsai and...
In the Libraries

geraniums while the most popular workshops were growing things to eat, vegetable gardening, compost and worm farming and herbs. Council departments provided displays and talks on several subjects including sustainability and organics, the most popular topics.

90 new green computers were launched by His Worship the Mayor Councillor Kevin Crameri OAM, together with Mr Charles Chung, Managing Director of ACER Computer (Oceanic Region). The event celebrated a new agreement with ACER Computer Australia, Dataflex and Penrith City Council. The computers are now available to users at each of the library’s branches. Under the Agreement, 90 trees were given to Council to offset the computers’ carbon emissions. Councillor Crameri said at the launch, We are passionate about reducing our carbon footprints, and have committed to refurbish our old equipment for distribution to third world countries or to re-use the working spare parts. The Veriton L-480 computers use less than half the power of conventional PCs, are faster, smaller, and weigh less than 3 kilograms. This means time and cost savings for Penrith City Council and its residents.

An additional seven of the popular Power Mate units were purchased for library members to borrow, bringing the total number of units to fifteen. The units are designed to determine the running cost of an electrical appliance or to identify a faulty appliance that is using more power than it should. The demand for the units has exceeded expectations with a constant waiting list of between 30 and 50 library members at any one time. Again the assistance of Council’s Sustainability Unit, which has organised the promotional materials as well as providing some of the funding, has been invaluable to the success of this community service.

The offsite usage of the library’s AXCIS online catalogue continues to grow with a 30% increase in online transactions through My Library – reserves and renewals compared with the same period in 2009. The library also uses the online patron message function to, for example, promote the availability of new books and notify children’s reading competition winners, as well as for general messages such as opening hours. These online messages appear not only when logged into My Library, but also are printed on checkout receipts when members borrow their books or media via self serve checkout.

A Future Library Directions Councillors Working Party has been meeting regularly since the beginning of 2010 to plan the future of library services in Penrith City. The planning team includes several Councillors, senior Council management, including specialists from other departments such as planning and community services, together with Library management and staff. A detailed report was prepared to review and discuss options on how library services will be delivered in future. One of the principal milestones of the Plan is the need to agree on an appropriate service delivery model (size and location) for future library services in Penrith City. That has been done in principle with further research and investigation now required to provide more detailed costs and to explore funding options.

Councillor Crameri officially named and dedicated the theatre at Penrith Central Library on 22 November 2010 to the memory of Peter Goodfellow, unveiling a framed memorial to Peter as well as a small plaque. Peter had worked at Penrith City Library for over 22 years and was instrumental in developing the children’s storytime program into the well supported quality program that it is today. Peter passed away in January 2010 after a long battle with a brain tumour. The dedication ceremony was very well attended by Library staff, Councillors, Council staff and senior management and Penrith’s new State MP, Stuart Ayres. Peter’s wife, Rose, was accompanied by their eldest son, Richard.

Colin Stevenson
Library Services Manager
Penrith City Library

Afternoons @ Narellan

Camden Library Service have introduced Book a Librarian on Monday afternoons at Narellan Library. One of our Youth Services Librarians provides an additional reference inquiry point for high school students at the beginning of the week when homework and assignments loom large. From 3.00 to 4.30 pm, blocks of time can be booked or accessed as needed. The first session was held on Monday 21 February and four groups of students were assisted with one-on-one attention. Reference staff at Camden and Narellan have begun using an iPad with wireless access to the Internet, library catalogue and online journals. This has proven to be a huge bonus in staying mobile whilst assisting students during Book
a Librarian. Staff are anticipating that this time will be well used and provide an important link between the library and local high schools.

**KIM WHITE**  
Acting Youth Services Librarian  
Camden Library Service

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**2ND TUESDAY BOOK CLUB**

Port Macquarie Library hosted its very own 2nd Tuesday Book Club to officially launch our Book Share Program. Stealing the format from the ABC program of a similar name, but sadly minus Marieke, a panel of local library book lovers discussed the book, *Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann. The evening was hosted by special guest Beth McMullen from ABC Mid North Coast Radio and attracted over sixty people. The Book Share Program is a joint venture with Kempsey Shire Libraries which provides book sets to local Book Clubs. We currently have 25 titles available and 15 registered clubs.

**JIM MAGUIRE**  
Port Macquarie-Hastings Service

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**AUTHOR’S PLATFORM**

Late last year Ryde Library Services introduced an exciting new program for the community. *Author’s Platform* is a regular author talk series providing an informative and entertaining insight into the lives and works of popular Australian authors. This monthly event is hosted at various branches across the library service and has been popular from the start with the first two sessions completely booked out.

We started our journey with Ellen Mary Wilton in December, listening to her experience as a young Australian girl, finding herself in a Muslim girls’ boarding college in Alexandria, Egypt. An inspiring and thought provoking story *Daughters of Allah* is based on her true life experience with the Islamic culture as a young girl.

In January Elisabeth Storrs visited West Ryde Library to talk about her book *The Wedding Shroud - A Tale of Early Rome*. Elisabeth gave an interesting account of the writing process and talked about her novel which vividly captures an historical time and place while accenting the lives of the women of the ancient world.

In February popular radio personality, Richard Glover entertained a group of over 130 people. Richard rushed to the North Ryde Hall after finishing his afternoon broadcast on ABC radio. Fans were delighted and a little surprised to see him arrive on time after hearing him on the radio on the way to the event! Richard shared stories from his newest book, *Why Men are Necessary*, a collection of his comic pieces as featured on *Thank God It’s Friday*. If you judge the success of an event by the number of people that walk out the door with a smile on their face and a signed book under their arm...this one was huge!

Future *Author’s Platform* highlights include a cooking demonstration by Janelle Bloom at the opening of our new Ryde Library in late April and a visit from Libbi Gorr as part of the Sydney Writers Festival in May 2011.

**KIM THOMSON**  
Information Services Coordinator  
Ryde Library Services

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**COMMUNITIES READING TOGETHER**

The opening of new libraries and the relocation of an existing one within Willoughby City has brought our communities closer together and our vibrant Book and Movie Lovers’ Groups have been a great success, far exceeding our expectations. Groups meet monthly to discuss their chosen books and some groups even go together to the local cinema so they can compare the books with the movie adaptations.

As part of our continuing strategy of community learning at Willoughby, we introduced Book Club kits which are available for lending from the Castle Cove, Naremburn and Northbridge Branch Libraries. These kits were launched and actively promoted by staff at community open days at the recently relocated Northbridge Library and the new Castle Cove Library. They have proved to be very popular, providing ten copies of a single title or ten books based on a specific theme and include travel biographies, international authors, best-sellers and award-winning books. Some popular titles include *The boy in the striped pyjamas*, *Julie and Julia: my year of cooking dangerously* and *The lovely bones*.

The most popular kits so far have been the ten copies of a single title because most clubs seem to enjoy reading the same book at the same time. However, over the months some groups have experimented by borrowing theme based kits and have enjoyed the flexibility this brings. The *India* kit,
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for example, includes two copies of *A fine balance*, *A passage to India*, *Plain tales from the British Empire*, *Q and A* and *The white tiger*. This allows a choice of fiction or non-fiction and solves the problem where some group members have read some of the titles, as it is always difficult to select a book no one has read in a group! These kits encourage discussion and comparisons centred on the theme.

Another feature which makes the kits popular is the extended borrowing period of six weeks, instead of three weeks, allowing for the regular monthly meeting. However, it is the inclusion of the author profile and starter discussion questions with notes on running a book club that has delighted our members. Everyone today is so busy and being able to borrow a complete kit in an eco friendly bag at your local library is just so easy.

With the opening of our exciting, new central library at The Concourse later this year, Book Club kits will be launched in Chatswood. There’s a promise of some new surprises, including kits with DVDs and books, to allow personal viewing and reading followed by vigorous discussion at the next local Book Club meeting.

A list of available kits at each Library can be found on the library website at <www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Collections---Services.html>

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**MARGARET GAUNT**
Manager Collection Development, Cataloguing & Processing
Willoughby City Library

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**NATIONAL YEAR OF READING**

Shellharbour City Libraries launched their National Year of Reading campaign at Warilla Library as a part of Library Lovers day. On a local level, the launch of the campaign was to highlight the impact of books and local libraries on the community.

This was an opportunity to demonstrate the major role public libraries play in promoting early literacy development by providing free access to all types of reading resources.

We were lucky enough to launch the campaign with the help of respected author and Shellharbour City resident, Ann Whitehead. Ann has published a number of novels including the bestselling *Australia Street* and her latest release *The House Across the Road*. Ann is an accomplished award-winning writer having published a number of plays, short stories and novels for children, young adults and adults.

Ann spent the morning entertaining residents with her stories and highlights from *Australia Street*. It didn’t take long for a reservation queue to occur after her much loved visit. It was obvious that Ann has a genuine passion for reading and public libraries as she praised the work of librarians throughout her visit.

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**DIANE CRANSON**
Manager Library & Customer Services
Shellharbour

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**STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

Wollongong City Library offers its service via seven far-flung service points within the Illawarra stretching from Helensburgh Library in the north to Dapto District Library in the south. The result is that library staff often do not have the chance to see how other parts of the service operate. For example, a branch library staffer may never see what Library Support Services or Local Studies staff at Wollongong Central do. Staff recently suggested a Staff Development Day be implemented whereby staff nominate their preference for a branch or service visit, and spend a full day at that location learning what the other half does. After their visit they are required to write a brief one page summary of what they learnt. The opportunity to take part has been very successful and has proved attractive not only to new staff but also to long standing staff members.

Two branch staff who recently visited Library Support Services found the day extremely valuable, giving them an overall picture of technical services workflow, staffing and budget. They spent half the day learning about acquisitions processes such as unpacking and checking invoices, RFID tagging.
receiving, purchase orders, supplier profiles and serials management. The rest of the day was spent in cataloguing looking at our new wiki on the Intranet, doing some fiction cataloguing and seeing how to download and edit MARC records from Libraries Australia. As one of the visiting staff commented, *It was nice to get to know the staff a little better having only really spoken with most of them on the phone. I enjoyed the day and found it of great benefit and I highly recommend it to any staff.*

HELEN MITCHELL
Coordinator, Library Support Services
Wollongong City Library

Sutherland news
Sutherland Shire Libraries have hit the ground running in 2011, with a swag of community programs held in January and February including health talks, author talks and writing workshops. During Australia’s Healthy Weight Week in January, we organised for a local dietician to run health workshops in the libraries, tailored to areas of importance to the shire community. They included Healthy Eating for a Healthy You, Nutrition for Infants, Back to School Healthy Packed Lunches and Healthy Eating for Older Adults. Most were booked out, with attendees impressed by the information they received, especially the free cookbook! It was also a chance for the staff to inform community members on the excellent free health resources the library has to offer.

We’re set for a busy and exciting 2011, and gearing up for an even bigger 2012 as the Year of Reading kicks off. Definitely a wonderful time to work in the library!

JESSICA SMALL
Coordinator - Community Programs
Sutherland Shire Libraries

Taree news
Taree Library launched its new book club program *Between the Pages* last September after months of research with members that revealed support for a book club program. Initially members were asked if they were involved with a book club and interested in partnering with the library to build book club collections. The response was positive and the library kicked off the new collection with popular titles including *Breath* by Tim Winton, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson, *Nomad* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali and *An Inconvenient Child* by Sharyn Killens, to name but a few. Over 60 people attended the official launch of *Between the Pages*; some were book club members and some were looking to form a book club. The launch was a huge success, with several book clubs joining the program on the night and two new book clubs forming as a result of the event.

The crowd was entertained by special guest speaker Cameron Marshall, morning presenter on ABC Local Radio, who shared some of his fondest memories of reading and some of his favourite books. The crowd enjoyed wine and cheese while mingling with other like-minded people.

Book clubs will be able to access the book club collection by joining the library and donating one book club set per year. The library has already received its first book set donation and is well on the way to growing the collection.

Vietnam veteran and author of *The War Within*, Don Tate recently visited Harrington Library to promote his book and to show a moving and historic film shot during the Vietnam War. For Harrington Library this was their first ever visiting author. Over 25 people attended Don’s moving and sometimes
In the Libraries

confronting talk. Originally planned to start at 6pm and conclude at 7pm, the talk went well into the night, concluding at 9pm, a testament to the success of the event. Don stated in a letter to the General Manager of Greater Taree City Libraries that his visit to Harrington Library was a highlight of his tour so far. He went on to congratulate Di Pasfield and Caroline Paterson, librarians at Harrington Library, for their hospitality. Well done girls! Di, Caroline and the Harrington community are looking forward to hosting more authors at their library in the not too distant future.

Taree Library recently welcomed its home library members to a morning of food and conversation as part of the plan to provide more services for these valued clients. Home Library Coordinator Tanya McLean, said it was great to sit with members and get to know them a little better. We also wanted to find out what would entice them to make that special visit to the library, what activities they would like us to organise and what days and times would be suitable for them to attend these events. *It's really important for our members to have a say in how the library space is utilised*, said Tanya. The morning tea was also an opportunity for home library members, who are in most cases house-bound, to come to the library, meet the staff and explore and enjoy the collections on offer. In 2011 Taree Library is looking forward to organising a calendar of events specifically designed to meet the needs and requests of its home library members.

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**DANIELLE DONNELLY**
Events Coordinator
Greater Taree City Council

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**THE GOVERNOR**

Governor Macquarie’s legacy to Liverpool was alive and well with the exciting arrival of the State Library of New South Wales’ travelling exhibition, *The Governor*, to our library during the bicentenary celebrations.

The Heritage Library was transformed to a beautiful exhibition space befitting a Governor. The expertise of SLNSW staff, Jo De Monchaux, Exhibitions Project Manager, a trio of conservators, and a team of installation staff, led to a very successful exhibition. Incredible treasures such as the holey dollar and dump were on display, an oil painting of Governor Macquarie, one of his journals, his travelling trunk and writing desk, a huge panorama of Sydney and much, much more.

This was a fantastic opportunity for library staff to learn more, and also of course for the people of the area to enjoy these treasures. Liverpool City Library was the first venue for the touring exhibition, which will travel to galleries throughout New South Wales. The tour of *The Governor* to Liverpool City Library was a wonderful example of a positive cultural convergence between libraries and museums with the exhibition featuring items from the State Library, Historic Houses Trust and the Powerhouse Museum.

The band of volunteer exhibition guides formed specifically for the exhibition, was one of the most positive outcomes of the experience, as they enjoyed the opportunity to meet all kinds of people and be involved in the library community; and our visitors were equally delighted to share the exhibition tour experience with them. It was a very heartening human connection win-win situation. The feedback received from our diverse range of visitors, some who had travelled from far afield, was very positive. Indeed a number of Macquarie groupies appear to have been spawned from the tour at Liverpool! A further highlight was the launch of the exhibition by the Director General of Communities NSW, Ms Carol Mills.

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**JO MORRIS**
Heritage Services Coordinator
Liverpool City Library
Social networking is such a big part of so many people’s lives and provides great opportunities for celebrating and sharing reading experiences. The NSW Readers Advisory Working Group’s Twitter reading group is getting library staff and clients to read books on a different theme each month and tweet about their reading. This is a great way of taking our conversations about books out of the library and into a public space where the reading community can share and collaborate. You don’t have to tweet to participate, anyone can follow the themes and read along.

So far this year we have frightened ourselves silly with January’s theme of Scare up a Good Book, felt the love with February’s theme of Heart Reads and are now exploring fascinating worlds with March’s theme of Fantasy and Speculative Fiction. Each month has a special Twitter hashtag as well as a general hashtag for Read it 2011 so you can keep up with what everyone is reading and at the end of each month there is a Twitter discussion where we can all go online at the same time to discuss our reading.

The Read it 2011 blog <readit2011.wordpress.com> has all the details including the themes for each month. Don’t be put off by unfamiliar themes, you will find that they are actually quite broad and you may make an exciting discovery you otherwise wouldn’t. You can link to the blog from your library website, tweet the reading choices of your staff or maybe post them on Facebook. This is a fabulous way to discover new authors and genres and get staff and clients talking about reading.

AMY HEAP
Reader Services Librarian
Wagga Wagga City Library

WILL YOU CONSIDER DONATING LIFE?
As part of DonateLife Week, Parramatta City Library asked their local community this important question, Will you consider donating life? DonateLife Week (20 to 27 February) is Australia’s national awareness week to promote organ and tissue donation. As part of the campaign, a range of events were held to encourage Australians to set time aside during the week to talk about organ and tissue donation.

Staff from Westmead Hospital’s Organ and Tissue Donation Service, including senior nurses, Monica Walker, Lizzie Barrett and Nicola Dykes and Medical Director, Dr Arvind Rajamani joined the Lord Mayor, Clr John Chedid on the day.

Teresa, a nurse from Westmead Hospital on the kidney transplant waiting list, shared her story with us and made us think, talk and hopefully act on a decision that can help bring life and healing to thousands of Australians. This was a powerful and moving moment for Teresa and her audience and she helped us understand the importance of being an organ donor and the emotional road one has to travel as a donor or recipient. Teresa wrote her personal account along with those of donor recipients, donor families, live donors and others in the DonateLife Book of Life. The talk was all about educating Australians on this very critical issue.

The DonateLife Book of Life is a collection of life-saving and life-changing stories from people touched by organ and tissue donation. It has been compiled to share the human stories behind organ and tissue donation. The book is on a journey to communities across New South Wales, before its return to the State Library of NSW.

For more information visit the website at <www.donatelife.gov.au> or telephone: 02 6198 9800.

ANNE POOLE
Publicity & Promotion Officer
Parramatta City Library
In the Libraries

WILLIAM DOBELL: AN ARTIST’S LIFE

William Dobell is one of Australia’s most iconic artists and for many years resided in the Lake Macquarie suburb of Wangi Wangi. Through her volunteer work at Dobell House, Sir William’s national trust listed home at Wangi Wangi, Elizabeth has had access to an unprecedented amount of archival material. This book is the result of a decade of research.

Elizabeth looked at not only his art but also the private and public face of this renowned artist. From William’s early life at Cook’s Hill Newcastle in 1899 to his death at Wangi Wangi in 1970, Elizabeth discussed his life, career and the controversy over winning the Archibald Prize.

RACHEL MALLABY
Library Technician, Promotions
Lake Macquarie City Library

LOCAL HERITAGE
Willoughby City Library was one of seventy organisations across Australia to be awarded a 2010 Community Heritage Grant. Community Heritage Grants are funded by the Australian Government through the National Library of Australia, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Office for the Arts, the National Archives of Australia, the National Film and Sound Archive and the National Museum of Australia. The program provides grants of up to $15,000 to community organisations such as libraries, archives, museums, genealogical and historical societies, multicultural and indigenous groups. The grants are provided to assist with the preservation of locally owned, but nationally significant, collections of materials that are publicly accessible, including artefacts, letters, diaries, maps, photographs, and audio visual material.

Willoughby City Library was the only library in NSW, and one of only two libraries in the country, to receive a grant in 2010. The $4,000 grant will be used for a Significance Assessment of the Library’s Local Studies collection. A Significance Assessment helps explain the meaning and value of a collection and provides further information for its management and interpretation. The Library’s collection includes archival records, personal papers, oral history recordings, artworks and maps. Significant items include domestic and industrial architectural...
plans by Walter Burley Griffin for buildings in the Willoughby and Castlecrag area. As part of the grant, representatives from the Library will attend a three-day intensive preservation and collection management workshop held at the National Library, the National Archives of Australia, the National Museum of Australian and the National Film and Sound Archive.

We are delighted to have been successful in our application, which will assist in the preservation of our irreplaceable Local Studies collection.

CLARE EVANS
Community Information Section
Willoughby City Library

Wyong news

Gail Davis from State Records of NSW visited Tuggerah Library to discuss the use of the Colonial Secretary’s Records. Over fifty people heard Gail talk about the history of the records and the delights they hold for family historians. She is a humorous and lively speaker who makes research seem fascinating. Feedback from all of those attending was extremely positive. Talks by State Records staff book out very quickly – we turned away an additional twenty people only due to lack of space!

Tuggerah Library was lucky to be chosen to be one of the hosts of the travelling photographic exhibition called A Man of Compassion and Wisdom - the Dalai Lama’s Journey. The photographs captured his life from his childhood and early years in Tibet, through his exile, arrival in India, and the years since. Whilst the exhibition was in the Library for only one week, the number of visitors and their feedback was amazing. The Dalai Lama’s Australian tour organisation provided a volunteer who not only set up the exhibition but stayed for its duration to speak to the visitors about His Holiness and the photographs.

Once again Wyong Shire Library Service participated in the Books for Kids program.
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throughout December. Nearly 350 books were donated by patrons for this worthy cause. An extraordinary multi day was permitted by Council to support the cause, with money raised going to the purchase of more books. A box for donations was also placed outside Council’s Copy Shop in Wyong and many non library staff donated books as well. This year the books were given to Horizon Family Services at Bateau Bay who distributed them to families in need in Wyong Shire.

MICHHELLE GOLDSMITH
Reference Librarian
Library and Council Services Centre Tuggerah

BEGA GENIES
About 20 people from the Bega Valley Genealogy Society recently attended the library for a presentation on our Local and Family History collections. The genies meet on a Sunday afternoon once a month and in February they were invited to hold their meeting at the Bega Library, which was opened especially for the occasion. It proved a wonderful opportunity to showcase the library’s local history collection which is relevant to family history research. In addition, I demonstrated Ancestry Library Edition and Find My Past, Australia and New Zealand; both databases subscribed to by Bega Valley Shire Library.

LINDA ALBERTSON
Local and Family History Librarian
Bega Valley Library

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE
The Library held a Healthy Lifestyle talk in October. A community speaker, Pam Keirs from the Cancer Council, came to give a talk about reducing your risk of cancer by leading a cancer smart lifestyle. Pam, a cancer survivor, talked about the seven things we can do to reduce our cancer risk – quit smoking, eat for health, maintain a healthy weight, be sun smart, limit alcohol, exercise and get checked regularly. The talk was informative, with plenty of slides, pictures and pamphlets for the community to look at and take home. As the borrowers discovered, living a healthy lifestyle means making some changes, but even a small change can help cut the chances of you developing cancer. After the talk, everyone shared stories with Pam, as we enjoyed a healthy morning tea!

JO BERTONCELLI, DINA KRASTINS, ZHORIK TERRAZZOLO & DEAN MCDOWELL
Constitution Hill Branch Library Team
YEAR OF THE RABBIT
In February, Bankstown Libraries bounced into the Chinese-Vietnamese New Year with energetic and colourful dance performances by the Chinese Dance School of Sydney. Over seventy people, young and old, attended a performance of the Northern Lion Show at Bankstown Library. The Northern Lion Show is a much loved work which features beautiful traditional costumes. Wide eyed children sat in the front row gazing at huge and beautiful creatures, which moved with grace and energy.

Children and adults were then invited by the dancers to join the dance and to act like a lion and wear a lion mask. Hilarity resulted as adults and kids alike bounced around the foyer of the library, perhaps lacking the same grace and energy of the professionals but having a lot of fun nonetheless. Hot, flushed children and adults then enjoyed iced oolong tea, fortune cookies and moon cakes.

Interestingly, very few Chinese and Vietnamese people attend the library’s New Year events as traditionally they will be at home celebrating with their families. The majority of our audience at this joyful event reflected the full range of other cultures within the Bankstown LGA, coming together to appreciate and experience the traditions of Chinese Vietnamese New Year.

ROBYN OWENS
Coordinator Library Services
Bankstown Libraries

VALE BETTY
Betty Malthus (1925 – 2011) was appointed Chief Librarian of Blacktown Municipal Council in 1966 to plan and establish a public library in Blacktown. The library opened in April 1967 and was an immediate success with the population. Prior to her appointment at Blacktown, Betty had been Chief Librarian of Manly Municipal Library from 1961 to 1966. While Betty, always known as Miss M, was at Blacktown she planned and managed the establishment of four branch libraries (Lalor Park in 1968, Mount Druitt in 1977, Riverstone in 1978 and Quakers Hill in 1983). She was also instrumental in the planning and organisation of the move to a new building for Blacktown Library, renamed the Max Webber Library in 1980. She was also responsible for the expansion of Lalor Park branch from a children’s service to a full community library.

During her stewardship of the library service, many innovative programs and cooperative ventures were developed, resulting in the library being named the best library in Sydney by the Sydney Morning Herald in 1981. Betty acknowledged that playing a role in the rapidly changing development of the Blacktown Council area was rewarding both professionally and personally. Her contribution to the development of the library service and Blacktown up till her retirement in 1990 was incalculable and will always be remembered. Betty is survived by her beloved husband Laurie Cox.

MINERVA SANTOS
Blacktown City Library

01 THE GENIUS
02 NEW YEAR’S LION
03 MISS M
Children’s News

Fairfield is one of the most culturally diverse cities in Australia with more than half of all residents having been born overseas, mostly in non-English speaking countries. This presents its own issues relating to education, in particular literacy.

Inspired by *Bongo’s Big Day Out*, which was produced by Bankstown Community Resource Group, we decided to produce our own book to promote literacy and encourage the development of a reading routine. A working group was formed with staff from several Council departments including the library, Cabramatta schools and community centres.

The main aims for the book were:

- To promote literacy and encourage parents to read with their children in their family languages
- To promote Fairfield City and all the great places families can visit
- To promote a healthy lifestyle in all areas – playing, eating, exercising, reading, learning

Over about 18 months we worked together on the book. A local photographer was commissioned to take photos of Fairfield, the locations identified by parents and children through a survey of local playgroups. Other photos were contributed by members of the group, and one member was responsible for all the graphics and photoshop work – a massive task. Staff from two of our Early Learning Centres were also involved in naming the book.

We chose ActiveGator, the Leisure Centre’s swim-safe mascot as our main character. Due to his high profile with our target audience he was already known and loved by library users, preschool children and parents. In the book ActiveGator is seen starting off the day with a healthy breakfast, before going to playgroup. He then continues his daily activities - visiting the library, the water park and a local fruit shop, taking a walk at Freedom Plaza (local landmark), going to the museum, the park, and the market, before meeting his friends at one of the local schools. He then visits the playground, goes to Little Athletics, visits the local farm and goes on a bike ride (with his helmet on of course!). Finally he catches the train home, and after dinner settles down in bed to read his *Bongo’s Big Day Out* book!

We were able to produce the book in English/Arabic, English/Chinese and English/Vietnamese, with staff members providing the translations. We hope to produce a Khmer version of the book for our next print run. The simple text, describing ActiveGator’s busy day, helps to promote Fairfield City and a healthy active lifestyle. At the back of the book we have numbered picture slides of all the places ActiveGator visited, with a keyed map on the adjacent page asking *Can you find them on the map?* The last page includes a listing of support services in the local area.
The book was launched on Wednesday 15th December by Fairfield City Mayor Nick Lalich at Whitlam Library. The launch took place just before our Christmas storytime session. Santa visits us at Christmas storytime and this time the children all received a copy of the book in addition to their normal token gift from Santa. We are looking forward to feedback from parents and children on their thoughts about the book.

The book will be distributed free to preschool children through the libraries, leisure centres, early learning centres, Cabramatta Public School, playgroups and other community agencies and events. The publication is a simple multilingual literacy tool for the community and reinforces ActiveGator’s water safety message to the local community.

MANJIT UPPAL
Outreach Librarian Children and Youth
Fairfield City Library

SATURDAY BOOK CHAIR

At Leeton Library we run storytime for preschoolers on the first Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the month, over four sessions. We also run Cuddle up and read for babies once a month. These sessions are very well attended and enjoyed by all, but we have been conscious for some time that we aren’t reaching all groups in the community. We’ve had a lot of comments from working mothers and fathers that they aren’t able to come to storytime due to work commitments - this in spite of the fact that we have been running Thursday evening storytime at 6pm for some years!

We decided we would trial a Saturday morning storytime for 12 weeks and gauge the response. We needed this storytime to be different to the weekday ones as only two staff work on Saturday mornings, meaning it needed to be a one person show. So... no elaborate plays and no craft activity as this is too labour intensive to organise.

To make life easier for staff we developed twelve kits on twelve different themes. Each kit contains:
- an opening song,
- a reading book,
- a middle song or game,
- a felt board or simple puppet story and
- a spare reading book (in case we have a very attentive crowd!)

In theory any staff member can come in to work on Saturday morning, select a kit and run the half hour session.

After a five week trial, it has proven to be a great success. We are getting increasing numbers each week (starting with ten children at our first session and building to 25 last week). We made a simple sign that hangs outside the library to advertise our Saturday Book Chair storytime at 10 am.

We were lucky to get a short article in the local paper, and we are attracting working mothers and some fathers. Whether numbers will fall once the winter sports start up remains to be seen but so far so good!

SANDRA WATSON
Leeton Library

BANKSTOWN

Summer holiday activities at Bankstown Library were fully booked and kids aged 5 - 12 years and their parents had a ball at the Scrapbooking workshop, where they learned to recycle stuff from around their homes to create a beautiful photo page or album. This was a very hands-on workshop to learn all about the craft and art of scrapbooking. The workshop enabled young and old to have a fun-packed afternoon creating works of art from all their pictures and memories. Some participants had pictures from their parents’ wedding to turn into a beautiful fold-out photo album as a remembrance.

At the beginning of each school year kids wail, parents gnash their teeth because the schoolbooks need to be covered! But this year our Book Covering workshop helped kids and their parents learn how to do it with fantastic results. Our expert book coverers at Bankstown Library demonstrated how to best cover school books and each participant was able to follow the steps and cover 4 - 6 of their own books absolutely perfectly! One parent commented a few days later that her son had gone home and covered all his school books which made a change from previous years when she had stressed out doing a perfect job for him!

Summer Fun at Panania Library was a huge success with each day’s session fully booked. There were stories, games including Bingo, Charades, Hot Potato, Noughts and Crosses, Hangman, Pin the wand on the magician, and face painting. Activity days were held twice weekly and ran from 10.00 til 11.30 am. The games were designed for children aged 5 to 12 years and were enjoyed by parents and children alike. Feedback from parents included comments such as: This is an excellent program for the kids to enjoy during the holidays, the activities were relevant and easy for them to join in, and You provided a great range of educational activities that kept the children entertained.

The Pirate Pandemonium Storytime at Greenacre Library proved a great hit with local kids during the
January school holidays. This evening storytime was designed for primary school aged children, and they were encouraged to come dressed as their favourite pirate for a night of fun tales, craft and activities. We held it on a Friday evening so working parents could join in the fun. It proved a great way for children and working parents (who don’t normally have an opportunity to visit the library) to do so and enjoy the experience together.

ROBYN OWENS
Coordinator Library Services
Bankstown City Libraries

CAMDEN LIBRARY KIDS
During the month of March Narellan Library held the Library Kids program. Library Kids is a series of Saturday morning performances for children aged 2 to 6 years and their parents. The program was originally developed last year to extend services to the pre-schoolers of working parents. It was so successful that we decided to continue the program this year. We have also extended the program to run at our branch library at Camden during May.

The Library Kids program at Narellan Library consisted of three performances. Each was free and run by professional performers. They were the Wuruniri Cultural Program presented by Matthew Doyle, an introduction to Aboriginal culture through dance, stories and didgeridoo; Mime-o-Rama presented by renowned physical theatre performer Dennis Claire using skills in mime, movement, mask and visual theatre; and the Puppet Tricksters by Dennis Murphy using his skills in puppetry and comedy. All the performances were held in the open plan children’s area of the library allowing a large number of people to attend, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Discover, imagine and explore Camden Library and Museum! That is what the children of Camden LGA did when they attended the Mini Discoverers sessions held at the Library recently. Mini Discoverers is a joint venture between the Library and the Museum. The program is aimed at 2 to 5 year olds and their parents/carers and allows children to go on an exciting adventure exploring things from the past. Each session involves a free hour of stories, craft and songs in which children get to play with, touch and see items from our museum. The program has proven to be very successful. Each session has a different theme and is scheduled to occur quarterly throughout the year. The themes so far have been Discover..., Communication and Discover...Toys. The sessions are a fun way for children to step back in time and explore the past.

MICHELLE BIRCH
Children’s Services Librarian
Camden Council Library Services

BOUNCING BABIES
Baby Bounce was launched in February at Iluka Branch Library, and in March at Bellingen. There has been very positive feedback about the program and staff continue to be enthusiastic with the result.

KATHRYN BREWARD
Regional Librarian
Clarence Regional Library

BOOKED-OUT AUTHOR
Duncan Ball’s much-loved characters, Selby the Wonder Dog, and Emily Eyefinger came alive in November, when best-selling children’s author Duncan Ball visited Toronto Library. Over 300 local school students were thrilled to meet and listen to Duncan discuss the creative writing process and read excerpts from his books. Proving his appeal across generations, and his longevity as an author we had many adults (Selby the Wonder Dog fans in their childhood), stop, listen and line up for autographs. This was a great opportunity for children to learn the creative process behind their favourite stories and characters, and Duncan’s visit may well inspire a new generation of writers.

RACHEL MALLABY
Library Technician, Promotions
Lake Macquarie City Library
**ROCK A BYE BABY**

In February this year, Ku ring gai Libraries introduced their new early literacy program, Rock a bye Baby Bounce with the first session at Gordon Library. Held on Friday mornings at 10:00 am sessions are attended by enthusiastic mums, dads, carers, grandparents, babies and toddlers aged 0 to 24 months.

Local interest has grown so much that another session at Gordon and two more at Lindfield have been implemented. Expressions of interest are being taken for more sessions at St Ives and Turramurra branches and will be rolled out as staff have been given training and numbers finalised.

Due to the location of a large colony of flying foxes in the area, a baby flying fox was chosen as a mascot for the program. Much to the delight of the participants, knitted and crocheted versions were given away during the first morning’s session at Gordon. (Many thanks to staff and their mothers for the hand knitted and crocheted animals).

It is wonderful to see such a fantastic response to the new program and great to see everyone enjoy the singing, rhyming, reading and finger plays.

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**LYNNE RUFF**

Gordon Librarian

Ku Ring Gai Library

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**ECO ADVENTURES**

Last summer holidays over 300 kids discovered our all new Eco Adventures at Lake Macquarie City Library, which was presented by council’s Sustainability Department. Children of all ages explored, experienced and enjoyed a huge array of exciting activities with a sustainable living theme such as revealing who and what pollutes our waterways at Catchment Criminals and Granny Cool’s special storytime that promoted the importance of staying cool in hot weather and avoiding heat stress with free water bottles. At Garden Plate to Dinner Plate kids learnt about growing their own food and keeping a worm farm; and Sea Shore Secrets gave children the chance to discover the creatures that inhabit our beaches and lake.

The older children created electricity and explored kinetic toys that require no batteries at our science workshops presented by Scienza Viva, preschoolers loved our Aussie Bush Tales Puppet Show and the whole family was amazed by the ever popular magician, Joel Howlet of JD’s World of Magic.

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**RACHEL HALLABY**

Library Technicians, Promotions

Lake Macquarie City Library

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**JACQUI’S BUGS**

Jacqui and the Mini Beastly Bugs spent a day at Culcairn Library for an educational workshop. Thirty-four excited children aged 5 to 12 years attended the workshop for a hands-on mini-beast experience. Live mini-beasts included large and colourful stick insects, centipedes, millipedes, giant burrowing cockroaches, preying mantis, spiders, scorpions, beetles, caterpillars and more. Jacqui’s presentation included a discussion on a range of different types of bugs from millipedes to centipedes, spiders, grasshoppers, rhino beetles and much more.

The presentation was interactive with all of the children given the opportunity to touch and hold a range of bugs. The highlight of the presentation was being able to hold a giant grasshopper all by themselves. Jacqui stressed to the children to look but do not touch many of the mini bugs on display which they may identify living in their own backyards. It was amazing the amount of knowledge the children already had about mini beasts and I am sure they left the workshop with much more.

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**SUSAN**

Culcairn Library

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**CONSTITUTION HILL NEWS**

Halloween storytime at the Library was a lot of fun for the local children and staff. We all came dressed up in scary Halloween costumes and the storytime area was decorated with bats, cobwebs and spiders lining the walls. When the lights were turned off the
children had mixed emotions as jack-o-lanterns and witches looked down upon them. They were excited and scared at the same time as they anticipated what was to come. Spooky stories such as Little Bat and On Halloween Night were read by the light of the large jack-o-lantern. After the stories, the lights were turned on again and the children enjoyed making their own bat mobiles while eating yummy treats including eyeballs and body parts!

During the January School holidays, children’s author Kathy Kent came in to delight the children and parents, with her lizard tales from the outback. Kathy’s Leopold the Lizard series was inspired by her travels to outback NSW, where she had the opportunity to appreciate many unusual Australian reptiles and beautiful gemstones. We were fortunate in having Kathy bring different kinds of rocks, opals and lizards (fake) for the children to look at. It was a real outback eye opener for both the children and their parents, who stayed to talk to Kathy for a long time after the session had finished.

Our school holiday activities included an origami workshop where children made three different types of aerodynamic planes to fly out of the Library. They included the Norton Flyer (best for slow, long-distance glides), the Classic Glider (the old fashioned paper aeroplane that we all know from school days) and the Needle Dart (ultra modern, sleek, stylish and very fast). With a little help from our staff, all of our Top Gun class graduated with flying colours and even impressed some of the other patrons with their aerodynamic capabilities.

Another craft activity that children of all ages thoroughly enjoyed was our collage of underwater sea creatures. This activity involved a series of instructions and a combination of different mediums which kept the children busy for hours and produced very colourful and individual seascapes that everyone couldn’t wait to put up at home.

Dance choreographer, Francois Awad, and we were especially lucky to have Francois as the workshops’ dance tutor. These interactive sessions were aimed for beginners/intermediate level and all the participants learned musicality, coordination and self-confidence.

Francois has an amazing talent for engaging all participants with his great sense of humour and enthusiasm. By the time everyone left the library their feet were tapping, their toes were wiggling and they were bopping.

The success of these workshops is best summed up in the participant’s own words:

**This workshop was one of the best workshops held at the library in a long time. We would like many more of them in the future.**

**The whole group learned the routine within one hour time frame than 6 weeks in dance class.**

It was awesome entertainment, with 62 youngsters and 30 adults attending the workshop.

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**LION KING DANCE**

As part of their summer school holiday programs, Ermington and Granville Libraries hosted two dance workshops for young people aged 8 to 14 years. The workshops were made possible through the generosity of a leading Australian dance choreographer, Francois Awad, and we were especially lucky to have Francois as the workshops’ dance tutor. These interactive sessions were aimed for beginners/intermediate level and all the participants learned musicality, coordination and self-confidence.

Francois has an amazing talent for engaging all participants with his great sense of humour and enthusiasm. By the time everyone left the library their feet were tapping, their toes were wiggling and they were bopping.

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**Gargi Mallik & Lesley Thompson**
Parramatta Library Services

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**Canada Bay news**

Our last storytime sessions for each year are always tinged with sadness as children who are moving on to big school are presented with their certificates at our preschool ‘graduations’. Some of these children have been attending weekly library programs over a number of years, and hopefully their library visits
will continue with the weekly book group for primary school children.

What is Christmas without glitter and sparkles? Kids and parents alike listened to Christmas tales and created some unique gifts and decorations for family and friends, and everyone enjoyed a Christmas supper. We spent the rest of the evening decorating the library Christmas tree.

And the fun continued through the school holidays. Using the mystery of magic tricks, comedy, storytelling and puppetry, Paul the magician entertained the children while encouraging them to read and use their imagination. And they really did use their imagination making some fun, scary insects and other critters using recycled materials during our craft critter workshops.

WENDY BANISTER
Children's Librarian
City of Canada Bay

BIG BANG
On 17 February, 30 keen junior scientists met at Malabar Community Centre for the second meeting of the Big Bang Science Club. Ten digital microscopes were set up and the kids had lots of fun looking at freckles, in ears and under arms. Digital microscopes magnify an image that appears on the screen of an attached laptop. The presenter, Ben Newsome, explained to the club members how looking at very small parts of something helped scientists find out how things worked and was valuable in areas like disease prevention.

The Big Bang Science Club was conceived by Randwick Library’s Coordinator of Service Development, Regina Chan who felt that there was a need in the community for activities that were both fun and educational for children in the nine to twelve years age group. She was also keen to encourage new patrons to use the Malabar Community Library. The Club has been enormously popular with budding scientists and was almost instantly fully subscribed. They meet once a month with a different theme each time. Members also receive a fun newsletter full of activities, interesting science facts and a taste of what’s in store for the next meeting.

Regina said, “We’ve had two meetings and the kids are so keen, it’s great to see them having lots of fun and learning something at the same time. For more

information email: contactus@randwick.nsw.gov.au or tel: 9314 4888.

CHRISTINE HOWARD
Supervisor, Events and Marketing
Randwick City Library Service

KIDS AT WYONG
School holiday programs once again proved to be very popular at Wyong. The wonderful JD Howlett
performed his magic show at Lake Haven and a magic trick workshop at Tuggerah Library. These were booked out well in advance and were very well received. Alien craft sessions were held at all branches and alien pom pom pets, masks and rockets were the order of the day. To finish off we had scary storytimes where faces were painted and the result was many little spiders and aliens walking around the branches!

We have been very excited to launch our two new baby and toddler programs called Itsy Bitsy Babies and the Young and the Restless. These programs have been modelled on those presented by Mr Jim, a leading American early childhood literacy expert who visited NSW public libraries in 2010, and are proving to be very popular. Feedback from parents has been very encouraging; and staff enjoy the opportunity to sit on the floor and sing and sign with the babies as well as reading to them.

MICHIELLE GOLDSMITH  
Reference Librarian  
Wyong Shire

SPECIAL TIME

Amongst the classes that we conduct at the library, we have two special needs groups who venture down to the library from Leichhardt Public School. It is a break from their usual routine and a chance to watch a movie, listen to some stories and borrow some items from the library. It has long been a wish of ours to be able to provide something extra special for these students and their dedicated teachers. They have been visiting our library for nearly 30 years.

In conjunction with Leichhardt Public School, we applied for a grant to buy sensory materials for the Library. Teacher, Bridget Pople, who works with the Special Unit at Leichhardt Public Library and our Library Manager, Marilyn Taylor, worked on the application. Unfortunately, we did not get the grant, but we used a special fund to buy some of the resources. We bought two Corridor Tactile Wall Panels, one for Leichhardt Library and one for our Balmain branch library. These tactile panels offer an array of sensory objects that entertain and educate the children. There are sound buttons, lights, mirrors, musical instruments and a variety of textured objects. The objects on the panel appeal to most of the senses. The panels have not only been a hit with the children from Leichhardt Public School, but also with our early childcare groups, babies, infants and primary school children and even some teenagers!

We have also bought three sensory tubs for special borrowing for Leichhardt Public School groups. Because of the fragility and specialised nature of the items in these tubs, the general public will not have access to these. There are three tubs, two that have arrived at the library so far. One of the tubs is called a Visual Sensory Tub, and includes colour frames, mirrors, spinners, glitter tubes, kaleidoscopes and many other items with flashing lights and colours and textures. The other tub that we have received is a Relaxation Sensory Tub, which contains items for therapy and stress relief, such as massagers, neck rolls, aroma balls and many other items which will help the children relax. The third tub, the Feelie Ball Sensory Tub, which has not arrived as yet, has an array of balls with different textures and shapes and sizes in it. Each of these tubs has a different purpose and they will benefit the children in many ways.

Lastly, we bought a large number of sensory toys that are appropriate for borrowing for all children. These will be part of our general toy collection, but will be specially marked. We hope that this is the beginning of a collection of toys which will benefit the students and teachers of Leichhardt Public School and other children who visit the library.

KAREN JOHNSON  
Children’s Librarian  
Leichhardt Library

I AM

Greater Taree City Libraries recently facilitated an exciting project called I AM with Taree Public School. The I AM Project took place over two days and involved students in literacy, visual arts and music activities designed to build self-esteem, develop communication skills and encourage...
imagination and self expression. The program was run by international storyteller Morgan Schatz Blackrose, and artist Roman W Schatz. Morgan and Roman have successfully implemented the I AM Project in several schools over the years while travelling the world, working with children from different countries and cultures.

The students’ visual art works and stories are combined to create a book that is presented to each child and their school. Children’s artworks were displayed for several weeks in the youth space area at the library and a special afternoon tea was held. The I AM project is part of the Greater Taree City Libraries Literacy Program, which is a Communities for Children initiative. Communities for Children is funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

DANIELLE DONNELLY
Events Coordinator
Greater Taree

BETTER FUTURE

Ever wondered how to reach that tricky tween age group with your library programs and activities? No longer children but still far from being young adults, children aged 9 to 13 can be a difficult group to cater for. With much of the risk-taking behaviour formerly seen in 15 to 18 year olds now occurring in children as young as 11, tweens are an increasingly important group to focus on.

In 2006 Waverley Council secured funding from the NSW Government’s Better Futures Strategy to research and develop an integrated approach to providing targeted programs for this age group across Inner and Eastern Sydney. Over the past six years, Waverley has worked with children to see what activities they are interested in and has translated this into a program model that is fun, helps build resilience and brings together service providers to offer activities that are fun and help build community connections.

In March, the Waverley Council Better Futures Supporting Young People 9-13 Connection to Activities Project (SYPCAP) worked with the NSW State Library to provide free training for library staff from the City of Sydney, Waverley, Woollahra, Randwick and Botany local government areas.

If you would like to find out more about how to plan and run programs for 9 to 13 year olds in your library, please contact Waverley Council’s Better Futures Coordinator, Maggie Brown on 9386 7917.

SAM WEIR
Library Public Programs Coordinator
Waverley

HOLIDAY FUN

What do Roald Dahl, Crazy Critters and Lego have in common? Absolutely nothing except they were all holiday programs run at Kiama Library during January. Our annual Lego building competition attracted record numbers this year; the two Roald Dahl sessions were booked out well before Christmas; and some crazy children had lots of fun making weird creatures using lots of felt and lots of glitter and glue. We feel that any program that encourages a child to come into the library is a successful program no matter how many children attend or participate.

SHARON JONES
Children’s Officer
Kiama Library

AUTHOR TALK

A capacity audience of 250 was on hand for popular children’s author, Andy Griffiths, when he made a return visit to Penrith Library. He had his young audience – and their parents – in stitches as he indulged in his unique brand of yucky humour. The event was run in partnership with Dymock’s Books and publisher, Pan Macmillan Australia. His new book is (to quote Andy) a melange of bad jokes, bad limericks and bad stories.

Andy is one of Australia’s funniest and most successful writers whose books have featured on The New York Times bestseller list and won more than 40 Australian children’s choice awards. More than four million copies of his books have sold worldwide.

COLIN STEVENSON
Library Services Manager
Penrith City Library
Young Adults Update

TEENS TRIAL TECHNOLOGY

Our MUSE Young Adults’ reading group have been the happy participants in a KOBO trial. We purchased 12 KOBOs and loaded them up with some popular titles such as The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, Jane Bites Back, Tales of Tanglewood and A Christmas Carol. The KOBOs were chosen for the trial because of the added security of having to plug into a computer and enter a password. They have proved to be a huge favourite with the young people; and we are hoping we will be able to attract more YA book groups with the new technology.

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Reference Librarian
Library and Council Services Centre Tuggerah

OUTREACH PROGRAM

The City of Canada Bay is currently trialling an outreach program for young people at Five Dock Library. The program is a partnership between the Library and Community Services teams at City of Canada Bay and the Wesley Mission Youth Outreach agency. The program is targeted to reach out to young people who could at times be disruptive or who were not participating in mainstream library activities. The program runs on two afternoons after school with young people dropping in for a conversation, snacks and gaming (even board games!) This process has helped to develop support mechanisms for the young people and referrals have been made to a wide range of community services. Library staff are finding improved behaviour within the library by young people as a result of the youth outreach program.

LISA BENHAM
Client Services Coordinator
City of Canada Bay

TEEN READING

As part of the January 2011 School Holiday Program, Willoughby City Library Services launched a Teenage Reading Group for 13 to 18 year olds at Artarmon Library. Local teens were informed of this new initiative through the Council website and promotional flyers, and the first group meeting was a great success. The participants thoroughly enjoyed discussing the books they were reading in a relaxed and informal environment with light refreshments provided. From this point on the group will meet monthly on a Thursday afternoon, allowing the participants plenty of time to discover more books between sessions.

Willoughby City Library offers young adults a comprehensive program of HSC Seminars from March through to May, as well as creative activities during the School Holidays. Our decision to enhance our services to this age group with a Teenage Reading Group was made in direct response to interest expressed by local teens seeking an opportunity to discuss their leisure reading with like-minded peers. The Teenage Reading Group also embraces our ongoing Community Learning strategy, providing young adults with an age-appropriate alternative to our highly successful Book Clubs and Book and Movie Lovers’ Clubs for adults.

In planning the Teenage Reading Group it was decided that the group members should play the primary role in structuring and planning their meetings, with the Children and Young Adult Services Librarian and the Artarmon Branch Librarian offering suggestions and direction as required. By giving the participants the responsibility of controlling the direction of the meetings, we hope to provide them with a sense of ownership encouraging the group to develop in ways that genuinely meet the needs of the members. With this strategy in place, members of the Teenage Reading Group have the opportunity to develop their teamwork and cooperation skills while discussing their favourite books.

CLARE EVANS
Community Information and Promotions Librarian
Willoughby City Library

CONGRATULATIONS SHANNON

At the recent Australia Day celebration at Glen Innes over 300 community members were present.
when Shannon O’Brien was awarded the Young Citizen of the Year. Shannon received the award for her community involvement through her work at the Glen Innes Severn Library & Learning Centre and through her role as the President of the Glen Innes Youth Council. In her role at the Library, Shannon handles both Home Library Services and Youth Services as part of her specialty areas. As these roles target different age groups, Shannon has grown to appreciate the different needs of each group and is working on some interesting combined future projects which will target both groups. She is currently in the fifth year of her Degree with Charles Sturt University and is very passionate about her career. Special guests at the celebration were Mayor Clr Steve Toms, Northern Tablelands MP Richard Torbay and Glen Innes Severn Australia Day Ambassador, Winter Olympian Hannah Campbell-Pegg.

KERRY BYRNE
Library & Centre Manger
Glen Innes
DEAF SENIORS

According to a survey report commissioned by the Deaf Society of NSW (DSNSW) entitled Deaf Seniors – A Profile, New South Wales, 2009, two of the most pressing issues faced by deaf seniors are communication and loneliness. Although those surveyed said that they used fax and text messages on their mobile phones to communicate, they were now relying less and less on the fax machine and the TTY (teletypewriter) because they considered this to be old technology. They expressed interest in the newer forms of technology, such as email, Internet and webcams and an overwhelming desire to learn how to use this technology. But where will deaf seniors access tuition in this new form of communication technology?

There are several institutions that offer computer lessons to seniors, such as the University of the Third Age (U3A), community colleges, WEA Sydney and even TAFE. But these are hardly the places for deaf seniors to go because the tutors will not be using Auslan as the principle medium of instruction. In order to give deaf seniors a fair go, these institutions should investigate the use of Auslan interpreters.

Fortunately at Liverpool City Library we have a staff member who can sign. In December 2010 the Library decided to provide Internet lessons to deaf seniors as part of the celebration of the International Day of People with Disability (December 3rd). As it is not possible for deaf seniors to learn basic computing in a week, this initiative was extended through term four of the school calendar. It has now become a regular program of the Library, running every school term, once a week for one and a half hours.

With deaf seniors now learning to communicate via email, Liverpool City Library hopes to address the second pressing issue of loneliness. Not only are deaf seniors able to communicate with others via email, but by coming to class they are also able to interact with one another. Seeing the delight and wonderment on their faces as they send and receive emails is a joy to behold. A whole wide world has been opened up to them.

CARMEL MARTIN
Access Services Librarian
Liverpool City Library

WEST RYDE

Now in its ninth year, the Seniors group meets monthly to discuss a variety of topics and ideas. From nursery rhymes to the history of the tomato we have heard it all! On the last Monday of each month our group gathers to learn about a requested and agreed-upon subject. Sometimes we have expert speakers such as Gail Davis from State Records but topics are mainly presented by library staff who research and divulge tidbits of information that we all enjoy so much. It’s the interesting snippets that everyone really appreciates – for example, did you know Henry Lawson was deaf or that Daisy Bates was reputed to have been married to Breaker Morant?

Angela Phippen, our Local Studies Librarian, is a particular favourite of the group. She has told us about subjects such as her wanderings in Petra and the history of divorce in Australia (including some juicy tales). Kathy Maltby is another interesting speaker who is very knowledgeable and entertaining about online databases. Mostly though it is Margaret Hyland who presents talks on a wide range of subjects.

Many friends have been made and much discussion takes place as everyone in the audience becomes involved. The group has grown from an early attendance of about eight (while in the very tiny old West Ryde Library) to the current average of 30 participants each month. Some are regulars and others come and go as topics interest them; but it is wonderful to have so many friends together at one time.

Upcoming talks in 2011 include popular sayings, girls’ seminars and schools in Ryde and Eastwood during the 18th and 19th centuries (Angela Phippen is our expert) and the Winter palace in Russia. It’s always amazing the variety of topics the group enjoys!

MARGARET HYLAND
Ryde Library Service

SIXTY STRONG AND SEXY

As part of our Seniors Program the authors of the book Sixty Strong & Sexy: Women Share Their Secrets led a lively discussion on the myths, issues and attitudes of women and ageing. Held at Morisset Library in February, authors Joan Morgan McCarthy and Maureen Smith also discussed the process of researching and compiling their book. Their book is a collection of thoughts, wit and wisdom of different women, from varying backgrounds and life experiences, on being 60 years plus. The book looks at a number of issues affecting women including quality of life, family relationships, general happiness, health, social life, creativity, spirituality and sexuality.

RACHEL MALLABY
Library Technician Promotions
Lake Macquarie Library
In touch with the State Library

STOCK QUALITY HEALTH
Are you experienced with and interested in readers’ advisory work? Are you widely read? Do you want to make sure your fiction collection has the breadth and depth for your community? These were some of the questions we asked to gather together a crack project team for our latest research project, a stock quality health check.

The Public Libraries Stock Quality Health Check (SQHC) is a practical tool which will enable public libraries to undertake an assessment of the relevance, depth and range of collection stock in relation to the communities they service.

While Living Learning Libraries’ provides benchmarks for libraries to measure the quantity, use and age of collections and the Benefit cost analysis allows libraries to measure the economic effectiveness of collection management processes, the SQHC will provide libraries with a tool to check the quality of the collection itself. Opening the Book created the methodology for the Stock Quality Health Check in the UK for the Audit Commission, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and Arts Council England. Our project will be based on this idea, and co-managed by Information Services Consultant, Ellen Forsyth and Leanne Perry, Evaluation Consultant, Public Library Services.

Phase one will explore adult fiction collections. The project team will consist of six library staff, representing small country and metropolitan libraries, medium country and metropolitan libraries, and large country and metropolitan libraries.

There will be opportunities for others to be involved in later discussions as well.

The project team will report back before November 2011.

MOVER AND SHAKER
We were delighted to learn that Ellen Forsyth, Consultant in Public Library Services was named as one of Library Journal’s Movers and Shakers. Ellen was the only Australian named this year, and only the second Australian ever to receive this honour.

Ellen was recognised for her work with NSW public libraries on collaborative online services including the Reference Excellence wiki ref-ex and the new Twitter Reading Group which promotes readers’ advisory skills.

Citation reproduced by kind permission of the Library Journal

Outcome oriented Ellen Forsyth’s customers are 2,344 library workers in 99 libraries and 374 locations spread across more than 300,000 square miles in New South Wales (NSW), Australia, as well as the library users they serve. That’s why she focuses on delivering online tools tailored to local needs.

With the help of collaborators, Forsyth adapted the Ohio Library Council’s online reference excellence training program for librarians—and then expanded it under a Creative Commons license to encourage others to use the material. The NSW version, Reference Excellence, ref-ex for short, debuted as a wiki in 2009. The project also had a side benefit: it spurred the working group members to develop new skill sets, like wiki editing and web analytics.

In January 2011, she launched another collaborative effort, the Twitter Reading Group 2011, which serves as a reading challenge clearinghouse. Each month promotes another genre via a hashtag: January, #suagb (Scare up a good book—horror); February, #heartreads (romance); March, #specific (fantasy). Open to all readers, it has attracted participants from all parts of Australia.

A phrase pinned to her corkboard captures Forsyth’s philosophy: You can get anything done if you don’t mind who gets the credit.

Congratulations Ellen, it is great to see that this valuable work in collaboration with public libraries has been recognised internationally!
In touch with the State Library

LIBRARY COUNCIL OF NSW
LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS 2010/11

The annual Library Development Grants were announced in March 2011. Please contact the State Library of NSW Public Library Services team for advice on payments, unsuccessful applications or your ideas for next year's grant round.

LIBRARY COUNCIL OF NSW
LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS 2010/11

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNCIL</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>PROJECT TYPE</th>
<th>GRANT</th>
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<td>RFID Implementation</td>
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<td>Bankstown</td>
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<td>(downloadable collections)</td>
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<td>Holroyd</td>
<td>Establishment of a Persian Language collection</td>
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<td>Liverpool</td>
<td>Re-energise the space</td>
<td>Youth Services</td>
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<td>Outreach</td>
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<td>Cooperative special needs collection</td>
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<td>Willoughby</td>
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## Country Libraries Fund

(additional $2m provided as part of the State Government’s Building the Country package)

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<th>Council</th>
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<td>Bland</td>
<td>RFID for Bland Shire Library</td>
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<td>Coolamon</td>
<td>Fitout for the Coolamon Library learning space</td>
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<td>Eurobodalla</td>
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<td>Gilgandra</td>
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<td>Upgrade of Large Print and talking Books</td>
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<td>Greater Hume</td>
<td>New Mobile Library for Riverina Regional Library</td>
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<td>Greater Taree</td>
<td>The Meeting Place: promoting the Library as an events space</td>
<td>Programs</td>
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<td>Guyra</td>
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<td>RFID for the Mid-North Coast Cooperative Library Service</td>
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<td>Tumut</td>
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<td>Scone Library relocation and refurbishment</td>
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<td>Wentworth</td>
<td>Audio Books for the Community</td>
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IN THE STATE LIBRARY GALLERIES

**Moran Prizes 2011**
Moran Prizes is hosted in conjunction with the Moran Health Care Group and incorporates the Doug Moran National Portrait Prize and the Moran Contemporary Photographic Prize. This is the richest art prize in Australia.

Exhibition Galleries
18 April – 26 June 2011

**Carved trees**
The Clifton Cappie Towle collection at the State Library of NSW includes hundreds of photographs including carved trees from central and north-western NSW photographed between about 1920 and 1940. The photos of Aboriginal carved trees in this collection are especially striking and have been meticulously documented.

Exhibition Galleries
18 April – 26 June 2011

**World Press Photo 2011 and Sydney Morning Herald Photos 1440**
World Press Photos is an annual exhibition featuring the award-winning photographs from the prestigious World Press Photo. The Library is pleased to be hosting for the second year, the Sydney Morning Herald Photos 1440 exhibition. There are 1440 minutes in a day. In these minutes photographers capture a moment. These moments make up a day.

Exhibition Galleries
July 2011

COMING SOON

**SWITCH 2011**
Public Libraries NSW – Metropolitan Conference
20 – 23 November 2011
http://www.plmnsw.org.au

STATE LIBRARY OF NSW DISABILITY INFORMATION
Wheelchair access via Macquarie Street, toilets and courtesy wheelchair, hearing loop, parking on the corner of Shakespeare Place and Macquarie Street.

Companion card provides fair ticketing at events and venues for people with a disability who require a companion to accompany them.

www.companioncard.org.au

DEADLINES FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS
August 2011 issue 24 June 2011
December 2011 issue 14 October 2011
April 2012 issue 2 March 2012