In the State Library Galleries

The Moran Prizes 2010 is hosted in conjunction with the Moran Health Care Group and incorporates the Doug Moran National Portrait Prize and the Moran Contemporary Photographic Prize. Following the exhibition at the State Library, the exhibition is toured nationally by the Moran Health Care Group.

The Doug Moran National Portrait Prize was established by the Moran family in 1988 to celebrate Australia's Bicentenary and is the richest portrait prize in the world. The exhibition of finalists is a vibrant and eclectic collection of 30 portrait paintings. Entry conditions for the competition stipulate that both the painter and their subject be Australian citizens, but it is not required that the artist's subjects be well known.

Mitchell Galleries

Until 5 September 2010

Mari Nawi: Aboriginal Odysseys

Exciting new research has revealed the significant role Aboriginal men, and some women, played in Australia's early maritime history. The focus of this exhibition is the Eora and Darug people from the Sydney area, who sailed on English ships through Port Jackson to destinations in Australia and throughout the world during the period 1790-1855. Theirs was a canoe culture and they called these ships mari nawi meaning 'large canoes'. Curated by the acknowledged authority, Dr Keith Vincent Smith, Mari Nawi will feature rarely seen oil paintings, journals, letters, maps, sketches, objects and rare printed books drawn from collections throughout Australia.

Mitchell Galleries

20 September 2010 – 12 December 2010

The Governor: Lachlan Macquarie, 1810 to 1821

On 1 January 1810, Lachlan Macquarie took office as the 5th Governor of New South Wales. To celebrate this 200th anniversary and examine Macquarie's contribution to the development of colonial Australia, original letters, journals, watercolours, miniatures and realia from the Library's collections will be displayed.

Mitchell Galleries

Until 10 October 2010

State Library of NSW

DISability Information

Wheelchair access via Macquarie Street, toilets and courtesy wheelchair, hearing loop, parking on the corner of Shakespeare Place and Macquarie Street. Companion card provides fair ticketing at events and venues for people with a disability who require a companion to accompany them.

www.companioncard.org.au

Deadlines for Public library news

December 2010 issue 15 October 2010

April 2011 issue 25 February 2011

August 2011 issue 24 June 2011
From the Editor

Time to curl up and keep warm with the winter 2010 issue of Public Library News. And there’s a lot to read – Monaro Library’s Peas and Beans; library theatre; a public charter for our libraries and much much more in all our usual columns and news. We hope you enjoy this issue and thank you to all our contributors.

VICTORIA ANDERSON
Editor
Growing up with the Library

I had a bit of an ah-ha moment recently that I would like to share with you. The last few months of 2009 were very busy and demanding. You know how it is… the last of the year’s author visits and writing workshops, schools wanting visits before exam time, Christmas Storytime and, of course, the Summer Reading Program. Just when you think it is all under control, along come the school holiday activities and the SRP Prize Draw to organise. Holidays are looking more attractive by the minute!

And so, here we are in 2010, ready to do it all over again. Can we keep up the pace? Lots of our Storytimers have grown up and gone to school, and we need to build up a new following….or do we? Things seemed different this year from the start. Our Youth Nights, which up till now consisted of pizza and games were experiencing dwindling numbers. Our loyal followers have grown up and left us and we don’t seem to be attracting new people. Wow, it can be difficult to convince teens that library events can be fun. We had also noticed that the teen section of the SRP was growing, as well as the adult category, introduced a few years ago.

Bookbeat is our once-a-term activity for 8-12 year olds. This has changed as well. The kids all seem to already love reading and don’t necessarily want to just play games and have me read to them. Once-a-term Bedtime Storytime is huge, with whole families attending, giving it a different feel to that of the morning sessions. Lots of dads have made this a special time to share with their kids.

Storytime! We haven’t had to put any effort into advertising, yet it is a full house every week. Although many of them are very young, we have been impressed from the beginning of the year by how well they are able to sit and listen. The Lapsit baby program is always fully booked, before we even advertise.

Now comes the ah-ha part. Over the 9 years that I have been doing this job, the children have grown up before my eyes. The baby who caused such excitement when she said her first Boo to a goose, now comes to Bookbeat. A young man who studied with Distance Education and made friends at the library’s Youth Nights over the years now works on a cattle station in Queensland. He calls in to see us when he visits home. Young kids who have visited during Book Week with their school and attended the school holiday activities are now teens who say hello in the street and join the Summer Reading Program.

The Storytime audience this year includes a lot of little ones whose older siblings have now gone to school, and return to the library for Bedtime Storytime. The Lapsit participants often have older library siblings. The parents joined the SRP and read to their children so they could all earn tickets. The reason that this year’s group are so good at sitting and listening is that they have parents and siblings who read to them at home.

We have decided to turn Bookbeat into a monthly creative writing group for 8 to 12 year olds. Youth Night is now YouthWrite and also meets monthly. Our main attendees are the students who attended the creative writing workshop and author talks with their school over the past few years.

So…we can see the fruits of our labour. Perhaps we just need to start an after school Storytime for all the kids who miss coming to the pre-school session. What's that you say, I thought you said you were already too busy! Oh well, always time for just one more. I want to hear at least one more child whisper, 
there goes the story-book teller!

KAREN BRUCE
Team Leader: Library Youth and Children’s Services
Singleton Public Library

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Singleton Public Library
Monaro kids love gardening!

Cooma Library formed a unique partnership with Cooma Community Garden to conduct children's gardening workshops during the last three school holidays.

The Cooma Community Garden was launched in spring last year, and is located in the Cooma Uniting Church grounds. Several ‘Lawns to Lunch’ workshops were held during October for the general public to get the garden started, which were a great success. Soon the idea came up to create a children's veggie garden at the site, and Cooma Library was co-opted to help run special garden workshops for kids as part of its regular school holiday program.

All three workshops were a huge success. Because of the lack of fencing at the site, it was decided to restrict the attendance to school-aged children only, with the numbers limited. Parents/carers were required to stay to help supervise (and of course, younger siblings were welcome under their parents’ care). There were also several volunteers from the Community Garden Committee to help with the workshops, and supervision. The risk-management strategy also included an Occupational Health and Safety talk at the beginning of the session, and all of the children were required to wear a hat, garden gloves, sunscreen and water.

The October workshop was held on a blustery, cold Monaro day so everyone was rugged up, but it didn’t take long to warm up. The group of 17 children, plus carers, parents and some younger siblings, created four organic no-dig vegetable gardens in less than two hours. Workshop leader Peter Mitchell, an accredited Horticulturist, led the group and he enjoyed 100% attention from the spell-bound kids - they were absolutely fascinated!

The first task was to mark out the beds, and then lay down wet newspaper. The children then covered the newspaper with old leaves, sheep manure (donated by local farms) and lucerne hay. Some worms from Pete's garden were then tacked into the beds to do their stuff! Two of the older kids made paths between the beds by laying down sawdust (free from the local timber yard). By this time everyone needed a break, so the kids washed their hands and sat down to some morning tea provided by Cooma Library, whilst librarian Sue Bailey read some great stories, including Our community garden by Barbara Pollak. The kids also got to check out the great array of library books on display, fiction and non-fiction, all related to gardening, and were encouraged to borrow the books if they wished.

After the break the children were split into four groups to do the actual planting. The groups were the Tomato Team, the Cucumber (pumpkins etc.) Team, the Peas and Beans Team, and the Root Veggies Team. After some instructions on planting, the children created holes in the lucerne, filled them with compost, and then put in the seeds and seedlings. After a bit of watering, hey presto we had a garden! The children were encouraged to visit the garden any time they liked, and Peter showed them how to check if the plants needed some water.

At the end of the garden many people and groups join forces and share the load to create something special, and at little cost! Cooma Library provided the plants, seeds, lucerne, sawdust, cooking ingredients, project administration, morning tea and stories. The Library shared the promotion of the event with the Community Garden, with advertising appearing on both organisations’ websites, in the local media, and in school newsletters. The Uniting Church provided the land for the garden, and donated the half facilities for each session. Inspirational workshop leader Pete Mitchell donated his time. All in all it has been a wonderful community partnership with great benefits to all, especially the children who loved learning how to grow their own food, and hopefully will enjoy harvesting and eating wonderful fresh vegies for many years to come! Feedback so far is that many of the children are now gardening at home (often telling their parents what to do), or regularly visiting the Community Garden – a very good sign!

For more information on the Cooma Community Garden, their website is <http://monaro.communitygardens.org.au/coomagardens.html>

The Monaro Regional Library website can be found at <www.monaro.nsw.gov.au>

SUE BAILEY
Network Services Librarian
Monaro Regional Libraries
The anticipated changes to the UK public library sector which the May 2010 general election would deliver were the subject of two major conferences held in London in July. With state and national elections looming at home I was keen to involve myself in the discussion and, ever the optimist, hopefully discover some magic, overlooked formula myself in the discussion and, ever the optimist, hopefully discover some magic, overlooked formula to solve the financial woes of the library world!

On 22 June the Chancellor, George Osborne, delivered what he described as a tough but fair Emergency Budget. With structural reform of public services on the agenda and reported cuts 25% to 30% being talked about, family and friends were justifiably worried about the implications for their own professions and the nation’s quality of life. Concerned too were the colleagues I met at the Re-modeling library service: adaptation through innovation conference supported by the Society of Chief Librarians, the Reading Agency and CLOA (Chief Culture and Leisure Officers Association).

The speakers painted a grim picture, one where ‘salami slicing’ of services (or ‘offer’ in the UK library vernacular) would not be sufficient. They argued convincingly that if public libraries are to survive and remain relevant a total rethink is necessary. To facilitate this, the Minister for Culture, Ed Vaizey announced his Expert Support Programme for public libraries with an aim of supporting local councils to deliver key services while reducing costs. He urged consideration of options including shared services, merging functions, staffing across authorities, support from volunteers or the use of other community buildings. Ten library authorities will be initially involved in this pilot project which has drawn mixed comment. Mr Vaizey also announced that the library network will help half a million people gain digital skills by the end of 2012 and that £1m would be available to help better link the internet to special collections.

Active participants at the conference were a coalition of library users and campaigners from across the country under the banner of Libraries for Life for Londoners (LLL). In response to the budget cuts they launched a concentrated lobbying campaign, the key to which is their Charter for Public Libraries. They were not afraid to ask the hard question and several times had me questioning how good our community consultation really is.

The Charter is available at www.librarylondon.org/Manifesto.htm> - a public charter for libraries

Change is overdue – a public charter for libraries

We are currently in a situation where two thirds of people in the UK read in their free time yet only one third of the population visit libraries. Why is this the case when libraries offer 24 hour web services, are open to all and provide access, free of charge, to books and an array of other interesting reading materials? Either it is because a public library service is not relevant today or more likely, libraries are not meeting the needs and wants of their local communities. For too long the public library service and its management has been unresponsive to and disconnected from users and potential users. The essential value of public libraries needs to be reinforced at both local and national level and a focused effort must be made to see libraries fulfill their role and maintain their relevance for generations to come.

1. MAKE THE LIBRARIES LOCAL

Individual libraries, large and small, need to be empowered and resourced to meet the specific needs of their local communities. The individuality of each library cannot be overstated and libraries need the freedom to operate independently.

2. INCREASE OPENING HOURS

In today’s society it is unforgivable that some libraries close for lunch or on certain weekdays. Providing access to library services means opening libraries at times when the community wants them open – late closing and weekend opening should be the norm.

3. IMPROVE LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

Library collections, book stocks and other resources, have been neglected almost everywhere and they need to be restored, maintained and made accessible. This means increased funding for new stock, replacement stock and giving the public access to special collections.

4. IMPROVE THE LIBRARY ENVIRONMENT

All public libraries should be attractive and dignified places to visit and in which to read and study. They need to be kept clean, safe and smart. Standards of interior design need to be raised and building architecture used to best effect. Appropriate local events and activities are important.

5. EMBRACE TECHNOLOGY

While books should remain the focus for libraries, computers and technology can enhance users’ experience. With this in mind, computers and all associated equipment needs to be in good working order and kept up to date. Internet-based services, available around the clock, add value for many users and should be extended and promoted.

6. LIBERATE THE LIBRARY STAFF

Service to the public should be of a high professional standard. All staff, long or short term, full time or temporary should be trained for the roles they undertake. Volunteers are welcome for many aspects of the service, but they cannot take the place of skilled librarians in provision of the day to day service to readers.

7. COLLABORATE AND SHARE BEST PRACTICE

Collaboration between neighboring authorities will make limited resources go further and sharing best practice will mean all libraries are better able to meet users’ expectations. A range of funding sources is available and councils need to explore the options and consult people about proposed changes.

8. DON’T WASTE MONEY

Accurate, meaningful and consistent reporting of library budgets and expenditure will encourage accountability and openness and mean all budget discussions are grounded in facts.

9. PERFORMANCE FEEDBACK

Performance reporting should be timely accurate and clear. Every month councils should report publicly the key usage figures for each library within their responsibility.

10. ENGAGE INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

There needs to be a substantial genuine effort to build trust between councils, government bodies, library professionals and library users. Local councillors must all be fully and properly informed about library matters and libraries should actively work with their users in managing their libraries.

11. DON’T CLOSE LIBRARIES

Of course sometimes building development means that libraries have to move; library services can be provided more efficiently in newer facilities; sometimes closures can be justified. However residents are distrustful of assurances of improvement and the onus is on councils to demonstrate the benefits of proposed changes before they are made. Savings from library closures will be tiny compared to the animosity generated among library users. Many library users belong to groups sometimes marginalized by society—the elderly, the unemployed, single-parent families—and the negative impact on these people’s lives following library closures can outweigh any cost savings.

12. MAKE AND KEEP A PROMISE

Public library users call upon councils to commit themselves to achieving the aims of this charter. The Charter is available at www.librarylondon.org/Manifesto.htm>
Fast forward 5 days, a healthy amount of shopping and a family celebration later and I’m back in my conference outfit to attend the Libraries Change Lives Conference and Awards hosted by CILIP (the Chartered Institute for Library and Information Professionals). CILIP has been presenting the Libraries Change Lives Award for the past 19 years but this was the first time that it has been the centre-piece of a one day conference. In recognition of the uncertainty facing the public library sector in Britain the program focused on demonstrating value in challenging times and the library’s role in facilitating social inclusion – themes which are only too familiar to us here in Australia.

The keynote speakers, Sue Charteris and John Holden, stressed the need for improved collaboration between agencies, deeper engagement with citizens and communities and a genuine focus on the local.

Sue and John also placed considerable emphasis on a total profession whether this is at an operational or an Association level.

Fittingly the Award finalists were all collaborative projects.

• A pioneering partnership with a prison to create a library with a refreshed vision that would enhance prisoners’ lives, both as inmates and on release. The City of Edinburgh Council (1st prize).

• An innovative partnership with the charity Macmillan Cancer Support, designed to deliver crucial information about cancer in a familiar community setting. Manchester Information and Library Service (2nd prize).

• A project that reaches out to home restricted people within the community to allow them access to the recreation, information and social engagement offered by the library service. Dagenham Library Service (3rd prize).

It’s good to step outside your comfort zone, even if it means the uncertainty of entering a conference venue where you know no one. An added bonus if that step makes you review your own situation. While there are many similarities between the public library environment in Australia and the UK being there as an outsider without the influence of my peers gave me the chance to reflect on the discussion and the response of those around me. If you get the chance, I’d urge you to explore the options of professional development outside the boundaries of your own location and sector. It’s well worth it.

My thanks to the State Library of NSW who, together with Central West Libraries, contributed to my registration at these events.

JAN RICHARDS
Manager
Central West Libraries

I recently participated in the Fifth Forum on Performance in Cultural Institutions. I attended the forum because I wanted to explore possible applications for local studies and performance, and after the forum I added reference and readers advisory work to the possible areas where performance could meaningfully add to the understanding of the content. In museum theatre the performance piece does not usually take place in a separate space, but moves through the museum space, connecting stories and objects. This could also provide a good fit for public libraries.

The day focused on museum applications of performance, as there are a number of examples of performances from this area. Alana Valentine (author of Parramatta girls) who has written site specific museum theatre opened the forum speaking about the importance of location specific works which gave people different ways to access the items within the collection. Extrapolating this to libraries, we can explore different ways of making the content of the collection more accessible. Alana highlighted the importance of employing professional writers for this kind of work, and where possible employing professional actors as well. The close involvement of curators in the process was vital. This contrasted to a session later in the day from the Watch House in Melbourne, where audience members performed parts of a courtroom drama, which was based on the actual trial of a teenager following a fatal car crash in Victoria. This piece benefited from the interactions rather than professionalism.

The first part of the forum took place in the Transport Gallery at the Powerhouse Museum, and I was seated next to a 1928 Bugatti. The second half of the day took place at the Australian National Maritime Museum and included a performance by Erth which highlighted Australian mythic creatures. Erth uses large puppets, some operated like marionettes, and others which are worn.

Library theatre

So, what can libraries do? The State Libraries of Queensland and Victoria are starting to explore these areas. The Outback Theatre for Young People is already working in towns across New South Wales, so there is potential for these productions to include collaborations with public libraries as well.

Every community has a cemetery, a potential theatre space for telling people the stories behind the people buried there, using library resources to flesh out the accounts!

ELLEN FORSYTH
Public Library Services
State Library of NSW
In the Libraries

Port Stephens News

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOMAREE
On Thursday 25th March Tomaree Library and Community Centre (TLACC), a branch of Port Stephens Library, celebrated its 10th birthday with three fabulous events. A children’s storytime, complete with Tui the Clown, a customer morning tea, and an official function in the afternoon ensured that everyone who uses the Centre in any capacity had the opportunity to join in the celebrations. The children’s storytime was attended by thirty-two children and their parents or carers, the morning tea enjoyed by eighty customers, and the official function at 4.00pm had one hundred and fourteen guests in attendance. The TLACC team decorated the Library and Centre beautifully with displays and a PowerPoint presentation documenting the history and current life of the Centre. Colourful helium balloons completed the scene. The slideshow played continuously showing the original building site, progress to completion, and many activities, groups and individuals that use the Centre today.

Port Stephens Library Services Manager Kris Abbott opened the official function, introducing TLACC user groups Kaizen-rue Karate and the Casino & District Garden Club’s annual Garden Show which was also on show and a large collection of photos from the 2009 Spring Garden Competition was also on show and attracted a great deal of interest. The Fair was a glowing success and we were very pleased to have helped.

GAYE CHELMAN
Library Assistant
Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library

GARDEN SHOW
Casino Library was vibrant with colour over a one month period earlier this year. Our library promoted the Casino & District Garden Club’s annual Garden Show and Fair 2010 with an array of floral art arrangements, numerous books from the library’s collection and a selection of puppets from our children’s resources all enhancing the display. Bill and Ben the Flower Pot Men played their part, along with buzzy bees, green frogs and red lady beetles in providing a wonderful, bright display. Several members of our library service who are also keen Garden Club members gave their time each week and provided a wonderful, bright display. Several members of our library service who are also keen Garden Club members gave their time each week and made fresh floral arrangements. Our promotion was ever-changing and gave our members valuable practice for the main floral competition held on March 6th. A large collection of photos from the 2009 Spring Garden Competition was also on show and attracted a great deal of interest. The Fair was a glowing success and we were very pleased to have helped.

A typical month at Tomaree Library sees 12,000 people through its doors, and several thousand more use the Centre rooms and auditoriums for a vast array of activities each day. These include U3A which holds daily classes in the Centre, Yoga, Tai Chi, Ballet, Exercises for Seniors, Karate, Toastmasters, Fellowship of Australian Writers, Seaside Singers, Weight Watchers, Parkinson’s Support, Tomaree Musical Theatre, and local environment groups amongst others. The Centre also has permanent community and government-funded tenants including Port Stephens FM Radio, Salamander Child Care Centre, Tomaree Neighbourhood Centre, Breakthrough Employment, Disability Services Australia, Hunter New England Health Diabetes Education Centre, Castle Personnel and Probation and Parole.
Tomaree Library and Community Centre is indeed a focal point of this community where people gather to connect with each other, learn a new skill, seek information or just simply relax in a warm and friendly environment. It is a happy, vibrant place where people feel welcome and valued.

SUE LEVERINGTON
Tomaree Library & Community Centre

NAVIGATOR PROJECT
Port Stephens Library currently has ten Audio Navigator units to loan to customers in Port Stephens who suffer from macular degeneration. The Navigators are a small hand held audio device that hold up to 44 hours of listening. Audio titles are selected and loaded on to the Navigators by library staff. The Navigators give customers who have difficulty handling CDs and cassettes hours of easy listening and more independence. The project so far has had very satisfying results. Customers are very happy with the books selected and find the devices easy to operate and transport, unlike heavy large print books.

MAREE JORDAN
Port Stephens Library

KNITTING KNATTER
Tomaree Library has its very own knitting group called Knitting Knatter which meets on the third Tuesday of each month. The group started in April 2010 with eight very enthusiastic knitters and continues to go from strength to strength. As it was World Wide Knit in Public Week in June, some members of our group decided to knit in public at our local shopping centre prior to joining the rest of the group in the library. They were very keen to show everyone that they are proud knitters and thought it would be a good opportunity to promote our group to the community. The afternoon was a great success and the enthusiasm of our knitters brought a lovely atmosphere to our library.
Our session begins with the group learning a particular knitting stitch and then practising. So far we’ve learnt how to knit and cable and our next session is using circular knitting needles. We are very lucky to have such a vast array of talented and experienced knitters, and these fantastic ladies are more than willing to help our novices. The group is currently knitting squares for a Wrap With Love project. They have knitted approximately 50 squares already to be made up into a knitted blanket.

Combined with a cup of tea, a biscuit and a lot of laughter, our knitters look forward to their knitting and are keen to meet more often in the library.

EMMA PRICE AND SHARON FOGARTY
Tomaree Library & Community Centre

Bankstown News

LIVING LIBRARIES
The first Bankstown Living Libraries program was held during Seniors’ Week in the Bankstown Town Hall, and we received enthusiastic feedback on all our books. The program was baged as Livin’ ‘Talkin’ Books to convey the liveliness of our real life books. The first ever Livin’ ‘Talkin’ Books were Harry Allie, Aboriginal Elder; Wendy Burcher from the ABC; and Turkan Aksoy from a local Turkish migrant family, all telling their own unique stories. The audience was captivated by the stories of Uncle Harry growing up in Queensland and his war experiences, Wendy’s account of many of the buried treasures from the ABC archives and Turkan’s migrant family history and experiences in a new country. Livin’ ‘Talkin’ Books will now be a regular quarterly feature on the Library’s events calendar.

Port Stephens News

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Our session begins with the group learning a particular knitting stitch and then practising. So far we’ve learnt how to knit and cable and our next session is using circular knitting needles. We are very lucky to have such a vast array of talented and experienced knitters, and these fantastic ladies are more than willing to help our novices. The group is currently knitting squares for a Wrap With Love project. They have knitted approximately 50 squares already to be made up into a knitted blanket.

Combined with a cup of tea, a biscuit and a lot of laughter, our knitters look forward to their knitting and are keen to meet more often in the library.

EMMA PRICE AND SHARON FOGARTY
Tomaree Library & Community Centre

Bankstown News

LIVING LIBRARIES
The first Bankstown Living Libraries program was held during Seniors’ Week in the Bankstown Town Hall, and we received enthusiastic feedback on all our books. The program was baged as Livin’ ‘Talkin’ Books to convey the liveliness of our real life books. The first ever Livin’ ‘Talkin’ Books were Harry Allie, Aboriginal Elder; Wendy Burcher from the ABC; and Turkan Aksoy from a local Turkish migrant family, all telling their own unique stories. The audience was captivated by the stories of Uncle Harry growing up in Queensland and his war experiences, Wendy’s account of many of the buried treasures from the ABC archives and Turkan’s migrant family history and experiences in a new country. Livin’ ‘Talkin’ Books will now be a regular quarterly feature on the Library’s events calendar.
FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOPS

Bankstown Library’s Family History Workshops for residents have revived interest in the history of the local area and families. Workshops have proven so popular that it has been necessary to be conducted both the usual morning workshops and repeat sessions in the afternoons. Participants have enjoyed lively discussions and learned so much about the resources used to search for one’s family history. Step-by-step guidance has been provided by our expert library consultants that has proven so popular that staff from neighbouring libraries attend to learn from the best in the region!

The current series of workshops covered the topics of finding family history on the Internet, searching overseas records for family history information, and where to from now for more advanced training. Depending on community interest, we will repeat the series. The workshops have generated interest in family history to new and existing residents, promoted a sense of belonging and brought together different generations over the twelve-month period.

After surveying participants we identified the need to re-evaluate our marketing strategies to promote the excellent workshops to a wider community. Customer evaluations showed the need to re-hedge the series and develop new marketing strategies to attract more participants for the workshops. The marketing campaign aimed specifically to non-users of the library service adopted new marketing strategies to promote the workshops. The usual marketing collateral of flyers, posters and brochures were also used in a mail-out strategy in addition to articles in the local press bringing in enquiries from all the new marketing strategy, including advertisements in the two local papers, interviews on local radio, feature articles on Council Events calendar and corporate website, and the use of Council’s highly visible digital roadside signage to promote the workshops.

The usual marketing collateral of flyers, posters and brochures were also included in a mail-out strategy in conjunction with personal call-backs to support the new marketing strategies. Increased numbers of enquirers came in from all the new marketing initiatives and the highway signage and paid advertisements in the local press brought in customers who had never used the library before.

A pleasing outcome has been the evaluations suggesting the workshop series be conducted annually. But even more pleasing is the recognition of the staff expertise at Bankstown Library; library staff from other public libraries have attended the workshops to learn research techniques, methodologies and resources to use back in their own workplaces. All workshop participants completed an evaluation form as a basis for reviewing the series for the future. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and encouraging. Many participants have visited the library in between the workshops and done follow-up research for themselves, and many are making use of our staff’s expertise as well.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PADSTOW

On 17th October 2009, the Padstow Library celebrated the 50th anniversary of opening in 1959 alongside the Baby Health Centre. Padstow Library was opened by the Mayor Carl Little and was the second branch to open following Chester Hill Library on 1st November 1958.

Mayor Little stated that Padstow library would be the third of its kind to be established by Bankstown Council. Libraries had already been established at Bankstown and Chester Hill and Padstow Library was almost complete. The Padstow Library was designed by England and Marshall Architects and in a newspaper article of the day, the building was described as being ultra-modern. CIR Ian Stromborg was at the Padstow opening as a child and can remember the Mayor arriving to open the library and how excited it was for the community. Padstow opened to the public with 9,900 books and on that very first day over 1,650 books were borrowed and within the first four weeks over half the collection was borrowed by local residents.

By Dec 1959, Padstow had a book stock of 9,570 books and issued 36,528 books. Popular books at the Libraries in 1959 were How to win friends and Influence People by Dale Carnegie and Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain, all of which are still popular today. By 1964 Padstow was the busiest branch and issued 26,000 books.

Today Padstow Library has a total of 26,401 items in the collection including books, music CDs, DVDs, books on tape and CD. Large Print books and magazines. This financial year the Padstow community has borrowed a total of 140,124 items.

Padstow Library has a strong connection with the local residents participating in Padstow on Parade on an annual basis and being the recipient of a generous donation of books from the Padstow RSL Sub-Branch for the past 37 years.

Each year, the Padstow RSL Sub-Branch donates an amount of money to the Padstow Library in remembrance of Anzac Day, instead of placing flowers at the Cenotaph. The library uses this donation to purchase books for its collection with the needs of the local community very much in mind at the selection process. Many books are purchased and available for review by the RSL members; they have an opportunity to select a particular book that will have their details on a name plate affixed to the book. This year saw the 38th anniversary of the sub-branch’s donations to the library continuing a long-lasting contribution to the local community. The Presentation Night was held at Padstow Library, on Wednesday the 1st of May, with the Mayor of Bankstown, Councillor Tania Mihailuk present to accept the cheque from the President of Padstow RSL Sub-Branch, Mr Bill Smith.

Other guests included Councillors, Padstow RSL Sub-Branch members and Ladies Auxiliary members, together with representatives from Bankstown City Library and Information Service.

SPACE FOR THE COMMUNITY

During the past year, Chester Hill Library has undergone a mini-refurbishment through efforts from all the staff. The use of library buildings is changing. People no longer come to the library just to borrow books. They come to study together or seek a quite sanctuary, to read a newspaper, to use the computer or simply just to meet. There is a need and demand for more people space within the library.

Responding to community needs, Chester Hill Library went through a process of mini-refurbishment, the results of which are being enjoyed today. The Library collections were reviewed carefully and items no longer popular or out of date were sent to another location. The additional floor space created that way was used for group study areas, newspapers and corner of the Kidszone, a quite sanctuary, to read a newspaper, to use the computer or simply just to meet. There is a need and demand for more people space within the library. Responding to community needs, Chester Hill Library went through a process of mini-refurbishment, the results of which are being enjoyed today. The Library collections were reviewed carefully and items no longer popular or out of date were sent to another location. The additional floor space created that way was used for group study areas, newspapers and corner of the Kidszone, a quite sanctuary, to read a newspaper, to use the computer or simply just to meet. There is a need and demand for more people space within the library.

To create a more user friendly library for the local community, Chester Hill Library was designed to create a more user friendly library for the local community. We wanted to let more light into the library by moving the tail shelving from the low windows to where the low shelves were located in front of the high windows! This was a huge undertaking which involved moving two hundred bays of shelves from one end of the library to the other. Additional seating areas were created against walls wherever possible for customers to relax and read in comfort and colourful lounges.

On the other side of the library the tail shelves were rearranged to provide staff with a clear view to the back corners of the library. We were able to create a study area with tables and chairs for group study and discussions. The group area also allows for a youth space which has become very popular with high school students, and we have also been able to create a specialist ISEC collection to improve access and use by local high school students.
**LIBRARIANS GET LOUD!**

Things got a little loud at Bankstown City Libraries on May 14th when the local librarians went crazy and committed some serious fashion crimes by stepping out in their loudest, brightest shirts for Loud Shirt Day.

Not only was it a whole lot of fun but over $100 was raised to help the Shepherd Centre help deaf children learn to listen and to speak. This will allow these children to attend their local school with their hearing siblings and peers, contribute to their community and reach their full potential within the hearing world. Staff gave a gold coin donation for the privilege of wearing something loud, whether it be a shirt, socks or tie, which was an interesting change to the corporate uniform! Enthusiasm was high with one staff member crafting his own loud shirt.

Now that's something worth getting LOUD about!

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**ROBYN OWENS**

Bankstown City Library and Information Service

**BOOKCHAT: AUSTRALIAN STYLE**

Liverpool City Library has had book discussion groups (now better known as Bookchat) in place for many years, but this is the first time that the discussion is being conducted in Auslan. Auslan stands for Australian Sign Language and it is the language of the deaf community.

For more than fifteen years, an Auslan Practice Group has been meeting in the Library. Participants consist of people who have family members who are deaf or with significant hearing loss, students enrolled in Auslan courses (through TAFE, local community colleges or the Deaf Education Network) and local members of the deaf community. It is interesting to note that these people come from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, but share one thing in common: the desire to learn and practice Auslan. They meet every Friday in school term from 10:00 am till 12:00 noon. Their topic of discussion or practice can be anything under the sun - the weather, movies or movie stars, TV shows, current affairs, their own families, newspaper articles, and much more.

In Term 4 of 2009, the group trialled the Auslan edition of Bookchat and it has proved to be a great success. The group members are given the same short list of words that they are not able to sign. On the last Friday of the month, they bring this list to the meeting and practice signing the listed words. A volunteer deaf facilitator, Malcolm Chambers, helps them to sign the words if they don't know how to do it. The group members are given the same short edition of Bookchat and it has proved to be a great learning tool for the participants. There has been a noticeable improvement in their signing skills and as a result they have developed confidence in using their skills in communicating with the deaf. This program has also helped in giving local deaf people an opportunity to engage in social interaction with the community at large. It has enhanced their confidence in communicating with the signing members of the hearing community. But the best thing is that it has given them a sense of belonging. Being part of Bookchat has made a positive difference to their lives.

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**CARME MARTIN**

Access Services Librarian

Liverpool City Library

Coffs Harbour News

**WRITERS AT COFFS**

It was with great pleasure that Coffs Harbour Library hosted “An evening with Michael Robotham”. As an ex-local, there were many old school friends of Michael’s in the audience, keen to hear what makes a writer tick. Michael was in conversation with his former teacher and mentor Alph Williams, and the event was sold out. Oh, to have a bigger library!!!

Michael spoke of how he develops his stories, and also talked about the writing process. His background as a journalist has provided a very large pool of personalities from which he draws his inspiration. Sharyn Kilien, author of The Inconvenient Child and local historian Doug Wakeling, also presented talks at the library recently. We welcome the opportunity to host guest authors, and the evenings have developed a good support base from the local community, providing us with yet another opportunity to Enrich, Inform & Connect.

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**JUDY ATKINSON**

Programs Officer

Coffs Harbour City Library

LIW

Coffs Harbour City Library had a busy Library and Information Week (LIW) with not only the usual offerings of a Biggest Morning Tea (in aid of the Cancer Council) and National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS), but we also put on public Internet workshops and a fun film night at Sawtell Cinema to celebrate.

The Library used the 2010 LIW theme of Access all areas in devising the public Internet workshops, which were held in Council’s computer training room, requiring participants to sign-in and display their visitor pass! Three sessions were run at different times during the week and covered Gmail for Beginners; Your Library Online; and Online Gems for Book Lovers. The limited sessions were quickly booked out and the varying levels of computer experience put staff to the test.

Library Technician’s Day on Tuesday was celebrated in what has become a traditional event in Coffs Harbour, with an early breakfast for library staff from around the area. Library people from school libraries, TAFE, Southern Cross University, our local hospital and our very own establishment attended and enjoyed a great breakfast at the Surf Club Café overlooking Park Beach. Everyone received a showbag of goodies and also signed the travelling Jean Genies jeans which came to breakfast with us! Programs Officer, Judy Atkinson, coordinated this cross-sector event.

The annual National Simultaneous Storytime was conducted at Coffs Harbour Library to a crowd of over 50 children and parents. Amanda Williams from our storytelling team got all the kids jumping to the special song made for the day. They then all settled down for a big screen showing of the book (Little White Dogs Can’t Jump) read by Amanda followed by craft in which the kids made a plastic straw picture frame for a picture of Smudge the dog! Access to copyright-free material for the day was a real bonus for this activity.

Our Information and Collections Team Leader, Carolyn Elmes, also organised a film night at Sawtell Cinema on Thursday evening for library supporters.
and members of our book club service. Participants enjoyed hors' d'oeuvres and drinks while they gathered prior to the special showing of the film Letters to Juliet for our group. This was the first time the library has conducted this type of event, and with over 70 people attending, we have a great foundation for doing something similar again next year.

ENZO ACCADIA
Library Manager
Coffs Harbour City Library

LAW WEEK
Coffs Harbour Library had a successful Law Week, with a number of information sessions and special storytimes conducted. Susan Green from Susan Green Legal Practice spoke on Wills and Power of Attorney. Her session was well attended, with over 35 people taking the opportunity to listen and learn. They also asked lots of questions! This is a topic that they get from the speaker, whether it be the lawyer itself, or from the audience. Even though we did a lot of preparation for this event, we only had around 15 people attend, who all got the opportunity to ask their questions. The media seemed more interested in this event than our community, and we even received a phone call from a Sydney radio station asking to interview our speakers!

Throughout the week Law Week bags were made available to patrons to promote the Find Legal Answers collection. There was also a display of both the Toolkit and Law Books for Libraries collection, with a number of patrons expressing their surprise at the quality of the information available to our community.

Children's Storytime was also involved in Law Week this year, with the local fire brigade visiting all three branches during the week. Over 150 children were able to enjoy not only the fact that there were firemen visiting the library, but also that they bought their fire trucks with them!

LIZ THOMAS
Special Collections Librarian
Coffs Harbour City Library

FLYING BOOKS
Port Macquarie Library recently celebrated its 10th birthday. Since we opened the new building in January 2000 more than two million people have passed through the doors and more than five million items have been issued (and returned). The day was celebrated with a new book extravaganza, live music, sausage sizzle and various children’s activities. There was even a special presentation to all those borrowers who had used their library card more than a thousand times.

At the beginning of May, Port Macquarie-Hastings launched their new Books in Flight service. Basically, we provide a paperback stand full of donated books at the airport which people can borrow and return either to the airport or to any of our branch libraries. In 2009 over 200,000 passengers passed through the recently upgraded airport so we’re expecting the service to be a big hit. The books are clearly identified as belonging to the library and there is a large sign at the airport promoting the service. The launch was covered by both press and television and the service has created a great deal of positive comment in the community. This is as low tech and as low cost a promotion as it gets. The books are donated, the minimal processing is done by a volunteer and the collection is topped up once a week by the library manager as he meanders home after another hard day at the office. Will we get enough books back to make it sustainable... watch this space.

JIM MAGUIRE
Manager
Port Macquarie-Hastings Library

LAIRIG
We know how wonderful we are and the great things we do, but Library and Information Week gives us a chance to showcase our achievements to the public and to celebrate the value and importance public libraries play in the community.

We decided to offer library tours, with a slight twist. Library patrons were given a physical and virtual tour of the library, reminding them of our fabulous fiction and fantastic non-fiction as well as introducing them to some collections they may not have been aware of such as the unique treasure trove that is local history. The virtual tour of our databases and catalogue was not surprisingly, a huge hit. Patrons, even those who felt they were computer savvy, were impressed by the quality of the databases and the features they offered such as personalising searches and creating alerts. The twist in the tours was the opportunity for patrons to get a behind the scenes view of the library (our work rooms), where the intellectual, professional and creative heart of the library beats!

Our passion and belief in public libraries led us to invite the not for profit organisation Room to Read, for an inspiring talk and morning tea. The organisation seeks to improve the lives of disadvantaged children by providing opportunities for education and lifelong literacy. Room to Read establishes children's libraries in communities where poverty, ethnicity or other barriers put children at risk. To date more than 16,000 libraries have been founded across the globe. The talk was informative, inspiring and showed how easy it is to make a difference in the world.

Australia’s biggest (and littlest) morning tea
There is no denying it, librarians love to eat (well those of us at Burwood do!) and we also like to contribute to society, so what better way to combine the two than to host Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea. Our meeting room was stuffed full of scrumptious, delectable goodies and staff, Council staff and public enjoyed the morning. Not wanting to leave our littlest patrons out, we decided to also host Australia’s Littlest Morning Tea. Held during our pre-school story time, parents, carers and staff bought in goodies for the kids such as lamingtons, fairy bread and cupcakes. The floor was covered in picnic blankets and stuffed furry friends and the picnic was enjoyed by all.

WRAP WITH LOVE
There is a new group in town armed and ready to knit!! Wrap with Love has come to Burwood Library, with a lively and talented bunch of knitters creating beautiful and colourful wraps which will be distributed within Australia and worldwide to needy communities. The group meets weekly, is open to everyone from beginners to expert knitters and is a great social get together for everyone.

HELEN KASSIDIS
Burwood Library

HERITAGE AT CAMDEN
The National Trust Heritage Festival events were a great success in Camden. Two hundred and seventy-six people attended activities over the fortnight celebrating The Making of our Nation. The Heritage Walking Tour of the town was enjoyed on a clear autumn day and highlighted the many nineteenth century buildings preserved in the town centre. Tours of St John’s Anglican Church showed interesting features of this gothic revival building and the graves of some of those who built the church.

Maps from Macquarie to Millennium were viewed when Camden Museum and Camden Library brought out maps from their collections. Participants were pleased to be able to trace the places they live back to original land grants and to see the South West Area...
Growth Centre’s plans for future development in the area. The Camden Remembers website was launched to a supportive crowd honouring those from the area who have been involved in conflicts from the Boer War to the present. See our website at: <http://www.camdenremembers.com.au/index.html>. People wishing to search military records were assisted and given directions in a family history workshop.

Children and families enjoyed indigenous storytelling at Narellan Library. A screening of the movie Night at the Museum 2 during a special after-hours opening of the Camden Museum was also a great success.

The events for the Heritage Festival were jointly planned and presented by Camden Council Library Service, Camden Historical Society and Camden Area Family History Society. Working in partnership meant a program of events was able to be put together which would have been beyond the scope of each individual organisation.

**In the Libraries**

**Greater Hume**

During the month of May 2010, the Greater Hume Libraries which include Culcairn, Henty, and Holbrook branches, hosted the People’s Choice Exhibition from the Thanks Dad National Photographic Competition. Each year the exhibition travels all over Australia with photos being on display in libraries, shopping centres and schools. The Thanks Dad Photo Competition celebrates the wonderful things men do with their children – and aims to encourage more men to spend more positive time with their children. In addition to displaying the wonderful array of photos from the People’s Choice Exhibition the Greater Hume Shire Libraries ran their own independent local photography competition. A number of families entered with some great photos of fathers and grandfathers enjoying time with their children. The competition consisted of two categories, Adult and Junior. The lucky winners of the competition categories each received a cash prize of $50.00. Overall the exhibition was a success with a number of patrons taking time during borrowing to have a look at the wonderful selection of photos and the fantastic moments children have had with the significant males in their lives.

For the month of April 2010, both the Culcairn and Henty Libraries were fortunate enough to borrow from the Albury Library/Museum two Memorial Boxes, Box 01, Australia in the First World War and Box 06, Our War in the Pacific. Each of the boxes was a video, teachers’ notes and case studies. Both boxes were viewed by many members of the community, with one school using the box as an educational tool for their primary school aged students. The display was a discussion point for many of our users, particularly returned ex-servicemen, about the weight of the uniforms and equipment and the difficult conditions experienced whilst serving as soldiers during war.

The Memorial Boxes are a fantastic resource available to organisations such as libraries and schools for free, although a charge for freight and handling is required. The boxes can be adapted to suit the learning experiences of children from lower primary to secondary school. Additionally, the boxes provide members of the library an opportunity to view the history of war through photographs and the physical artefacts, which may normally not be available to those living in county towns.

**Susan Kane**

 Library Assistant Greater Hume Libraries

**Knitters Paradise**

While knitting Sydneysiders joined Deborah Cameron at the ABC’s Ultimo Centre, for the 7th of June launch of the 2010 Knit-In. Wagga Wagga City Library was hosting an extravaganza of its own. ABC Riverina Radio broadcast live from the lower ground level of the library. The Riverina launch of the Knit-In started at 8.20am and concluded at 12 noon. The dulcet tones of presenter Chris Coleman could only just be heard above the click clacking of knitting needles at the busy hands of the Spinners and Weavers Guild, the Wagga Machine Knitters (who went manual for the event) and other enthusiastic knitters gathering to knit squares for Wrap With Love. This is an organisation whose aim is to answer their charter ‘Cold humanity is our concern, people caring about other people’ by providing them with blankets to ward off the cold.

The Library was awash with celebrity knitters including our Federal Member Kay Hull who demonstrated her prowess with the needles to some of the 150 primary school students who attended the event. Four local sports stars knitted all morning for the glory of the ABC Riverina Knit-In Trophy and many of the boys in attendance thought it that it was funny to see a knitting footy player but hilarious to see a knitting boxer!
In the Libraries

Scones and tea were served for the mid morning break while participants were entertained by a quartet from the Kapooka Army Band. The School children in attendance were treated to a demonstration of sheep shearing by Brian Alston from Charles Sturt University with the wool being carded and spun into yarn by spinners and weavers right before their eyes.

The Knit-In Launch was a brilliant example of how long standing partnerships between institutions, organisations and individuals can combine to create an event which the community can enjoy and value.

CHRISIE BOLTON
Program Office
Wagga Wagga City Library

MAKING A DIFFERENCE!
Wagga Wagga City Library assists Vision Australia to increase awareness of blindness and low vision in the general community and in March this year Wagga Wagga City Library received one of the 2010 Vision Australia Making a Difference Awards.

Our relationship with Vision Australia began during Seniors’ Week 2009 when the library partnered with Vision Australia to promote an event called The Talking Newspaper Goes Live! This event involved popular local narrators reading the Daily Advertiser, our newspaper, and technology consultants demonstrating new products for vision impaired community members and those with a print disability.

Since then Wagga Wagga City Library has targeted readers of large print (LP) books and has implemented a static information display regarding Vision Australia’s services. A Daisy player, a device for playing talking books, is also available for demonstrating to any interested library members. On 17th May the library was awarded the Making A Difference Award at a special ceremony with Vision Australia.

In June, I spoke to Stephen Jolley, Manager of Vision Australia Radio, on his weekly national radio program, Talking Vision and explained what the library does to make a difference for people with a print disability. The podcast is available online at <www.visionaustralia.org/talkingvision/>

MACQUARIE AND BRUNTON
On Friday 14th May some extraordinary pieces of history from the era of Governor Lachlan Macquarie and the letters written by Septimus Roe, recently acquired by SLNSW were on display at the Wagga Wagga City Library. Library staff welcomed back their friend and colleague Paul Brunton, Senior Curator at Mitchell Library, to share his vast knowledge of these precious artefacts with young and older audiences.

School children were fascinated by Paul’s knowledge of Sydney’s early days and there was intense questioning about the causes of death of Macquarie’s family and his extended family. The opportunity to see a holey dollar and hear members of Macquarie’s family and his extended family. The opportunity to see a holey dollar and hear the letters written by Septimus Roe, recently acquired by SLNSW was a unique experience for all who attended.

DIARY WORK
As Underbelly fever grips the nation, it’s easy to forget that the events depicted in that show have a foundation in reality. However, a packed crowd at Woy Woy Library got a taste of that reality on Friday the 25th June from ex-NSW Police Officer Glen McNamara, as he discussed his book Dirty Work. A gritty work of true crime, Dirty Work is a book that blows Underbelly away while lifting the lid on crime and corruption in NSW.

An engaging speaker, Glen outlined his fascinating and somewhat disturbing career as a NSW police officer in 1980’s inner Sydney. In vivid detail he told of his role in tracking notorious drug dealers, dealing with protection rackets that hid paedophiles and the subsequent fall out in the NSW police service. He then went on the tell of his life post-NSW police, the struggles he’s faced as a marked man since leaving the force and his quest to continue seeking justice for those victims who had been failed by our legal system.

In an open and candid way, Glen answered questions from the audience about what would have been some very personal and difficult issues that he’s faced. There was rousing applause at the conclusion of the event as the audience displayed their unabashed appreciation for Glen’s talk. What made Glen’s discussion of Dirty Work such a memorable experience for all who attended was that there was no Hollywood to it. It was just raw truth about a world of betrayal, murder, corruption and lies that is very close to home.

Thanks go to Woy Woy Library and local Umina bookstore Book Bazaar for jointly hosting the event.

BRONWYN LESLIE
Brench Services Librarian | Library Services
Gosford City Council

Great Lakes News
NEW WEBSITE
In June, thanks to the hard work of our IT staff, the Great Lakes Library Service launched its new website. The address may be the same <www.greatlakes.nsw.gov.au/library> but the look and functionality certainly aren’t. The new website has a fresh clean look, and whilst we’ve built in new functionality (e.g. Google maps, rolling events) we’ve also learnt from other websites that it’s important to keep things lean and not overcrowded.

As a consequence, a fair bit of content from the old website has been left on the cutting room floor! And as with all websites, this is truly a work in progress. As people become used to it, we’re sure that the new look will be appreciated by our users.

From our website we’re also encouraging new users to Sign Up and become part of the community. This allows them to access the Library’s online resources, as well as indicating to the Library how popular certain resources are, which will inform future developments.

For example, the Sign Up page is linked to a ‘My Reading’ feature, which allows them to choose their top five books or a variety of other topics. We will be able to see which are most popular and can then suggest other titles that might be of interest in the future.

The new site is also brimming with information about all the services we offer, including the Library’s new Bicentennial exhibition in Sydney. 

CLAIRE CAMPBELL
Manager Library Services
Wagga Wagga City Library

RANWDICK
Randwick Council’s history book, Randwick, is now available for purchase. Immerse yourself in Randwick’s rich history by buying the book from Council, Randwick’s Libraries and all good bookstores. Standard edition: $89.95, deluxe limited edition: $120. Randwick celebrates the history of one of New South Wales’ oldest local government areas and tells the story of the diverse range of people who live in this scenic part of Sydney: Indigenous Australians, Anglo-Celtic Australians and more recent migrants all feature in its pages, as do jockeys, surf lifesavers, bodgies and widgies. Social problems such as the care of neglected children and the issues of crime and punishment, drinking and gambling are also part of the rich tapestry of this history.

MICHELLE KLINE
Supervisor, Marketing and Events
Randwick City Library Service

NEW WEBSITE
In June, thanks to the hard work of our IT staff, the Great Lakes Library Service launched its new website. The address may be the same <www.greatlakes.nsw.gov.au/library> but the look and functionality certainly aren’t. The new website has a fresh clean look, and whilst we’ve built in new functionality (e.g. Google maps, rolling events) we’ve also learnt from other websites that it’s important to keep things lean and not overcrowded.

As a consequence, a fair bit of content from the old website has been left on the cutting room floor! And as with all websites, this is truly a work in progress.
In the Libraries

progress. There are pages we are working on and Web 2.0 functionality we'd like to build into the site and we're constantly open to suggestions to improve the site.

FASCINATING FOLKS

In its own variation on the Living Library the Great Lakes Library Service held its second annual Fascinating Folks evening in June. The idea behind FF is that the library finds a handful of locals (in this case three people) that have really remarkable stories to tell and then holds an evening event for them to do just that.

This year our Folks were Anne Schubert, one of the pioneers of Bowen therapy in Australia, Stuart Pearson, who authored an amazing story of his mother-in-law’s survival in Indonesia through incredible civil strife and Fay Shacklock, a gold medal winner of the Rudd government) Stroud will be

new lease of life. Stroud will get a new library, the community will have premises, will be just part of what’s on offer. So, sessions, which were not possible in the existing makeover, turning it into not just a brilliant new library but a genuine focal point for the community. Services such as meeting rooms and storytime sessions, which were not possible in the existing premises, will be just part of what’s on offer. So, Stroud will get a new library, the community will have a focal point and an aging building will get an amazing new lease of life.

Not a bad outcome at all!

E-BAY UPDATE

In an earlier issue of this esteemed publication we mentioned that the Friends of the Great Lakes Library Service (FOGLLS) were now selling unwanted donations, and raising a steady amount of income along the way. Well, we recently just hit the motherload with one innocent looking title on aboriginal rock art. Something we’d have sold for probably around $5 at our book sale (if we’d got somebody to buy it) went to an overseas buyer for $445. How’s that for awesome?

CHRIS JONES
Manager
Great Lakes Library Service

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

On Saturday 5th June 2010, Hawkesbury City Library celebrated its fifth birthday at the Deerubbin Centre. In 2005 we moved from a few doors up the road to the purpose built Deerubbin Centre which includes space for the library, gallery, community rooms and commercial space. Since that time we have had approximately three quarters of a million people through the library doors, and over 700,000 loans have been made by our 35,000 members.

For our celebrations we invited library members who were born in 2005 and were also celebrating their 5th birthday this year to a party. About 50 kids (along with additional siblings and parents) attended and enjoyed craft activities, storytelling with Ruth Atkinson and then a visit by a couple of clowns. Games, face painting and of course a big green birthday cake. The 5 year olds assisted with blowing out the candles and were given their own pattie cake. The cake was cut by Mrs Yvette Kemp, a member for at least 40 years and one of our very loyal borrowers.

We extended library opening hours for the day and operated from 9am to 5pm. This was a boon for our Giant Book Sale where we sold thousands of second books and raised several thousand dollars. A sausage sizzle was operated by the Tennyson Bush Fire Brigade. In addition to the children’s activities we had a lovely presentation by the Macquarie Towns’ Choral Society, a dance group display and an author talk. Luckily door prizes were a hit, everyone had an enjoyable day and we look forward to our next milestone.

MICHELLE NICHOLS
Local Studies & Outreach Librarian
Hawkesbury Library Service, Windsor

BUSH POETS

Narrabri Library hosted the launch of the poetry book Partners in Rhyme in May. The book was a collaboration of 14 local bush poets to commemorate the sesquicentenary celebrations in Narrabri. Ninety four patrons attended the launch, with 12 of the 14 authors being on hand to sign the book. Robyn Faber, the Mayor of Narrabri (pictured standing behind the authors) was on hand to launch the book.

JENNY CAMPBELL
Librarian
Narrabri Public Library

Law Week

AUSTRALON

Auburn City Library once more hosted a series of interesting events during this year’s Law Week to promote the importance of law in society and to highlight free legal resources and information available at the Library. This year special attention had been paid to the recession and its impact on mortgages as well as numerous way of assisting people experiencing such problems.

Law Week was opened by the Mayor of Auburn City, Councillor Hitcham Zraika and Ms Pamela Davies, Client services Coordinator. The DVD Mortgage rescue: never too late, never too early, was screened and an audience of over 20 participants listened to Mr Rami Atta, an Arabic speaking lawyer, who talked about the problem and answered some questions related to refinancing and dealing with lenders.

A group of 18 participants seeking free legal advice and having difficulties with immigration issues as well as any other law-related matters attended a seminar Free legal advice – how Courtyard Legal supported by Salvation Army can help you which took place on 19 May. Question time with Luke Geary, a solicitor specialising in migration law was very rewarding. Mrs Johari Bokari, a refugee from Liberia shared her story with the audience and explained how Courtyard Legal helped her to reunite with her family.

Also on Wednesday night Jeremy Goreby and John Rowe from the Lawyers Alliance addressed a small group of 60 seniors from the Chinese Elderly Group and Auburn Asian Elderly Friendship Group with all the information they needed to deal with any issues related to tenancy.

Overall Law Week 2010 at Auburn City Library was a successful one and attracted over 100 residents from many different cultures, age groups and walks of life. We held activities and events involving community groups and members of the legal profession as well as representatives of law-related organisations, especially those offering free services. This enabled participants to choose the right source of information, help or advice, when needed, and in
In the Libraries

many cases corrected a negative perception of law and its reinforcement.
Auburn City Library offers free access to a collection of legal information both online and in print. This collection is supported by the Legal Information Access Centre (LIAC), based at the State Library of New South Wales which acts as a referral point and coordinates several law awareness programs.

ANNETTA KUCHARSKA
Assistant Information Services Librarian
Auburn Library

MÁILTAND
Maitland City Library’s 2010 Law Week debate tournament was once again a resounding success. This is the fourth year of the tournament, which this year was held at the East Maitland Court House. The debate topics were planned around this year’s Law Week theme ‘Law and justice in your community’. The eventual winners of this keenly contested tournament collected a $500 cheque for their school and the right to host aloft the coveted Law Week trophy.

We firmly believe that the debate tournament enhances the students’ understanding of the law and its role in reflecting community values and attitudes. This is the real value of the tournament, getting local teenagers to consider the impact of laws and legislation on their own communities. The students debate legal questions framed in a manner that allows discussion of the concepts as they impact on society.

This year’s tournament attracted eight teams from seven local high schools. It featured three rounds of debating over three separate days with all the debates being assessed by professional adjudicators who allocated point scores for each debater and offered students the opportunity of feedback.

The Grand Final of the tournament took place on 17 May with Hunter Valley Grammar School challenging reigning champions Merewether High. They debated the topic Violent videos should be banned with great aplomb and professionalism. Merewether emerged as the stronger three rounds of debating over three separate days with all the debates being assessed by professional adjudicators who allocated point scores for each debater and offered students the opportunity of feedback.

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The City Librarian, Keryl Collard and the Mayor of Maitland, Peter Blackmore travelled to Maitland, Peter Blackmore travelled to Maitland, Peter Blackmore travelled to Maitland, Peter Blackmore travelled to Merewether High to make the formal presentation of the trophy and cheque at the school assembly. The students were absolutely thrilled to win the competition. Their response and that of the school made obvious the status the tournament has gained over the years and what a significant achievement the winning of it is.

ROB STEWART
Programme Librarian
Maitland City Library

PARRAMATTA
Parramatta City Library in partnership with Parramatta Community Justice Clinic held a series of law talks in the library to celebrate Law Week 2010. Lawyers in the local area donated their time to talk at Parramatta City Library and some of the branches. Topics included Wills and Powers of Attorney, Immigration Law, and Neighbours, Householders and the Law. The talks proved to be a success with good attendance.

SARAH MORGAN
Library Officer
Wyong Library

WYONG
Law Week talks were held at Lake Haven, Toukley and Tuggerah Libraries. Whilst audience levels were lower than anticipated at all locations, the patrons who attended were really happy with the speakers. Chris Manning, who hosted Wills and Powers of Attorney at Tuggerah, for example, was an excellent speaker who was very generous with his time. Patrons stayed for morning tea and swapped interesting will stories.

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Reference Librarian
Wyong Shire Library Service

ELIBRARY
eLibrary 24/7, a cooperative project between Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Marrickville and Strathfield Libraries, was officially launched at Marrickville Library recently. A library card now entitles library members to check out and download digital media anytime, anywhere. Marrickville Library held a demonstration of the new technology entitlements library members to check out and download digital media anytime, anywhere. Marrickville Library held a demonstration of the new technology entitlements library members to check out and download digital media anytime, anywhere.

Parramatta City Library and Council’s History Centre have recently released an exciting range of new family history and genealogy databases. The Family History Research Group was launched and now meets twice a month to share experience and knowledge on using library resources to trace family history. Qualified staff are available to help locate items or to demonstrate the latest electronic resources including Births, Deaths and Marriages, cemetery transcriptions, and convict records.

LISA MARSHALL
Coordinator, Community Programs
Marrickville Library Service

SENIORS ON SUSTAINABILITY
Over the past five weeks, 28 seniors have been sharing their memories, advice and stories with local author, Joanne Fedler. The legacies for a better world: seniors on sustainability writing project is aimed at those who have a passion for writing and want to share their experiences of green living in the good old days. We hear so much in the media these days about recycling, saving water, growing organic vegetables and using biodegradable cleaning materials. But wait, these were all things that many of us were doing years ago, growing up in a world that sustained itself!

Participants have learnt writing skills such as editing, biography writing and poetry, and the results of their work will be published in a book, accompanied by photographs from award-winning photographer, Israel Smith. The book will be launched in October at a local school where the children and seniors will plant trees together and share their collective wisdom.

MICHELLE KLINE
Supervising Librarian
Marrickville Library Service

Marrickville News

LAW
Marrickville Library held three special events over the course of Library and Information Week. The Week began with Pottery of Marrickville: Potters, Diana and Studio Anna, a presentation by Robert Hatchinson from the Marrickville Heritage Society. He spoke about the three art potteries that thrived in Marrickville last century. Local ceramic artist Jean Hutchinson from the Silver Street Studio also gave a pottery demonstration which coincided with a display of works from Silver Street Studio.

The final event to celebrate Library and Information Week was Art Stack, No Holds Barred...

Complete Open Access featuring our historic art collection which began in the early 1970s. Art Stack holds many books about well known Australian and International artists. The collection includes books on art movements, art history and art theory. The LIW activities were attended by approximately 100 people.

Our exhibition and talk based on research from the book Rivers and Resilience by Heather Goodall and Allison Cadwall was a resounding success. Heather provided an animated and enthusiastic question and answer session based not only on the exhibition materials, but also her wider knowledge of indigenous history. History came alive for the audience as Heather detailed the struggles faced by Aboriginal people and the ingenious ways they overcame them.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
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MICHELLE KLINE
Supervising Librarian
Marrickville Library Service

Newcastle News

MENTAL HEALTH LIBRARY
The Lord Mayor of Newcastle, John Tate launched a new Mental Health initiative at Newcastle Region Library on June 8th. A partnership between PBA mental health recovery, Newcastle Region Library and the Hunter Institute of Mental Health provided the resources to establish the Surf the Mental Health Library collection which provides an invaluable service to the community.
The Surf the Mental Health Library collection was purchased with funds raised at a concert held in Newcastle in 2008. The collection consists of approximately 90 publications dealing with all aspects of mental health. This collection will assist those experiencing mental health issues, their friends and carers and the wider Newcastle community.

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In the Libraries

Sharon Grierson the Federal MP for Newcastle spoke about the importance of families in the community being able to access information on mental health and mental illness. A most compelling speech was then given by Simon Swinson who talked about his own mental health journey. Simon referred to the help he had received from local libraries, the assistance he received in finding information about his own condition and in helping him to learn new life skills. He feels that this collection will go a long way to helping all members of the community to access information about mental illness.

Students from the year 11 drama class at Lambton High, who are finalists in MindPlay, performed for a wonderful play for the gathered crowd. MindPlay is a school drama competition for Year 11 students from the Hunter, Central Coast and Manning regions. Students are required to research, write and perform a 15 minute drama piece on a mental health topic of their choice.

The performance was followed by a light lunch and an opportunity to browse the collection.

NATURE FEATURE

Capturing the extremes of weather is just one of the many highlights of the collection of images from Australia's most prestigious competition for press photographers, the Nikon-Walkley Photographic Awards which was on display at Newcastle Region Library's Lovett Gallery during May and June. Newcastle Region Library was delighted to host this outstanding exhibition showcasing the best press photos from across the country. It features more than 100 images from sixteen finalists, presenting reportage in news, sport, daily life, portrait and suburban/regional photography as well as documentary essay work.

This year, Renee Nowytarger from The Australian was awarded the Nikon-Walkley Press Photographer of the Year Award, for her photographic work which the judges praised as ‘rounded and versatile’. Her stand out photograph of an exhausted and forlorn Malcolm Turnbull was singled out for especial praise. Her daughter attends the group meeting and brings opinions from both herself and her mother. There are also members from non-English speaking backgrounds who join the group to mainstream their contacts and learn English literature.

Reading group members feel reading is no longer only for reading’s sake but also for friendship and community support. Parramatta City Library now encourages all branches to look into new types of reading group, such as a multicultural reading group, to help more people access information and books in its diverse collections.

Parramatta News

AUTHOR TALK

On Wednesday 2nd June Parramatta City Library held its monthly author talk, with Max Cryer coming to talk about his book Who said that first? the curious origins of common words and phrases. In his book Max finds the origin of popular expressions. The author talk proved to be a popular event with more than 40 people in attendance on the day.

WIFI LAUNCH

To celebrate the installation of Wi-Fi at Constitution Hill Branch Library Parramatta City Council hosted a free Public Open Day on Saturday 8 May 2010. Entertainment included face painting, a jumping castle, sausage sizzle, library tours and a visit from clown and balloonist Trixie the Clown. Parramatta City Library branches now have free Wi-Fi internet.

Providing wireless internet is part of Parramatta City Council’s e-Parra strategy, with a vision to transform the Parramatta local government area into a smart city for the future.

SARAH MORGAN
Library Officer

DIVERSITY

There are three reading groups held at Parramatta City Library, both day time and evening. What is special about our reading groups is that they are all catering to a very diverse community. They include people with a disability, who often don't get a chance to go out, who are able to come to the library with the help of our volunteers. The library has formed a partnership with Council Home Support to run this reading group. The library provides a space that is wheelchair accessible, and also gives help on books, discussion questions, blog hosting the discussion notes, and refreshments.

There are three patrons requiring wheelchairs and one vision impaired member. There is also a home reader who is 92 years old. She borrows the same title as other members do but in a talking book format. She listens to it first and then tells her daughter what she thinks about the book. Her daughter attends the group meeting and brings opinions from both herself and her mother. There are also members from non-English speaking backgrounds who join the group to mainstream their contacts and learn English literature.

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YAN ZHANG
Information Access Librarian

TOURS

Apart from regular school tours Parramatta City Library holds library tours for a mixed range of communities. For example, the library runs tours for community colleges where students come from a very diverse cultural background and with or without sound English language skills, also some employment agencies approached the library for information. The library tour is also now a part of the council-run induction session. When new staff members are recruited a tour of the library is organised which gives us a chance to showcase the library’s collections and online access. The library has developed a manual on how to run the tours for various groups effectively and informatively. Next all branches will develop their own tour programs.

YAN ZHANG
Information Access Librarian

The future is here now @ Parramatta City Library! Have you seen the laser beam guns on sci-fi movies? You’re thinking Star Wars and Avatar? Well, not exactly. It’s the latest technology being employed at Parramatta City Library. It’s powerful, precise, and time-saving. It’s the DLA Hand-Held Reader. Using RFID tags that transmit information to a futuristic gun-like hand-held reader device, your local librarian can track missing books and other items on the library shelves just by pointing towards the shelves, and the rest is history.

SARAH MORGAN
Library Officer

On the Libraries
In the Libraries

Wyong News

TOUKLEY RECYCLED

Toukley Library’s tour of the local Waste and Recycling Plant was booked out before it made it into the press! A bus filled with about 20 patrons and driven by Branch Manager Andrea Edwards enjoyed an entertaining talk on recycling before a tour of the plant. Thiess Services, the operators of the plant, also provided a wonderful morning tea (fresh, not recycled!) for all participants. Patrons said this was a fascinating experience and they gained many new tips on recycling.

BIRTHDAY BASH

The end of Wyong Shire Library Service’s year long 50th birthday celebrations coincided with the 50th anniversary of the opening of Toukley Library. Past and present staff and managers attended the party and congratulations were received from the Mayor and the public. The obligatory large birthday cake was served up and patrons and staff reminisced about the changes that have occurred during the Library’s lifetime.

HERITAGE WEEK

Heritage Week was once again celebrated at Tougerah Library by hosting a talking on ‘Early European Landholders and Early Subdivisions in the Wyong Shire Area’. This was conducted by the president of the Wyong Museum and Historical Society, Phil Morley. With maps and early photographs Phil kept the audience entertained as he painted a picture of the early days of the Shire and the changes that have occurred in subsequent years.

AUTHOR TALKS

Popular Australian author Judy Nunn visited Tuggerah Library in May. This event was booked out long before the day with people begging to be placed on the waiting list. Judy entertained patrons with interesting tales from her life and her writing. After the event, Judy signed books, spoke to patrons and had her photo taken many times. Patrons walked out positively glowing with enjoyment and praised the Library for having hosted this talk. This certainly encourages us to keep our author talks going. And there was not much morning tea left over as well!

BOOKWORMS

After much anticipation, Tuggerah Library has commenced its own Book Group called Tuggerah Bookworms. We called for patrons who were interested in joining a group to put their name on a sign up sheet and we were overwhelmed with the response. As part of Central East Zone Wyong Shire has access to book club kits, which makes choosing and supplying resources to book groups much easier. The first meeting of the Bookworms was remarkably positive, with all members standing around after the meeting chatting like they were old friends. We still have enough names to start another group so we will wait and see what happens in the future!

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH

Reference Librarian

Wyong Shire Library Service

Penrith News

HISTORY CONFERENCE

Macquarie’s legacy was celebrated at Penrith City Library’s 9th Annual Making of a City History Conference in the Richard Bonynge Concert Hall at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre on Saturday 6th March. This year’s conference was dedicated to unearthing the legacy of Governor Lachlan Macquarie, celebrating 200 years since his arrival in Australia. Library staff worked tirelessly to prepare for the event, which acknowledged Macquarie’s unique legacy. The conference attracted 207 attendees from all over New South Wales.

Information Librarian and Historian Lorraine Stacker delivered an informative speech exploring the history of the Emu Plains Government Agricultural Farm that was established by Macquarie in 1819. Other speakers on the day included keynote speaker Dr Carol Liston, who presented her audience with a thought-provoking new perspective on Macquarie’s impact upon the nation, Dr Siobhan Lavelle OAM, who shared her extensive knowledge of the history of Macquarie’s planned town of Castlecrag, Dr Ann-Marree Whittaker, who revealed details about Macquarie’s personal life and legacy; and Dr James Broadhead, who explored and revealed the importance of Macquarie’s relationship with road-builder William Cox. For further information on the conference, including a list of speakers, topics and photographs, go to www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/index.asp?id=6585.

SYDNEY WRITERS’ FESTIVAL

Penrith City Library hosted its 7th regional Sydney Writers’ Festival event on 19th May. This year well-known journalist, Jana Wendt, spoke to a sold out audience of 250 people about her new book - Nice Work. Jana’s talk was followed by supper and book signing, with Jana generously making herself available to a long line of fans. Further details and photographs: <www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/index.asp?id=6528>.

WATSONS BAY

In March this year the Woollahra Library and Information Service relocated its old Watsons Bay branch library into a beautiful new branch library in the Watsons Bay Tea Gardens. The library held an official opening with the Mayor of Woollahra, Councillor Andrew Petrie, with invited guests on the evening of Wednesday 24th March and then a community opening the following day with a morning tea and special children’s programs.

The new library has a community lounge room atmosphere with sofas and chairs, the Tea Gardens cafe next door and beautiful views of the harbour.

The interior, designed by CK Designs, has a beachy seaside feel in keeping with its harbourside location.

New features for the library include longer opening hours, free Wi-Fi, new public access computers, printing and photocopying facilities and an expanded program for young children with storytime, rhyme time and Kids Club.

In the first week over 2000 people visited the new library and since opening membership has been up 30% and circulation has increased by 80%. We view this as a great success for a small village library.

JANET DE BRES

Events and Promotions Librarian

Woollahra Library and Information Service

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Camden and Narellan Libraries have experienced an overwhelming response to this year’s launch of the blanket drive for Wrap with Love. We have over 150 finished wraps waiting to be collected by our local Quota Club to be delivered to Wrap with Love’s headquarters.

Our Clisk Clack and Yak knitting groups (that seem to grow in numbers every week) have to be congratulated on their commitment to this worthwhile charity. Our knitters come every week armed with their knitting needles, cakes and ideas on how to use their ‘library’ time to help the community.

One idea which raised over $700 for the Cancer Council, was to knit blankets and raffle them at the Biggest Morning Tea. Trust me when I say these were no ordinary blankets. They were works of art!
In the Libraries

Our Click Clack and Yakkers were also involved in our local community Textile Challenge. Their quilt which was made from woolen felt squares was embroidered by each member of the group. It is representative of the differences in their backgrounds, yet at the same time symbolises their coming together as a group. Just as the quilt is pieced together and becomes one, they feel that they are in harmony when they are pieced together every Tuesday evening when they meet at their Library for the knitting and craft session. It’s a wonderful thing to see so many people from our community using their Public Library to meet, chat, teach and inspire each other to create amazing works of art.

ANNETTE CHAPLIN
Home Library Service Officer
Camden Council Library Service

We were thrilled to have journalist and historian Peter Rees come to Liverpool City Library this year for our ANZAC remembrance event. It was a captivating talk about nurses, some of the most meritorious yet under-acknowledged heroines of war. His book The Other ANZACS: nurses at war 1914-1918 tells the story of World War One through the eyes of Australian and New Zealand nurses. The Other ANZAC short-listed twice in 2009, for the Australian History Prize, and the ACT Chief Minister’s prize.

The research for this book started at the Australian War Memorial, using the nurses’ diaries and letters. The writing journey eventually took Peter to various parts of Australia and New Zealand. He tracked down more memoirs, letters and rare photographs of the enlisted nurses and soldiers from their families; invaluable items that had been privately kept for the past 90 years.

The talk brought to light the struggles, heartbreaks, humour and sacrifices of the nurses. Peter also highlighted the fact that the book presents only some of the stories and that a very general record of their tremendous contributions to our ANZACS. It is not representative of all the Australian and New Zealand nurses involved in the war. Overall, Peter presented an insightful and humorous yet sorrowful account of the stories from his book. The talk was accompanied by a slideshow of engaging images of the nurses and patients.

These revealed further insights into the nurses’ lives behind the lines. I would highly recommend Peter Rees for an author talk at your library.

THANH LUU
Heritage Programs Officer
Liverpool City Library

FRIENDS
Think about the friends you have and what they mean to you. What makes them so special and why are they so important in your life? For the residents of Southern Cross Tenison Apartments at Caves Beach, this was the focus for one of their recent activities. With the assistance of Kit, the activities officer, the residents gathered their thoughts on what makes a good friend. With a little bit of help from her friends, Kit typed up the residents’ thoughts and mounted them on scrapbooking paper. The result was a wonderful display that was shown to us when we visited the Tenison Apartments for a morning tea with the residents.

With the kind permission of Kit and the residents of Tenison, we borrowed the display for Swansea Library and it has been a wonderful talking point for visitors for the past month. It follows their very successful photographic display held at the library last year.

To show our appreciation and to continue to foster a wonderful relationship with Kit and the residents, we organised a morning tea at Swansea Library. Much to our delight, the date coincided with the 80th birthday of one of the residents—so it was party time at Swansea Library complete with birthday cake! The ladies and gentlemen who attended had a wonderful time, and Kit, the lucky birthday girl, enjoyed all the attention. After looking at their displayed works, the residents headed back home to continue the party celebrations.

Here are some of the residents’ thoughts on friends:

A friend is someone who accepts you as you are. My friend has kept in touch with me since we were children.
One to whom one can go in good times and bad, in sorrow, and in joy.
They’re always there when you need them.

NATALIE KOZARY AND RACHEL MALLABY
Lake Macquarie City Library

INCONVENIENT CHILD
It was with great pleasure that we welcomed Sharyn Killens and Lindsay Lewis to the Lithgow Library Learning Centre. The visit was co-ordinated as part of Sharyn and Lindsay’s tour of the central west to promote their book The inconvenient child, the true story of Sharyn’s life.

Her story began in Sydney in the late 1940s when her pretty, blonde mother, Grace, discovered she was pregnant to a black merchant marine who had sailed back to America. It was the era of the White Australia Policy and when unmarried mothers were scorned by society, so what was Grace to do with this illegitimate, mixed-race baby, this inconvenient child?

The highly anticipated talk took the audience on a roller coaster ride of emotion. Sharyn talked about the neglectful foster care she endured as a baby, the convent-run orphanage where she was abandoned by her mother at the age of five, the correctional institutions she was sent to as a young teenager and the struggles with her mother to find the identity of her unknown American father.

For an hour the audience were transported into Sharyn’s life, enduring her pain during the tough times and celebrating her joy in the good. It is a story both of heartache and ultimate triumph. The talk ended with Sharyn and Lindsay singing Amazing Grace and He’s got the whole world in His hands, with everyone joining in. There was hardly a dry eye in the Library. Book signings then took place before a cup of tea and a chat. The Lithgow Library applauds these two wonderful ladies.

SCOTIA TRACEY
Lithgow Library

THE MAGIC MILLION
Randwick residents are rejoicing – we are certainly a community of committed readers! On 18th June, the one millionth library item was checked out at the newly refurbished Randwick Branch Library. Our libraries provide key community services to our residents, and the addition of our digital library, OverDrive, which provides patrons with free audio and e-Books as well as the refurbishment of the Randwick Branch Library have added to our growth.

Circulation statistics for Randwick City Library Service showed a steady increase over the years, until 2010, when we hit the magical million mark:

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<th>Year</th>
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To celebrate this milestone, the community and staff enjoyed a cup of tea and cupcakes at the Library, raising over $200 for charity.

MICHELLE KLINE
Supervisor, Marketing and Events
Randwick City Library Service
UNLOCKING THE LANDS
As part of the 2010 National Trust Heritage Festival, we asked local historian Fiona Firth to give a free lunchtime presentation entitled Unlock the lands: 19th century land settlement in Bega Valley and on the Monaro. The talk was held in collaboration with the Bega Regional Art Gallery which provided the space for the presentation and is located right next door to the library. This collaboration provides synergy between our cultural services.

In her talk, which was attended by 20 people, Fiona explored how the Robertson Act of 1861 responded to the people’s call to unlock the lands. The Act made free selection of crown land possible for anyone and Fiona talked about its impact on the Bega Valley lands: 19th century land settlement in Bega Valley and on the Monaro.

Fiona proved to be a lively and interesting speaker.

LAURA BLOOM
To celebrate Library Week, Byron Bay library invited local author Laura Bloom to the library to talk about her new novel In the Mood. Laura takes the inspiration for her writing from music, especially the big band music of the 1940s and 1950s, hence the title of the book. It was very interesting to hear Laura speak about how she thought out the plot and how she imagined her characters. The novel is set in Sydney during and after World War II and is told through the eyes of a husband and wife, and depicts how the separation of the war affects them differently. It was fascinating to hear how Laura writes from the perspectives of both a man and a woman. The talk was followed by afternoon tea, and Laura generously spent the next hour talking to the audience informally over tea and chocolate biscuits. Thanks for staff member Lisa Morrison for arranging this author talk, which doubled as a membership drive for Byron’s Friends of the Library.

AMANDA FOXLEY
Library Assistant
Camden Council Library Service

A DAY IN THE STATISTICAL LIFE OF MOSMAN LIBRARY: NOT EXACTLY 21 YEARS BUT IT’S CLOSE
In 1989 we were so excited about a State Library project that aimed to place CDROM equipment in public libraries. Part of the Chief Librarian’s report to Council requesting that we purchase a CDROM station stated, Whilst it would not be proposed to replace all printed versions of encyclopaedias with CDROM, there would be significant advantages to library users in having some reference works on CDROM because of the powerful retrieval capabilities and cost effectiveness.

Jump ahead 20 years to 2009 – we now subscribe to 19 online databases, average over 10,000 Internet bookings a year and 1,858 wireless users.

In 1989 we lobbied for Sunday opening hours. We were able to convince the Council using the statistics taken during a trial period (275 visits, 360 books issued) that it was worthwhile opening on Sundays between 10.30 am and 4 pm. 20 years on and we are now open every Sunday from 10 am – 4 pm and enjoy a daily average of 710 visits and 800 items issued.

The table below shows that over the past 20 years some things haven’t changed all that much, but we are proud that we continue to be a relevant and valuable resource to our community.

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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total registered borrowers</td>
<td>21,230 - 84%</td>
<td>22,175 - 86%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Total items acquired</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total visits</td>
<td>131,040</td>
<td>239,461</td>
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JANE BROADBERE
Information Services Librarian
Mosman Library

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Multicultural News

AUDBRN ARABIC SENIORS’ TALK LAW

The Auburn Arabic seniors’ community talked the law recently, when Annette Kucharska from Auburn Library and I visited the Australian Arabic Community Welfare Centre. It was a great opportunity to discuss the legal rights we all share and how seniors in the Arabic community can find out about them. Problems with neighbours, tenancy issues, banking and finance, as well as retail shopping issues were all discussed. It was a great opportunity to promote the Find Legal Answers service at Auburn library, as well as the multiple resources in Arabic which are available from the Find Legal Answers website www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au.

A delicious spread of Lebanese food followed the session, and over a plate of tabouli Nayef Hajaj, the Arabic seniors’ facilitator and I, talked further about the value of libraries in keeping his community in touch with the law.

JEANELL BUCKLEY
Legal Information Access Centre
State Library of NSW

NET HELP

Bankstown Library was successful in gaining an Adult Learners Week Small Grant from the State Library of New South Wales. The grants are to promote and provide adult learning opportunities. Our event Net Help - Learn and Work was a series of bilingual Internet classes. We wanted to raise community awareness of online resources that can assist with adult learning opportunities and employment.

Three library staff, Sin Man Lau (Mandarin), Fadia Hourani (Arabic) and Lily Truong (Vietnamese) ran the classes for interested participants, who wanted some assistance on how to use the Internet for working, learning, and other community and government information.

The participants were thrilled with the classes, and were eager to learn all about driving tests, tax information, resumes, jobsites, email, and sites about local issues in their languages. The classes also served as a way for people who are facing similar issues to meet in a safe and welcoming environment. The learners are promising they will return to use their newfound skills in library’s Technology Centre.

The classes were worthwhile for the library staff as well, who were able to talk to the participants about what they needed as far as Internet tuition went, and to use their language and training skills for a really eager group of learners!

ROBYN OWENS
Library Services Coordinator
Bankstown City Library and Information Service

LET’S TALK ENGLISH

It was heart-warming to see so many residents practice their English conversation skills and meet new people in a friendly and social setting at Bankstown Library. Every Monday in February residents had the chance to practice speaking English in a supportive and friendly environment with experienced library staff to assist in the finer art of conversation. The free classes were well-attended and provided residents an opportunity to meet new people, make new friends and discover what the library service has to offer. As usual refreshments were provided to add to the social setting of the conversation classes!

Due to the popular demand for the February/March English conversation classes the program has been repeated over May/June with a further program booked for October. Advertising for the classes in the local papers resulted in a substantial number of calls from residents wanting to attend or be notified of the next available course. The course teacher Jann Debenham will be conducting train-the-trainer sessions for library staff to initiate conversation classes at branch libraries to meet the increased demand for the popular classes.

ROBYN OWENS
Library Services Coordinator
Bankstown City Library and Information Service

CULTURAL HARMONY

National Harmony Day’s message of Everyone Belongs and it’s themes of community participation, inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone have always been particularly relevant to the City of Canterbury. With over 47% of the population born overseas and 43.7% from a non-English speaking background, Canterbury is one of the most culturally diverse Local Government Areas in the Sydney Metropolitan Area.

For the last few years the City of Canterbury Library has celebrated Harmony Day with special community morning teas at each of its four locations. This year however, we decided that it was time to take it up a notch and so in addition to our morning teas we conducted a special Harmony Day Celebration at the Central Library in Campsie, as part of our annual Celebrating Cultures program.

The aim of the Celebrating Cultures program is twofold; to ensure that Canterbury’s non-English speaking background community feel that the library has a place in their lives, and to expose all library users to the different cultures within our community.

Harmony Day presented the perfect opportunity to showcase some of the different cultural groups within our community and to bring them together in the community hub of Campsie Library.

As Harmony Day actually fell on a Sunday this year, we conducted our event on the evening of Thursday 18 March. The proceedings began with an official welcome by the Mayor, Councilor Robert Furolo MP, who talked about the significance of Harmony Day to a culturally diverse city such as Canterbury. This was then followed by students from Beverly Hills Girls High School who talked about what Harmony Day meant to them, and then also performed Advance Australia Fair in both English and indigenous languages.

Over 130 people packed into the Library for the event and were treated to a range of colourful performances including a Korean fan dance, a Vietnamese dancing group, an Arabic drumming performance, and an Indonesian peacock dance.

There was also a musical performance by children and carers from a local Outside Of School Hours care centre, who presented an extremely cute version of Lean on Me which included choreographed dance moves and really captured the inclusive spirit of Harmony Day.

The theme of celebrating our cultural diversity was carried on into the final part of the event which concluded with an amazing feast of mouth watering food including Indian curries, Chinese spring rolls, Lebanese falafels and sweets, and good old Aussie sandwiches!

It ended up being a bit of a late night with many people lingering long after the Library’s official closing time, still eating, drinking and chatting. The feedback that we received on the night was overwhelmingly positive from performers, attendees and staff alike and so it looks like a Harmony Day celebration could now become an annual event for the City of Canterbury Library.

STEVE RICHARDS
Client Services Coordinator
City of Canterbury Library

CITIZENS, FLOWERS AND THE WIDE SEA

On Saturday 27th March, the Whitlam Library, in South-West Sydney’s Cabramatta, was the venue for a unique literary event – a book talk celebrating the publication of the Chinese edition of the late Australian author Eric Roll’s history of Chinese settlement in Australia, by Dr Zhang Wei, Professor of Shandong University.
Multicultural News

The small but enthusiastic audience included both English and Chinese speakers, members of the local community and visitors including Professor Ann Curthoys, History Department, University of Sydney. Fairfield City Library Manager Anne Hall introduced the speakers and just as this important book is now available in two languages the discussion also took place in two languages, with library staff member Cory Chen expertly translating into Mandarin.

Elaine van Kempen, Eric Rolls’ wife and his research and literary assistant for many years remarked that as the first book in this series, Sojourners, was launched by Gough Whitlam at Darling Harbour in 1992, it was most appropriate that discussion of the Chinese edition of Citizens was now taking place in the library named after him. As Prime Minister, Whitlam first opened the dialogue between Australia and China. Elaine described Eric’s extensive travels and his research, both in China and Australia, into the long story of Chinese settlement in Australia. Together they travelled thousands of miles through Queensland and the Northern Territory, reading hundreds of newspapers in dusty backrooms, interviewing hundreds of people and visiting isolated, long-abandoned goldfields. Sojourners and Citizens, said Elaine, brought her and Eric together at a time in their lives when they both had adult children, and the books became the ‘children’ they had together.

Published in 1996, Citizens covers the period from the late nineteenth century to 1995, and is the sequel to Sojourners: Flowers and the Wide Sea, which tells of the beginnings of Chinese settlement in Australia, before and during the gold rush era. Ms van Kempen brought to life the earthy character of Eric Rolls, above all his admiration for Chinese culture and his passion for bringing the British Australians and the Chinese people into a better understanding of one another. As Eric Rolls wrote in the preface to Citizens, “In these two books I set out to bring two disparate, arrogant news to life so that their outlandish behaviour towards one another would be understandable.

His work is an attempt to restore the balance, showing the positive contribution of the Chinese to Australia in many fields such as agriculture, industry, commerce and trade, in both the outback and the cities, over almost two centuries of migration and settlement. In the same preface he wrote, ‘Without the Chinese, Australia would have been a lesser country. Eric was delighted that his book was being translated into Chinese but unfortunately died in 2007, two years before the publication of the Chinese edition.

The second speaker, Dr Zhang Wei, recounted the problems he had with Chinese authorities in getting the Chinese edition published, mainly because of the book’s treatment of the notorious Tiananmen Square incident in 1989. Eventually a compromise was reached but this dispute delayed publication for several years. General discussion and questions from the audience followed the speeches, and signed copies of the book, available at a special price, were snapped up by some of the audience at the end of the event. Copies of the Chinese version of Citizens can be obtained from Dr Zhang Wei, tel: 0424673398.

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Children’s News

Bankstown News

GO WILD
Book Week 2009 was celebrated at Bankstown City Library and Information Service with a writers’ festival of visiting children’s authors and illustrators. Duncan Ball who wrote the popular Selby books, Nadia Wheatley, Louise Pledger, Pamela Freeman and Sandy Russell entertained and delighted local school children at all five library locations. The theme for 2009 was Book Safari, and libraries were invaded by reading elephants, lounging lions, barrels of monkeys and slithery snakes. Displays, competitions and talks were held over three weeks in August instead of the usual one week for Book Week. Bankstown Library’s Book Week was a resounding success with over 6,000 children participating in the event.

HAPPY HEALTHY STORIES
Happy Health Storytime was held at Panania and Padstow Libraries to encourage carers to feed their children healthy food. The pre-school storytime took place at Padstow and Panania Libraries in June, with a real party atmosphere. The program was prepared in consultation with the Neighbourhood Centre. At both libraries the program involved three stories with a fruit and vegetable theme, one song relating to healthy eating and two songs with actions for exercise. The craft activity included a sheet with pictures of healthy food to be coloured in, cut out and stuck on a plate drawn on a piece of cardboard. The aim of the craft was to get the children thinking about foods they like to eat that are healthy.

To reflect the theme of storytime, the library was decorated with a picnic table that included fresh fruit and vegetables for carers and children to snack on. Jelena, the representative from Coolaburoo Neighbour Centre, spoke to parents on healthy eating habits. Jelena will continue to participate in practices and focused on positive and productive eating habits. Jelena will continue to participate in happy healthy storytimes at Padstow library on a regular basis.

FRACTURED FAIRYTALES
Chester Hill Library was invaded by characters from the land of make believe when it held a fractured fairytale party. It seems that fairytale never lose their appeal for young and old as the children and parents enjoyed a night of games, craft and interactive stories. Staff were impressed with the children’s knowledge of both classic and modern fairytale characters and stories. The party was hosted by the Woodsman, Rapunzel and Pippi Longstocking and included games such as swamp rescue, crepe dragon races and a fairytale hunt. A good night was had by all and a beautiful Snow White and a dashing Prince won the prizes for best dressed.

LAPSIT TASTER
Bankstown Library introduced a new version of the popular Lapsit baby storytime in response to community interest. The hugely popular four week Monkey Business program has proved so popular that library staff developed a single Lapsit session in response to popular demand from the Children’s Festival and Welcome to Babies events. The sessions were held for babies aged 6 months to 24 months and babies and parents enjoyed rhymes, songs, interactive play and introduction to books and reading. Lapsit helps baby develop language and cognitive skills to start them on the road to learning and to become better readers and writers when they reach school. Lapsit brings babies and parents closer together and encourages talking and learning and listening. Because babies need to hear words everyday Lapsit helps parents to develop the confidence and knowledge to share books and words effectively with their baby.

Coffs Harbour News

STORYTIME CELEBRATION
Coffs Harbour Library’s Storytime team recently celebrated its continued success with a shared lunch in the Library courtyard. The team includes a band of dedicated part time staff, all of whom contribute in their own individual way to the Library’s services for children. Weekly storytime sessions, pre-school group visits, Summer Reading Club, school holiday activities, special event storytimes and ongoing reader’s advisory services for parents are all jam packed into their limited available hours. The team is pleased to have maintained a consistently high attendance level at all our events, with our regular storytime catering for 100 people each week. Each week the rostered staff member selects books and craft to present to the children, and then the program is delivered across the three library locations. The weekly presentation follows a consistent pattern, however, the diversity provided by the five different presenters keeps the program fresh and interesting. With the support of a very enthusiastic volunteer, and a yearly plan in place, it has been smooth sailing and very rewarding to be able to participate in such an important component of the library services.

TRAVEL BUGS
It was with great excitement that the children came out of the woodwork to attend the Travel Bugs – Mobile Mini Beasts session at Coffs Harbour Library. The opportunity to see, feel, hold and explore the world of bugs made this an informative and exciting event for the children. The Library is pleased to be able to facilitate travelling displays for the local community, encouraging all aspects of learning and discovery.

ENZO ACCADIA
Library Manager
Coffs Harbour City Library

ANDREW DADDIO AT THE LAKE
One of Australia’s most popular TV presenters turned best selling author, Andrew Daddo, visited Swansea Library in March to speak to school students about his books and the writing process. Andrew is a natural storyteller and his easy-going manner and sense of fun made him popular with children and adults alike. Over 400 children attended, with all sessions fully booked. Andrew’s visit was a huge success, with lots of great positive feedback from attendees.

RACHEL MALLARY
Promotions, Technician
Lake Macquarie City Library

AFTER DARK ADVENTURES
Bankstown libraries have been conducting evening storytimes for pre-school and primary aged children of working parents who are normally unable to visit their local library during the day. Evening pre-school storytimes are a great way for children to learn through reading and play with their parents and carers to provide a supporting learning environment. After Dark Adventures are a great way for primary aged children, 5 to 12 years, to extend their pre-school storytime experiences through the primary school years. Many kindergarten teachers comment on how advanced our pre-schoolers are when they start kindy after learning so much in pre-school storytimes.

Our program is developed by qualified educators, and is designed for the developmental needs of pre-school aged children. Storytime sessions are held at Bankstown Council’s five libraries with lots of stories, games, dancing, crafts and video for children and parents to enjoy through learning. After Dark Adventures have a party theme such as Pirates, Mad Hatters’ Tea Party, Under the Stars, Zoo Breakout, Viking Raiding Parties and Cops and Robbers. It’s a great opportunity to dress up as your favourite book characters!

ROBYN OWENS
Library Services Coordinator
Bankstown City Library and Information Service
Children’s News

DETECTIVE DAN

Randwick’s residents celebrated World Environment Day at the Randwick Branch Library with the launch of the sustainability comic, Detective Dan and the Curious Case of the Freaky Footprints. The comic follows the adventures of Detective Dan as he searches high and low for his ecological footprint. The 80 participants also created a forest of bonzi trees made out of recycled garbage. The comic will be distributed to all primary schools in the area along with Detective Dan bookmarks and information on the library’s sustainability databases. A competition which encourages children to examine their own ecological footprints will reinforce the key environmental messages that Detective Dan uncovers.

MICHELLE KLINE

Supervisor, Marketing and Events
Randwick City Library Service

MR JIM

Early literacy advocate, Dr James (Mr Jim) Thomas, presented a series of unique story times for young children and informational workshops for parents and teachers at Lake Macquarie City Library in June. Jim visited Lake Macquarie City as part of a two-month tour of Australia’s eastern states coordinated by the State Library.

Dr Thomas, or Mr Jim as he is known, promotes age-specific story times and specialises in developing activities to encourage language skills for very young children. His memorable story sessions incorporate shared activities such as songs, body movement, signing, and exercise providing an entertaining learning experience for both parent and child. Jim’s fast-paced, age-specific sessions kept toddlers focused and babies happy! Easy-Bitty Babies gave mums a special time with their babies; and toddlers were enthralled with the songs, rhymes and signing at Story Time with Mr Jim.

Jim also presented a series of specialised workshops allowing parents, caregivers, and teachers an opportunity to learn ways to provide a meaningful story time for children. At Ready to Read participants learnt the six early reading skills and how to integrate these into daily activities; and at Memorable Story Times carers and parents were taught ways to captivate and communicate with young children.

Dr Thomas has 30 years teaching experience in the USA, completing postdoctoral work in early childhood education. He developed the special early literacy programs with a children’s librarian in the Pacific Northwest area of USA.

JULIE DUNN

Acting Promotions Librarian
Lake Macquarie City Library

READ WITH ME

The Read With Me suite of children’s programs at Lake Macquarie City Library offer parents the choice of age-specific story sessions to share with their children, and provides an environment for children to develop a positive attitude to an essential life-skill.

With the support of Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation, Lake Macquarie City Library has been able to further develop programs under the Read With Me banner.

On Tuesday 4th May, the Read With Me suite of children’s literacy programs was launched by Dr John Irvine at Belmont Library. Here he highlighted the importance of reading to young children.

A consultant child psychologist at the READ clinic in Gosford, Dr Irvine is one of Australia’s most recognised specialists on children’s behaviour. He is also the author of significant books for parents including Coping With Kids and the recently revised Thriving at School.

Dr Irvine believes that reading to young children has benefits for both the child and parent. Research has shown that just ten minutes a day reading to your young child can make a huge difference in neuron development, Dr Irvine said, and reading to your young kids at the end of the day is one of the best anti-stressors for the busy parent.

Currently the programs offered under the Read With Me banner are:

1. Books and Babies, a 30-minute program that offers parents and their babies under one year time together to share simple board books and interactive rhymes.

2. Read & Rhyme Time takes children aged 1 to 3 on a 30 minute musical reading adventure. The program aims to provide an interactive and stimulating way for parents and carers to introduce toddlers to the fun and enjoyment of sharing books.

3. Storytime is designed for pre-schoolers providing 30 minutes of interaction and fun with stories and songs for children aged 3 to 5 years.

4. BaRK: Building Reading Confidence, a unique program targeted at children who have difficulty in reading aloud. This 8-week program allows children to practice reading on a one on one basis to a trained therapy dog in an environment where they feel safe and accepted.

The day was a huge success with great feedback from attendees and an increase in the demand for all of our literacy programs, especially BaRK.

RACHEL MALLABY

Library Technician Promotions
Lake Macquarie City Council

READING CUBS

Narrabri Cub Scouts recently visited Narrabri Library to obtain their literacy badge. I themed the night as a pirate adventure because knowledge is the greatest treasure of all! The children were given a tour of the library and then went on a treasure hunt to find different areas where books and other items could be found. They also learned how books were issued and returned and how to care for them. Each child made a bookmark as part of their badge. The night was finished with the children enjoying blood and guts – nachos topped with salsa.

JENNY CAMPBELL

Librarian
Narrabri Library

GREAT BOOKS

Once again the Great Lakes Library Service has held its Great Books Festival, and once again it’s been a roaring success. Around 1,000 children participated and got to see illustrator Sarah Davis and author Andrew Daddo in action. Both gave really awesome presentations and we’d be happy to recommend them to anyone. You’re sure to hear plenty more about Sarah Davis over the coming years and Andrew truly is a wonderful entertainer. We were also lucky enough to have Andrew as a guest speaker at an evening function in the library, where he showed that he’s equally good at performing to an adult audience.

The Great Books Festival, run by our dedicated Outreach Services section, is based on taking the presenters to the children. It has now been running for ten years and over that time thousands of local children have been lucky enough to meet a huge range of well-known authors and illustrators.

CHRIS JONES

Manager
Great Lakes Library Service

HOLIDAY FUN

Cooking, magic, sparkling fish and bush tales were all part of the fun at Lake Macquarie City Library in the April school holidays. There was no room to be bored with plenty of activities to entertain children of all ages. Children could become chefs for the morning and learn how to make yummy treats at Kids in the Kitchen. The young chefs enjoyed a sushi-making demonstration and then created their own noodle salad and fruit dessert. All the children were given a showbag with recipes from the day, bookmarks and...
Children’s News

rules from the Sydney Fresh Fruit Market, to encourage their cooking adventures at home.
Back by popular demand was local award winning magician, Joel Hewlett of JD’s World of Magic. His entertaining family show amazed adults and children alike. Budding magicians who were inspired by Joel’s magic shows also had the opportunity to attend magic workshops. Here Joel shared some tricks of the trade at and the kids got the chance to learn simple tricks that they could perform at home to astound their friends and family.

Junior artists let their creativity flow with foil and paper collage to create unique wall art at our Sparkle Fish craft workshops.

MISSION POSSIBLE
Lake Macquarie City Library invited Guides. Junior Guides and Cubs to visit their local libraries to celebrate Library and Information Week. During the visits, they worked on their Literature and Information Technology Badges. Staff gave each pack a tour of the library and showed them how to use the library catalogue. They then tested their skills when they broke into teams and completed Mission Possible, an activity that had the children enthusiastically retrieving books in a race against time and each other. During the week, we had over 150 Guides and Cubs visit Lake Macquarie City Libraries. Children who were not already library members joined on the night. The feedback from Cub and Guide leaders has been positive and most are planning to make visits to the library part of their ongoing programs.

National Simultaneous Storytime 2010

BANKSTOWN
All our libraries celebrated National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) on May 26. The rain, which is normally very welcome, did complicate the visit to Bankstown Library by the 80 kindly kids from Yapaona Public School to hear the Mayor Cllr Tania Mihalkoff read the featured story. So it was that NSS went on the road, up to the school, where the local school librarian hosted all four kindergarten classes for a reading by the Mayor.

MARRICKVILLE
NSS gave people the opportunity to drop whatever they were doing, leave their worries behind for a short time, and join in at our libraries and child care centres to read Little White Dogs Can't Jump by Bruce Whatley. Over 120/000 children and adults across Australia took part. Special guest readers included Marrickville Deputy Mayor Councillor Fiona Byrne, Councillor Marika Kontellis, and Council Director Community Services Gary Moore.

PORT STEPHENS - RAYMOND TERRACE
An exciting group of pre-school children awaited the 2010 session of National Simultaneous Storytime at Raymond Terrace Library. Ranger Gemma Bauld from Port Stephens Council read the story Little White Dogs Can’t Jump to the wide-eyed group. A special visit from Ranger Ralph (well-known to Port Stephens’ residents, and aka Vicki Bauley, our Administration Officer), was the highlight of the occasion. He shook hands with and was hugged by all of the children. Ranger Ralph also gave out Ranger Ralph Deputy Fun Club bags. This club encourages responsible pet ownership through the use of games and competitions. The children made and decorated dog masks to take home, and were excited to see the story in the Port Stephens Examiner later in the week.

I LOVE MY PLANET
In the April school holidays, Mosman Library went green trying to come up with ways to show kids how to have fun AND think about the future of the planet. Activities included a sculpture competition, where kids were challenged to make a statue of themselves using only recycled materials from around their home, a craft activity making shimmering mobiles out of recycled items, and a performance by the wonderful Mic Conway in his musical Rubbish Show. It was a great success and we worked closely with our wonderful Mic Conway in his musical Rubbish Show.

Kate Stewart
Children’s Librarian
Mosman Library

WENDY BANISTER
Children’s Librarian
City of Canada Bay

KOGARAH
Local childcare centres, playgroups and regular storytime clients braved heavy rain to join in the fun of NSS at Kogarah Library, and were treated to a lively session of singing, storytelling and performance. The highlights of the event were the puppet show starring Gra-Gra the Sheepdog, and a Dog Obedience demonstration with Leo the Labrador from Hanro’s Dog School, performing some clever tricks.

Classic dog stories and songs lead to the reading of this years title Little White Dogs Can’t Jump with a guest appearance from Smudge the little white bulldog himself, in his very own Michael Jordan single! Children took home activity sheets, stickers, balloons and dog themed picture books from Smudge’s favourites pick list display.

SHARON MCLWEE
Children’s Librarian
Kogarah Library and Cultural Services

PORT STEPHENS - TOMAREE
The NSS event held at Tomaree Library and Community Centre was attended by 55 very excited pre-schoolers. Local vet Dr Donald Hudson arrived in the Gymea Lily room with his pet budgie, Errol. All set to read Little White Dogs Can’t Jump As Dr Don read this wonderful story, Errol spent the time flying from head to head and finger to finger, and when he tired of that game, flew back into his cage and rang his bell or wore it as a hat! Dr Don then fielded questions about his work as a vet, and listened to tales of dogs owned by various 3 to 5 year olds in the audience. Approximately 75% of the children are existing library members, and those that were not left clutching their NSS bookmark, and a membership application form to take home to Mum or Dad. I’m sure all these children will remember this unusual event at the library where they met the local vet and his budgie.

SUE LEVERINGTON
Branch Librarian
Tomaree Library and Community Centre

Kate Stewart

RACHEL MALLABY
Library Promotions Technician
Lake Macquarie City Library

ROBYN OWENS
Library Services Coordinator
Lake Macquarie City Library and Information Service

HELENA LANE
Raymond Terrace Library

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SUE LEVERINGTON
Branch Librarian
Tomaree Library and Community Centre

Four excited pre-schoolers from the Gumtree pre-school in Port Stephens read the NSS story during the NSS event held at Tomaree Library. The NSS event held at Tomaree Library and Community Centre was attended by 55 very excited pre-schoolers. Local vet Dr Donald Hudson arrived in the Gymea Lily room with his pet budgie, Errol. All set to read Little White Dogs Can’t Jump As Dr Don read this wonderful story, Errol spent the time flying from head to head and finger to finger, and when he tired of that game, flew back into his cage and rang his bell or wore it as a hat! Dr Don then fielded questions about his work as a vet, and listened to tales of dogs owned by various 3 to 5 year olds in the audience. Approximately 75% of the children are existing library members, and those that were not left clutching their NSS bookmark, and a membership application form to take home to Mum or Dad. I’m sure all these children will remember this unusual event at the library where they met the local vet and his budgie.

SUE LEVERINGTON
Branch Librarian
Tomaree Library and Community Centre
Children’s News

The Camden LGA has a higher than average proportion of pre-schoolers, coupled with a high proportion of working parents. This limits their access to the existing pre-school programs. The Library Kids program provides a storytime session run by library staff, three performances by professional storytellers and a fourth professional music workshop. All performances were aimed at 2 to 6 year olds. All the events were free, and no bookings were required. They were run in the open plan children’s area of the library; were everyone could join in. It definitely changed the dynamics of the library, particularly the music workshop! The project was very successful, with 379 people attending over the month, including a large number of first time visitors. We had overwhelmingly positive feedback and requests to run the program again. We now plan to run a version of the Library Kids program quarterly, and are looking to extending our Saturday storytime program.

ELYSA DENNIS
Team Leader Narellan Library
Camden Council Library Services

NEVERLAND
With a sprinkling of fairy dust, the Darling children are led by mischievous Peter Pan on the wildest adventure imaginable to a land peopled by mermaids, fairies and pirates, and of course, the evil Captain Hook. In the April school holidays, Eurobodalla Shire Libraries celebrated the classic tale of Peter Pan by J M Barrie by hosting Neverland activities at each of our three branch libraries. Over 30 children attended each library and enjoyed listening to stories, making a fairy or pirate costume, hunting for treasure (using clues which also taught them about the library collection) and feasting on fairy bread and scrummy bunting food (fruit). Olivia Stafford (age four) said, I love the library – I love looking at books, and her mum, Amanda said it’s great that young children visit and see the Library as a place to have fun.

DAVYN EUSHER
Eurobodalla Shire Libraries

Wyong Shire was very proud to host international child literacy expert, Dr James Thomas, otherwise known as Mr Jim. Over two weeks Mr Jim ran his most popular events such as Man in the Moon, Itsy Bitsy Babies, The Young and the Rootless and more. Training for library and child care centre staff also took place. Staff were amazed at what they saw and were unhesitating in their belief that they would like to implement their new skills in the workplace. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the parents who attended the events and all asked when Mr Jim was going to return.

MICHELLE GOULDSMITH
Reference Librarian
Wyong Shire Library Service

BUNCING BABIES
This month’s Baby Bounce program at Wagga Wagga City Library was the first one using the new giant screen and ceiling mount projector. It was a great success. Everyone could easily see the words to the songs, and follow along with enthusiasm.

Baby Bounce is run over 4 weeks and is an early literacy program for 0 to 12 month olds. Fun was had by all as we shared our First Kipper Books, sang new songs, played peek-a-boo with our mirrors and of course made beautiful music with our rattles and bells.

Comments on our feedback sheets confirm that the program is a big hit with our young families; my baby learned to clap. We love to sing together, my three year old sings the songs to her brother and, Baby bounce has definitely had a lasting positive effect on my baby.

KIM MUSSCHE
Programme Officer
Wagga Wagga City Library
COLUMNS

Young Adults Update

ARE YOUTH GAME TO PLAY?
Padstow Library held its annual computer gaming night to celebrate Youth Week on April 15th. This is always a popular event at Padstow Library and fully booked well in advance. This year the participants didn’t want to leave at closing time, as the Library had specifically bought a new gaming system using our Local Priority Grant from the State Government.

Responding to youth feedback from the Think + Do tank report, the library wanted to trial a modern gaming system to encourage youth participation in a library space, based on what they want to do. The parents stayed within sight of all the fun and were able to use other library facilities during the evening, while still giving their kids their own space. The kids, aged between 12 - 16 years, thought the night was really cool and that such a games night should be held every month! The PC console games hardware and games will be shared between branches for regular console games nights for young people.

ROBYN OWENS
Library Services Coordinator
Bankstown City Library and Information Service

ANZAC POETRY COMPETITION
The Spirit of the ANZACS
The ANZAC Poem Competition was the theme for our recent Poetry Competition for high school students. The standard of entries was high, with interesting poems depicting the students’ thoughts and reflections on ANZAC. We look forward to being involved in future creative writing ventures, to support and encourage such opportunities for local students. With the support of the local book stores, writers group and RSL associations, we were able to offer prizes to the participants in recognition of their contributions.

ENZO ACCADIA
Library Manager
Coffs Harbour City Library

LOCAL STUDY PLACES
During October all Bankstown branch libraries opened late on Wednesday nights to provide a quite study space for HSC students working towards their exams. The Library also offered HSC Workshops that were more popular than ever to assist students plan and study for the exams. Ten workshops were held in July to September for a very affordable $3 per student per session.

Topics covered included Essay Writing Workshop, English (Belonging); Surviving the HSC, Legal Studies; and Business Studies. The workshops were a valuable service offered at Chester Hill, Panania and Bankstown libraries to the students of the Bankstown Community.

ROBYN OWENS
Library Services Coordinator
Bankstown City Library and Information Service

COSPLAY
As part of Youth Week celebrations, Port Macquarie Library hosted another successful cosplay event.

About 20 kids dressed up and there were a surprising number of grandparents on hand to cheer them on. As well as the parade, there was a manga art display, a cosplay competition, Wii games and a launch of our new young adult material. There was also free sushi, but this disappeared very quickly. We were thankful to have two judges who knew the identity of most of the characters! You can see more photographs on the library’s blog at <http://www.mcqlibrary.org.au/blog>.

JIM MAGUIRE
Library Manager
Port Macquarie-Hastings

YOUTH WEEK
Coffs Harbour Library participated in Council’s Youth Week festival, which was hosted by Gretel Killeen. As part of the event, Gretel launched her new book I love you Zehla Blue with special pre-publication copies available for purchase. We all enjoyed an informal talk by Gretel about the new book, her other books, Big Brother (of course) and her life in general.

The library also facilitated a Mosaic Magic workshop in the park which was attended by 70 young people making an array of mats and coasters. This was by far our most successful Youth Week activity to date and added a significant dimension to the overall day in the park. We welcome opportunities to partner with other sections of Council to extend the library services out to the wider community.

ENZO ACCADIA
Library Manager
Coffs Harbour City Library

LIBRARIES UNITE
Many of you will be familiar with the Inside Break lecture series and website at <http://www.insidebreak.org.au/> In the past year, the website has had a phenomenal 90,000 visits! The Inside Break story began with collaboration between Warringah, Manly and Pittwater library services starting in 2007. Our aim was to provide a more comprehensive service to our collective Northern Beaches HSC audience by pooling our resources and reducing duplication of effort. Since then, the Inside Break website has grown and become a valuable and well used resource for students across the state.

The starting point for the Inside Break team was to look at what we could do together to serve our shared community whose beachside location became the theme for our website graphics. Many students live in one of our local government areas and go to school in another and we rightly guessed that they would be happy to travel up and down the beaches in order to attend HSC lectures in their preferred subject areas. These lectures continue to be popular and well attended.

The website is our most innovative initiative and has much to offer to members of the wider library community as well as HSC students. The Inside Break site provides a wide array of links to both general and specific HSC related sites. Of particular interest is the extensive list of related texts for Belonging which was posted by the time Belonging became the new HSC English Area of Study last year. There are also a few light hearted links with a more general, less study related, focus.

We plan to build on the success of Inside Break: we have started a blog on the website, have begun twittering, and are in the process of adding video clips of HSC tips by teachers and markers. The Inside Break team are also excited about exploring the possibility of running an online video series of HSC lectures in future years to further extend our reach.

How can your library get involved? The Inside Break team extend an invitation to all other NSW libraries to learn how to become website editors so they can add content and their HSC events to the website. Have a look at the website and consider what information and events you might add.

INSIDE BREAK TEAM
Louise McMorand, Manly Library
Maitland City Library is offering local teenagers the opportunity of taking part in a new and exciting concept. VOCAL lets teens get loud in their library, either by playing music or by performing poetry or rap. The event intends to promote confidence and performance skills in young adults by giving them the opportunity to express themselves before a supportive audience of their peers.

The first VOCAL of the year was held at East Maitland library in April, featuring local teen rockers Powerage and students from Hunter Valley Grammar School. The Grammar kids entertained the crowd

PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS August 2010
Young Adults Update

with beautifully played tunes accompanied by acoustic guitar or keyboard. Then the mighty Powerage took the stage. By halfway through the first song, half the crowd had scattered out the door. They were very LOUD but they were fantastic! This was the first of four VOCAL events that will be held throughout the Maitland LGX in 2010 with each event showcasing a different region. This event also supported the official launch of the Headspace mental health collection. Headspace, Australia’s youth mental health foundation, donated a youth mental health collection to Maitland City Library. The collection will support local youth in finding answers to mental health issues.

When my hearing returns we can get on the phone and organise the next one...

ROB STEWART
Programme Librarian
Maitland City Library

SCRAPBOOKING
Marrickville Library is running a series of workshops each month for girls aged 11 plus and their mums or grandmas to demonstrate a different scrapbooking technique. The program runs over four months with a new theme each time. Themes so far have included Friendship, School Days, and My Favourite Thing. The sessions have been well received with many people requesting scrapbooking sessions be held for adults as well.

LISA MARSCALL
Coordinator, Community Programs
Marrickville Library Service

HSC
A diverse range of HSC and Student Programs has just been completed for terms 1 and 2. We have been busy at Parramatta Library providing programs for students in the Western Sydney area. Parramatta LGX is a community where 45% of local students come from CALD backgrounds, consequently student programs and Homework Help are a priority in our service provision.

Programs include Discover Databases, HSC General Maths, 2 Unit Maths and Mathematics: Extension 1, English Belonging topic area seminars, Peter Strynecki’s Immigrant Chronicles seminar, Essay writing and study skills workshop and Cameron Nunn’s lectures on Creative Writing for extension 2 and standard English students.

The library’s HSC programs were marketed in conjunction with Parramatta Riverside Theatres HSC programs such as Norm and Ahmed by Alex Buxo. This first time partnership was an initiative to share Council’s marketing database.

Parramatta Library’s other successful partnership is with the Western Sydney’s YCW (Young Christian Workers) organisation which helps the library offer Homework Help every weekday afternoon. The YCW recruits volunteer tutors and the Library provides the technology room and helps to coordinate the program. In this way the library can keep the Homework Help program running all year and with our diverse community including recent refugees, new arrivals and the high percentage of CALD residents this is a much needed service for the children and young adults in our area. The Homework Help partnership is an effective way to provide tutoring to students for several hours every weekday afternoon in school term time.

KATHERINE MITCHELL
Information Access Librarian
Parramatta City Library

WHAT’S YOUR ZINE?
National Youth Week this year was all about young people unleashing their creativity. Lake Macquarie City Library hosted free zine making workshops aimed at youth aged between 12 and 24 years. Zines, mini illustrated magazines, are an easy and inexpensive way to create illustrated stories to distribute to family and friends, and a perfect way for budding artists, cartoonists and comic creators to get their work out there.

The 3-hour workshops were presented by professional art teachers from a local art studio. The workshops gave participants tips on planning, drawing, and producing zines, and provided the opportunity to work with different mediums such as watercolour and pastels. The zines’ topics varied greatly from fictional stories with original characters, highlighting issues youth were passionate about, or just their artworks together in a collection.

Feedback indicated that the participants enjoyed the workshop. All participants took home copies of their completed zine and their work was displayed in the library for members of the community to read.

RACHEL MALLABY
Library Technician, Promotions
Lake Macquarie City Library

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YOUTH FESTIVAL
Wagga Wagga’s annual re-generate youth festival is eight days of music, dance, sports and creativity produced for and by 12 to 18 year olds. In 2010, the Wagga Wagga City Library (WWCL) put on two events: a zine workshop and a manga workshop. Both workshops were facilitated by local young artists sought out by WWCL as a way to support the creative talent within our own community.

Most of you know what a zine is, but for those who don’t, a zine (abbreviation of fanzine, pronounced zeen) is most commonly a small circulation publication of original and/or appropriated texts and images, usually introduced via photocopier on a variety of coloured paper stock (source: Wikipedia).

Local artist Luke Smith demonstrated all the zine techniques such as cutting, pasting, drawing and folding, before the budding young ziners got a chance to get their hands busy. Rock music on the stereo, the sound of scissors, and the eager talk of teens filled the room for the next couple of hours while the zines took shape. For the 2011 workshop, we plan to make multiple copies of the finished zines and distribute them.

The library manga collection is very popular with our youth borrowers, and this crossed over into the manga workshops. We had to open up a second session after the first filled rapidly. Local artist Narin Eckley guided the classes through a beautifully constructed drawing lesson that initially focused on the fine details – eyes, noses and ears – and eventually led to the students creating their own full-blown manga character. Compared to the zine workshop, there was a definite shift in vibe – studied concentration and minimal chatter held sway in the manga room.

However, the inner excitement was evident from the many requests to hold another, higher level, manga workshop during re-generate 2011.

MICHAEL SCUTTI
Programme Officer
Wagga Wagga City Library

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DRUG INFO
During Drug Action Week, the Reference Team works in conjunction with the San Remo Community Centre. The Community Drug and Alcohol Team from the Centre visit the local high schools and run programs using beer goggles, making mocktails and just chatting to the young people about harm minimisation. The wonderful goodies provided by the Drug Info @ your Library team are given away to the teens by the CDAT and are always popular.

WRATHbands and other information provided by Beyondblue were also given out as depression can be a common result or cause of drug and alcohol abuse.

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Reference Librarian
Wyong Shire Library Service

LAW WEEK
This year Singleton Public Library hosted a play for Law Week, In an instant. The play was written, produced, directed and performed by St Catherine’s College Singleton’s Year 11 drama class, especially for the library’s annual Law Week event. The cast of sensationally talented students performed, together with a local Police Officer, the Court House Registrar and a solicitor who all ‘acted’ themselves.

The play drew attention to sexting. It focused on important legal messages highlighting that the worst cases of sexting actually break laws relating to paedophilia when the subjects of the photos are under 16, and that a photo published by mobile phone is in cyberspace forever.

There were two performances, which attracted an audience of over 150 students and community members. We held the event in our large meeting room, which was decked out with posters and displays promoting Legal Aid. The Law Society, the State Library of NSW and Singleton Public Library’s Legal Answers collection. We were grateful for the Law Week funding to pay for prizes and promotion and the local solicitor from the Speakers’ Bureau.

The event was a light-hearted presentation of a very serious and important message, highlighting the severe penalties that can result from cyber crime. All those involved have already booked in for next year, to do it all again! The actors have been invited to perform at other schools, and more great news is that there is talk of creating a DVD of the play for use as a resource by NSW Police Youth Liaison – and it all started in the Library!!

JOAN INGRAM
Singleton Public Library
LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS 2010/11
Councils have been invited to apply for the 2010/11 round of Library Development Grants, and the Country Libraries Fund Grants. Please see the State Library website for details:
Applications close 24 September 2010

REVIEW OF PEOPLE PLACES
Over the coming months the Library Council of NSW public library building guidelines, People Places, will be reviewed in consultation with NSW public libraries. FJMT Architects has been appointed to conduct the review. We will be letting libraries know how they can contribute.

PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICS
Key indicators show that growth in library use across NSW continues:
• Visits have attained 37 million for the 1st time - up 15% over past 5 years
• Loans have grown by 1 million over the previous year to 49.7m - up 7% over past 5 years
• Internet use is up 30% in past 5 years

The full statistics are available here:

The 2009/10 statistics are being collected from libraries now.
The third David Scott Mitchell Memorial Lecture at the State Library of NSW

KATE GRENVILLE: HUNTERS AND GATHERERS — A NOVELIST’S DEBT TO THE MITCHELL LIBRARY

In the Mitchell Library's centenary year, the third David Scott Mitchell Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Kate Grenville in the inspiring surroundings of the Mitchell Library Reading Room. Kate Grenville, one of Australia's most loved and respected writers, has published eight works of fiction since 1984 as well as non-fiction. Her fiction includes Lilian's Story (1985), The Idea of Perfection (1999), The Secret River (2005) and The Lieutenant (2008). She has won many awards including the Commonwealth Prize for Literature; the Orange Prize; Victorian Premier's Literary Prize; Christina Stead Prize for Fiction (NSW Premier's Prize) and the Vogel/Australian Prize. Her literary papers are held by the Mitchell Library where she is a regular reader.

Friday 10 September
5.30 pm for 6 pm
Mitchell Library Reading Room
Free, light refreshments will be served
**IN THE STATE LIBRARY GALLERIES**

**Moran Prizes 2010**

Moran Prizes 2010 is hosted in conjunction with the Moran Health Care Group and incorporates the Doug Moran National Portrait Prize and the Moran Contemporary Photographic Prize. Following the exhibition at the State Library, the exhibition is toured nationally by the Moran Health Care Group. The Doug Moran National Portrait Prize was established by the Moran family in 1988 to celebrate Australia’s Bicentenary and is the richest portrait prize in the world. The exhibition of finalists is a vibrant and eclectic collection of 20 portrait paintings. Entry conditions for the competition stipulate that both the painter and their subject be Australian citizens, but it is not required that the artist’s subjects be well known.

Mitchell Galleries
Until 5 September 2010

**Mari Nawi: Aboriginal Odysseys**

Exciting new research has revealed the significant role Aboriginal men, and some women, played in Australia’s early maritime history. The focus of this exhibition is the Eora and Darug people from the Sydney area, who sailed on English ships through Port Jackson to destinations in Australia and throughout the world during the period 1790-1855. Theirs was a canoe culture and they called these ships mari nawi meaning ‘large canoes’.

Curated by the acknowledged authority, Dr Keith Vincent Smith, Mari Nawi will feature rarely seen oil paintings, journals, letters, maps, sketches, objects and rare printed books drawn from collections throughout Australia.

Mitchell Galleries
20 September 2010 – 12 December 2010

**The Governor: Lachlan Macquarie, 1810 to 1821**

On 1 January 1810, Lachlan Macquarie took office as the 5th Governor of New South Wales. To celebrate this 200th anniversary and examine Macquarie’s contribution to the development of colonial Australia, original letters, journals, watercolours, miniatures and realia from the Library’s collections will be displayed.

Mitchell Galleries
Until 10 October 2010

**STATE LIBRARY OF NSW DISABILITY INFORMATION**

Wheelchair access via Macquarie Street, toilets and courtesy wheelchair, hearing loop, parking on the corner of Shakespeare Place and Macquarie Street.

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

www.companioncard.org.au

**DEADLINES FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS**

- December 2010 issue: 15 October 2010
- April 2011 issue: 25 February 2011
- August 2011 issue: 24 June 2011