Welcome to a jam-packed winter issue. I know you will join us in welcoming the State Library’s new Executive team. We’ll have more to report in the December issue. We go on the road with homework help, look at several different Living Libraries and take a genteel pause with Jane Austen fans. In addition we have pages full of other stories and news – 2008 is certainly a busy year for us all. And to all the contributors to this issue, thank you!

Victoria Anderson
Welcome to the new State Library Executive

Frances Sims
Director, Public Library and Community Learning Services

Frances is well known to the State Library and the public library network through her professional career and her role as a member of the PLCC (Public Libraries Consultative Committee) of Library Council.

Frances has been the Library Services Manager at Willoughby City Library since 2001, prior to which she was Library Services Manager at Wyong and North Sydney Councils. Frances is a lecturer in information science at the University of Technology, Sydney and the Sydney Institute of TAFE.

Frances has an in-depth knowledge of the challenges and opportunities confronting the public library network in New South Wales today, and considerable experience in negotiating with key library, government and community stakeholders. She has experience in the delivery of education and learning programs to the community, including multicultural collection material in languages other than English. Recent major achievements have been associated with the introduction of RFID technology to the Willoughby Library and the production of the Aboriginal History of Willoughby.

Frances is active in the library profession and local government. She represented Public Libraries NSW - Metropolitan on the Public Libraries Consultative Committee, and on the PLCC Funding Review Group, the State Library Public Library Building Guidelines Review Panel in 2005 and the Local Government and Shires Association Library Reference Group.

David Penklis
Director, Operations

David will be managing the Division responsible for a range of corporate services and operations, specifically human resources, finance, technology services, enterprise information, facilities and security.

David is professionally qualified as a Fellow CPA, a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, and a Certified Professional of the Australian Human Resources Institute. In 2005, David was awarded the Australian Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal for his work in the Balkan region.

Over the past 14 years, David has gained substantial international experience as a senior executive with the United Nations, living and working in New York, USA; Vienna, Austria; Croatia; Bosnia; and Burundi, East Africa. As a senior executive he has been strategically involved in the start up, management, transition and closure of multi-site operations around the globe. Specific responsibilities have been the delivery and streamlining of corporate and support services for United Nations programs involving issues of humanitarian assistance; post conflict reconstruction; judicial and police reform; human rights; and peacekeeping. Prior to joining the United Nations, David worked as a consultant in London in investment banking then for many years as an accountant in Sydney.

Richard Neville
Mitchell Librarian

Richard brings 18 years of experience working with the original materials collections at the Library and prior to that, as a researcher. He is widely respected within the Library, the research community and by our supporters for his knowledge and interpretation of the collections. Over the past three years he has played key roles in the development of the new Archival Content Management System for original materials collections and digitisation initiatives.
Welcome to the new State Library Executive Committee

Noelle Nelson
*Director, Library Services*

Noelle has a background in libraries and information management, arts and cultural development, and education. She has been the Library and Cultural Development Manager at Newcastle City Council for seven years. Recently Noelle has represented Public Libraries NSW – Country on the Public Library Network Research Committee.

In her time with Newcastle Region Library, Noelle has been instrumental in the development of: the Library Service Delivery Model for Newcastle’s libraries; the award-winning Wallsend District Library, the Newcastle Cultural Collections database and the digitisation of the picture collection. Newcastle Region Library has a rich collection including reference and lending titles, rare books, maps, manuscripts, newspapers, archives, pictures, photographs and ephemera as well as the Lovett Gallery exhibition space.

Prior to her role in Newcastle, Noelle was Lead Agencies Funding and Governance Manager, Arts SA, where she was the key liaison person for the State Library of SA (including Public Libraries Automated Information Network (PLAIN)), Art Gallery of SA and South Australian Museum. In this role she was responsible for providing Ministerial advice on library funding and policy and was a member of the working party that negotiated a five year Public Libraries Funding Agreement with State and Local Government. Noelle has also been Director, Community Information Strategies Australia Inc. She has lectured in the Library and Information Management School, University of SA and began her career as a secondary teacher in Victoria.

Karen Gollan
*Director, Marketing and Business Development*

Karen has more than 14 years of marketing related experience with major Australian and global brands across a diverse range of industries including IT and telecommunications, consumer lifestyle and travel, financial and professional services and management consulting.

She was most recently Head of Marketing and Communications at Ashe Morgan Winthrop where she was responsible for brand, internal and external communications, market research and CRM, sponsorship, and event leveraging. In this role, Karen refreshed the company’s brand positioning and visual identity, established an internal communications function including a monthly e-newsletter and intranet, launched a new website and managed key sponsorships and customer events including the 2008 Australian Tennis Open.

Karen was previously Manager of HSBC Bank’s Brand, Sponsorship and Corporate Social Responsibility functions. During her time with the bank, she ran large scale brand, advertising and online campaigns. Karen also managed HSBC’s sponsorships focused on encouraging children in sport, and community partnerships including the HSBC kids tutoring and mentoring program for underprivileged children and a financial literacy program with children’s charity Barnardos.

Karen has also held communications roles with PricewaterhouseCoopers and BHP and worked on building reputations for clients including Siemens, IBM, Bose, Thomas Cook, MBF, Avis and Energy Australia.
Living Libraries

Blue Mountains City Council celebrated Harmony Day on the 20th March with a unique event called the Living Library. Mayor Jim Angel said when launching the Harmony Day concert, Harmony Day is about celebrating diversity and fostering respect and appreciation of that diversity. Our local Blue Mountains community has a diverse range of people from a variety of cultures, religions and races. The Living Library provides the community with an amazing opportunity to borrow a person instead of a book and have a chat for about 30 minutes. What better way to learn about our cultural diversity than to hear the extraordinary stories of local people’s lives.

Over one hundred and fifty people including students from local schools attended the Living Library event. Twenty six Living Books from the local community participated in the event. They included members of the indigenous and migrant communities, a Holocaust survivor, Vietnam veterans, people with disabilities and a sufi. Many readers commented that hearing people’s stories face to face was an emotional experience. Much more powerful than reading about them, one said.

One young reader learnt about the huge impacts alcohol and drugs can have on your life, family and work. Another learnt of indigenous elder Carol Cooper’s childhood experience of racism. Talking to Carol was very profound and moving, she said. For some of the Living Books the experience was equally moving. Olwen Leask spent much of her childhood living in institutions, and was touched when one reader told her, Talking to you has changed my life.

State MP Phil Koperberg, who launched the Living Library, talked about his own experience as a child living in many countries around the world. He applauded the initiative observing, I’ve never quite understood why living together in harmony should be so difficult. He volunteered to be a book in future Living Library events.

Phil Voysey from Cultural Connexions, one of the organisers of the event in partnership with Blue Mountains Council, hopes to make the Living Library an ongoing feature of life in the Blue Mountains.

Blue Mountains City Council would like to acknowledge the invaluable help of Lismore Library in ensuring this event run smoothly. Lismore Library staff generously shared their experiences and operational knowledge of their own monthly Living Library.

Six months of planning, four library staff, five community volunteers, nine living books and 25 readers made Auburn’s very first Living Library possible. All the hard work was worth it – now that everything is in place and working well we are planning to hold four Living Library events each year.

For those not familiar with the concept, a Living Library is just like a real library, only the books are people! Living Libraries are designed to help share information through conversation rather than reading, but can also break down cultural barriers and remove stereotypes. This is a particularly important issue in Auburn, which has a very culturally and linguistically diverse community. Auburn Living Library provides an opportunity for members of
Living Libraries

Living Library live

the community to engage in one on one conversation with someone they may not normally get to meet, in a safe, non-threatening environment.

At the first Auburn Living Library, as library users and members of the wider community registered to sit down and talk with a Living Book, we noticed that our readers became quite enthusiastic very quickly. People were coming out of their first conversation with a Living Book saying how much they loved the concept of the Living Library. Most ran straight back to the Living Library catalogue to choose another book to talk to, and all of our Living Books were booked solid all afternoon. The readers were voracious, they just couldn’t get enough!

Here are a few tips for running your own Living Library (based on our experience).

1. Make sure both your Living Books and your readers understand what is expected of them.

2. A big whiteboard with a grid is a great way to reserve time for people to talk with a Living Book, but make sure you also allocate time for your Living Books to get a break! Some of our books were so keen to talk to yet another reader that having time for a break reserved helped them to remember to take the time to relax as well.

3. Be prepared for misunderstandings or conflict. One of our Living Books was born Inter-gender and her Living Book title is ‘Middlesex’. It took poise, compassion and understanding to deal with the embarrassed man who came running straight back out again when he realised that she wasn’t there to talk about the English county!

A Living Library can be easy to run when an enthusiastic community with a vision for change, cultural understanding and harmony is backing it, you can handle anything that comes along!

Have you ever finished reading a book and wanted to sit down with the main character to talk about the story? Wollongong City Council offered just that opportunity to members of the public when it hosted its first Living Library.

Our first session included a vision impaired person and her guide dog, a survivor of sexual assault, an Indigenous man, a Muslim woman, a refugee from the Congo, a survivor of an eating disorder, a man who grew up in Nazi Germany and a Buddhist nun. In fact we had 20 different books on offer.

What a day! We had incredible demand for our books, with all of them being loaned out for each of the five sessions offered – sometimes to two or three readers at a time. Once the sessions commenced our books were surprised by the level of interest shown for each of their stories. They were on quite a high by the end of the day and the library had a wonderful buzz about it while the program was running. So many people and so much interest. We received many requests for repeat performances and are planning our next event for September.

The Living Library program is a wonderful opportunity to educate and inform people about the nature and diversity of our city and these interactions have provided an opportunity to cultivate social unity and harmony within our community. We hope that it challenges negative stereotypes, reduces prejudice and encourages understanding within our community. We also hope that the books and their readers will return to the library and enjoy the stories our books and other resources have to offer in the regular library.

Vicki Edmunds, Blue Mountains City Council
Jenn Martin, Auburn Library
Kerry Ottens, Wollongong City Library
The Hon John Cain launched the Upper Murray Regional Library’s mobile homework and training centre on Friday 2 May 2008. This innovative project is providing a sustainable new service to the disadvantaged youth in our region. The project was started through a Libraries Building Communities grant from the Victorian government. A partnership between Upper Murray Regional Library (UMRL), the Continuing Education Centre and the Hume Building Society has provided the ongoing sustainability of a mobile technology centre fitted out with the latest in technology to provide access to mainstream library and information services to the disadvantaged youth of our region by taking the service to them. The function of the service is reflected in the name of the vehicle - The Hume Building Society Mobile Homework and Training Centre.

The service is innovative in that it is going to the people who need the service rather than asking them to come to us, thus facilitating ease of access which is an identified barrier to the targeted group for accessing information.

The project also demonstrates entrepreneurialism by the three year commitment (financially worth some $80,000) made by our partners to the project and by the mix of volunteers, information professionals, teachers and students involved. All partners are working to provide a gateway to information that allows the development of skills and improved wellbeing, while developing community capacity, encouraging active citizenship, developing social networks and contributing to the future economic opportunities for those who access the services provided through the project.

The project has strengthened the position of UMRL as a key organisation developing the skills of those in our community who may otherwise not have the opportunity, so that they can engage in the information society in which we live. It has also strengthened the position of UMRL as an innovative leader in the provision of information and library services for its communities. By using the mobile unit in conjunction with our other two mobile library service vehicles we are strengthening the existing library network throughout our region to ensure that our communities have maximum opportunity to acquire the skills for computer literacy and to access information in all its forms.

The centre is based in a decommissioned mobile library which was extensively renovated and fitted out as the homework and training centre. It includes seven laptops, a network printer, a large LCD screen, air conditioning, fold-down desks, chairs, coffee and tea making facilities, notice boards and whiteboards. Its own generator enables it to stop anywhere it is needed and be fully functional. All computers have Internet access (provided by a Next G data connection) and Microsoft Office software. The refit and renovation was project managed by UMRL staff with the use of local contractors.

Since the launch the centre has generated a lot of interest from an assortment of community organisations. It has been present at two careers days, which proved very popular with the students. Ongoing bookings include several as a training centre in remote locations. Three community groups in the Albury Wodonga area are utilising it as a homework centre in disadvantaged localities, and there is already discussion of the need for an additional truck.

Sonia Higgs
Information Systems Manager
and ‘Suzi’ Project Manager
An Austen feast

Central West Fans Feast on Austen
A movie screening, author talk and book club have added to the reading experience for Jane Austen fans at Central West Libraries.

CWL took the unique step of starting The Jane Austen Book Club after being inspired by the phenomenal success of the book of the same name by Kay Joy Fowler. The Jane Austen Book Club began in July 2007 when ten collections and suggested discussion points based on Jane Austen’s works were developed: Pride & Prejudice; Emma; Sense and Sensibility; Persuasion; Mansfield Park; Northanger Abbey; Life & Times of Jane Austen; Inspired by Jane 1 – the spin-off books that have been inspired by Jane Austen; Inspired by Jane 2 – the sequels to Jane Austen’s book written by various authors; and Other novels – Lesser Known Works by Jane Austen including Lady Susan, The Watsons and Sanditon. Flyers, media releases and the CWL newsletters, blogs and website were used to promote the book club. Groups formed at Blayney, Cowra, and Orange branches for daytime and evening discussions and elected to meet each month with the changeover of collections every six weeks.

With the success of the book Club, Central West Libraries partnered with Metro Cinemas to bring The Jane Austen Book Club film premiere to Orange. This culminated in an Australian premiere screening of The Jane Austen Book Club film for 300 people at the Metro Cinemas in Orange on 30 January 2008. All the tickets were purchased at the Library. The foyer buzzed with anticipation as the crowd enjoyed drinks and canapés prior to the screening and filled two cinemas in the local complex. Sony Pictures, which distributed the film, stated that with the help of our group booking Metro Cinemas was the top grossing cinema in the country for The Jane Austen Book Club at the end of January.

This entrepreneurial initiative was also an opportunity to thank our highly valued library volunteers who assist with special projects such as home library deliveries. Library volunteers were given a free pass to enjoy the film. As a result the club and movie screening have created an intimate reading community, helped more people engage in reading, be social and connect with their library, cinema, bookshops and community.

An event held in June added another dimension to reading for the Jane Austen Book Club members with more than 80 people attending a talk by President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia, Susannah Fullerton. Her expert presentation covered Austen’s life, works and dramatic readings from her novels as well as opinions on recent Austen television productions. Our own Technical Services Librarian Ros Dorsman produced a CD of music from Jane Austen’s time bestowing the perfect ambience for the afternoon of Austen.

The Jane Austen Book Club opened the doors of our branches across different council areas for regular discussions about reading, literature and all things Jane Austen. The Metro Cinema partnership demonstrated the library’s innovation and creativity and increased media coverage, bringing new borrowers to the library, customers to the cinema and further generating discussion about books, Jane Austen and reading.

Jasmine Vidler
Reading and Writing Coordinator
Central West Writer’s Libraries
Incorporating the Central West Writers’ Centre
Woollahra

Tea Topics talks
Now in its second year, the Tea Topics series of free daytime talks has been doing very well and attracting large audiences. Eight talks on a range of general interest subjects have been scheduled for 2008. The first three Tea Topics for the year were: sustainable living guru Michael Mobbs with advice about how city dwellers can live more sustainably; Kevin Smith, author of Escapes and Incursions, telling the horrendous story of Australian POWs in Borneo in WW2 and antique dealer Anne Schofield on collecting antique jewellery.

Ride the HSC Wave lecture series
Each year Woollahra Library and Information Service participates in Ride the HSC Wave lecture series with the Eastern Suburbs Library Cooperative (Woollahra, Waverley, Randwick and Botany Bay Libraries). The lectures provide assistance and study tips for the upcoming Higher School Certificate examinations for Year 12 students. This year Woollahra Library hosted three lectures.

- **Imaginative Journeys - Paper 1** with Lyndall Hough who writes text books for HSC English;

- **Modern History - The Core Study on World War One: Content and Sources** with Bruce Dennett, a member of the Modern History Syllabus Writing Committee and

- **Emma and Clueless** with Susannah Fullerton, president of the Jane Austen Society.

Janet de Bres
*Woollahra Library and Information Service*

Bookfair
In May the Library held it’s biggest ever bookfair with approximately 2000 visitors attending the two-day event. There were thousands of items on sale including children’s and adult’s books on a huge range of subjects, magazines, DVDs, videos and sound recordings. Storytelling, face painting and a sausage sizzle put on by the Waverley/Woollahra branch of the SES added to the festivities. The bookfair raised over $10,000.

Auburn

Exploring multilingual spaces
Auburn Library hosted a book launch and poetry performance by Auburn Poets and Writers Group during the Sydney Writers Festival. Auburn Poets and Writers Group meets once a month and receives operational support from Auburn Library Service and Auburn Community Development Network. The group contains many new and emerging writers, as well as several published writers who have moved to Australia from other parts of the world.

*Auburn Letters*, Auburn Poets and Writes Group’s first publication was launched recently by Barbara Perry, MP. The anthology contains selected work by members of the group, and explores issues of language and cultural identity.

The launch of the publication was followed by an innovative 45 minute performance by nine members of the group, in which they shared some of the writing from the anthology. Rather than a traditional poetry reading, creative director Alissar Chidiac worked with the writers to develop a more theatrical performance, including a Babel chorus, street hawkers and spruikers and a beautiful call to poetry based on the Islamic call to prayer. The result was a high energy, emotional exploration of the ways in which people who arrive in Australia from other countries live between languages and cultural spaces, and the impact that negotiating more than one culture has on one’s identity and life experiences.
In the Libraries

The performance was repeated at Bangarra Theatre at Walsh Bay as part of the Sydney Writers Festival – a great way to promote the arts and get the local community excited and involved in cultural projects.

Libby Gleeson launch
On Thursday 22nd May Auburn Library was the venue for the launch of a very important new children’s book. Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, Governor of NSW launched the Libby Gleeson’s new book titled Mahtab’s Story. Other distinguished guests included Laurie Ferguson MP, Mayor Le Lam, and a number of councillors.

The audience was made up of children’s authors and people from the publishing industry and those interested in Australian children’s literature, as well as community members, particularly from the local Afghan community.

Libby explained how she felt the need to explore the issues of prejudice and discrimination that many refugees experience, particularly Muslim refugees. During Libby’s research for her book she meets Nahid Karimi a local resident who was attending high school at the time. In her speech, Libby spoke of the warm welcome she had received from the Karimi family and their willingness to share their experiences as refugees. She utilised these experiences when writing Mahtab’s Story, which traces the experiences of a young girl and her family as they flee Afghanistan and find their way to Australia.

Nahid spoke passionately of her experiences as a refugee arriving in Australia in September 2001 just after the 9/11 attacks, her appreciation for the experience of working with Libby on the book and her hopes and aspirations for the future.

It was a very successful, emotional and warm evening with lots of intermingling of guests from various backgrounds.

Pamela Davies
Auburn Library

Celebrating volunteers
Casino branch of the Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library depends greatly on the contribution made by a small band of volunteer shelvers. They come together at the library with one identical goal - serving the community. To celebrate National Volunteer Week in May, the volunteers were invited to a special morning tea held in the library courtyard. The social occasion led to much discussion centred on why volunteers keep coming back. Below is an excerpt from the observations noted by one of our volunteers, Patricia White, on the day.

Over coffee and biscuits the group discussed the role of the volunteer and specifically the reasons that keep volunteers coming week after week, sometimes over many years as in the case of Kay. It was generally felt that the benefits of volunteering are experienced as much by the giver as the receiver. Several of the volunteers expressed the sense of satisfaction they feel in knowing they are giving something to the community and that they have accomplished something. “I love seeing the empty trolleys”, was how Sue put it. Another volunteer contrasted the feeling of being appreciated with doing some other voluntary work where one is taken for granted. “We never walk out of the library without one or more of the staff thanking us”.

Another reason for the pleasure volunteers gain from doing this work is enjoying the calm, restful and ordered atmosphere as well as being made to feel part of the library family. A visit to Casino library is always a pleasure and volunteers know that they are part of what makes for that pleasurable experience.

Volunteers at RUCRL
The morning tea was a chance to get together to celebrate a very positive facet of our library service, and all staff found it very uplifting. What was illustrated is that our volunteers do not require special treatment or lots of time, something as simple as a thank you is enough to have them coming back again and again.

Regional Library Manager, Gary Ellem, took the opportunity to present appreciation certificates to each volunteer, much to the delight of everyone.

Cheryl Walters
Richmond - Upper Clarence Regional Library

Community Open Day
The new Concord Library and Wellbank Children’s Centre had a highly successful opening on Saturday 10 May 2008, with a Community Open Day, part of Council’s Wellness Week program.

Over 3000 people enjoyed the day. Concord Rotary Club provided a sausage sizzle (with a gold coin donation to the Burma cyclone relief fund), and City of Canada Bay Library promotional pens and library bags were distributed to the many visitors.

Stall holders participating in Wellness Week at Concord Library included calligraphers, Concord Heritage Society, University of 3A, speech pathologists, chiropractors for kids, Thai beauticians, reflexologists, and fitness centres including Curves Concord and Let’s Get Fit.

Community events and activities included Plaster Master, face painting by Cheekie the Clown and Bunnings, KindiFarm, and children’s craft activities with library staff. Community workers from NSW Fire Brigade, St Johns Ambulance, and the SES helped make the day safe for visitors.

The Flavelle Function Room featured many vibrant performers and speakers including the Concord West Public School choir, Healthmark Five Dock, Concord West Toastmasters, a homeopath, My Guitar School, Funky Butts, and musicians and dancers from McDonald College.

The major sponsors for the Community Open Day were the Canada Bay Club and Inner West Courier, City of Canada Bay Council also received grant funding from the State Library of NSW to promote the opening of Concord Library.

Claude Broomhead
Concord Library

Cultural award winner
Inverell Shire Public Library staff were thrilled to hear that the Inverell Shire Council had won the Cultural Infrastructure Award for local government areas with populations less than 20,000 at the recent 2008 NSW Local Government Cultural Awards.

Library staff would like to take this moment to acknowledge the ongoing support given by Inverell Council for the provision of quality library services to the community. Staff would also like to acknowledge the excellent assistance provided by the State Library of New South Wales, both financial (through the grants system) and professional. The review of the Library by State Library staff and People places: a guide to public library buildings in New South Wales were of immense value to the redevelopment project. An article about the redevelopment project was included in the previous issue of Public Library News. (April 2008, p 23)

Kate Wanchap
Inverell Shire Library
In the Libraries

Maitland

True stories of remarkable women
Maitland City Library’s Look Who’s Talking visiting author program has proven so successful that a local bookshop and publisher have partnered with the library in organising an additional two events for the busy 2008 program!

The first of these events was True stories of remarkable women, a high tea held at the Readers Café at East Maitland Library on Friday 9 May. This event was held to celebrate Mother’s Day and provided the opportunity to hear three authors tell their true stories of strength, compassion and courage. The capacity crowd enjoying a traditional high tea fell silent as the first inspiring tale began. Jane Mundy spoke about her book Cholas in Bowlers, written after she decided, at age 59, to move to Bolivia, a country she knew little about, with a man she had known for ‘five minutes’! Bolivia has a turbulent political history and an ancient indigenous culture and Jane spoke of her unexpected travels as proof that risk-taking and adventure isn’t determined by one’s age or stage of life.

The next speaker to enthral the audience was Sharyn Munro. Sharyn’s best-selling story, The Woman on the Mountain, details her move to a remote bushland property to work towards a dream of self-sufficiency and civilised conservation. Sharyn’s talk highlighted her pioneering spirit, fierce independence, and the contentment she has found through a challenging lifestyle. Sharyn also spoke of the little changes we can all make to lessen our carbon footprint.

The final speaker was Cheryl Koenig, whose talk was the most emotionally charged of the morning. Cheryl is the author of Paper Cranes, a book based on the daily diary she kept after her son was critically injured. Cheryl spoke not only of the anger and sadness of her family’s experience but also of the joy and blessings they have shared because of a near tragedy.

Despite the differences in their stories, these authors all spoke of taking risks and overcoming challenges through positivity and determination. The audience had many questions for each of the authors and Angus & Robertson - who collaborated in organising the event - sold almost every copy of the three books they had for sale. Angus & Robertson also provided lucky door prizes and book vouchers on the day, which added to the celebratory atmosphere. The morning concluded with book signings and the audience and library staff alike left the event feeling moved and inspired by these remarkable women.

Angie Weston
Maitland City Library

40 years old
On 6 May, and in true party spirit, the staff of Maitland City Library donned their birthday shirts and celebrated the laying of the building’s foundation stone. And like all good parties, the day included cake, presents for everyone, music, balloons and of course, lots of fun.

All customers received a free library bag and a voucher for three free reservations. The local public school, Nillo, attended for birthday craft and stories, while staff
gathered for morning tea with customers. A timeline of photographs and newspaper articles displayed in the library was a very popular attraction and highlighted the changes in staff, as well as the building.

The afternoon included Write Now workshops where university students offered help to primary children with their writing skills and gave the staff a chance to prepare for the evening’s festivities. A string quartet from Hunter Valley Grammar School accompanied much reminiscing, shared memories and plenty of laughter from past and present library staff. A bonus for all was the feeling of ownership and camaraderie - it was a magical evening.

Carol Lawrence and Jane Dyson
Maitland City Library

David Marr
A crowd of over 60 guests was enthralled by David Marr’s tales of his experience as a journalist, biographer, Media Watch presenter, author and participant in this year’s 2020 summit when he visited Maitland on 30 April 2008 as part of the library’s Look Who’s Talking program. This acclaimed public intellectual ranged over a host of topics during his engaging presentation, touching on everything from Australian politics to the joy of travel in Spain!

The address had a local flavour with Marr discussing his long standing friendship with acclaimed Maitland local, Nick Enright. David remarked, He was to become one of my closest friends; biggest nags, most demanding mentors. He taught me so much – and one of those lessons was Maitland, his home town. His little universe. The crowd was tantalised by the revelation that Enright had been writing a play set in Maitland at the end of his life and very disappointed when Marr revealed that as Enright’s literary executor he would never allow its publication. The link with the Hunter continued as Marr detailed the role the area had played in Patrick White’s life and subsequently in his own.

Julia Gollan
Maitland City Library

Getting thoughts in order
What do a retired council General Manager, a recovering drug addict and a woman who has never worked outside the home have in common? All of them have a story to tell, and want to write it. We found this out at Lake Macquarie Library when we offered Next in Line, a series of memoir writing workshops.

The workshops are based on the work of Armiger Jagoe, an American author who discovered there wasn’t much guidance for people wanting to write their memoirs. They cover twelve topics and are designed to help writers get their thoughts and material in order before they start writing. Initially one series was offered, but after being inundated with inquiries, we eventually ran five sessions at three branches. As added inspiration, talks by local authors, Jill Mather, Ross Telfer and Debbie Robson were incorporated into the sessions. As well as being inspired and motivated to write, participants have enjoyed the social interaction. Some have met up with old acquaintances and new friendships and connections have been formed. For many the social side of the program was the highlight, while for others it has motivated them to actually start writing.

Warning: don’t undertake this program if you want your library to remain a quiet, tomb like space!

Lea Bore
Lake Macquarie City Library

Birthday shirts!

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In the Libraries

GREAT LAKES

Back to front
In the past eight months the Great Lakes Library Service has undergone the most profound staff restructuring since it opened its doors nearly 20 years ago. The underlying principle behind this overhaul of the service was to move the focus of staff time away from backroom technical tasks to front-of-house services.

In a challenging budgetary climate the library has been able to create an entirely new Outreach Service. This section comprises the Outreach Services Librarian, Kim Tattam, and Children’s Services Officer, Meredith Campbell. Since its creation Outreach Services has coordinated and held an increasingly impressive range of events and has established some great new services.

Our Information Services Librarian, Sally Webster, has overall responsibility for reference and cataloguing and all staff are expected to be able to handle most information inquiries themselves. Gone is the hierarchical reference structure and gone too, the bulk of backroom cataloguing. The library now outsources much of its cataloguing, which means we can focus on collection management rather than cataloguing rules.

We’ve even been able to create a designated Home Library Service position (welcome Loraine Rawson) – a first for Great Lakes. So it’s back to front for us – and the place has never been more interesting to work in.

Gone trippin’
Since 2003 the staff of the Great Lakes Library Service have, for one day a year and en masse, visited other library services. There are many good reasons why we’ve done this. First up, we get to steal some excellent ideas from other libraries (with permission, of course). Secondly, it’s great for staff interaction across library services and it certainly helps to put a face to a name. And thirdly, it can make us appreciate some of the things we take for granted. And last of all - it’s actually heaps of fun.

2008 presented a bit of a challenge for us because we’d exhausted all the library services that were within a day’s bus trip of the Great Lakes. So, with cautious enthusiasm, we opted to make it an overnight stay and to take in public libraries on the Northern Tablelands. Staff gave up their Sunday and piled into a bus to head to Glen Innes. The Glen Innes staff were wonderfully welcoming and we had a lovely afternoon tea on arrival followed by a tour of their impressive new building. That night we dined with staff (and a lovely crew of people they were) and finished off a great day with a quiet ale or two back at the motel. There were only a few fragile heads the next morning.

Then we were off down the highway for a scrumptious morning tea at Armidale and again the greeting was warm and wonderful. Fingers crossed that they get their new building and a big thanks to the staff for making us feel so welcome and for taking time out to give us a tour of the premises and to share a cuppa.

Last stop was the new Tamworth City Library. We hit the place around lunch time and continuing the generous tradition displayed by the other libraries we were given a darn fine feed as well as a tour of this great new building.

It’s interesting to note that the bus trip is just as important as the libraries we visit – maybe even more so. It’s whilst we’re on the road that great ideas get thrown around – often from completely out of left field. This year was no exception and we’ll be implementing some positive changes back home.

So, the 2008 bus trip turned out to be a raging success and we’re now contemplating an overnight trip in 2009, either to Sydney or up the coast to Coffs Harbour. Beware – Great Lakes Library staff could be coming to a town near you.

Chris Jones
Great Lakes Library

GRANTHF

Launch of new Italian collection
Clients of Griffith City Library are reaping the benefits of a significant new Italian resources collection of over 300 DVDs and 300 books (both fiction and non fiction). The collection stems from the Italian government’s policy to promote Italian culture world-wide, and Italian Consul General for New South Wales, Dr Benedetto Latteri
selected Griffith, with its strong Italian connections, to be the custodian of the valuable new resources.

The collection was originally donated to Griffith’s local organisation of Italian expatriates and their descendants, the Trevisani nel Mondo, and they chose to hand over custody to the Library so that as many people as possible would be able to gain access to the material. The books have been added to the Libraries Australia database, and can be requested through interlibrary loan.

The local community were invited to the official launch of the collection on Italian National Day in June. Since being launched, the response to the extensive collection of DVDs and books has been fantastic, bringing many new clients into the library to make selections for themselves or their relatives.

The photo shows a couple of our very attractive Italian descent library staff selecting new DVDs for their nonnas – the lovely Monica Dissegna and Amanda Martimbianco.

Pam Young
Western Riverina Community Library

Woolly winter warmer

For the past two years our library and libraries in our region have participated in the annual Knit-in promotion in conjunction with ABC radio whereby the public is invited to donate wool or knit squares to be made into rugs for distribution to refugees and the homeless in needy countries. This year we planned to have a joint

Knit-in and morning tea to raise funds for Can Assist.

You can imagine our delight when ABC Radio Riverina offered to do a morning broadcast from the library on Friday 6 June to tie in with our event! What started out as a small event was quickly turning into an extravaganza, as our children’s librarians were also planning a royal wedding play for the Queen’s Birthday storytime. With something for everyone we branded the event our Woolly Winter Warmer.

The day started with a BBQ breakfast from 6 am, and four ABC presenters including Anne Delaney and Simon Wallace, broadcasting from inside the library. Our first knitter arrived at 6.15 am! The fantastic team from Can Assist kept feeding the throng of onlookers and library patrons with bacon and egg rolls, followed
In the Libraries

by an amazing morning tea, and finishing off with a soup and sandwich lunch, raising around $1000 for this worthy charity.

The library was abuzz with guests for the radio program including line dancers, an Italian music group, an olive oil taste challenge, and numerous local personalities being interviewed, all to the click-clack of around 40 knitters going at full speed, knitting squares. This included a group of local Afghani ladies who joined in the fun. Lots of regular library patrons and other interested people filled the library. One farmer jumped off his tractor and drove to town in his dusty jeans just to meet Anne Delaney.

The morning concluded with a fantastic storytime play and craft based on the Sleeping Beauty fairytale. Our ever-resourceful and talented staff donned period costume (and a step-in horse) to act out the play and their performance was accompanied by the music of a piano accordion to add to the mood. Children and parents had a great time laughing and dancing with the story, then all helped to make individual crowns.

The ABC radio presenters said that it was the best outside broadcast they had ever done, and would love to return again next year.

Pam Young
Western Riverina Community Library

I just wanted a book in my language ...

Some time ago we had a client ask if they could have some books in Russian. It took a little while, but with some help from the State Library we now have Russian books. We receive a small collection of Russian items from the State Library about every three months. The collection is currently catering to five families in the Gunnedah Shire, and staff meet with the group regularly.

We have since been approached by other groups and we are applying the same methods to meet their needs as well. Sometimes we even meet in someone’s home as this seems to be more comfortable for everyone. Our Russian and Filipino families like to make our chats very social.

It’s been very interesting developing this collection, promoting and opening other worlds up to people. Many people may be surprised by how many people there are in small communities that speak or read a language other than English and nobody knew. We have a lady who has been buying German books for 20 years and subscribing to a German magazine for 5 years and she is now borrowing from the library. This is just one of many stories.

Slowly I have been tapping into small groups or communities of people within the Gunnedah shire and have discovered the richness of cultural diversity within the shire. The learning curve that I have undertaken myself has been the most satisfying that I have experienced for a very long time.

Sharon Tollard
Gunnedah Shire Librarian

Cooma

During Law Week 2008 we held a special morning tea to launch the fabulous new Find Legal Answers LIAC service. Members of the public came along to see what the fuss was all about and really enjoyed hearing about LIAC, checking out the resources, and admiring the new signage. Morning tea was delicious of course!

To celebrate Health @ Your Library Week in May, yoga classes were held at Cooma Library, presented by local instructor Marcelle Cheetham. These were very basic beginner classes and were enjoyed by

Griffith Library goes live on air
all who attended. The group then enjoyed a healthy morning tea (of course) whilst listening to local naturopath Molly Ashton talk about diet, nutrition and meditation. This was absolutely fascinating! Both Molly and Marcelle generously donated their time, so we presented them with book vouchers to show our gratitude. It was great to finish everything off with a spot of yoga, a lovely deep relax, and a few ommmms!

Sue Bailey
Monaro Regional Library

National Trust Festival at Junee

‘Our place’ was this year’s National Trust Festival theme which acknowledges the essence of Australia and its people. The Junee Library created a pictorial display based on Junee celebrity Dr Ronald Cuttle and his family. Fittingly Dr Cuttle fashioned a ‘place’ in Junee; the private hospital named Cromer which operated between 1932 and 1947.

The opening of the Dr Cuttle display was a happy success brimming with over 60 guests who sat (and stood) to hear stories of the past and enjoy afternoon tea refreshments. Thanks go to the Cuttle family for lending the library personal articles such as Dr Cuttle’s naval uniform and microscope and the photographs and articles that were framed and fashioned into a vibrant presentation. Throughout the two weeks of the National Trust Festival the display continued to draw much local and regional attention.

This is the third consecutive year that the Junee Library has presented a display for the National Trust Festival. It has been a great way to promote the library and the people in our community that we serve.

Kim Richards
Junee Library

Blessings in disguise!

On Saturday 2nd February an insidious disaster crept under the backdoor of Marrickville Library. The Library was flooded as the result of an act of vandalism, soaking hundreds of square metres of carpet. A hose was turned on and left at the emergency exit of the building, and by the time Sunday staff arrived, the disaster was complete and the agonising process of recovery was about to begin. The Library opened briefly that day, and then remained shut for five weeks.

For several days library staff desperately tried to save the carpet, but humidity and heat took their toll. By Wednesday 6th February, the insurance assessors declared the battle lost. Removalists began the process of packing up our library, and for days we sadly watched it disappear into crates and tubs.

How can such a disaster be described as a blessing? Well, the event provided an opportunity for staff to completely reorganise the Library. Hard work and excellent teamwork resulted in the development of plans for a new look library that built on our smaller reorganisation of last year. The ruined carpet was removed, the floor dried, new carpet was laid, and the removalists started to reassemble the library. The relocation of the Library OPACs combined with rearranged lounge furnishings to create a comfortable open space at the entrance of the library that is now well used by our community.

Fiction was fully established in genre areas. Adult non-fiction was relocated and shelving arranged in a way that will allow the development of subject rooms in the future. A Learning Zone was developed with our School Resource Collections and Beginner English Collections, homework help tables, photocopier and database computers in one area. The Children’s Corner was redeveloped with a better arrangement of collections and the addition of a children’s computer. On Thursday 6 March we proudly welcomed our patient and supportive community back to their new-look library.

Such a disaster is certainly not a recommended way to get a new carpet for a library, but as the months have passed we have realised that there were unexpected benefits. The new carpet has freshened the library and we have a great new layout. We received fabulous
In the Libraries

community support at the time (and this has continued), our three branch libraries were discovered by regular Central Library users and there was a really positive impact on staff morale as we grew together as a team.

Jill Webb
Marrickville Library Service

Southern Tablelands Regional Library

Health @ your library
During May all Southern Tablelands Regional Library (STRL) staff participated in the 10,000 Steps Project to encourage better staff health and fitness, to raise awareness of health issues in the community and to promote the library’s excellent health education collection. Library staff all wore pedometers for the whole of May and monitored how far the team walked. A target distance was set – to walk the equivalent distance between all STRL branches (from Goulburn to Yass to Gunning to Crookwell and return to Goulburn). This was approximately 210 kilometres. Library visitors could monitor progress on the library website and on charts set up in each branch. A competition was run in each branch for library members to guess how far their local branch staff would walk in the month.

So how did we go? Over one million steps – 1,403 kilometres!!!

Janet Smith
Southern Tablelands Regional Library

New service point
Marulan’s Brides & Blooms was bursting at the seams when locals gathered for the official opening of a new Library Access Point located in the tiny store. The access point enables people to pick up and return Goulburn library resources at Marulan. A free Internet service is also provided, where people can search the library catalogue and reserve resources for delivery. The computer can also be used for other Internet research.

Goulburn Mulwaree Council General Manager Luke Johnson said he was impressed with the level of enthusiasm for the new service, This is a proactive and cost effective approach to delivering quality community services to our community, Mr Johnson said. The public response to the opening was extremely positive, with Marulan locals already embracing the service.

Brides & Blooms owner Gerry Exner encouraged Marulan locals to take advantage of the facility.

The Marulan library access point will be provided for an initial trial period, with Council to review its operation later this year.

Sylvia Brook
Goulburn Library Manager

Cooperating for book clubs
Upper Murray Regional Library provides books for more than 29 book clubs throughout our region. To make this a lot easier and more cost effective we now administer a service in conjunction with Hume Global Learning Centre and Bayside Library Service (in Victoria). When a set of books has been read out it is lent to one of our cooperating library services and this allows all three library services to expand the range of titles available for the clubs at very little cost. To fund the book clubs we ask for a $20 fee at the beginning of each year. The book clubs are now self funding, and we do not have to purchase as many new titles as would be required without our two cooperating libraries.

At UMRL some of the book clubs are facilitated through branch library staff with meetings held in the library, but for others we provide the books and they are run and facilitated by a member of the community with meetings held in homes or the local café.
At the moment we have 64 sets of books, some of which we have purchased, others that we have sourced from other library services where they have been read out (as mentioned above). Each set consists of 10 books and a set of notes which will include suggested discussion questions if they are available.

At the start of each year we send out a list of titles in circulation for that year and book groups are encouraged to let us know what they would prefer to read. We have found that some book groups read purely for pleasure so only require a lighter read, some read to broaden their reading horizons, and yet others will read for the literary content. In an effort to cater to these diverse reading styles we have a selection of both fiction and non-fiction and we are willing to take suggestions for titles from the groups.

Trying to get a balance in the book selection for all these groups can sometimes be demanding however it is very rewarding when we hear some of the positive feedback the groups offer.

UMRL would be very happy to add other libraries into our cooperative. If you are interested please contact me at UMRL.

Lauren Kelly
Outreach and ILL

Navigator project
In February 2008, Orange City Library was successful in receiving a grant from the Macular Degeneration Foundation to provide portable hand-held Audio-Read Navigators for nominated library clients suffering from this eye disease. The Navigator is a portable device with powerful navigational functions, which reads books, magazines and newspapers out loud. The range of titles that may be downloaded onto the device changes every few months and enables the Library to provide leading edge technology for clients with a print disability. The Navigator units are largely provided through the Home Library service, and are fully charged so that clients generally do not have to worry about this in their own home.

The Foundation has covered the cost of funding the project for the first year and the Orange Credit Union's enthusiastic commitment to community projects will enable this project to be continued in 2009.

Elizabeth Barry
Central West Libraries

Navigator at Liverpool
Necessity is the mother of invention, or so goes the popular saying. And this is exactly what led to the Navigator being developed.

Warren Leslie’s 80 years young mother-in-law, Trudi, was an avid reader and a news junkie. She had led a full and productive life, helping to build the family business after arriving in Australia in the 1950s from Hungary. When Trudi lost her sight due to macular degeneration she asked Warren, a retired engineer, if he could make a device that she could use to read the papers. Warren could not pass up the challenge and, together with Anthony Blackwood, immediately went to work. The result was a low tech, hand-held, portable device which reads books, magazines, and newspapers out loud.

The Navigator, as the invention has been named, looks much like a cordless telephone. Warren and Anthony later set up Audio-Read Pty Ltd (www.audio-read.com.au) to make their product available to everyone. And what better way to obtain optimum use and exposure of this gizmo than through public libraries?

Macular Degeneration (MD) is Australia’s leading cause of blindness. The incidence of MD is increasing as the Australian population ages, resulting in higher levels of
vision impairment among the elderly. The Macular Degeneration Foundation (www.mdfoundation.com.au) initiated the Navigator Library Access Project (NLAP) with the aim of providing Navigators to people with macular degeneration. The Foundation has chosen to work with libraries because the latter already have a home lending service in place. So far 21 public libraries have joined this project. And Liverpool City Library is one of them.

The Friends of Liverpool Library donated the initial funding for Liverpool Library’s ten Navigators aimed at giving vision-impaired residents a new level of reading independence and improved quality of life.

Carmel Martin
Liverpool City Library

Constitution Hill goes green!
Constitution Hill Library has taken a few small steps towards becoming a greener library. All paper receipts are shredded and placed in our recycle bin. We always manually change the date for all reserves instead of reprinting the receipts. We have two internal recycle bins, a recycling box and two external recycling bins in use, and it has taken no time at all to ensure the bins are used whenever possible. We limit advertising display materials, and are reusing A4 paper in our staff photocopier/fax machine whenever possible. We have set up a computer based blog on the main front computer desktop to keep all staff up to date with what’s been happening at the branch, including procedures and general information. But it doesn’t stop there, all light switches now feature signage - turn off when not in use. This includes the public and staff toilets and the tearoom. The public photocopier is also switched to energy saver when not in use.

We are always on the look out for new ideas and solutions to reduce waste and we are interested in hearing about what steps you have taken to do the same.

Ivy O’Sullivan
Constitution Hill Branch Library

Ermington
As a part of the Health Awareness talk program, Ermington library staff organised their first health talk, Secret Men’s Business Below the Belt, a free presentation discussing men’s prostate health issues. The presentation was designed to spread awareness among the male population and thus promote their health and well-being. Volunteer John Goodall, a prostate cancer survivor conducted the talk on behalf of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. Paul Redman, National Support Groups Manager from the Foundation, was also present.

16 people attended this session, and it was great to see so many men in the library interested in this particular topic. They appreciated the library’s initiative in conducting this relevant and very informative talk for them.

Danusia Podniesinski
Ermington Branch

Delivering more than books
I will keep going until everybody finds a job. These stirring words were uttered by one of our wonderful volunteers, and true to her words she kept going until all fourteen job seekers were employed. That’s how Granville Library started its Job Seeker’s Club - an exciting initiative for its community.

Meeting twice a week, participants learned interview, resume and cover letter writing skills, which were then supplemented by workplace English especially for our Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) customers. Our volunteer groomed the attendees with role-play, mock interviews and cold calling techniques, which were filmed. The resulting video gave every participant a chance to improve their performance. Her rigorous training provided more than job seeking skills, as many of the participants were new migrants with limited knowledge of Australian workplace culture. The job seekers found our Basic English collection was extremely helpful (thank you to Pauline Chan, our Multicultural Librarian).

This novel venture started in March 2008 and continued until June when the last participant found employment. News of the success of the job seekers club spread,
with many people from other areas booking for our next program in July.

Gargi Mallik and Lesley Thompson
Granville Branch

Meet the author
To celebrate Law Week 2008 Parramatta City Library, in conjunction with the State Library of New South Wales launched Defend yourself: facing a charge in court by Dr Tim Anderson

Parramatta City Library organised a lunch time presentation with Tim, with guests including the general public and Legal Information Access Centre (LIAC) committee members. Simon Diab, a local lawyer, officiated as MC and was very appreciative of the role Parramatta City Library plays in providing access to legal information in plain English. He was delighted to present and promote this book to the wider community

This book was written for people who have to defend a criminal charge in court. Tim has, himself, been through every stage of the criminal justice process and has represented himself on several occasions. He is a civil rights activist, author of many academic articles and several books, and works as a senior lecturer in political economy at the University of Sydney.

Ana Hawkes
Parramatta City Library

Centrelink talks
During May and June, Guildford Branch Library in conjunction with Centrelink hosted a series of talks discussing aged pensions. These talks were specifically for the Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese-speaking) and Arabic communities. The audience travelled from various parts of Sydney to make these talks extremely successful, attracting over 100 people per session.

Rosemary Kosiak
Guildford Branch

Artarmon turns 50!
Artarmon Library celebrated its 50th anniversary with a highly successful party attended by over sixty people. Guests included the Mayor of Willoughby, Cr Pat Reilly, State Member of Parliament for Willoughby, Ms Gladys Berejiklian and many members of the community.

Kathryn Moore
Dubbo Branch Library

National Sorry Day and Peace Train
Children’s Services Officer, Fiona Dunn attended Dubbo’s Reconciliation Week and National Sorry Day event held in the local park. The library was asked to contribute to the event, and on the day Fiona read Aboriginal stories provided by the local Aboriginal Child Care Centre. Fiona also made use of the Library’s Aboriginal collection and incorporated some big picture book resources such as Mrs Honeys Hat, Owl Babies and The Gingerbread Man into the session. Puppets featured in the storytelling, and created great excitement amongst the children.

On the day the children created a Peace Train - a three-metre long coloured paper and ribbon train with pictures depicting peace and reconciliation, taken from magazines and glued on by the children. The Peace Train is on display in the library and families are encouraged to come in and have a look.

The library’s inclusion in this event provided an opportunity to be involved in a stimulating and creative day, in an atmosphere where children can enjoy a taste of one of the library’s most popular services and discover what else is on offer to families and children. More than 100 people attended this vibrant and uplifting morning in the park.

Kathryn Moore
Dubbo Branch Library
In the Libraries

Willoughby City Council Community Services Director, Marcia Waller, was Master of Ceremonies at the event. Marcia talked about the important role that Artarmon Library has played in the development of professional Library services throughout the Willoughby Local Government Area, as well as council’s plans for a bigger and better Artarmon Branch Library.

A highlight of the festivities was the opening of an exhibition detailing the history of the library. The exhibition was produced by the Local Studies section of Willoughby City Library and Artarmon Progress Association. Mayor Reilly formally opened the exhibition and reminisced about cycling down to Artarmon Library as a child to borrow books.

Artarmon Branch Library had its beginnings in 1944 as a Girls’ and Boys’ Library, later also providing books for loan to adults. It was officially handed over to Willoughby City Council in 1975, two years before Chatswood Central Library opened.

After the Mayor spoke he invited all the children at the event to come forward to help him cut the cake. The children were thrilled to be involved in the proceedings. Suzanne Cavaghan, Artarmon Library Officer, has worked at Artarmon Library for over twenty years and she is much loved by the Artarmon community.

Alison Davidson
Willoughby City Library

Richmond refurbished

A new Central Library for Hawkesbury Library Service was opened just on three years ago in Windsor and the library service is now celebrating the refurbishment of its branch library at Richmond. Local Priority Grant funding of $40,000 from the State Library of NSW was allocated for the project. The project was accomplished by the Richmond Library Refurbishment Team lead by Senior Library Officer Lending Services, Judy Clemson. The library was closed from Monday 21 April to Sunday 4 May inclusive and reopened on Monday 5 May 2008.

The building, located on the corner of West Market and March Streets, Richmond was first constructed as the chambers for Richmond Borough Council in 1939. Amalgamation of the Richmond and Windsor Local Government Areas took place in 1949, and the structure was refurbished as a public library. As a consequence of the amalgamation of Windsor Municipal Council and Colo Shire Council in 1980 the building was again refurbished and extended as a branch library of the newly formed Hawkesbury Shire Council Library Service.

In the current revamp, new signage inside and out was installed and the building was repainted using a fresh colour scheme based on the new logo for the library service. Furniture was designed and custom built and represented a significant proportion of the project cost. Changes to the internal layout of the building include relocating the children’s area to the sunny, lighter side of the building and providing an adjacent outdoor paved courtyard to enhance the capacity for, and variety of, storytime activities. There has been an increased
demand for pre-school storytime and school holiday activities at both the Central Library and at Richmond Branch over the past few years.

The number of public access computers was increased from three to six and the computer facilities were relocated to the area vacated by the children’s section. The increase and replacement of computer facilities necessitated an upgrade of electrical wiring and cabling and a Pharos PC reservation system was installed. This system had already been in place for several years at Windsor, and has proved to be the most effective and efficient way of managing public access to computer technology.

The relocated reference and study area is now adjacent to the public computers. The reference collection has been refined with a more definite client focus, and the foyer of the library also had a make over with a wall mounted display board for visitor information material and the provision of two comfortable armchairs.

To celebrate the new image, five lucky door prizes of book vouchers from a local bookshop were presented during the day. Public reaction to the refurbishment and new layout has been overwhelmingly positive.

The new desk

Cathy McHardy
Hawkesbury Library Service

Wagga Wagga

The National Trust Festival
The theme of the National Trust Festival for this year was Our Place and at Wagga we chose to celebrate the case that brought Wagga to the world’s attention. In the 1870s a Wagga butcher claimed to be the heir to the Tichborne family estate in England. What followed was, until recently, the longest civil trial in British legal history. In typically colourful style local historian John Winterbottom gave us both facts and fancy as we sat beneath the famous Tichborne trial painting in the Historic Council Chambers. The audience were as fascinated as the world had been 140 years ago and still unable to decide whether the claimant was butcher or baronet.

Seniors Week
Seniors Week fell at the same time as the National Trust Festival so the seniors were invited to the Tichborne talk as well as to our annual seniors’ Internet classes. These classes were as popular as ever as more and more seniors go online at home. The Seniors Week classes complement the weekly, informal Internet classes held at the library for all clients who wish to gain confidence on their computers.

Local Government Cultural Awards
Wagga City Library was awarded a Highly Commended at the recent Local Government Cultural Awards for the project 2WG Women’s Club: A haven then and now, which preserved and provided access to a vital part of Wagga’s history. Claire Campbell, Manager Library Services, and Local Studies Librarian, Amy Heap attended the awards dinner at Sydney’s Parliament House and danced with other people from regional councils while the city folk sat and watched!

Amy Heap
Wagga Wagga City Library

Racing yarns
During June, Liverpool Library presented entertainer, author, and media personality, Jim Haynes to a full house in our performance space. Jim is a regular on Radio 2UE George and Paul’s weekend show with his Australiana segment.

Jim is the author of 13 best selling books, including his latest release, The Complete Book of Australian Popular Rhymed Verse, but it was his first performance at a library and he loved it! Jim recited both serious poetry
and prose, from Banjo Patterson to comical verse written by him and others. Some of his created characters came from the imaginary town of Wheelabarrowback.

Audience members said they found themselves in tears of laughter one minute with the character of Dipsy Dan, the lovable drunk, and then of sadness at another point, when Jim performed a moving piece about a war widow. Jim took the audience down memory-lane, sharing warm recollections of unwanted backyard chokos being passed across neighbourhood fences, growing in numbers as they were off-loaded from house to house!

A pleasing aspect was the increased attendance of men attending the event. The majority in the audience were retirees, though there were some younger audience members also. We finished with Jim’s comic song, *Since Cheryl went feral*.

The warm-up for the afternoon was our very own Information Services Coordinator, Margaret Farrington, who took the audience through a horse trivia quiz to test who had the horsiest knowledge.

**Jo Morris**
*Liverpool Library*

**Ryde**

**Knit-in**
Ryde Library Services has discovered that knitting is a very successful way for people to come together to work for a common cause: keeping people warm. During June and July two groups meet once a week to knit or crochet squares and sew those squares together for Wrap with Love as part of the ABC’s promotion of that charity. The Gladesville group meets on Monday nights and the Eastwood group on Wednesday during the day.

We started with the Gladesville group in June last year. After the ABC Knit In they did not want to stop and have continued to meet once a month. This group’s focus is on knitting rugs, beanies and jumpers for charity. We expect the Eastwood group will also want to continue throughout the rest of the year.

With such enthusiasm amongst the public and the staff, West Ryde Library became a venue for World Wide Knit In Public Day (14 June). It could be viewed as simply an excuse to knit all day (does one need an excuse?), but we took the opportunity to produce bibliographies of knitting and crochet resources and provided brochures about all our library services. And yes, we knitted and crochetied!

Our knitting groups are a great illustration of the community aspect of public libraries - people of all ages and backgrounds meeting together to share knowledge and skills – and having fun at the same time!

As some of you may know Wrap with Love hopes that every completed wrap will have a knitted kangaroo square included, to indicate it has come from Australia. We live in a wonderful world when some kangaroo
square knitters are so keen that they create textured backgrounds to indicate the grass and rocks! And we live in an even more wonderful world when some of those keen to learn how to knit a kangaroo square – to proudly proclaim the country of origin of the wrap – are those from an Asian background!

Angela Phippen  
Ryde Library Services

Seniors in focus @ your library Seminar

In April the Home Library Service Working Group held a seminar at the State Library. The seminar was, in part, a promotional tool to highlight the importance and benefits of Home Library Services throughout the state as well as illustrating the need for communication and connection between public libraries, community groups and other organisations that are involved in providing services for seniors. It was hoped that the day’s events would provide information, ideas and contacts enabling all service organisations to work together to ensure that the challenges resulting from increasing numbers of seniors with diverse needs and interests will be addressed effectively by those of us providing services to them.

The groups represented at the Seminar were:

- Council of the Ageing – focusing on the challenges of an ageing population such as social inclusion, single person households, the importance of libraries, and increasing mental health problems.
- Real Options International – highlighting their Stories of Experience Project.
- The Benevolent Society – helping older people to live independently by providing them with community and personal services and connection to their communities.
- Carers NSW – providing support to individuals and their carers and families.
- Alzheimer’s Australia – highlighting the increases in occurrences of dementia and the challenges involved with providing services to that client group.
- U3A – Promoting life long learning by offering courses, talks and participation through a variety of roles such as becoming a student, speaker or helping out in administration.
- Australian Seniors Computer Club – highlighting the advantages of seniors learning at their own pace and providing social interaction.

A panel with members from Sydney South West Area Heath Scheme (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse), Ten Forty Matrix (Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual), and Wyanga Aged Care Facility (Indigenous) discussed ageing issues for specific groups and how public libraries can provide service and support.

In addition we had three Home Library Service highlights throughout the day – Audio Read at Campbelltown Library, Volunteers @ North Sydney and Central West Library (Orange).

110 people attended and from the positive feedback it appears that the seminar not only provided information about what individual organisations offer but also provided participants with an expanded network of contacts.

I loved the diverse, interesting, pertinent topics.

I recently moved into community services.  
Very good information in all three areas of my position being aged, disability and volunteers.

Interestingly a number of presenters approached library staff and commented on the fact that until today they never knew the range of library services available to seniors and some were not even aware of there being Home Library Services. Well now they do! Overall it was a most enjoyable, informative and successful seminar. For more information on the HLS group go to www.mplansw.asn.au/hlsn/

Susan Hoy  
Home Library Service Working Group

Insights program

If you venture to our West Ryde Library the last Thursday evening of each month, you’ll not only learn something interesting, you can enjoy a supper of wine...
and cheese. Proving to be a very popular event each month (yes, you have to book!) with up to 35 people coming to enjoy talks, workshops and films on topics such as local and international history, silver antiques, a beading workshop, 50 years of funeral service (myths, facts & customs), diving on the Titanic and organic wine growing, to name but a few. After the talk there is the opportunity to socialise with the speaker, the audience and library staff with a glass of wine and cheese.

Gabbi Wyllie
Ryde Library Service

From Outer Space to North Ryde
This year Valentine’s Day at North Ryde was all about stars and planets when we had a special talk by Dr Fred Watson, who is Astronomer in Charge at the Anglo-Australian Observatory at Coonabarabran. Fred appears regularly on ABC 702 and is also the author of several books. Over 200 people of all ages enjoyed an evening with Fred who spoke on Space farers of the New Millennium. Fred also played his guitar and sang for us. It was a very informative and enjoyable evening, ending with a delicious supper while Fred chatted and signed books for his appreciative audience.

Carol Sommer
Ryde Library Service

Central Murray Regional Library

Smartest Card @ Your Library
Smartest card at your library month was a fantastic hit! The library launched its new library card by swapping old cards and replacing lost cards free of change for the whole month. As well as this, every borrower during that month had their fines waived and started with a clean slate. The library was festooned with displays aimed at showing borrowers just what their card could access.

The Central Murray Regional Public Library was also swamped with new members due to the success of our media campaign. Many were surprised at what their library gave them free of charge and new members are now becoming regulars. The staff are glad to see that the community are recognising and embracing their smartest card!

Stacey-Lee Dean
Central Murray Regional Public Library

Woodlands on show
The Deniliquin branch of Central Murray Regional Public Library held its Woodlands exhibition opening night with outstanding feedback. Guest speaker Damien Michael from the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society gave a brief yet informative talk about the exhibition of 46 stunning images taken across the wheat-sheep belt of eastern Australia by photographer Ester Beaton. The opening night was attended by close to 50 invited guests who enjoyed the photographs while having munchies and drinking champagne before heading home with posters, literature and DVDs.

The exhibition provides a unique opportunity for children and community members to learn about their natural heritage.

Peter Papandriopoulos
Deniliquin Library

Randwick

The place where things found a name
On Saturday 14 June, Coogee author, Joanne Fedler launched her latest book, Things Without a Name, at Bowen Library in Maroubra.

Over 160 friends, literary enthusiasts and library patrons joined Shelly Horton, reporter and media star, as Jo shared her new book, which unashamedly brings the
horrors of domestic abuse to life. The launch was an immense success with Dymocks Maroubra selling almost 100 books on the night, rocketing it to their best seller list. As an advocate for women’s rights and former legal counsellor for raped and battered women, Jo’s experience in this field is extensive - which is probably why she has been able to bring so much realism to so many of the characters in her book.

The Mayor of Randwick, Cr Bruce Notley-Smith said, Randwick Council is always a great supporter of local talent, and Jo’s book is on an issue of such importance that we are particularly pleased to support her efforts to raise awareness about domestic violence. It is bold, confronting and written with deep passion.

Domestic abuse and violence is often an issue that people shy away from talking about. It’s a staggering and horrifying statistic that killings between partners and or spouses accounted for 60 per cent of all family homicides in Australia, with women accounting for 75 per cent of the victims, and men generally being the killers. Whether it ends in death, domestic violence and abuse, unfortunately, is not an uncommon occurrence.

Seniors step
Seniors Week was celebrated at Randwick City Libraries with the oversubscribed and much talked about Step Into Fitness program. Over 120 seniors attended the week-long program, incorporating exercise classes based on tai chi, yoga and Pilates principles. Computer classes were also offered, as an extension of the Library’s ongoing computer instruction for seniors.

Seniors are well catered for at the Library with the continually expanding Next Chapter program. Weekly discussion groups on topics ranging from sport to writing, gardening to entertainment are held. Silver Surfers Computer Classes are also offered three to four times a month. These popular classes are booked up months in advance with demand often outstripping availability.

In recognition of the successful programs that are offered to seniors, the Library received the Department of Ageing’s NSW Seniors Week Awards 2008.

Tumbarumba
Amanda, has moved to a full time position at Council as the Multi Service Outlet Manage and Wendy, our trusty casual, has stepped in to cover Amanda’s hours.

We recently received some new equipment in the library, thanks to a grant. We purchased new audio shelving for all the DVDs, videos, and talking books, which freed up shelf space for more Young Adult and Large Print books, which are in great demand at the present time. We also purchased two new timber magazine shelves with pigeon holes so we could tidy up the magazines area. To draw the kids in, we purchased an X-box, and a DVD player, video and TV in its own movable unit, which has turned out to be a success already. And with my new camera I can take pictures of
In the Libraries

all the exciting events in the library for the paper, newsletters and displays!

We currently have three book groups running which are full to capacity and are looking at starting a third group.

Petrina Smith
Tumbarumba Library

These boots are made for walking
That’s what the patrons of Cowra Library have been singing to staff members Caroline Eisenhauer and Marion Mitchell-Read who are putting their footsteps to good use. Caroline and Marion are counting their footsteps and asking patrons to sponsor them in raising funds for Cowra Rotary Club’s Shelterbox project.

It all began earlier in the year when I decided to get fit and started using a pedometer to count my steps. When I read the article in the Cowra paper about the Shelterbox project I knew it would be an appropriate way to keep fit and raise money at the same time. [Marion]

Shelterbox - designed for use in disaster areas - usually consists of thermal blankets, a tent, tools and other survival equipment, light and heat and cooking aids. Rotary is currently trying to send more to Myanmar (Burma) since Cyclone Nargis destroyed large portions of the country.

At the moment, Caroline is averaging 8,000 steps a day and on busy ones, 12,000 is not out of the question. Marion is not far behind her, averaging 5,000 at work, despite different working hours. $1,200 dollars to buy a Shelterbox that can be sent to anywhere in the world there is a natural disaster.

Carol has devised a step trail so that patrons can see how many steps have been walked per week while Marion, who is a member of Oxfam, has added information to the trail about distances some people have to travel to collect wood, collect water and to find food or medical assistance, particularly after a natural disaster where all infrastructure has been destroyed.

There’s also a display that shows what a Shelterbox looks like as well as posters, books on natural disasters and the United Nations.

Caroline Eisenhauer and Marion Mitchell-Read
Cowra Library

All about waste and art
April and May at Parkes Shire Library were all about waste and art! To kick it all off, the Parkes Shire’s local SIMS Metal Waste to Art exhibition and competition was held. This year saw a growth in the numbers of children and community groups entering. A highlight of
the exhibition was the win by first timers, the 3rd Parkes Cubs and Joey Scouts with A Pocket Full of Dinosaurs.

Then in May Parkes Library hosted the Regional SIMS Metal 2007-2008 Exhibition. This exhibition, comprising 127 works, showcased artworks from local competitions across NetWaste’s 19 member councils including the Blue Mountains, Central Darling, Dubbo, Orange, Parkes and Warren.

As a special treat on the opening night, students from the Blue Mountains, Lithgow and Katoomba area performed a short choreographed dance and fashion parade titled Tipp Wear. This drew people’s attention to the amount of goods Australians consider useless and throw away. To reinforce this message, the students also presented a special fashion parade showcasing wonderful designs, which have all been made from waste and recycled clothes sourced from the Recovery Shop at the Blue Mountains Waste Centre. Created solely from re-used and recycled waste, these incredible art works amazed spectators and drew awareness to the different ways Australians can reuse their waste!

Shellie Buckle
Parkes Library

This was a highlight of The Author Talks series which has offered patrons a literary feast this year with talks by other celebrated authors such as Paul Ham, Vietnam, The Australian War; Nigel Marsh, Observations of a Very Short Man; Joey and Richard Marcis, Please Mum Don’t Supersize Me and Trisha Bernard, With the Kama Sutra Under my Arm.

Michelle Kline
Randwick City Library Service

Waverley

Fred Hollows
Waverley Library was proud to host the Fred Hollows Commemorative Exhibition developed by the Hollows Foundation to celebrate the life of Professor Fred Hollows and the work of the Foundation. The exhibition was viewed by thousands of visitors to the Library during two weeks.

It is 15 years since the passing of Fred (1929-1993), known and admired for his tireless contribution to indigenous Australians and eye health. This exhibition, which will be travelling throughout the library network, comprises panels which contain information and images relating to Fred’s career, particularly highlighting work that he pioneered and which still continues today. It highlights the importance of the Foundation and its ongoing success and raises awareness of the deficiencies of services throughout developing communities.

The Mayor of Waverley, Councillor Ingrid Strewe, launched the exhibition. Also in attendance were the Hollows family represented by Gaby and Emma Hollows, Hollows Foundation members, and other community representatives

Waverley on the big screen
The National Trust Festival in March was an opportunity to take the Trust’s designated theme, Our place, and use it to tell stories of films, filmmaking and the local
In the Libraries

cinema in the Waverley area. An exhibition, Celluloid Dreams: Waverley on the big screen, celebrated the special place of the cinema in our local area. Fitting into the theme of Our Place, promotion for the exhibition noted that the cinema was everyone’s place - when the lights went down and jaffas rolled in the aisles, everyone was equal!

The exhibition in the Library foyer was comprehensive, covering almost 100 years of filmmaking and cinema history in the local area, and included showcases of original material from the Local Studies collection i.e. cinema tickets and advertisements, Council files about the sale and re-development of cinema sites and original photographs. The exhibition ran for two weeks and attracted a great deal of public comment.

Liaison with the Adult Lending section of the Library saw a book display from the Library’s collection of titles on Australia cinema and filmmaking and Australian actors. A corresponding increase in the borrowing of these books was noted.

Waverley Library has a modern 80-seat theatrette, and the two public screenings of local films and documentaries over the first weekend of the National Trust Festival attracted a huge crowd. It was standing room only on the first night as 88 people packed in to see locally made films and documentaries. Popcorn and jaffas created an atmosphere of the cinema in earlier decades. Each of the film events had a theme, Friday night at the flicks and Back to Bondi. One screening was held on a Friday night, the other on a Sunday afternoon to meet the needs of different library clients. Feedback was extremely positive with lots of requests for further film evenings and afternoons.

As Local Studies audiovisual material cannot be borrowed, the film festival provided an opportunity to showcase items from the collection which are rarely (if ever) seen. Following the exhibition, a significant number of original newspaper clippings, circa 1930s, were donated to the Library from one of the library’s patrons. These showed the involvement of locals as ‘extras’ in local filmmaking studio, Cinesound Productions.

Kimberly O’Sullivan Steward
Waverley Library.

Port Stephens

Bush poets

On Friday the 6th June Tomaree Library and Community Centre (TLACC) hosted Burst of Verse, a two-hour event featuring bush poets, Graeme Johnson, the Rhymer from Ryde, and Bob Skelton, the Hunter’s most vocal bush orator. This event was part of the annual Blue Water Country Port Stephens Festival.

The festival was held in more than 30 venues and featured 200 artists and 150 shows. It was promoted to the community for many weeks leading up to the date via the official festival program, large banners in the streets, and the local newspaper. Our own additional promotion for Burst of Verse targeted TLACC customers, including library users, tenants and community groups. These included U3A, Fellowship of Australian Writers, Probus, Tomaree Neighbourhood Centre, Port Stephens FM Radio, the Tai Chi club, Port Stephens Historical Society, Tomaree Family History Group and the Diabetes Education Centre to name a few.

The $12 ticket price included two hours of bush poetry and a Devonshire tea. The outlay of $600 to host the event caused significant angst as the day approached and the rain tumbled down incessantly. Ticket sales were slow despite posters, flyers, radio interviews and an impressive country music display in the library. On the morning of the event, only 20 tickets had been sold. The larger of two auditoriums in the Centre was set up beautifully with morning tea comprising tea, coffee and fresh scones with jam and cream and Port Stephens Library banners.

The Bush poets
Despite heavy rain, 50 people attended and many positive comments were received from both the poets and the audience. People appreciated having an alternative venue to pubs and clubs to choose from during the festival and enjoyed the morning tea and the casual nature of the event. The poets both commented that they enjoyed being so close to the audience, making it easier to involve them, and the intimate venue. This auditorium seats 110 people comfortably in concert style so with tables and chairs, 50 was a good number.

Tomaree Library and Community Centre is an inviting place where many different community groups and individuals access and participate in a very wide variety of activities and services in addition the library. Burst of Verse was a successful first time event that we hope to hold again next year.

Mitzi Dewhurst & Sue Leverington
Tomaree Library & Community Centre

Seniors Week 2008
Port Stephens Library was fortunate to receive $500 from the NSW Seniors Week Grants Program, provided through the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care, to assist in organising events for seniors in our local community.

The 2008 theme Live Life was celebrated in two events held on 9 April 2008 – a Learn to Paint on Canvas workshop held at the Raymond Terrace branch and an Afternoon Tea Dance held at the Tomaree Library and Community Centre.

Local Karuah artist Kel Connell ran a hands-on landscape painting class for 10 seniors. Each participant learnt new painting techniques and had produced a very impressive work of art by the end of the session. Feedback from the group was very positive with many remarking on Kel’s clear instruction and how this had helped to develop their confidence throughout the workshop.

The afternoon tea dance attracted 43 seniors who dressed up for the occasion and danced the afternoon away to the sounds of Newcastle band Breakaway. Between sets the seniors enjoyed delicious cakes donated by Michel’s Patisserie Salamander Bay and cucumber sandwiches made by library staff. Many positive comments were received after the event; with the most popular being When will you be holding another dance?

Both events were a fantastic opportunity to celebrate seniors in our community, provide enjoyable opportunities for getting together and demonstrate that seniors can be healthy, active and continue to learn.

Kris Abbott
Port Stephens Library

Seniors at Grenfell
An enthusiastic crowd of around 80 senior members of the community gathered for the Library’s traditional Seniors’ Week Morning Tea. The Friends of Grenfell Library served a sumptuous morning tea and the

Happy seniors’ week!
In the Libraries

entertainment was provided by instrumentalists from the local high school and a performance poet who delighted the audience with his ability to respond to requests from the floor.

Two 95 year olds won the awards for the Oldest Gentleman and Lady present, while the winner of the Greatest Number of Great Grandchildren Award boasts seventeen! Several people even confessed they rather enjoyed my traditional bad jokes…

Everyone declared the morning a great success. The Seniors’ Morning Tea remains a highlight of the year in marketing terms, creating great goodwill for the library, and not too much effort. A couple of tips if planning a similar event – include children in the entertainment program; extend personal invitations to your local day care centres, and pensioners’ and seniors’ groups; and pamper them with cream cakes and fancy rich slices – tea and arrowroots just doesn’t cut it.

Anne Gault
Grenfell Library

Richmond Tweed Regional Library

Law Week
During Law Week 2008, Ballina Library hosted a law talk with a solicitor from Legal Aid Office talking about Power of Attorney, guardianship, and planning for your future. After one and a half hours listening to the presentation, and questions, it was clear that the audience had appreciated the opportunity to gain some free legal advice.

A second session was held on 16th May, with another solicitor giving her time freely to talk to the audience. Fifteen people attended, and this talk was primarily on making a will. It was suggested that the simple thing to do would be to spend ALL your money in retirement. Failing a big spending spree, it was reinforced that everyone should make a will, and keep it simple and unambiguous. People often fail to update their wills to include all children, grandchildren, and others who may have been special to the newly departed. Failure to do this can mean that the distribution of an estate may not always be in keeping with the person’s intentions.

Legal Aid is happy to speak at public libraries, so just give them a call.

Kerrie Fairlie
Ballina Area Librarian

Tweed Talks
On the first Tuesday of the month the Tweed branch of the Richmond Tweed Regional library hosts Tweed Talks, an informal community event aimed at ‘young’ retirees. This is a series of talks and discussions on a range of subjects. Visitors have the opportunity to meet other participants for coffee and cake, listen to informative talks and demonstrations and to participate in group activities for FREE. Subjects have been many and varied, including coping with maturity blues, reverse mortgage advice, finance, bawdy ballads and retaining happiness, while future sessions include podiatry and family history. Presenters are sourced from community agencies and clubs who are more than happy to share their knowledge and interests.

As an adjunct to Tweed Talks, the Tweed libraries participated in the annual Tweed Shire Seniors Expo held in May. The library stall was well visited by the more than 2,000 seniors who flocked to the Expo from the Shire and beyond. Interactive workshops, talks and over 100 stalls kept everyone entertained while allowing service providers, including the Library, to interact and share information. From the Seniors Expo staff were able to source a number of possible Tweed Talks presenters for the future while also getting plenty of

The library stall
feedback about the libraries from existing and potential members.

Jo Carmody
Tweed Area Librarian

Lismore librarian wins
Lucy Kingsley, Librarian for the Lismore Area of Richmond Tweed Regional Library, has been awarded the prestigious Jean Arnot Memorial Fellowship for an essay on Lismore’s Living Library, entitled Don’t judge a book by its cover – The Living Library, connecting communities through conversation. The Fellowship is awarded annually to a female librarian for an outstanding and original piece of work, selected by a panel from the State Library of NSW. The Assistant State Librarian, Elizabeth Ellis described Lucy’s essay as “excellent and engaging” and she was presented with the $1,000 Fellowship award at the Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon at Parliament House, Sydney on 9 May, hosted by Hon. Verity Firth, MP, NSW Minister for Women.

This Fellowship is named in honour of the late Jean Arnot, a head cataloguer at the State Library of NSW who retired in 1968 after 47 years of distinguished service. Miss Arnot was active in women’s organisations and a pioneer in the campaign for equal pay.

Lismore’s Living Library was established following a similar concept that originated in Denmark and the program aims to break down prejudice and barriers through personal contact. The Living Library allows members of the community to ‘borrow a book’ (another member of the community with an interesting life story they would like to share), for a half-hour conversation on the first Friday of the month.

Lucy Kingsley
Lismore Area Librarian

Go digital
As a result of many patron queries of where are the books on digital cameras? Toukley Library decided to host a how to workshop. The workshop was facilitated by Bob Thomson, a local photographer, who provided his time and equipment free of charge. The one-hour workshop (that ended up running for nearly 3 hours) covered information such as how to print photos, what sort of manual settings are available on a digital camera and the most important, how to take a digital photograph.

A second workshop has already been held and no advertising was needed – it was filled by the people who had missed out on the first one! Further workshops are planned for the future.

Autism
Paul Kelly from the Autism Spectrum presented a seminar on Autism at Tuggerah Library in April. This seminar was extremely well attended. Paul outlined the latest research trends and discussed what education resources are available. Many of the patrons stayed
In the Libraries

in the library after the talk, sharing their experiences with each other and looking at the wide range of items the library has on Autism. Coincidently the seminar was held at the same time the Australian movie Black Balloon was being released. When Icon Films, the movie distributor, was informed of the seminar they very kindly donated free passes to the movie to all those who attended. This proved to be a very popular subject and a great deal of positive feedback was received from the attendees.

Grief Girl

Erin Vincent was fourteen when she lost both of her parents in a car accident. As a result, Erin, her three year old brother and eighteen year old sister were left to fend for themselves. Grief Girl was written to describe the emotional events that happened after that terrible event. At the time of the accident Erin discovered that there were no books available that dealt with loss from a teenager’s perspective. One of the reasons she wrote the book was in hope that it may be able to assist someone in a similar situation. Erin came to Tuggerah Library to discuss her story and to chat to patrons about growing up and grieving. Erin’s descriptions of the trials and tribulations of the writing and publishing process were also very interesting. Listening to Erin was a fascinating experience- moving, humorous and in the end, uplifting as Erin discussed how she has been able to deal with such a terrible event but come out the other end happy and able to move on with her life.

Biggest morning tea

Wyong Shire Library Service raised over $480 for the Cancer Council as a result of hosting the Biggest Morning Tea at several of its branches. Lake Haven Library held a raffle and there were three wonderful prizes including a $50 voucher donated from Woolworths at Lake Haven. Staff and members of the public donated nibbles which proved very popular. In addition, a jellybean in a jar guessing competition was run during the week. Mr Garry Prince from the Candles Cancer Support Group gave a short talk and stayed for a chat with interested members of the public. The Entrance Library held their morning tea at the beginning of the week when there was no competition and as such they were able to raise a substantial amount of money for the Cancer Council.

Royal Flying Doctor Service turns 80

To celebrate the 80th birthday of the RFDS, Tuggerah Library invited Shelia Metcalfe to speak about this wonderful service. The talk was extremely interesting and Shelia was able to regale the audience with a wide range of facts and wonderful stories about the Service. Everyone had a good time and stood around after the talk reminiscing about their own RFDS experiences over tea and ANZAC biscuits.

Michelle Goldsmith
Wyong Shire Library Service

International winners!

The IFLA Section on Management and Marketing in collaboration with Emerald is pleased to announce the winners of the 6th IFLA International Marketing Award for 2008.

First place was awarded to Ros Dorsman of Central West Libraries. The library developed an online classroom partnership with Tutoring Australasia to provide online homework help for school students. The slogan for the winning campaign was Have you done your homework?

Ros will receive airfare, lodging, and registration for the 2008 IFLA General Conference and Council to be held this year in Quebec City, Canada, and a cash award of $1,000 (U.S.) to further the marketing efforts of the library.

Congratulations Ros and Central West!

Parramatta reunion

This year on 29 November Parramatta City Library will celebrate fifty years of service. The library has grown extensively since its beginning - at one point serving three large Council areas, Parramatta, Baulkham Hills and Holroyd - the largest population unit in the State. We are planning a reunion, later this year, organised by ex- staff. If you worked at Parramatta City Library at any time over the past 50 years and we have not been in touch, please contact:

Winsome Collingridge
Email: wmcollingridge@bigpond.com
Phone: 9477 1942
River charts
Recently the Narrandera Parkside Cottage Museum received a grant to have preservation work done on their historic River Charts. The charts which came from the paddle steamer *Wagga Wagga* are made from cloth and stored on a wooden roll. The charts plot the course of the river with descriptions of hazards, landings and places to stop for wood. The outside edges of the roll show the holes that were used to wind the fabric chart on as the river was being navigated.

The chart was brought to the Library by representatives of the Parkside Cottage Museum and laid out in our Multi Purpose Room so that Library staff could photograph a length of the chart to allow assessment by the conservator. The photo shows a landing, shallows, timber and snags.

Library lamb
Not every Library has visits from such delightful clients. One of our farmer members recently brought this potential new library user along for her first visit to the Library. Dilly is a Dorper/Damara/Merino cross and was wearing her best new blue coat when she visited. While ultimately Dilly decided that she didn’t need her own card and would just use her step mum’s, she proved very popular with our Thursday afternoon clientele.

Sue Killham
Narrandera Library
Computer classes
A five-week basic skills *Computer Classes in Other Languages* Program in Mandarin, Cantonese, Arabic and Spanish was conducted at Parramatta City Library and five branch libraries at Ermington, Guildford, Granville, Dundas and Constitution Hill. The classes were very popular and confirmed our belief that there is a demand for computer courses to people in our community from CALD backgrounds.

We have long recognised that the refugee community in Parramatta’s Local Government Area has special needs. To this end we have organised computer classes for people from refugee backgrounds. As these classes have been well attended the library will continue to provide this service every Saturday morning for two hours. The program will help people from refugee backgrounds become more employable and also assist them socially by providing a support network.

Katherine Mitchell
Parramatta City Library

English Classes for Chinese borrowers
Earlier this year two of our West Ryde staff ran a pilot course to help our Chinese speaking borrowers use the library more effectively. The classes were conducted in English and Chinese and covered such topics as policies, collections, library services and simple things like how to ask a question. The course was very successful, helping the trainees to understand the English language and culture better so that they were able to interact and communicate with the other library staff with more confidence. It also helped to avoid simple misunderstandings due to lack of English language. Jinru Zhu and Lyn Girvan learned a lot from conducting the course and plan to modify it for future sessions. These sessions were in Mandarin and we have already been asked when the Cantonese sessions will be.

Carol Sommer
Ryde Library Service

Mylanguage
The MyLanguage web site <www.mylanguage.gov.au> was launched in November 2007 by Regina Sutton, NSW State Librarian and Chief Executive. The State Library produced the design and coordinated the distribution of bookmarks and banners to the State and Territory Libraries of Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

Across Australia 70,000 bookmarks were distributed. In NSW, the State Library distributed 10,000 MyLanguage bookmarks to public libraries and community organisations.

In June, on behalf of the participating State and Territories libraries, we commenced the recruitment of video talent using the banner *So you want to be a film star - Now recruiting!* This promotion involves the production of a short and friendly video clip encouraging use of the website, in all of the languages covered by Mylanguage. The video clips will be uploaded to the Youtube video sharing web site. The filming has been done in partnership with the University of Western Sydney.

The videos were filmed at the State Library between July and August 2008.

I must say this project has been a strong learning experience (and a desirable skill for trivia nights!)

Oriana Acevedo
State Library of New South Wales

In 2007/08 the State Library of NSW:
- Added 3836 new books in 23 languages, including English as a Second Language, to our multicultural collection. This included 100 audio books in Polish and Greek.
• Provided 109,176 loans to public libraries between May 2007 and May 2008 across rural and metropolitan NSW to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities.

• Removed 3,087 items from the collection in order to ensure it remains an up to date relevant collection.

The current size of the Multicultural collection is 69,929 items, and the Top 10 languages borrowed were:
1. French
2. Spanish
3. Italian
4. German
5. Russian
6. Chinese
7. Greek
8. Japanese
9. Croatian
10. Polish

Oriana Acevedo

Multilingual Glossary
The glossary is a professionally translated, and culturally appropriate, signage tool for library staff. (<www2.sl.nsw.gov.au/multicultural/glossary/>)

The Project was managed by Fairfield City Library and a committee of multicultural librarians. Over a period of two years the Working Group of Multicultural Services trialled different approaches to cooperative translations and developed a glossary of library terms. While some libraries have staff who possess language skills, they are generally not qualified interpreters or translators or necessarily representative of the major language groups in that community or available at all times.

The Working Group identified the need to develop a tool that would be easy to access from any library and would not be restricted by available technology or a lack of staff with language skills. Web-accessible alternatives, such as translation software, were also researched by the Working Group but found to be unreliable – providing grammatically inaccurate or culturally inappropriate translations. The glossary searches on specific library service-related English phrases, retrieving a non-English equivalent in one of the following languages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>Hebrew</th>
<th>Romanian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armenian</td>
<td>Hindi</td>
<td>Russian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assyrian</td>
<td>Hungarian</td>
<td>Serbian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnian</td>
<td>Indonesian</td>
<td>Singhalese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bengali</td>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>Slovak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgarian</td>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>Slovenian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>Kannada</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatian</td>
<td>Khmer</td>
<td>Swedish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech</td>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>Tagalog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish</td>
<td>Kurdish</td>
<td>Tamil,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch</td>
<td>Laotian</td>
<td>Thai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Macedonian</td>
<td>Turkish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finnish</td>
<td>Maltese</td>
<td>Ukrainian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>Persian</td>
<td>Urdu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>Polish</td>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gujarati</td>
<td>Punjabi</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

It is a cost-effective means of providing information in multiple languages and will assist public libraries to respond promptly to the changing profiles of the community.

The Glossary database is hosted by the State Library of NSW and is available to global users via the Internet. It is an innovative contribution to international library-based multicultural services.

The photo shows Fairfield Branch Library’s display for 2008 International Year of Languages, showing welcome signs in 33 languages. All the signs were produced using the Multilingual Glossary, by staff member Nga Vu.

Noel Willis,
Fairfield City Library
The Multicultural Purchasing Cooperative
The Multicultural Purchasing Cooperative coordinated the purchase of over $385,000 worth of material in 23 languages for 27 public libraries including the State Library of NSW during 2007-08. The purchase comprised 43,929 items covering printed and audio books, children’s material, adult fiction, non-fiction and English as a Second Language (ESL) material. Library staff have the opportunity to come and select materials at regular meetings held with book suppliers.

Many public libraries purchase and catalogue cooperatively. This approach has great economic advantages for the participants. See the comparative sample table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Cost per record</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Cost per record</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>$2.55</td>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>$19.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>$1.85</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>$12.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>$3.41</td>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>$12.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>$3.60</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>$14.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This substantial savings is a great result for the participating libraries - as well as their customers because the books are available on the shelf in a shorter period of time than usual. On request the Cooperative also coordinates shelf-ready processing.

Shauna Miller
State Library of NSW

Professional development
In May two sessions of Enhancing Intercultural Communication and collaboration were attended by 40 staff members form public libraries. The course was run by Joost Thiessen from Cultureresourcecentre.

Joost’s approach to cross cultural professional development is focused on the premise that cultural diversity means accepting, valuing and sharing the benefits of the uniqueness and similarities of individuals. Cultural diversity initiatives require the commitment of the whole organisation, starting with executives and managers, who then serve as role models for the rest of the organisation.

Attendees comments included:
A thoroughly enjoyable interesting and enlightening session. Thank you!
I would recommend this course to everyone even if you don’t deal with people from other cultures.

Oriana Acevedo
State Library of New South Wales

STOP PRESS!
The State Library’s expression of interest in organising the IFLA Multicultural Satellite Meeting in 2010 has been successful.

In the Year 2010 the IFLA Satellite Meeting, Services to Multicultural Populations, will be held at the State Library of NSW on Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 August. The IFLA Conference in Brisbane will be held from Sunday 15th to Thursday 19th August. The Working Group on Multicultural Library Services (WGMLS) will be very busy from now til 2010!

The more immediate task for the Group however, is the preparation for the annual seminar to be held on the 21st of October at the State Library. To mark the 2008 UN Year of Languages, the WGMLS has chosen as the topic for this seminar: Language and Cultural Identity. The purpose of the seminar is to highlight the role of public libraries in providing ESL, community language resources and language learning resources and programs. Some key points include the role of libraries in maintaining and promoting language learning; language maintenance as crucial for cultural diversity; inspiring curiosity about other cultures through learning languages; and promoting diversity and nurturing
tolerance through better understanding of diverse cultures.

The Seminar will be of interest to library and information professionals who wish to share their practical experience in providing language learning materials, collections in community languages and programs to promote and preserve language and cultural diversity. It will also be useful to all other professionals, government agencies and community organisations involved in providing services to culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

The key presentation, Living with the language ghost: performing identity in a multicultural space will be given by Professor Gerry Turcotte, Executive Dean of The College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Notre Dame, Sydney. The paper “will examine the complex space that many Australians live in, and the role of language in the way we negotiate our sense of belonging and identity”. A number of other topics, including several successful projects from country NSW libraries, will be presented at the Seminar as well as a Panel discussion on relevant issues such as:

- General principles and standards for community languages collections and CALD services
- Models for sharing CALD resources best practices
- Providing services for ageing communities dealing with the lack of audio resources, partnerships etc.
- Community consultation – models, obstacles and benefits.
- ESL materials – organising and promoting resources for learning English.

The Multicultural Excellence Awards for 2008 will also be presented at this Seminar. The Multicultural Excellence Awards are awarded annually by the Working Group to a public library service and an individual practitioner for demonstrated excellence in the delivery of multicultural library services. Nomination forms for the current, 2008 competition, including detailed information on eligibility, award categories, submission procedure and prizes are available at: <www.mplansw.asn.au/projects/multicul/docs/08/2719 multi awards.pdf> Entries close on 19th September.

We would also like to remind you that for all your needs for signage in languages other than English, you can use the Multicultural Glossary Database launched in November 2007, at last year’s Seminar and available online at <www2.sl.nsw.gov.au/multicultural/glossary>

From Pauline Chan, of Parramatta City Library, comes another useful project: New library brochures, published in 14 languages and available online <www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/culture__and__leisure/library> Pauline is also looking to organise bilingual storytelling workshops, with training for volunteers in storytelling in community languages. All enquiries and expressions of interest should be directed to Pauline by email: pchan@parracity.nsw.gov.au

Mirjana Djukic
Ku ring gai Library

Refugee Week
Refugee Week 2008 was celebrated at Tamworth City Library with special storytime sessions at the City Library and newly refurbished South Tamworth branch. Library staff were thrilled when a pre-event publicity photo and article of Sudanese refugee, Diktar Malok, appeared on the front page of the Northern Daily Leader. Diktor and his friend, Justin, also from Sudan, read stories to children at Tamworth City and South Tamworth with about 35 in attendance at each session. Both NBN and Prime Television presented news segments over two nights.

Refugee Week activities were initiated by Sue Budden, Field Liaison Officer from the Transcultural Rural and Remote Outreach Project, who is keen to see local CALD service providers working together. The idea of a storytime with guest refugee storytellers was suggested as well as a display featuring services for local refugees and migrants. The library was represented in the display with fantastic banners promoting multicultural library services courtesy of the State Library who were extremely prompt and enthusiastic in providing us with display material.
Both the display and storyline sessions were very well received. We are hoping that this is just the beginning of our partnership with Sue and other CALD service providers such as Northern Settlement Services Limited. The tremendous publicity we received was not only great for the library service but hopefully went some way to increasing awareness of the needs and experiences of refugees and promoting understanding and acceptance.

Megan Pitt & Wendy Millar
Central Northern Regional Library

Stories which needed to be told
When Ivan Visontay was 14 he and his mother were forcefully herded onto a cattle truck. Four days later they arrived at Auschwitz. Ivan was separated from his mother on arrival - the last time he saw her alive. Two days later he was taken to work at the Crematoria where he was confronted with her dead body on a heap of murdered corpses.

Halina Robinson, author of The Cork on the Waves and Polish Holocaust survivor, Toan Do, vice President of the Vietnamese Senior Association, Marrickville and passionate supporter of Vietnamese refugees and Gul Rafiqi, a refugee who experienced great hardship during her escape from Afghanistan, also had stories to tell. They spoke at Bowen Library, Maroubra about their experiences living in and escaping from oppressive regimes. An exhibition of rare photographs and newspaper articles of the Vietnamese Boat people was also on display at Bowen Library from 11 June 2008.

The theme for Refugee Week 2008 was A Place to Call Home which encourages people to think about the global themes of protection and human rights by focusing on the fundamental right to a secure place to call home. It encourages Australians to think about our common obligations to people who have no secure home, as well as to acknowledge the 700,000 refugees and humanitarian migrants over the past 60 years who have made Australia their home.

Reflecting the theme of Refugee Week, all four refugees have found a new, safe and welcoming home here and so like many refugees, have significantly contributed to Australia.

Michelle Kline
Randwick City Library Service
School Holiday Fun!!!!
Monkey Baa, the Australian theatre company for young people, presented a fun day of drama at our Five Dock library. Using basic drama games and creative play, the group of 5 to 7 year olds brought the delightful picture book *Milli, Jack and the dancing cat* by Stephen Michael King to life. The workshop for 8 to 10 year olds looked at different practical ways of bringing stories to life. Drama games, improvisation and trust exercises were utilised to encourage participants to invent and have some fun. The kids also had the opportunity to learn some basics of storytelling and the structures that make up a play.

The scrapbooking workshop at Concord library was a big hit with both boys and girls. The kids were encouraged to bring along their photos on a particular theme—sport, best friends, holidays, etc and were shown how to personalise their photo albums, turning them into works of art.

Wendy Banister
*City of Canada Bay Library Service*

Reading in the park
The 11th April was Reading Day in the Park run by Tumbarumba Shire Council’s Children’s Services committee. This has become an annual event, where all the children in Tumbarumba meet at the Creekscape and are read to by members of the community. This year we featured a circus theme and had all the children and teachers dressed up as their favourite circus performer (mainly clowns). We had a special guest from Seed Circus to perform for the children and do a workshop with the different age groups, and lunch was provided by Rotary and Lions of Tumbarumba.

It was a great success and all went smoothly. Approximately 400 children attended.

The children were all very busy with both the Premier’s Reading Challenge and the MS Readathon with lots of children reserving books through the library. I am also working very closely with the schools in relation to project work. Last week I had the entire year 6 class in for the afternoon, to do projects on Australian history including the wars, rugby league, immigration, the Kokoda trail and many more topics. Many of these children became members and plan to come to the library regularly now they know what’s available here.

Our New Mum’s Group has begun again for another year. It is run by me, the early childhood nurse and Carcoola Children’s Centre. The group will have guest speakers on topics of their choice. I’ll be doing the Baby Bounce program and a teacher is doing the Parenting First Program.

Petrina Smith
*Tumbarumba Library*

**Flamenco storytime**
The stamp of the nailed shoe, the swirl of the red skirt, the clicking of castanets and the pulsating rhythm of the
dharbuka and cajon enthralled an enthusiastic crowd of more than fifty children and as many adults who inundated our small library at Mullumbimby to enjoy our second Flamenco Storytime on the 8th May.

Dianne Canabou, library assistant at Mullumbimby, through her community contacts, was able to again organise this very popular event. Professional dancers and musicians, Louise and Tim Robinson and Susan and Chris Flower, performed for free, and seamlessly wove the dancing moments into Dianne’s story. In true Mullumbimby community style, a carrot cake for each couple was the negotiated payment, a coup for enterprise bargaining!

Gabrielle Cocks
Mullumbimby Library

Kids choo choo choosing to read
Library staff and borrowers have joined forces in Brunswick Heads to produce a novelty reading space for children. The Reading Train was built by the newly formed Men’s Shed at Brunswick Heads, with materials donated or purchased by the local chapter of the University of the Third Age. The basic chassis on wheels was designed by Gerry Gibson of the Men’s Shed and can be made to accommodate a train, boat, car or just about any other vehicle. Children of all ages have embraced this colourful addition to the library, especially during the weekly Storytime, which is held each Monday from 10.30am.

Jennifer Priddle
Brunswick Heads Branch

Raise a reader
The Raise a Reader program is a collaboration between YWCA Communities for Children, TAFE NSW and Richmond Tweed Regional Library and has been funded with a successful $20,000 grant. The aim of Raise a Reader is to inform parents about the importance of early literacy and ways they can help their children to become successful readers. It covers such things as making sure your child can hear to the interaction of parents with their children.

The course will be facilitated by Pam Jackson from TAFE NSW and me, and participants can get credit for one TAFE unit by attending the four-hour seminar.

Through this program we aim to increase the number of parents who read to their children as literacy has a serious impact on the children’s ability to succeed and thrive at school. Language development and literacy success provide a foundation for lifelong achievement.

Richmond Tweed Regional Library aims to promote the healthy development and school readiness of young children in the Lismore area. We want to establish a community that is tolerant, inclusive, vibrant and supportive of all children and their parents. This program is based on strong evidence about the long term social and economic benefits of early child development programs.

Nicole Eldridge
Richmond Tweed Regional Library
Bookatoo unleashed

Sutherland Shire Council has introduced a new style guide for the advertising of all Council activities. There is a new look logo and only professional photos can be used on flyers.

Sutherland Shire Libraries has been using Bookatoo for the last few years to visit various library events. When thinking about how to use the new style guide and how we could incorporate catchy photos to our flyers, Bookatoo came to mind. So, the photo shoot was set up and Bookatoo posed for over two hours with various props and poses for our professional photographer. We now have a set of photos that we can use to promote our children’s and YA programs that identify the library. Thank you to Bookatoo (aka Susan Payne) for sweating it out for the afternoon and helping us to get the look we needed!

Our Planet Earth activity for the April school holidays saw Bookatoo in his jungle gear! Our program was well attended with Council’s Waste Services Officer coming to a couple of our activities to demonstrate the importance of recycling. The kids had a great time helping to ‘sort’ the rubbish and learn what goodies could go into a compost bin. Our Council nursery also kindly donated tube stock plants to us and each child was able to take home something to plant in the garden.

Melinda McNaughton
Sutherland Shire Libraries

Cooma

There’s been so much happening at Cooma Library lately it’s hard to know where to start! In the last few months, we’ve had group visits from various local child care centres and playgroups. The playgroups enjoyed storytime and craft, and there were lots of happy toddlers and preschoolers around the place showing off their creative masterpieces.

Just before Easter we held our famous annual After School Easter Craft session, presided over by the amazing Pam Veiss, which had the kids coming in droves. This was concluded with an Easter Egg hunt through the library, which was absolutely electric!

During the April School Holidays the library hosted an Open House Craft Activity Centre for local kids. They could come anytime during library opening hours to indulge in some artistic pursuits (usually involving copious amounts of glitter!) Set up in the Library’s Meeting Room, the Open House was a great buzz, bringing loads of kids into the library. By the end of the holidays the picture book tubs in the Children’s Area were practically empty!

Just before Mother’s Day, we invited local dads to bring their little ones to the library for a special Saturday morning craft session to make something special for
Children’s News

Mum. It was great to see the dads patiently helping their kids create cards, placemats, bookmarks and more!

In another recent outreach activity, Network Services Librarian Sue Bailey visited the Mother’s and Babies group at the local hospital to raise awareness of library services for new parents. New mums were told that their babies aren’t too young to join the library, and Sue passed some board books around for the babies to hold, wave around, chew on and generally enjoy. The library’s extensive child care and parenting collection was also promoted to the mums.

Sue Bailey
Monaro Regional Library

Great Books Festival
In May Great Lakes Library held its annual Great Books Festival, and as with earlier ones, it proved to be a hit with local children. The Festival, now in its tenth year (having gone through some facelifts in that time) is based on the principle of taking notable writers and illustrators out to the schools across the region. This year the Festival featured author, Moya Simons and illustrator, Dave Hackett (aka Cartoon Dave). Over the four days, eight different schools and 800 students took part, from localities as far away as Tea Gardens and Taree. This year there was an impressive number of small schools that were involved.

Of course, running such an event comes with a considerable price tag and though we charge the schools a fee it in no way covers the cost of the four-day Festival. It’s thanks to financial support from Arts NSW and the Friends of the Great Lakes Library Service (FOGLLS) that we were able to take Moya and Dave to smaller communities.

It is no mean feat to coordinate a Festival of this size but the fact that it is still going strong after ten years is testament to its relevance to local children and youth.

Chris Jones
Great Lakes Library Service

Bookalicious turns 2
It doesn’t seem as though two years have passed since we launched our reading club, Bookalicious, but time flies and so we gave ourselves a party during the April school holidays.

Our special guest for the occasion was author Debra Oswald. Since our members range in age from five to twelve years, we held two sessions, one for five to eight year olds and the other for the nine to twelve year olds. Debra joined in with the spirit of the day and happily blew out the candles on two cakes; and what cakes they were! Each was decorated with our well-known Bookalicious logo. Club members had the opportunity to hear Debra talk about her work and some took part in a reading from one of her books. Each member left with a lolly bag and a piece of cake - just like a real party!

For us, it has been a time to look back over the months since our launch in March 2006. The club now has over 1250 members and prizes claimed show that between them, our members have read over 40,000 books. We started out with rewards for reading 80 books and quickly added another level to meet the...
need for something to do next. Our second level, Book Crunchers, rewards the reading of another 120 books with a voucher from a local bookshop. Inevitably, the successful Crunchers began asking for another level and so we introduced The Super Cruncher Challenge. This time we set the bar much higher: Read 300 books and earn yourself a distinctive, red Bookalicious backpack. Since September 2007, 17 members have completed the challenge. Five hundred books is an impressive number and we have resisted calls for yet another level. I think it’s safe to assume that those readers who go the distance will continue reading without the need for further incentive.

Bookalicious continues to capture the imagination and inspire young readers.

Sue Threlfall
Campbelltown City Library

Baby storytime
Inverell Shire Public Library has become the new gathering place for the local babies and their carers, with many opportunities for singing and socialising. The library now offers Baby Storytime to carers and babies up to 18 months. Carers receive a booklet containing the rhymes and the actions. The booklet also includes a list of useful parenting resources that can be borrowed from the library and a contact list of local services available for carers and their children. On the third session a staff member photographs each carer with their baby (with their permission of course). At the last session carers are presented with certificates of completion which include the photograph, and enjoy a farewell morning tea.

Feedback from the Baby Storytime sessions has been extremely positive. Carers are borrowing books for their babies and are very happy to relearn the rhymes they have forgotten. And quite a few of the carers are also learning the rhymes for the first time. The babies look as though they really enjoy seeing each other and it’s also a good opportunity for carers to meet other adults.

Library staff highly recommend providing programs for babies and their carers, and not just because the babies are usually very cute. We want everyone to be able to read and enjoy books. This is an excellent start!

Kate Wanchap
Manager Library Services
Inverell Shire Library

Scavenger hunts
At Singleton Public Library we needed a way to help school groups find their way around confidently. Previous experience told us that scavenger hunts are a great way of finding things with a bit of fun attached. We devised a series of questions that were designed to take the children around the library in a logical progression from the front counter to the after hours books chute. They were told on arrival that this was not a test, and that if they listened carefully, they would know the answers before they were even handed the question sheet! We talked about the library, where to find the front desk, what you can borrow and demonstrated how to use the catalogue, self check, and after hours chute. They were then given their question sheet. We used the logo So much to see, so much to do downloaded from the ALA website, with the @ your library slogan added.

What is the name of a staff member you have met today? They already knew my name, and anyway we all wear name tags! How many toilet doors are there in the hallway? Now at least they know where to find them! A series of questions followed on how to find a book by looking up the catalogue and going to the shelf. They were then asked to issue their book on the self check using a dummy card, and return it through the after hours return chute. Most of them didn’t know we even had a return chute, let alone the correct barcode to scan to operate it. When they had finished, they were issued with a Super Searcher bookmark.
Children’s News

We have devised three different scavenger hunts for different ages. During a recent pre-school visit, we used a picture hunt to help the little ones find their way around the junior non-fiction.

We were pleasantly surprised at how much the kids enjoyed doing this. The feedback from teachers in the following weeks was extremely positive, with many classes not yet targeted for visits already requesting to come. It has also given us an opportunity to promote our Your Tutor service, and our library activities to visiting groups.

If you would like a PDF copy of our Scavenger Hunts, email kbruce@singleton.nsw.gov.au.

Karen Bruce
Singleton Library

Green is good
Following the success of Randwick City Library Service’s Summer Reading Club tree planting, a new group called the Eco Heroes Club has been formed for children aged 6 to 8 years. The group meets once a month to explore new ways to help save the environment.

At the launch meeting in June, each child received an Eco Heroes Club T-Shirt, membership card and badge. In July they joined fellow earth lovers in creating a green model village using recycled garbage. This exciting project was made possible due to support by Randwick City Council’s Sustaining Our City program.

Michelle Kline
Randwick City Library Service

Many hands make light work
The participants travelled from as far as Dubbo, Wyong, Newcastle, Kiama and all over Sydney, Waverley Library was the place to be if you wanted to see the team in action and get some great ideas, from the PLMSE (Public Libraries Metropolitan South East) Children’s Librarians group. They talked about babies programs, encouraged audience participation and shared their ideas for craft and stories for storytime.

The presenters were: Cathy Symonds from Waverley, Heike Orhmann, Rockdale, Kim Brylewski, Canterbury, Jane Moffat, Randwick, Amber Chaseling, Botany, Kate Campion, Hurstville, Susan Forshaw and Melinda McNaughton from Sutherland and special guest, Lee Casteldine from Blacktown.

Great ideas were shared and even the presenters felt they walked away with something from the day, particularly with more rhymes for the repertoire.

Melinda McNaughton
For the PLMSE Children’s Librarians group

Taree

Stories to share
Taree Library celebrated the International Day of Families with an evening

Storytime this year. Families with young children were invited to come along to the library after work to enjoy stories, songs and craft together. It was a lovely evening - several of the children who regularly attend weekly Storytime sessions with carers, were really excited to come along with mum and dad. It was great to see one family with mum and dad straight from work in their office clothes laying on the floor in the Children’s Corner each reading a story to their girls.

After lots of stories and songs, it was time for supper. With the onset of winter, it was quite dark outside by this time, and it was very cosy sharing sandwiches and juice. Everyone agreed that an evening storytime was a great idea, especially for working families, and we are all looking forward to the next one.

Melinda McNaughton
For the PLMSE Children’s Librarians group

Eco heroes!
Stephen Michael King

Taree Library hosted an evening with acclaimed children’s author and illustrator Stephen Michael King on 27 May. With over 140 adults and children attending, the evening was a spectacular success. After some mingling, with everyone enjoying the wine and delicious cheese and fruit platters, Stephen spoke about his work to a rapt audience.

A lively question and answer session followed, with Stephen overawed at the number of questions that came from all sections of the audience. There were many questions about the inspiration for his work - largely family and friends - and how he works - the idea for Leaf came to him while he was cooking pasta, so he quickly sketched a drawing on one of the sketch pads he always has nearby, and of course spilt sauce on it!

The next treat in store for us was to watch Stephen draw. He worked with some very well-used pastels and a large sheet of paper on an easel, and before our eyes created the little boy from Leaf. It’s just amazing to watch Stephen draw – he uses big messy lines and makes magic happen! This was the perfect time for Margie Wallis, Manager Library Services, to step up to the microphone and launch Leaf, Stephen’s eighth book. After the formalities there was more mingling and then the hard work began, with Stephen signing a huge number of his books. Angus and Robertson sold out over 70 copies of Leaf and many copies of his other books, so there were lots to sign!

Stephen is a passionate supporter of public libraries, and has generously donated his time and energy to Taree Library - the wonderful mural in our Children’s Corner is testimony to his commitment. It was an honour for us to host this event and share this moment in Stephen’s career.

Debbie Horgan
Greater Taree City Library

Reptiles, dragons and dinosaurs

There were creepy crawlies at Toukley and Tuggerah Libraries when Bob Turner and his slimy friends came to visit during the April school holidays. Both venues were filled to capacity as Bob entertained the children with information on our scaly friends. It was a very hands-on talk as every child was given the opportunity to touch one of the many lizards, toads, goannas, frogs, as well as everyone’s favourite, Pedro the big snake. Bob is an excellent speaker who interacts brilliantly with young people.

Tuggerah Library held an evening Dragons and Dinosaurs storytime. Over 34 children and their parents turned up to join Jo Potter, YACS Librarian, in reading some dragon and dinosaur books that required much loud audience participation. This was by far our biggest success for evening storytime, which is continuing to grow in popularity when held during the holidays.

Michelle Goldsmith
Wyong Shire Library

Signing!

Michelle, Jo and Pedro
**The Sisterhood of Travelling Pants**

**Leeton**
May was Jean Genies month for Leeton Library’s small but enthusiastic teen group. When we received an expression of interest for this fun program based on the *Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants* series by Ann Brashares, the kids were very excited and couldn’t wait until their arrival. We even had one of the boys come straight from school on the day they were due to be posted from Wentworth to see if they had arrived!

One of four pairs of jeans which were travelling the state arrived in Leeton at the beginning of May. To get the kids into the jeans mood we then held a movie night (with lots of popcorn) to watch *The Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants* and think about our decorations.

Decorating was lots of fun – and mess. The kids were let loose to ‘do their own thing’. They decided to stick mainly to a Leeton theme but all wanted to sign the jeans as well. There were some very creative signatures! Surprisingly we had more boys than girls come along to our decorating night. A couple of keen boys came in first thing Saturday morning to go on a walkabout around Leeton to get a few shots of the jeans in iconic Leeton locations before they were sent off to Goulburn. We got a few strange looks as we set up our jeans on the monument roundabout in the centre of town.

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**Rowena Gibb**  
*Goulburn Library*

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**Goulburn**

The Goulburn Library was privileged and excited to be part of Gosford City Library’s Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants exhibition. Seven enthusiastic teenagers (pictured) joined two Goulburn fabric artists to decorate the jeans. Using fabric paint, fabric markers and left over beads, buttons and scraps participants personally designed their own jeans pocket.

When it came to deciding what design to place on the jeans, the group decided to represent Goulburn with the Goulburn War Memorial and the Goulburn Rose. The memorial on top of Rocky Hill is 20 metres high and overlooks the city Goulburn. At night the memorial lights up with a rotating beacon that can be seen around the city. The girls did an amazing job of representing the iconic War Memorial through buttons and beads, with the beacon depicted on the jeans as a fountain of brightly coloured sparkles and sequins.

Due to the difficulty of designing a sheep out of paint, buttons and beads the other Goulburn icon, The Big Merino, is NOT represented on the jeans. To ensure that The Big Merino was not left out of the project the jeans were photographed inside and outside our big sheep!

Our thanks go to Sharon and Clare at the Gosford Library for this fantastic idea.

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**Leonie Murphy**  
*Leeton Shire Library*
Unique partnership
On Wednesday 30th April 2008 a partnership between University of Western Sydney and Fairfield City Council to provide additional online tutoring opportunities to local students was launched.

Fairfield City Council has been offering YourTutor, an online tutoring service run by Tutoring Australasia, since 2003. Over the years Council has increased access to the service by purchasing more subscriptions and more recently by using the remote access capacity of the service. Demand, however, has outstripped Council’s ability to provide this valuable service to all the students who require it. The partnership with the University of Western Sydney now allows many more young people the ability to participate in this innovative program.

This unique partnership, thought to be the first of its kind, was officially launched by the Hon Barbara Perry, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney and Minister assisting the Premier on Citizenship, Member for Auburn. Special guests included Mayor of Fairfield, Nick Lalich, Professor Janice Reid, Vice-Chancellor UWS, Regina Sutton, NSW State Librarian and Chief Executive and Jack Goodman CEO Tutoring Australasia. Over 70 guests attended including local school principals and staff, student representatives, councillors from neighbouring Local Government Areas and interested community members. A panel of students, Jessica Orap, Lauren Bourke and Krzysztof Karlo, were interviewed about the tutoring service. These students were able to give a picture of the way YourTutor has helped them in their studies.

This innovative partnership will allow many more young people in the community access to high quality, timely support with their school work and will help build ongoing educational success.

Carolyn Bourke
Fairfield City Library Service

Guitar holiday
A small group of aspiring future rock guitarists (all male) left the guitar workshop at Five Dock library full of enthusiasm. The workshop, designed to be both fun and educational, introduced the different styles of guitar to the boys and taught them how to read simple music for guitar, how to play a blues riff, how to play a chord frame and how to play a power chord. They all left the workshop able to play a rock song – and in just ninety minutes!!!

Wendy Banister
City of Canada Bay Library Service

Youth Week
Team Husky Chix Factory Rider, Lismore local Rebecca Bateman, 1st Women’s Supermoto Champion attended Goonellabah Public Library for Youth Week 2008.

The Rotary Club of Lismore held a sausage sizzle for 18 children and 10 parents. Rebecca spoke about her reign as champion, talking about her goals, showing us her outfit and boots, and most importantly her bike. The young people around the Goonellabah area got a real sense of belonging to their local library and enjoyed the food and drink and fun. This event served as an excellent form of public relations between the library, library staff and young people within the local area.

Nicole Don
Richmond Tweed Regional Library

FilmScape
Ryde Library Services held a two-day film-making workshop during the April school holidays for 14 to 18 year olds. Over the two days 18 young adults learned the art of film-making, script writing, acting, directing, design
Young adults update

and technical production. Sam Ribellit from NIDA’s Open Program ran the workshop and was dynamic in getting everyone involved in making short films.

After the first morning full of theoretical information, three groups were formed and armed with ideas and a camera they were off creating. Each group wrote, directed and starred in their own short film and though they could have started filming the first afternoon, they all wanted to go home to get props and costumes.

An amazing day and a half later, three very different films were produced. There was a modern day version of *The Breakfast Club*, a murder mystery, and a modern teen comedy flick. Each person left with a sense of achievement and their own DVD.

Gabbi Wyllie
Ryde Library Service

HSC lectures

The Fairfield City Library Service has, for the last 7 years, been offering students the opportunity to attend HSC lectures based on subjects that will be examined in their exams. Essay writing workshops are available for everyone who wishes to improve their skills and learn that special secret to help them along the way!

The lecture program comprises:
HSC English, Business Studies, Mathematics (2 Unit) and Legal Studies

This year for the first time a slightly different concept is being adopted with the Legal Studies lecture. For the final hour of the lecture a 20 year old Fairfield resident who completed the HSC in 2005 participated in the lecture. She came 1st in the state for the 2005 HSC Legal Studies Course and achieved a UAI of 99.9. She will discuss her experiences, give some study tips specifically for preparing for the legal studies exam and also give some samples to show what level of work is expected to get a band 6 result in legal studies.

The HSC lecture sessions are held on Saturday afternoons at one of our branch locations which close at midday. High school students tend to be awake and functioning at that time of day and because the library is closed, the lectures don’t interfere with other customers’ needs. The reference area is cleared of tables and up to 100 students can be accommodated in the reclaimed space. The library service has the opportunity to showcase all the resources and services we offer to senior high school students. These lectures are immensely popular with HSC students in the Fairfield LGA as well as students who attend from outside the local area. Each year the feedback from students shows how much they value the support that the library provides during this very stressful period of their lives.

Our HSC team has taken part in the SLNSW’s Learning 2.0 program and has added a new feature this year - a Blog giving information about the lectures and lecturers as well as providing a place for students to leave comments and suggestions. Our student evaluation form will also elicit feedback which will be used at our team debrief session and will help us to produce an even better program next year.

Manjit Uppal
Fairfield City Library Service

HSC Help from the experts

Students preparing for the HSC received a little help this year from Maitland City Library. As part of the popular Look who’s talking program HSC English students were invited to participate in seminars covering three topics from the English curriculum: The Journey, Crime Fiction, and Frontline.

Previously teachers have taken students as far away as Sydney to attend seminars that will provide their students with that extra edge. This year Maitland City Library provided these seminars in the local area and free of charge.

Almost 150 students from three local schools packed Maitland Town Hall for a stimulating session on The Journey presented by Gillian Lovell, a teacher of secondary English method at both University of New South Wales and University of Technology Sydney. Gillian’s seminar focused upon how meaning is made and the differences between and among texts. The session concluded with a wide ranging discussion of the issues raised in the presentation.
Crime Fiction was presented by the Professor of Creative Writing at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Catherine Cole. Professor Cole discussed the genre and examples of crime fiction with an intimate group of Extension English students. The intimate size of the group allowed Professor Cole to gain an insight into each student’s work and to participate in a question and answer session with them.

More than 60 students listened to Walkley Award winning journalist and Professor Wendy Bacon (University of Technology Sydney) as she presented a seminar on Frontline. She teaches Freedom of Information law for John Fairfax and Sons and has a long history of campaigning around free speech issues. Professor Bacon encouraged the students to consider representations of truth, the nature of truth and the process by which statements come to be accepted as true.

Maitland City Library received overwhelmingly positive feedback from teachers and parents following the presentation of our first HSC Lecture Series. 2009 promises to be even bigger and better.

Julia Gollan  
Maitland City Library

Jamming for teens
Following the refurbishment of Bowen Library’s teen space, young adults have been enjoying a series of interactive Playstation 3 guitar hero tournaments. Participants pitted their skills against each other to claim the crown as Guitar Hero of Bowen Library.

Michelle Kline  
Randwick City Library Service

Visiting the local high school
During Term 1 2008, I visited the Year 7 classes at the local high school in Cooma to talk about how the library can help the kids in this new phase of their educational career. Late last year I also visited all the Year 11 classes, to talk about services such as LIAC, NSW.net and the ever-growing HSC Collection at Cooma Library.

There were four Year 7 classes in all and they were all very attentive and interested. I showed the kids sample items from the collection, including fun stuff such as DVDs and magazines. Each class then went online and learned how to check out the library’s website, search the catalogue and reserve a book. Then everyone checked out some of the great databases on NSW.net. I gave the classes handouts on the library in general, plus cheat sheets for accessing NSW.net. The kids were told to hang on to them for dear life! The school visits are coordinated with the school’s teacher librarian.

Sue Bailey  
Monaro Regional Library

Shout Share Live Unite
Shoalhaven Libraries Nowra celebrated National Youth Week with their annual Pizza + Bands night on Thursday 10th April. Each year, we encourage local bands and musicians to perform in the library and showcase the immense talent of young people in the Shoalhaven. And with three bands, two duos and two solo artists performing on the night, it was clear that the Shoalhaven is certainly not starved for talent! The music ranged from indie folk to musical comedy and everything in between.

As always, the free pizza and soft drinks were a favourite on the night, as was the music trivia and freebies. This year, we had two major prizes to give away to the performers. The first was 8 hours recording time at the local youth centre. The second was a free course to the value of $400 from a South Coast multimedia training centre. Both prizes were drawn out of a hat and the winners were extremely chuffed.
All in all, Shoalhaven Libraries’ Pizza + Bands night went off with a bang—bring on next year!

Jessica Green
Shoalhaven Libraries Nowra

Digital photography
Swansea Library and Eastlakes Youth Service collaborated to hold a digital photography night to celebrate Youth Week 2008. The aim of the night was twofold, for library staff to build rapport and encourage local youth to visit the library, and to make the Youth Area in the library feel more theirs than ours. From previous events, we knew it was a tough crowd to attract through the doors.

Library staff were ecstatic to see a group of 11 arrive from the Youth Centre with the promise of pizza as incentive. After a brief introduction, it was lights, camera, action! Any reservations staff had about equipment going missing, inappropriate shots and fights were quickly allayed. Pizza became a secondary consideration as budding photographers looked at camera angles, lighting, set up props and consulted each other over their next shot. When we finally sat down to pizza the group were relaxed and more at ease in the library environment. It proved a great opportunity to get to know each other. We started to view the images, and quite simply the photos taken were amazing! Four hundred photos later, we had completed the very difficult task of deciding which fifty photos were going to form our Youth Area photographic display.

So what of the future? As there were so many photos of very high quality, we are now investigating holding an exhibition of their works. We are also encouraged and inspired to plan more youth events at the library. This night was made possible by a Youth Week grant from Council. The digital cameras and a printer that were purchased with the grant money will remain in the Youth Centre. The youth at the centre now have ongoing access to digital photography equipment.

Rachel Mallaby and Natalie Kozary
Swansea Library

The Click
Central Murray Regional Public Library has been swarming with hordes of 12 to 25ers since the launch of its Click youth group. It kicked off with a Singstar Karaoke Night during youth week which was attended by more than 30 people. There was pizza and singing and lots of fun to be had. Even a few staff members got up to belt one out. The response was positive from everyone involved and those that attended where glad to see a more teen-friendly atmosphere about the library. Many of them joined the library’s MySpace friends list and all where eager to attend another night. The announcement of a future teen-space within the library and a CD collection to go with it where big selling points for the youth and all where interested to hear what the library was offering for them.

Our latest night was aimed at kicking off our CD collection with a large group helping us to choose some great titles. The CDs, which were kindly lent to us for the night by the local music shop, were a mixture of ARIA chart toppers and some old favourites. The library now has some great titles that are sure to be hits with our borrowers. The group then indulged in some cake and hot chocolate to warm them up before facing the cold again. It’s great to have so much community support for our youth activities and we look forward to hosting many more in the future.

Stacey-Lee Dean
Central Murray Regional Public Library

Choosing the music
**My teen’s on the net**

What’s myface? Bewho? What’s the fuss about wikipedia? These were questions that were being asked by parents of teenagers on a regular basis at Camden Council Libraries. To help parents keep abreast of social networking developments the program *My teens on the net…now what?* was developed.

The program is aimed at parents of teenagers, although is open to anyone. Class sizes are kept to less than 10 as the participants bring with them varying degrees of computer literacy. *My teens on the net* primarily focuses on the social networking technologies such as MySpace (Bebo and Facebook), blogging, wikis, podcasts, Instant Messaging and Youtube.

The session also covers web safety, effective Internet searching and an introduction to the wonderful online services provided by libraries such as online databases and Asknow! The program is an effective way of reiterating the value of the libraries in a technology focused society.

To encourage participants to engage in social networking technologies a training blog was established: [http://camdenlibrarytraining.blogspot.com](http://camdenlibrarytraining.blogspot.com)

*Stacey Bale*
*Camden Council Library Service*

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**Youth gaming**

Kiama Library and Kiama Youth Centre decided to host a Gaming Night with all the Drug Action Week pens, drink bottles, sweat bands and calico bags we could get hold of.

One of our casual staff members is a gamer with great skills and equipment, so, harnessing her energy and gear, we offered a Guitar Hero Challenge, Wii Sport Challenge and as much PlayStation 2 and online gaming as the kids could manage. Teaming up with the Kiama Youth Centre meant double the staff and promotional opportunities. The Youth Centre paid for a feast half way through the evening, which was gratefully received by everyone present, one gamer announced, *more free stuff, great!*

How did we promote the event? Flyers to the local high school, distributed through the SRC, a press release leading to an article in the local newspaper, flyers stuck to all our public computers and word of mouth.

How many kids and staff? 30 boys and 2 library staff and 2 youth centre staff. One library staff member was having too much fun to go home so he stayed too!

Organisational details? The event was held from 5:30 to 7:30pm. Data projectors were hooked up to the consoles and the images projected onto wall and screen. Chess, scrabble and other board games were also put out and our 8 public computers were used for online gaming. Highest scores at the end of the night were rewarded with a USB wristband provided by the Drug Action week promotions.

Will we do it again? Of course! We have already had requests for another night and the kids present were keen to tell their friends (who didn’t come) how much fun they had.

*Leanne Webster*
*Kiama Public Library*
$10 million for E records project
The NSW Government has committed $10 million to create a digitised catalogue for the Library’s extensive collection relating to Australia’s heritage. The eRecords program of work will:

• create electronic records for collection material which is currently only available through card catalogues

• redesign business processes that will enhance access to our collections and enable the Library to deliver its services more effectively in the future.

Review of Public library funding
Library Council considered the Report of the Parry Review at the meeting of 28 April 2008. Following this meeting Council asked the Public Libraries Consultative Committee (PLCC) to advise on the implementation of the review recommendations. The Funding Working Group of the PLCC was convened on 23 May 2008, and has provided preliminary advice for consideration by the PLCC on 16 June. The PLCC’s advice was presented to Library Council on 30 June 2008. Library Council is now liaising with the Minister on this matter. 2008/09 is a transition year and will use the existing model of distribution of funding. It is anticipated that changes to the funding model as a result of the Parry review will be implemented in 2009/10.

Standards and Guidelines for NSW public libraries project
The Standards and Guidelines for NSW public libraries project, guided by the Public Library Network Research Committee, will develop new guidelines for public libraries that will assist Councils, library managers and the State Library to guide the continued development of meaningful and contemporary public library services. In June 2008 feedback on the draft paper Living Learning Libraries: Standards and Guidelines for NSW public libraries (Draft version 1.3) was invited from public library staff and managers across the network. Comments and feedback are now being evaluated.

Learning 2.0
As at 15 July 2008, 1,149 staff have commenced the NSW Public Libraries Learning 2.0 program. 788 learning diary blogs have been created and 233 people have already finished the program.

All library staff who complete the program will receive a certificate. The first batch of certificates was distributed when the 100 winners of mp3 players were announced at Public Libraries NSW – Country’s Tamworth Conference, and at the Public Libraries NSW – Metropolitan quarterly meeting.

Guide to the Library Act
These guidelines have been developed by the Library Council of New South Wales to assist local authorities in interpreting the provisions of the Library Act 1939 in relation to local public libraries. The guidelines were approved by the Library Council of NSW in February 2008, and replace the Guidelines relating to section 10, Library Amendment Act 1992. These guidelines are now available on the State Library website.

Library Council of NSW Public Library Policy
Initial consultation has been received from NSW local councils and library managers. Library Council is currently evaluating the responses and further consultation will occur in 2008/09.

Reader Services
Traditionally the period around April and May is particularly busy in the Library’s Reading Rooms as we get an influx of secondary and tertiary students coming in to use our resources. This year has been no exception. The increase in demand can be seen in the following statistics for stack requests during April 2008, compared with March 2008.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Library</th>
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<tr>
<td>State Reference Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mitchell Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Special Collections</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mitchell Library</td>
<td>5%</td>
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Online access scanned card catalogue
Clients are now able to access the State Reference Library’s Scanned Card Catalogue via our website. Up until now it has only been available to clients in the Reading Rooms. This is a significant improvement to our services for clients outside the Library as it gives them access to records for material received by the State Reference Library before 1980.

Find legal answers
The Legal Information Access Centre (LIAC) has developed a new website called Find Legal Answers <www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au>. It has been developed to provide easy access to information about the law for the community and for library staff. Particular emphasis has been put on clarity and ease of use.
In the State Library Galleries

**Studio**
Open til 12 October 2008
Mitchell Galleries
The exhibition consists of 61 large colour photographic studies of artists in their studios by R Ian Lloyd accompanied with text by John McDonald, art critic for The Sydney Morning Herald.

**Home Truths**
Open til 7 December 2008
Picture Gallery
Captivating personal stories of ordinary Australians are revealed in this exhibition of photo-interviews by Ruth Maddison, Hayley Hillis and Pippa Wischer.

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

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

Coming soon

Dreaming - ALIA 2008 Biennial Conference
2-5 September 2008
Alice Springs
www.alia2008.com/

LIANZA Conference
2-5 November 2008
Poropitaa Outside the Box
Auckland, NZ

Information Online 2009
20-22 January 2009
Sydney

Deadlines for Public Library News

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<tr>
<td>December 2008 issue</td>
<td>17 October 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2009 issue</td>
<td>13 February 2009</td>
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<td>August 2009 issue</td>
<td>12 June 2009</td>
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Image: The Living Library ‘books’ at Blue Mountains (see story page 3)