From the Editor

Welcome to our 2011 Winter issue. We are very excited to welcome our new State Librarian and Chief Executive, Dr Alex Byrne (see story page 54). And we also visit the new libraries at Cooma and Ryde, get our feathers on for National Simultaneous Storytime, revisit Law Week 2011 and discover great food and stories at Orange. Plus a whole heap of stories and photos from you, our wonderful contributors and public library staff.

Victoria Anderson
Editor
Powered by the sun

The Coffs Harbour City Library building has been the centre of attention as, thanks to a grant from the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, it is now powered by the sun! The grant was awarded under the Climate Change Fund: Public Facilities Program in November 2008.

As part of this grant Council installed a photovoltaic (PV) solar power system on the Rigby House rooftop to supply green energy to the building. This public building houses several tenants including the Coffs Harbour City Library, the Regional Art Gallery, Coffs Harbour City Council offices, Centrelink offices and a café. At the time of installation, it was the largest regional network connected PV array in New South Wales.

The Council has incorporated a number of other sustainability initiatives. These include the retrofitting of all the lighting systems in offices, the library, gallery, car park and external lights with high efficiency and low wattage lights, reflectors, timers and motion and daylight sensors. Changed light locations also improved light output. This resulted in approximately a 50% reduction in lighting power consumption. The old air conditioning system was replaced with a more energy efficient system and energy efficient hand dryers were installed in the toilets.

In a typical year, the system will provide approximately 175,000 kWh of clean, green renewable energy - enough to power more than 25 typical homes connected to the electricity grid. The powered roof generates up to 30% of the building’s electricity requirements on a daily basis with an annual saving of $20,000 in utility costs. This Council initiative is encouraging other local businesses and residents to install solar energy and thus reduce carbon emissions for the city as a whole.

As part of the grant, we received $5,000 to develop a sustainable living collection and additional money for shelving. Over 170 books, magazines and DVDs were purchased to create the new collection that is housed on stand-alone shelving for maximum exposure. There have been approximately 1,030 loans from the collection since its launch in October 2010 until the end of May 2011.

A key component of this project was to educate and raise awareness within the community of ways for us all to reduce CO2 emissions. We happily took the opportunity to educate the school community and now give tours of the library. We invited years 5 and 6 from the local primary schools to a one hour information sessions, over a two week period.

A total of 230 students and teachers took part in the sessions held in the library. Each session was limited to a maximum of 30 students. The sessions included half an hour on sustainable living and the other half on promoting library services and collections including the databases and the Yourtutor service.

We discussed the impact of our daily energy needs on the natural resources and the resultant production of green house gases. The students were shown the interrelation between climate change, world food supply and biodiversity loss. The effects of the changing environment on North Coast were mentioned.

In particular, students were given tips on what steps they could take themselves to save the planet and how just a little energy and water saving on their part could help reduce the carbon footprint. Each participant made three pledges on saving energy, water and recycling to take action on saving the planet. They were shown how to use a special calculator (NABERS), to measure the energy and water rating of a household based on average daily usage and the number of people living in the household.

A sustainable living questionnaire was devised that encouraged the use of the library catalogue and online databases to find the answers. The students who submitted their completed forms went into a lucky draw to win one of four prizes worth a total of $300; and their schools were given a certificate of participation. The program has been so successful, we already have more school visits booked.

SURINDER KAUR
Reference Librarian
Coffs Harbour City Library
The feathers flew across the state for this year’s NSS!

**BANKSTOWN**
Bankstown City Libraries preened their feathers and puffed out their crests to celebrate this year’s National Simultaneous Storytime, and hundreds of children enjoyed reader’s theatre at Bankstown and Panania Libraries. Library staff, a volunteer and a very brave student performed for the children. Feathers were worn, songs were sung and dances were created when students from the local primary schools joined in the reading. The students also got involved in a *Find 5 Feathers* hunt and created some very bright and colourful posters to take back to their school libraries. We had library staff reading other stories and were so totally surrounded by the children that the reader could not be seen in the middle of the group!

**BATHURST**
Bathurst youngsters joined in the National Simultaneous Storytime on May 25th at 11:00am. More than 60 people turned up for the reading of Rod Clement’s book *Feathers for Phoebe*, including a kindergarten class from one of the local schools. This is the first time Bathurst Library has conducted the official National Simultaneous Storytime, and we have dubbed it a great success. The children were mesmerised throughout the story, and they loved helping to choose which crest, wings, tail etc Phoebe should choose to make herself more colourful. It was also evident that the children grasped the message of self-acceptance at the end of the story when Phoebe befriended another plain grey bird. Local book shop, BooksPlus the ABC Store, came along to help spread the joy of reading with copies of *Feathers for Phoebe* and other Rod Clement stories for sale. Library staffer, Sarah Fleming, and BooksPlus’ Jenny Barry joined me as we got into the spirit of the day by donning colourful feathered wings and crests for the occasion.

**BERRIGAN**
The four branches of the Berrigan Shire Library Service entertained many pre-school children with the gorgeous story of *Feathers for Phoebe*. We were especially pleased with the success of the podcast, made available by ALIA. A very excited group of children watched, mesmerised by our big television on the wall! We really appreciated ALIA making this resource available to us.

**BOWRAL**
Bowral Library had a wonderful time with our National Simultaneous Storytime this year. The children, and some parents, all had a good laugh when they came to the library and found me wearing feather boas in various colours. I couldn’t resist, it just seemed such a good idea to go along with this year’s book. It was an attentive group as we read the story, all our little ones very sure of their own identities and happy to be themselves, just like Phoebe. Then we played pin the feathers on Phoebe. What fun! The children had a great time playing this and there were lots of giggles at the funny places where some of the children put the feathers. After this game we made feather masks. We chose different coloured feathers and crayons to decorate our creations. One of the children who came to our storytime is named Phoebe and she was so happy we had a story with her name in it. As our branch libraries are closed on Wednesday morning, they used *Feathers for Phoebe*, pin the
MaSkS at bowral
dorrigo nSS. crl nSS bellingen. nSS naMbucca

feathers on Phoebe and mask making for their regular storytimes through the rest of the week. *Feathers for Phoebe* is such a lovely story we wanted to make good use of it (and yes, the feather boas travelled between the branches too).

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**CLARENCE REGIONAL**

Clarence Regional Library celebrated NSS across its branches. At Dorrigo we joined nineteen enthusiastic children from the Dorrigo Preschool, aged 3 to 5. The warm-up game was a discussion of bright and common birds around Dorrigo, using pictures of the King parrot and Crimson rosella. This went really well as a lead-in, making the kids feel comfortable and involved and talking about the birds they see around them. And they learnt the names for a couple of common Dorrigo birds!

The story created lots of audience participation, with the children nominating which of the wings, crests etc they themselves liked best. This was intended to help lead us on to the post-story activity, prepared by staff and set up earlier. It was so pretty and the kids loved it. They were able to decorate their own bird picture with a range of colourful feathers and coloured pens. Participation in the post-story activity was voluntary but all the children did it enthusiastically and at some length.

In Bellingen, children from Bellingen Preschool visited the Library to listen to *Feathers for Phoebe*. Urunga Library staff visited Urunga Preschool and presented the storytime and craft activity to the children in attendance; and at Nambucca library approximately 20 children from Giiguy Gimambi preschool braved the wind and rain to participate in a feltboard story and dramatisation of *Feathers for Phoebe*, followed by craft creating their own Phoebes with multicoloured feathers. At Maclean branch the children had fun sticking feathers all over Phoebe during the craft segment of the storytime and Grafton Branch celebrated with 25 children enthusiastically participating.

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**COOLAH**

Local Councillor and retired vet, Mark Powell, was our very entertaining celebrity guest reader of *Feathers for Phoebe* on Wednesday 25th May 2011 at 11.00am. Our local preschool class plus teachers, parents and toddlers enjoyed hearing about Phoebe’s exploits, and then played *Pin a Colourful Tail on Phoebe*, browsed the library and walked back to preschool with their balloons and bookmarks.
DUBBO
NSS was celebrated at Dubbo Branch with colourful budgerigars entertaining the audience, and our dynamic guest presenter, Suzie Rowley, who read the story. Fantastic feathery boas and excited children filled the library as they joined in the story and completed some great crafts.

HELENSBURGH
We had 28 years 2 and 3 children from Helensburgh Public School attend our special NSS storytime. With guest visitor Cam from Symbio and his tawny frogmouth owl, Stanley, the children had the opportunity to learn about owls and get up close and personal with Stanley who we’re sure enjoyed all the attention! At 11.00 am we read Feathers for Phoebe with one of the students, Shannon, dressing up in Phoebe’s feather’s as the story was read. This proved to be a really fun morning!

MOSMAN
The Children’s Library staff covered themselves in feathers to sing and dance their way through Feathers for Phoebe.

NARROMINE
25 children attended the NSS at the Narromine Branch of the Macquarie Regional Library and were captivated by two of the staff, Norma and Lynne, who dressed up for the occasion. The highlight of the morning was the guest reader, Councillor Les Lambert, who arrived wearing a very bright scarf. In the afternoon the library had a class visit from 42 children ranging in age from 5 years to 12 years and Feathers for Phoebe was again performed for this group.

ORANGE
The remarkable Zelda ruled the roost at Orange City Library’s Simultaneous Storytime for a readers’ theatre performance of Feathers for Phoebe. The children were enthralled by the amazing birds - Zelda who runs the most popular beauty salon in the forest, and the fabulous Phoebe who added a tail, feathers, wings and a little song and dance to become the bird she thought she wanted to be, and all their other bird friends. Zelda was a suitably-over-the-top salon owner and Phoebe did her best to glam up, sing her own tunes and create her own special dance. It was great fun for everyone and the audience showed their appreciation with a standing ovation for the performers. The children also enjoyed a game of pin the feather on a cardboard cut out Phoebe and a cupcake morning tea. Some children also came along with their own decorated bird masks in keeping with the theme.
**RUTHERGLEN**

Two special visitors were made very welcome at Upper Murray Regional Library Rutherglen’s Branch recently. Classroom pet cockatiels Lola and Reggie were special guests during Library and Information Week and National Simultaneous Story-time celebrations held between 23rd and 27th May. The playful birds from Rutherglen Primary School spent most of the week entertaining kindergarten and junior primary students visiting the local branch library for special story times.

Rutherglen Library Branch Co-ordinator Chris Bursill said seven sessions were held for 200 children during the week’s celebrations. *These beautifully tame birds delighted all with their antics and added an extra dimension to this year’s selected storybook Feathers for Phoebe by Rod Clement*, Chris said.

“The sessions were run by four volunteer guest readers, Maree Murphy from Indigo North Health, Helen McKinlay and Frances Walsh from Arts Rutherglen and Rosmary Hince from Rutherglen RSL. As Rutherglen Library is a single person library, Chris really appreciated the partnership with local community groups who help make it possible to hold these types of events.

**SUTHERLAND**

Sutherland Shire Libraries joined the many around Australia who took part in National Simultaneous Storytime. Across our libraries well over 200 kids were entertained by interactive readings of *Feathers for Phoebe*. At Sutherland we used the opportunity to project the Powerpoint presentation of the book on the wall. Zelda adorned in her fancy glasses and feathered head dress read the story whilst Phoebe entertained the kids as she loaded herself up with feathers and wings. There was much laughter in the room. At Sylvania branch the story ended to applause with one lone child in the front row commenting he wished his guinea pig was like Phoebe! Staff at all the branches took the opportunity to wear bright, feathery boas.

**WAVERLEY**

On Wednesday 25th May there was a treat in store for the Library’s younger members. Around 15 children and their parents braved the atrocious weather to come and read this year’s book. Annette Watt read the story while the spellbound children listened attentively before heading off to take part in fun and feathery craft activities developed by the Children’s Library staff, who also entered into the fun by wearing bright, feathery boas.

**WOOLLAHRA**

This year we hosted NSS at Watsons Bay Library. Vaucluse Primary School had planned on walking two classes down to the library but unfortunately the wet weather put a stop to this. So, we had an intimate storytime of six mothers and children who had braved the elements to attend. The children enjoyed listening to *Feathers for Phoebe* and the craft and morning tea of scones that followed. Throughout the week our regular storytimes revisited past National Simultaneous Storytime books.
Central West Libraries’ annual F.O.O.D. (Food of Orange District) Week event *Books on the Menu* enthralled more than 70 guests; with wine and produce, food stories, recipes, cookbooks and anecdotes from local foodies, Monika Rickli, Max Schofield, Justin Byrne and Rhonda Doyle. The buzzing crowd asked questions, enjoyed local wines and delicious local produce created by Library Masterchefs, Library Services Manager Jan Richards and Orange City Librarian, Elizabeth Barry. There was also time to look over new cookbooks recently acquired by the library and a display celebrating 20 years of F.O.O.D. Week. Visitors from Byron Bay took home the lucky door prize generously supplied by our sponsor, Boomers Bookshop & ABC Centre.

First guest speaker Monika Rickli talked about her early life in German-speaking Switzerland. That’s where her parents owned and ran the local bakery. Contrary to what you would expect, growing up in a bakery meant she had no baking skills at all as her father ran the production on his own during the night and the two girls of the family were delegated to help Mum sell the goods in the shop during the day! Following Easter traditions, Monika baked our guests a decorative plaited loaf and also experimented with cute rabbit and frog shapes. Her favourite recipe book is one she created herself with snippets from other chefs including Jamie Oliver, Karen Martini and friends from Switzerland with sections for savoury, baking, Thai and Asian. Monika said there was never any question of where to move to for her tree change - Orange ticked all the boxes. Using her woodworking skills she also handcrafted the timber chopping boards.

Second speaker Max Schofield spoke about his love for alfresco dining and how he really enjoys lots of tastes of different things rather than one large three course meal. This ethos is reflected in his business, Fresh Fodder, established in Orange in 2008. The company now produces a range of dips, salads and antipasto, and he said taramasalata is the core of the business. It comes as no surprise that the Greek *Cook Book* published in 1967 is an influence. He named Greek, Italian and Mediterranean flavours as his favourites and refers to the book each day to help research products, even though it has no pictures! He also named *Cooking on the Bone* by Jennifer McLagan as a favourite. *I love this book – it has lots of pictures. It goes through the cuts of meat - I’m not an expert so this is great.* Think flavoursome stocks, roast, stews and casseroles with some interesting additions, such as fried fish bones or pig’s feet, thrown in for good measure. He was an entertaining speaker for *Books on the Menu*, revealing colourful anecdotes about growing up in the back streets of Crows Nest, Sydney above a deli and near some houses of ill repute. Now Max calls Orange home, and we were all inspired to entertain Max-style, using a selection of small dishes or mezze.

Justin Byrne is the marketing manager for Charles Sturt University Winery and is well known for his wine columns and articles about our local wine and produce. He said his home is filled with food and wine books and he subscribes to many magazines and (like most of us) keeps more than you should. A book that was instrumental in the early days was a gift, Jean Jacques *Seafood* book. In the 80s this book took seafood to a new level. Seafood cooking in Australia up to that point was pretty basic and this brought in a lot of French techniques. It is very 80s. He pointed out the King George Whiting recipe in puff pastry, and also mussels in a light tomato sauce, which is a recipe he still uses today. He said cookbooks reflect the changing fashions of restaurants; as we mature as a society we see it in the food. Justin also praised *Japanese Kitchen* by Kimiko Barber, bought in a Tokyo bookshop that occupied seven floors. Like a Stephanie Alexander book, it gives you background on the ingredients, then the recipes. For example the different mushrooms are described, then directions on how you might use them. There are also two types of Japanese stock and they can be used differently as a dipping sauce or a basis for stock. Highly recommended by Justin the book lists 100 ingredients and 200 recipes. Discussion about seafood and where to purchase it in Orange followed and enthusiastic audience members called out various locations where you can buy fish direct from Sydney markets.

Our final speaker was a legend of Orange F.O.O.D. Week, Rhonda Doyle. She had everyone chuckling at her memories of growing up in North Queensland and feeling very sophisticated drinking Blue Nun. Rhonda has a passion for food and wine and organised the first Winter’s Feast which led to F.O.O.D. Week as we know it today. Husband Stephen taught himself to make wine when they moved to Orange to start Bloodwood, one of the first vineyards
in the district. Rhonda told of growing up in North Queensland with a food obsessed Dad. The first recipe I recall is a cheesecake with condensed milk and lemon juice, then apple pies which were made from pineapples. And apple juice was added to lime juice make cheap lemon tarts. The first cookbook I bought was Margaret Fulton. I was also interested in Asian cooking and had many Chinese friends. I used Charmaine Solomon as a reference book. I was interested to see her cook once but I was surprised about what she cooked and then I thought what would I have done? I’m always thinking what spices you can leave out; I think you get into trouble by adding more all the time.

Rhonda also mentioned Peter Gilmour’s latest book Quay, which is beautifully presented and a work of art. She is currently reading Real Food by Mathews Evans. Rhonda is helping young families on low incomes learn how to cook easy things such as potato salad and spag bol as part of the Slow Food group. 20 years ago there really was no such thing as local cuisine in Orange. We had a couple of jars of pickled walnuts, some jams, and three wineries, but the advice was just give it a go and see what happens. And here we are. Rhonda also received a spontaneous round of applause from the large audience after a guest called out Thank you for all you have done.

JASMINE VIDLER
Reading and Writing Coordinator
Central West Libraries
Incorporating Central West Writers' Centre
Cooma Library – the vision becomes a reality

The 18th February 2011 heralded the official opening of the new look Cooma Library. This exciting project commenced in 2005 when architectural firm, Stephenson and Turner International Pty Ltd worked up the concept of an extended and refurbished Cooma Library building, with Cooma-Monaro Shire Council (CMSC) Councillors and senior staff. From that point onward it was all go, with many many meetings involving library staff, architects, CMSC’s IT and Engineering staff. Kevin Hennah was also invited to meet with staff and architects to work through the interior design.

It was important for Cooma Library to remain in its original location as it is well situated to the town centre, transport and schools. Fortunately the Council-owned area surrounding the original library allowed for an additional 300 square metres to be added to the original building which equated to a 60% increase in size. This provided a great opportunity to concentrate on public spaces with dedicated yet flexible zones throughout the Library. The Meeting Room has been refurbished and renamed the Vin Good Meeting Room in honour of Vin and his support of the library service. The number of public PCs was increased significantly and wifi capability is now available throughout the building.

Our successful grant application for funding from the State Library of NSW’s Library Development Grant program provided an additional $200,000 and the opportunity to further enhance the library fitout. Library Development Grant funding for the installation of RFID technology throughout the service was also very timely, allowing the library service to go live with RFID when we reopened the extended Cooma Library. As we were building on the same site it was necessary for temporary accommodation; and we were fortunate to be able to lease large premises that enabled us to house the entire library as well as providing good access for our Mobile Library. The time we spent at the temporary location provided us with an opportunity to rethink the procedures needed for a larger library; to trial a public PC management system and to retrospectively tag the collection in preparation for RFID.

We moved back within our planned timeframe and opened just three days before Christmas. Since then, our statistics indicate a huge increase in library visits, public computer bookings, circulation and new memberships. The feedback from the community has been excellent and the number of library borrowers using self issue has been encouraging and is, in fact, better than anticipated. Cooma-Monaro Shire Council’s Mayor, Councillor Dean Lynch and NSW local member Hon Steve Whan MP officially opened the Library, formerly thanking and acknowledging the library staff and everyone else associated with the project.

The local communities are very supportive of the Monaro Regional Libraries and see the regional library service as a central point for information to be made available throughout the region. One of the great benefits of a regional library service is that library resources are available to residents of the three member councils, Cooma-Monaro, Bombala and Snowy River. The opening provided us an excellent opportunity to launch three new collections for the region.

**CANCER RESOURCES COLLECTION**
The Monaro Committee for Cancer Research donated $2,500 for the purchase of recommended books and DVDs on cancer research, treatments, alternate therapies, diets and personal stories. The Committee decided that providing quality information empowered and enabled people to increase their understanding and assist in managing their lives, whether through technical information or an inspirational story that tells of life experiences.

**THE VIN GOOD COLLECTION**
Vin was elected as a Councillor for the Cooma-Monaro Shire Council and was Chair of the Monaro Regional Libraries Committee from 2004 until 2010. During this time Vin was a champion of libraries and very supportive of the Cooma Library project. Vin bequeathed not only funds towards the new library but also his extensive collection of books on Vietnam. He had a great interest and knowledge of Vietnam that spanned the very early through to the Vietnam War.

**MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES COLLECTION**
The Monaro Family Support Service approached the Library to propose that money from grant funding the Service had received, be allocated to the library for the purchase of resources on mental health. Book titles were recommended and the request made
that the collection include not only books on mental health but also related subjects including meditation and relaxation. The collection includes CDs as well as print resources.

After the official opening of the Cooma Library we decided to launch our Kids’ Zone and celebrate children and libraries. Saturday 19th February saw the library filled with children - having their faces painted, enjoying stories read by local author Gabi Stroud and, for the budding artist, painting canvases which will be used as a mural to decorate one of the walls in the Kids’ Zone. The Zone has been designed to have a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere, with a cozy lounge for curling up and reading as well as bright, colourful tables and chairs. Congratulations to Sue Bailey for the design of this area. Sue has a passion for children’s and young adult services so it was fitting that her last day with Monaro Regional Library involved children and stories. Sue has been an inspirational staff member and has developed a wonderful program for children, teens and families in the Monaro region. We wish Sue all the best for her future plans; we’ll miss her.

LYN GOUCHER
Library Manager
Monaro Regional Libraries
AUBURN

Auburn City Library hosted a series of interesting workshops and talks to promote the importance of law in society and to highlight free legal resources and information available at the Library.

Law Week opened on 16th May with a Powerpoint presentation in Mandarin delivered by Ms Natalie Lim, a Chinese speaking solicitor, who talked about elder law issues and answered some questions related to powers of attorney, wills and enduring guardianship.

On 18th May a group of Auburn Girls High School students experienced real court proceedings firsthand by attending a Mock Court session at Burwood Local Court. The students observed two scenarios – one pleading guilty and one not guilty – covering two of the most common crimes, offensive language and resisting arrest. The magistrate, the registrar, lawyers for both sides and police officers were present which made this event very interesting and relevant.

A Stay Safe workshop aimed at helping children identify the safe adults in their community, as well as safe places to go when they are lost, feeling unsafe or frightened or are in danger, took place on 19th May and was full of fun. The presentation was delivered by local police, and included an encounter with a working police dog, and opportunities to explore a police car. Constable Charlie, a penguin mascot promoting the Stay Safe campaign, also attended and helped to make the event an enjoyable one for the young participants.

A talk presented by Nadine Behan, author of the Legal Tool Kit title *How to run your own court case: a practical guide to representing yourself in Australian courts and tribunals (non-criminal cases)* concluded Law Week 2011 and provided participants with helpful information regarding self-representation in courts. This event was sponsored by FOALS the (Friends of Auburn Library Service).

Overall Law Week 2011 at Auburn City Library was a successful one and attracted over 120 residents from many different cultures, age groups and walks of life. The activities and events involving community groups and members of the legal profession as well as representatives of law-related organisations, allowed participants to see the range of information, help or advice available, and in many cases corrected a negative perception of law and its enforcement.
**BANKSTOWN**
As part of Law Week an information session was held by a local Padstow lawyer on Wills and Powers of Attorney, which was extremely popular with locals. At Bankstown Library our guest speaker addressed the topic of how to save energy (and money!). The speaker, from the Energy and Water Ombudsman’s Office of New South Wales (EWON) detailed how the Ombudsman can help people solve disputes with energy providers, including disputes over bills and problems with payments. With the price of electricity going up all the time, many of us are feeling the pinch. The EWON representative also explained what government assistance is available and how to save energy and therefore money! Both talks were well attended with a lot of local interest developing for a guest speaker program, which previously has not proven popular in the local area. By considering the needs of our local community the library is developing an understanding of what speakers our residents will visit the libraries to hear and learn more about their rights and entitlements.

**COOLAH**
Coolah Branch of the Macquarie Regional Library celebrated Law Week on Tuesday 17th May with a speaker sourced from the NSW Law Society Speakers Bureau. Mudgee solicitor Richard Wise (from Hannaford, Cox, Connellan & McFarland) gave a very interesting talk to community members and the Year 11/12 Legal Studies classes on Criminal law, police powers and arrest.

Richard spoke about several of his cases – in a confidential way - from the Mudgee Local Court, which mainly comprised minor drug, alcohol, traffic and violence related offences. It was very interesting to hear how he approached the presentation of his client’s cases to the local magistrate.

The Legal Tool Kit was showcased and a Powerpoint presentation of the LegalAnswers website was shown to the Legal Studies students prior to the talk. All those who attended also received a Law Week promotion bag.

**DUBBO**
The Thin Blue Line: - whether it’s forensics or footwork the idea is always to catch the criminal! This year for Law Week the Dubbo Branch of the Macquarie Regional Library decided to try something a little bit different. We invited our local Orana Crime Management Unit to come to the library for an evening event aimed at adults to discuss forensics and how they solve crimes, with light refreshments to follow. The event was very successful with 28 people in attendance. The talk was extremely well received with questions being asked by many of the attendees and a general air of fascination from everyone in the room. The three police officers who attended were extremely interesting to listen to and seemed to enjoy presenting to the group; in fact the main difficulty was in winding the session up at a reasonable hour! This was also an opportunity to highlight the Find Legal Answers collection and with an audience that included a HSC legal studies class this was very valuable.

Overall, this was a fantastic event and demonstrated how you can draw on current trends and interests to present programs at your library that both new and existing members will enjoy. The forensics specialist, Brian Worboys, has also offered to come back at a future date for another presentation.

**SINGLETON**
I feel like shouting hooray! or dancing a jig because of Law Week this year! All the planning came together perfectly when Singleton Public Library partnered with St Catherine’s College Singleton Year 11 Drama Class to present what is now becoming an annual event for Law Week: a play written, produced, directed, and performed by the students. Once again we had a highly motivated and talented cast. A local police officer, the Court House registrar and a solicitor from the Law Society of NSW Speakers’ Bureau donated their time to enact their real life roles within the play.

This year’s ambitious play *1300 Tina* covered a wide range of issues including:
- under age drinking
- poorly supervised parties
- drink driving
- filming people without permission and placing footage on the Internet
- carrying a knife and using it to threaten
- cyber bullying.

The play focussed on important legal messages and was written from two perspectives – the possibility of an offender cooperating with the police thus going
through a caution proceeding, and the offender not cooperating with police thereby attending Court and being sentenced. It also highlighted the important message that a photo published by a mobile phone is in cyberspace forever.

There were three performances, which attracted an audience of over 200 school and home schooled students, together with community members. We welcomed the Commander of Hunter Valley Local Area Command, Supt Des Organ and Inspector King, who attended so they could make their decision on how to proceed with the NSW Police Youth Liaison Training Video which they are committed to producing using the performance – an exciting prospect for us all.

We also held a quiz with prizes, presented the State Library’s PowerPoint presentation of Legal Answers and led short tours of the Library with a major focus on the Legal Answers collection. Everyone who attended received a Find Legal Answers goody bag. Our Find Legal Answers resources were displayed to full advantage in and around the Library resulting in increased loans for the month. We were grateful to be successful in our applications for a local solicitor from the Speakers Bureau, and a grant from the Law Society of NSW which generously funded advertising and prizes.

The event was entertaining but informative, giving a serious and important message to our community, highlighting the severe penalties that can result from youth crime. The audience was captivated throughout the performance, and Senior Constable Sheree Gray summed up with the comment that she rarely sees students spellbound by such serious topics. And further happy news: when she phoned the Department of Premier and Cabinet, NSW this week regarding funding for the training DVD she began to explain about our play and was interrupted to be told, Oh we at the Department of Premier and Cabinet know all about that play. She says they did know, too! They had all the details!!! Sheree is very, very chuffed, and so are we at Singleton Public Library.

WAGGA WAGGA
As part of Law Week Legal Aid NSW provided a free talk at Wagga Wagga City Library on key legal issues facing people who wish to plan for the future. Topics included Making a Will and Enduring Powers of Attorney. Planning for the future is such a popular topic and there seems to be a growing need in the community for more information about it. After a similar event in 2009 drew a capacity audience at Wagga Wagga City Library, we felt it was a good idea to invite Legal Aid lawyer Jean-Anne Searson back for a repeat performance. Her talk was engaging and untangled some of the more perplexing questions that people have.

Most of us value being able to make choices and exercise some control over our lives. We take and accept responsibility for a variety of decisions every day. This session gave people information about how to put in place plans to manage their affairs in the event they can no longer do it themselves. It can sometimes be difficult to get free or affordable legal help in regional areas so the session was highly regarded by participants and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. It was also a great opportunity to highlight our Legal Information Access Centre collection.
**WINGECARRIBEEL**

Bowral Library hosted a successful Law Week event in May with local solicitor Garry Barnsley from the Law Society of NSW Speakers’ Bureau entertaining a booked-out session on wills and power of attorney and retirement villages and the law. The audience were active participants with lots of questions throughout the talk and long after it had finished. Participants went home with show bags supplied by LIAC, stuffed with information about the *Find Legal Answers* service along with information about our libraries and our Friends’ group. The library ran this event in conjunction with the Friends of The Wingecarribee Libraries who supplied a lovely morning tea that was enjoyed by all. We’ll definitely be hosting more of these events in the future.

**WYONG**

When The Entrance Library decided to hold a Law Week Talk for the first time this year they were overwhelmed by the response. The topic chosen was *Accommodation Issues* including strata title, retirement homes and downsizing. Twice as many people turned up as were expected. Everyone had a fabulous time and morning tea was greatly enjoyed. We are sure this will become an annual event!

Law Week was extremely busy at Lake Haven Library. We hosted a *Neighbours, Householders and the Law* talk. Morning tea was shared and local solicitor Geoffrey Morgan Smith presented a casual and interactive discussion with members of the audience able to ask questions after the presentation. In addition the NSW Trustee and Guardian’s Office offered a Wills Day in the Library which was booked solid from open to close. Members of the public were able to book in advance and come and receive help for free. It was very well received and we hope to host them again in the future.

Members of the Central Coast Community Legal Centre presented *Understanding Courts and the Legal System*, a general law talk for years 11 and 12 Legal Studies students from Gorokan Hight School. This was a great event with the students lingering behind to chat to the lawyers, some newly graduated, about law as a career as well as hints for their studies. The students were also given a run down by library staff on the legal tool kit, the *Find Legal Answers* website and other resources available through the library service. Everyone went away feeling very enthusiastic about their studies!

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Annetta Kucharska, Auburn
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Bronwen Owen, Coolah
Christine May, Dubbo
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Margot Lumley, Wagga Wagga
Rebecca Finlaison, Wingecarribee
Michelle Goldsmith, Wyong
The new Ryde Library was formally opened on Thursday 28th April and on Saturday 30th April it opened its doors to the public for the first time. The weekend was full of fun, lots of noise and festivities. Highlights included a Chinese Lion dance, Korean drummers, Bollywood dancers, Tae Kwon Do and Zumba. Stilt walkers, roving musicians and costumed characters wandered through Top Ryde City shopping centre, and everywhere you turned you would see a child with a bright orange balloon promoting the library’s opening. Celebrity chef Janelle Bloom shared her passion for cooking with a demonstration and taste testing and people of all ages enjoyed the giant chess board. Kids were entertained with a Go Seek interactive performance, Caribbean Pirate Show, played Nintendo Wii games, and had fun with face painting and crafts. The community came out in force to explore their new library with 3,376 people visiting on Saturday and a record number of 1,052 people visiting on the Sunday afternoon. The library came alive on the weekend and continues to buzz with celebrations throughout the opening week.

Highlights included:
- Tours in English, Mandarin, Cantonese and Korean
- Local studies and family history tours
- Workshops for children and young adults including Lego, War Hammer and a beauty workshop
- Lifelong learning information sessions
- Morning tea for library VIPs (long term members of the library)

One month on and the community is still actively using its new library. Throughout the month of May over 20,000 people visited the library. Not only are huge numbers of people coming to look at the new space, but they are using the various facilities and services. Almost 1,000 people have joined the library and over 20,000 items have been borrowed, with the children’s collections proving the most popular. Various collections were boosted leading up to the opening of the library and the demand is still high, especially for children’s picture books, large print and talking books. 69% of the picture books are currently out on loan, and most other collections have high circulation rates also.

Library activities and events have also been well attended with children’s activities proving the most popular. The library comes alive three mornings a week with storytime and rhyme time, and 700 people have attended these sessions so far. The new after school kids club and Nintendo Wii gaming afternoons are also an exciting new attraction with close to 250 children and teenagers attending over the past month. Additional services including the JP are also growing in popularity. Inquiries at the volunteering support and community information desk are also increasing as time goes on.

Feedback has been extremely positive with visitors quick to comment on their love of the new library – its design, accessibility, collection arrangement and additional programs.

For more photos visit our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/rydelibraryservice/>

Kim Thomson
Information Services Coordinator
Ryde Library Service
In the Libraries

Amazing Stories
Heritage Festival in April was a great success with 316 people attending nine events at Camden. The program was produced jointly by Camden Council Library Service, Camden Historical Society and Camden Area Family History Society. Each group contributed two or three activities to the program complementing each other with activity type, date and time.

This year events included Our Memories, Our Stories ephemera exhibition; a launch of the new local book The Old Razorback Road; Mini-discoverers, a hands-on session for pre-schoolers with the library and museum; a Family History lecture on Writing your story; cemetery tours telling the amazing stories of some of those buried locally; a lecture about development in the area and potential threats to heritage and another about German immigration. The program concluded with a Family History Seminar titled Your Amazing Story.

Working in partnership with the three groups ensured events were complementary and maximised publicity. We are now working on our next joint program for History Week in September.

Jo Oliver
Local studies Librarian
Camden Council Library Service

Partnerships
In May, just one of the many partnerships that Camden Libraries have forged resulted in the presentation of another successful event. As part of Library and Information Week, we found stuff in the form of an interesting and engaging talk for parents, carers and those who work with young people, free of charge. Camden’s Youth Services has developed a network with partnership brokers Macarthur Workplace Learning Program (MWLP) in order to present informative talks for those who relate to young people. On 23rd May The Resilience Doughnut provided psychologist Christina Ott to speak about Building Strong and Resilient Young People. The talk also included interactive time for parents, carers and professionals to discuss the use of the Resilient Doughnut tool to understand the young people in their lives.

Camden Libraries and MWLP will now work on presenting talks in term 3 and 4 of 2011, to provide a series of topics to the local community. The interest in this talk came from all over Sydney, Macarthur and the Illawarra and the maximum number of bookings (100 attendees) was reached very quickly. By using
In the Libraries

01 LIBRARY STAFF KYLIE AND SAMANTHA
02 ENJOYING A CUPPA
03 DOWN COME THE WALLS

the Narellan Library meeting rooms and providing a display of library resources, the link to our libraries was highlighted. Generous sponsorship in the form of refreshments was provided by local company, Sprouts Catering.

We look forward to extending this partnership into the future. The partnership with MWLP has brought together two organisations in order to present meaningful and high interest sessions to our community. The feedback from attendees was very positive and indicated that sessions like this in our local area are highly sought after.

KIM WHITE
Acting Youth Services Librarian
Camden

AUSTRALIA’S BIGGEST MORNING TEA
Bathurst Library held an Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea event on Thursday 26th May to raise funds for the Cancer Council. It was a great success with approximately 300 people attending. Library staff donned aprons and baked some yummy cakes and slices for the occasion. Office Coordinator Rachelle Turner combed the town for donations and managed to acquire some excellent raffle prizes and food from some 26 local businesses, including; hair, beauty and massage treatments, book vouchers, music vouchers, cafe vouchers, cakes and sandwiches. The morning tea provided a great opportunity for the community to get together over a cuppa for a great cause. We invited our clients from the nursing homes around town, and transport to and from the library was provided free of charge by Bathurst Community Transport. The Library managed to raise over $1,000 for the cause, with sales of cups of tea and coffee, cakes and raffle tickets.

NATALIE CONN
Outreach Programs Officer
Bathurst Library

REDEVELOPMENT
The walls have been coming down on the iconic Bankstown Town Hall Auditorium in preparation for the redevelopment of the site to house the new Library and Knowledge Centre. Demolition commenced in April and is proceeding on schedule.

The existing theatre will be refurbished as will the community meeting rooms and the new library will be co-located adjacent to the theatre, and replacing the auditorium that is disappearing before our eyes. Library staff are currently reviewing the floor plans and schedules of furniture and fittings. This landmark project to relocate the library and revitalise the Town Hall site into a state-of-the-art complex, is expected to open in late 2012. Designed by architects Frances-Jones Morehen Thorp (FJMT), the Centre will meet the current and future needs of our growing city and is destined to become the next new meeting point in town. The architect’s plans include a reflection pool at the front of the library to reflect the trees in Paul Keating Park, as well as a reading garden on the north side of the library building just off the children’s area. Our staff request for an onsite coffee shop has been incorporated into the ground floor plans, as well as an exhibition space for community displays.

ROBYN OWENS
Coordinator Library Services
Bankstown City Council
**KNIT ONE**

For those who love to have a yarn, Bankstown libraries have been hosting a Knitting Club. The Library has a number of volunteers who donate to the Wrap With Love project who wanted to meet others in the local area who love to knit and chat. For those who have been knitting squares and wraps for the ABC Knit In there is now a social knitting group to look forward to every month at our libraries. It is well known that the activity of knitting in a group has many benefits. Our social knitting groups are popular with young and old, women and men, people of all backgrounds and abilities. Participants have found that knitting in a group creates opportunities for social engagement and learning from others, develops fine-motor skills, hand-eye coordination and maths and reading skills. Plus have some fun and meet new friends with a common interest. The groups have grown and grown in size and number.

**ROBYN OWENS**
Coordinator Library Services
Bankstown City Council

**PICTIONARY FUN**

On Friday night 13th May, Deniliquin Library was the scene of lots of laughter and fun when the library hosted a Drawtism night to raise funds for research into Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Thousands of Australians every year are diagnosed with some form of autism, and research is ongoing to find a cure. This year Pictionary teamed up with Alpha Autism, Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect), Autism SA and Autism Association of WA for Drawtism.

It was a great night with small prizes for each round and a prize for the final winning table. It was a competition in true librarian style, with a bottle of wine as the prize; and local talented teenager Lachie Downes busking on his guitar to raise more money, and laughter unlimited. Staff acted as gofors and there were quite a few kilometres added to the shoe leather during the evening.

You may wonder how this event fits the library profile? Well, we have several members whose children have been diagnosed with ASD, and we have acknowledged a need for increased awareness within the community. One of our goals is to encourage the wider community to see the library not only as an educational facility but as a community hub. We hope that next year’s Drawtism event in the library will be even bigger!

**JANET MATHEWSON**
Library Officer
Central Murray Regional Library

**CLARENCE NEWS**

A successful stock take of Grafton Branch Library was undertaken in April; and greater efficiencies were achieved by the use of the wifi in the branch with multiple laptops and hand held scanners.

Clarence Regional Library has acquired the 2009 and 2010 Personal Interest Projects for the HSC Society and Culture subject. This will allow students unable to get to Sydney, to see examples of best practice. They will be kept at the Bellingen and Grafton branches and can be viewed, though not copied in any form.

Preparations for the new Grafton Branch are well underway with the Development Application going to Council in May and the funding forms submitted in June to the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government.

Adult literacy kits with books and CDs have recently been purchased and will be placed in Grafton Branch to fulfil a previously identified need. Grafton Library has also been successful in obtaining ten Navigators for use by sight impaired borrowers, through a library initiative funded by the Department of Families and Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.
In the Libraries

BELLINGEN BRANCH LIBRARY

Bellingen Branch Library successfully hosted sessions of the Bellingen Readers and Writers Festival in April. The Festival saw over 2,000 people attend sessions across the weekend, with local writers being showcased. Prior to the festival, library staff ensured that the visiting authors’ works were on display and available for loan to library users. Thirteen sessions of the Festival were held in the Library with five of the sessions being free. Popular sessions included Colin Thompson and Deb Abela, free presentation for children, *Digging up the Past* (discussing the use of real historical events as a basis for fiction) and *The Book Business*, presented by the Australian Society of Authors on getting an agent, getting published, getting rich and getting real.

Local Studies and Family History information sessions were held in June across the Regional Library. The purpose was to determine what members of the community are doing in the Region regarding collecting and storing local information. The Library will also review what we collect as an organisation. We have engaged a consultant experienced in reviewing specialist local collections and he has facilitated information sessions in each of the Shire Council areas of Clarence Valley, Bellingen and Nambucca. We are also interested in exploring the possibility of collaboration, referral and access to collections within the communities of the Region.

**KATHRYN BREVARD**
Clarence Regional Library

_**BLAND SHIRE NEWS**_

We are very excited to have received a Library Development Grant for the installation of RFID, and have been busy promoting it and preparing patrons for the new system, with installation commencing in June.

The library also recently received a number of playback devices thanks to a Library Initiative funded through the Department of Families and Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The devices will support people with print disability, including those who are unable to read standard print with ease due to vision impairment, a physical disability or a learning disability.

The library held a number of activities to celebrate Library and Information Week including a Biggest Morning Tea, a special storyline, a movie night, basic Internet training for seniors, school class visits and competitions for all ages. The *Weird and Wacky Inventions* competition proved popular with Glenis Taylor of Ungarie winning herself a Target gift voucher. There was also a pictorial display of the library’s history and our current services.

During April we hosted the travelling exhibition of photos from the People’s Choice Awards. In conjunction with the exhibition, Bland Shire Library ran its own local photographic competition with all local entries forwarded on and entered in the national competition.

**CATHY LANGE**
Bland Shire Library

_**THE HILLS SHIRE NEWS**_

Castle Hill Library played host to bestselling author Liz Byrski in April. Liz discussed her latest book *Last Chance Cafe* along with what inspired her to write her other novels. The event was a huge success with tickets selling out before the night. With plans to host Jessica Rowe in June and Tony Park in August the Feast of Speakers program is going strong.

April also saw The Hills Shire Library Service commence lending Save Power Kits provided by the Office of Environment and Heritage (formerly the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water). These 25 kits have proven to be popular, with customers even placing reserves in order to hold them. The kits are available for loan for 7 days with no renewals, which has allowed for a higher turnover compared to the three-week loan on other materials.
E-readers are another recent addition to the Library’s lending collection. Even as a 7-day loan with no renewals they are never on the shelf with each one being constantly out on loan since we bought them. Customers are enjoying trying the e-readers before buying, and have been busy downloading e-books available from our website.

While on the topic of 7-day loans, the new Rapid Read books held at four of The Hills Shire Libraries are flying out the door. This collection of new bestsellers, which can be borrowed for 7 days with no renewals, has really given customers the chance to grab that bestseller they have seen in stores. The displays at each library are eye-catching and have become a focal point as you enter. This opportunity to showcase how up-to-date libraries are has been welcomed with open arms by customers.

The first Festival of Positive Parenting was held in May at Vinegar Hill Memorial Library, Rouse Hill. The Library was full of mums and dads along with their young children. The day featured talks on baby massage, healthy cooking, literacy and more. Parents had the opportunity to visit stands from various community groups and organisations including parent groups, a chiropractor and the local toy library. The library also came to life with demonstrations of belly dancing, Zumba and fitness for mums, which highlighted how vibrant a Library, can be. The day culminated in a Positive Parenting talk that sold out well before the day and left every parent wanting more talks just like it.

ERICA WORT
Projects and Promotions Officer
Hills Shire Library

COMMUNITY VOICE
The passion and pride of Griffith people has been spelled out in a specially compiled book handed to Federal Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development, Local Government and the Arts, Simon Crean in early June. Member for Riverina Michael McCormack arranged and attended a meeting where Griffith City Library representatives presented the book in Parliament House, Canberra. Griffith City Library Joint Managers Christine Del Gigante and Pam Young, the library’s People and Programs team Monica Dissegna and Rina Cannon and Griffith City Council Economic Development Co-ordinator Nicola James presented Mr Crean with an album of stories, pictures and articles contributed by the people of Griffith in response to the proposed water cutbacks outlined in the Murray Darling Basin Draft Plan of 2010. Mr Crean gratefully received the book, acknowledged the efforts taken to compile it and told the Griffith delegation he appreciated the importance of regional communities.

The book was the idea of library staff and the local community responded overwhelmingly when asked to contribute. It included heartfelt contributions from hundreds of people of all ages to let the Government know just how important water is to the future viability of inland Australia. Having the Survival Book (as it was known) available at the library gave the whole community an opportunity to express their concerns. Now this book has been taken to the highest level of government through a library initiative – another unique way in which our library is a community builder.

PAM YOUNG
Joint Manager
Western Riverina Libraries
In the Libraries

AUTHOR VISITS
The guest author at Mullumbimby Library for April was Ray Moynihan. Ray lives locally in the Byron Shire and is the author of four books on the business of medicine, including Selling Sickness which has been translated into a dozen languages and Sex Lies and Pharmaceuticals which was released globally last year to much acclaim. Ray is a professional speaker who usually charges for his time but as a big supporter of libraries, he donated his time for this talk and was delighted to be speaking in his own community. It was a very successful evening and 36 guests crowded into the limited room available in the building to hear Ray. One of our guests suggested that Ray should be speaking at Mullumbimby Library every month! Light refreshments were provided.

Our latest guest author at Mullumbimby was Barry Eaton. Barry is a well known radio and TV presenter who discussed with his captive audience the inspiration behind his first book Afterlife: uncovering the secrets of life after death. The discussion would have continued for hours if the 20 guests who attended the event had not been lured away by the refreshments provided afterward. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

CHERYL WOODWARD
Mullumbimby Library

LIVERPOOL NEWS
During the Heritage Festival Liverpool Library hosted the National Museum of Australia’s travelling exhibition Symbols of Australia. This gave us the opportunity at a local level to focus attention on some of the symbols of Liverpool. We had a small display of local places and people. We also ran a competition with the first prize a sponsored $500 which gave people a further incentive to nominate their Liverpool symbol. There were some surprises and it was lovely to have the library nominated by a number of people. We received some excellent media coverage as well.

We also were thrilled to have the highly regarded Associate Professor Helen Ennis, from the Australian National University, present a talk for us on The value in the ordinary and the typical by considering old family photographs of the nineteenth century. Helen is one of Australia’s leading photography curators, historians and writers. The session was very well attended by a mix of the general community, keen photographers and colleagues from other cultural institutions. If you ever get a chance to hear Helen talk – don’t miss it.

JO MORRIS
Heritage Services Coordinator
Liverpool City Library

FAMILY DETECTIVE
It’s true, you know, about those people interested in Family History … you do become the family detective. Combine that with being an information librarian who loves the thrill of the hunt – well, I think that leaves me as a hopeless case. I’ve always imagined myself as the proverbial terrier who won’t let the bone go - if someone is needing information, there are a myriad of ways to possibly find it and I don’t like to let something go without some sort of result.

So when I recently had a phone call from a person who lives about 350 kilometres away, seeking Family History information, I took up the challenge!

The story went something like this. I’ve been on the Internet and found a book that I want to borrow, The Gordons of Bathurst. Bathurst Library didn’t hold it.
The State Library didn’t hold it. The National Library didn’t hold it. Library suppliers didn’t know about it. But I tacked down the only copy at the Society of Australian Genealogists’ Library. But Bathurst Library REALLY should have a copy of this book, so in true Aussie style, I decided to have a go and typed the author’s name into Google, came up with an NSW email address and thought in for a penny. Yes, the email was still current and yes, he was the author of the book – what luck! A copy now resides in our library AND I recently got to meet the author. After 12 years, copies of this self-published book now sit on the shelves of four libraries and the title is another valued resource in our Family History Collection. Sometimes, things are just meant to be.

BETH HALL
Information and Lending Services Team Leader
Bathurst Library

STROUD LIBRARY
As you read this Stroud Library will be on the verge (if not over it) of opening. Stroud Library is a real success story. Up until this year the Stroud community was served by a very small library, and an RSL Hall falling into disrepair. Thanks to a Library Development Grant from the State Library of NSW the Hall has been saved and Stroud is getting a wonderful new library.

By the time the doors open the Hall will have been fully renovated - no mean feat when white ants have been at play! Not only will the building look like new, there’ll be new furniture, extended opening hours, stacks of new stock, a meeting room and a children’s area. The Hall will house the Library, a District Office and a Home and Community Care (HACC) Office. This will make the facility a real hub for the community. Co-location has to be the best way for smaller communities to retain important services.

The aim is to officially launch the facility on 1st August (yes, I know, horse’s birthday) which will win quite a few brownie points with Council as it will be their shining show and tell for Local Government Week. We hope to have the library operating for a few weeks beforehand. Check it out next time you’re in historic Stroud.

KIM TATTAM
Outreach Services Librarian
Great Lakes Library

VOLUNTEERS THANKED
Once upon a time you might find a library manager flinching at the word volunteer but times have really changed. Now providing residents with a means by which they can make a meaningful contribution to the community is a key role for the local library - and that is a good thing. Now we are also finding that providing these volunteer opportunities helps people meet Social Security obligations. And if you don’t think that this would improve their quality of life - think again. People don’t volunteer for over ten years in something they don’t enjoy and feel rewarded by. Every year we acknowledge volunteers who’ve done the 10+ years and it’s a pretty impressive list.

The Great Lakes Library Service has long relied on volunteers. Sure, in some areas you could argue that perhaps it was a questionable practice but increasingly we’re refining how we use volunteers and focusing them on those areas where you honestly don’t need to invest in library staff. Just in case you think this is doing people out of a job - not the case at all. Library staff numbers have been increasing steadily for years. Our volunteers perform two very important roles, and our library staff would fight to tooth and nail to keep them. Firstly, they enable us to offer services that we simply could not provide otherwise. For example, we have a good genealogical collection but we don’t have the staff to promote it and spend time with users. Up step a group of passionate family history volunteers and suddenly we can provide assistance, turning the collection into a service. Secondly, they do tasks that free up staff so they can tackle other important issues, for example, we now have a suite of volunteers who shelve books for us. Perhaps some may say this should be a staff duty, but ask yourself this; Is staff time more valuable?
In the Libraries

spent shelving books or developing children’s programs, introducing new IT, managing wider customer issues, getting new collections up and running etc.

We think the volunteers are integral to our service without compromising its professional delivery and they clearly feel personally rewarded through volunteering. Certainly, there is a significant work element involved in properly managing the volunteers but it pays off in spades. The Great Lakes Library Service has over 100 volunteers, and during Volunteer Week we took the time to have a special lunch just for them. It was a small but important token of our respect for them and everything they do for us.

CHRISS JONES
Great Lakes Library

GREAT BOOKS
As Library and Information Week approached, the Great Lakes Library geared itself for its annual Great Books Festival. This year was the twelfth GBF we’ve held, making it one of the longest running programs of its kind in rural NSW. The Festival runs over four days and involves the library taking major authors and illustrators to local schools. For many school children, particularly in smaller schools in outlying areas, this is the only way they get to meet such significant literary figures. It is getting harder and more costly for schools to take their children to events so bringing the writers and illustrators to them is the key to the success of the whole program.

This year we took author, media personality, famous sportswoman and motivational speaker, Lisa Forrest and well-known illustrator Stephen Axelsen to schools right across our region. Around 1,100 children participated in the Festival and the feedback has once again been excellent. We even managed to fit in an evening with Lisa Forrest for the adults. GBF XII has been another high profile success story for the library and a reminder to the community that the library does a lot more than just house books. Roll on GBF XIII.

KIM TATTAM
Outreach Services Librarian
Great Lakes Library

LIBRARY COURSE SUCCESS
In 2009 a relationship formed between the North East Zone of Public Libraries NSW and the North Coast Institute of TAFE which has truly borne fruit. This grew out of an industry recognition that the various Certificate and Diploma courses available for paraprofessional library staff all had shortcomings. What the library profession really needed was a course that a) had practical, relevant and current content for public libraries; b) was accessible online; c) was based on input from the library profession; d) had effective recognition of prior learning; e) was of the highest quality; f) had content dealing with emerging areas such as marketing and outreach; g) had strong support structure; h) was affordable and i) had good feedback and monitoring.

Thanks to a year of extensive interaction between the Zone and TAFE, including the development of a steering committee made up of library professionals, the TAFE was able to develop the content and structure to offer Certificate III, Certificate IV and Diploma in Library Services. And the response from students exceeded all expectations. Our starting goal of 20 students soon fell by the wayside as enrolments reached over 100! The latest piece of news is that the TAFE courses have just been endorsed by ALIA. Endorsement by ALIA is a rigorous process so you know that the courses have certainly passed muster. So if you’ve got prospective library students in your ranks it might be worth getting them to approach the North Coast TAFE.

One final note, moves are afoot to try and getting the Diploma in Library Services on the Existing Worker Traineeship (EWT) scheme. If this happens then all library-related Diploma courses in NSW will become more financially attractive thanks to Government training incentives.

CHRIS JONES
Manager Great Lakes Library

BREAKFAST WITH ANDREA
Muswellbrook Library celebrated International Women’s Day at the Muswellbrook Gallery on Friday 11th March with a breakfast and an early start for staff. Our guest speaker was the Superintendent of Mt Arthur Coal which is a major employer in the Muswellbrook LGA. Andrea spoke of her own experiences in the mining industry and of being a female in a male dominated industry.

Andrea’s career has taken her afar - from the bustling city of Melbourne to the Pilbara region of Western Australia which has some of the world’s most ancient natural landscapes, including the
beautiful Karijini National Park. Andrea spoke fondly of her time with the indigenous communities that she worked with and the remote towns she lived in.

Andrea went on to say that even though she worked in some areas where she was the only woman she never really found any discrimination, as she was capable of doing the work and was thus respected by her fellow employees. Mt Arthur Coal is a large mine and Andrea, as the boss, faces many challenges, none the least the expansion Project, known as MAC20, which is expected to commence operation in 2011 at an estimated capital investment of US$260 million.

The breakfast was well attended with over 90 people braving the cold, windy and wet morning for the 7am start. Guests came from all over the Shire and represented many businesses and schools in the area. The proceeds from the morning will go towards updating and enhancing our women’s mentoring and leadership collection which is held at the Muswellbrook library.

Unfortunately our renovated building was not ready for the event, but the backdrop at the Art Centre was really something and we appreciated the help of the gallery staff in making this a successful event. Funding for this event was provided by a successful grant from the Office for Women’s Policy of the New South Wales Government.

DION HOCKLEY
Muswellbrook Library

WAGGA WAGGA REFURB
Six months after the storm inundation, Wagga Wagga City Library closed for two weeks for refurbishment and reopened on 30th May. Crowds of people flooded in as the doors were thrown open to reveal the transformation. The local community and many council staff enjoyed a delicious morning tea while soaking up the new vibrant atmosphere. PRIME TV and the Daily Advertiser newspaper covered the event. The improvements included improved disabled access for scooters and wheeled devices through the widening of the RFID gates at both entrances; new graphics on the gates and throughout the library displaying the It’s your library tagline; a new vibrant youth area with a combination of recycled old and new furniture; a new Staff desk at the Lagoonside entrance; and brand new carpet with its feature pebble pathway. The praise was unanimous from all those in attendance.

Library staff were relieved to resume normal duties after a fortnight of doing many exhausting tasks that fall under the category of other duties as required! No doubt the practical aspects of working in public libraries rarely appear in formal courses but as we all know the number of skills utilised in refurbishments would fill out the resumes of many staff across NSW public libraries. The Wagga Wagga staff demonstrated enthusiasm, determination, problem solving, stock mobilisation skills, amazing energy and a shared purpose to push through until the end. There was even a rare opportunity to have lunch together and to relax over pizza while enjoying each other’s company. Programs in the opening week included four storytimes, the resumption of Baby Bounce, a school tour and a Probus talk. Library staff are to be commended for their commitment to excellence which the refurbishment project has clearly demonstrated.

CLAIRE CAMPBELL
Manager Library Services

The Wagga Wagga City Library Facebook page really came into its own while the library was closed for its refurbishment. Every day we were able to keep our customers up to date with what was happening in the library and how library staff were spending their time with no customers around. So many people asked us beforehand if we were having two weeks holiday so it was great to be able to show them just how busy we were, and what is involved in a major refurbishment. We uploaded plenty of photos of the different stages of the work and each area as it was finished. The positive comments kept us going when we were
In the Libraries

exhausted! We were still contactable by phone but it was good for people to be able to ask questions via Facebook and we also used the page to promote the events we were holding offsite during the closure. We took lots of photos specifically for Facebook and now have a wonderful record of the whole project from start to finish.

AMY HEAP
Reader Services Librarian

THE ORIGINAL RECYCLERS
Libraries have been recyclers for many years, encouraging the borrowing of countless items many times. Wonderful for the environment and our customers’ wallets! Swansea Library is situated in an environmentally friendly building and we take our recycling and environmental issues seriously. On top of staff ensuring they save energy and recycle as much as possible, we also have a lot of green initiatives for our local community to utilise.

We are a proud recycler of old mobile phones, old glasses frames, batteries and light globes. Swansea Library customers can visit the green area near the front of the library which houses drop off containers for each of these items. Also in this area they will find a lot of environmental, recycling and green information.

Installed in the area is an Emit-o-Meter, which monitors council’s weekly carbon pollution and can help customers with ideas to reduce city-wide pollution. It is easy to use, and full of interesting statistics and information. Also located in this area is a book sale of discarded items, more reuse of library items. Swansea Library customers can visit the green area near the front of the library which houses drop off containers for each of these items. Also in this area they will find a lot of environmental, recycling and green information.

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AMANDA LAMBERT
Branch Librarian, Swansea Library

MOBILE TIME
Lane Cove Library has celebrated 12 months of its successful Movies @ Lane Cove program. The program began in April 2010 and has seen the audience grow in numbers with each movie screening. The movies are presented every second month on the last Tuesday of the month, during the afternoon. The successful program is centred on the presentation of a movie targeted towards senior library users. There is a general introduction to the movie, pointing out some of the trivia or controversy surrounding the movie, the costumes, or the cast and crew. After the screening of the movie there is usually lively debate about issues raised in the movie, historical points or general chatter about the feel of the movie.

Afternoon tea is provided, and is selected to enhance the theme of the movie, such as Hot Cross buns and Easter eggs for the Easter Parade screening. A selection of library items, again focused on the movie, the cast and crew or the type of movie are made available for the audience to either borrow or browse. The afternoon is capped off with the distribution of a specially created handout listing the cast and crew, writers, director etc, significant points of the movie, interesting facts and figures about the studio, and books and similar DVDs available from the library.

The program is presented by me and another avid film buff staffer. The movie club has received continuous high praise from audience members with positive feedback and comments.

WILL COOMBE
Reference and Community Information Librarian
Lane Cove Library

LIW AT WAVERLEY
Waverley Library staff had great fun organising Library and Information Week this year, with three fabulous events supporting this year’s theme of Libraries: We find stuff! On Wednesday 25th May, Library staff John Royle and Margaret Winstanley gave a virtual tour of the Library’s online resources in the Library Theatrette - The world at your fingertips: Waverley Library’s online databases. Many people don’t realise the range of databases that the Library subscribes to, nor that many can also be accessed free from home by Library members. Whether it’s lost ancestors, historical questions, archived newspapers, solutions to legal conundrums or just for fun, study or work, there is an enormous amount of information contained in these databases that can be used by our members. John and Margaret took attendees on an informative virtual tour through the databases, showing them how to navigate the sites to find the information they are looking for. Afternoon tea and
biscuits were provided to help people ward off the winter chill.

The Friends of Waverley Library (FOWLs) Book Sale was held on Thursday 26th and Friday 27th May in Oxford Street Mall, Bondi Junction. Luckily the rain held off and many people took advantage of this great opportunity to grab a bargain on a range of titles, including travel and literature, health and history and popular paperbacks. Almost $7,000 was raised over this extremely popular two-day event.

Stories from way back will be used to inspire sculptors in the Remember when Waverley... project. Each fortnight John Hockney, an experienced story-workshop facilitator and author of Remember when... How to unlock your life story, is facilitating a reminiscing workshop around a specific theme with a small group of our most elderly long-term Waverley residents. The aim of the project is to capture snapshots about the way life used to be in Waverley. We are not recording full life histories, but rather vignettes around specific themes like childhood and teenage years, going to the theatre, exhibitions and local performances, and household practices like washday routines, traditions etc. These vignettes/snapshots will be used as source material for a public art work planned for the new Waverley Pavilion building, which is due to be completed later this year.

SAM WEIR
Waverley Library Public Programs Coordinator

LIW AT WOOLLAHRA

The week started with our Local History Centre hosting an open day to showcase the hidden treasures of the local studies collection. Items included original council records dating back to 1860 documenting amongst other issues, the collection of night soil which was seen as a most disgusting nuisance. As well, a letter from a concerned resident in 1898 complaining about the detrimental effect on any passing children of a delicate constitution being confronted by cows driven daily along Darling Point Road! Apart from one regular all our visitors were new to the Local History Centre. We received many comments on how interesting the collection was and visits lasted on average an hour with one teacher planning on returning with 80 students.

The annual cancer fundraiser, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea was held in the Thornton Rooms overlooking Sydney Harbour. As part of our Home Library Service (HLS) Outreach Program, our housebound customers were invited to attend with the library providing the transport. This year we changed the format a little with guest speaker, Susanne Gervay. Susanne gave an inspirational talk about defeating cancer and her successful career as an author. Local residents and HLS customers were treated to a delicious morning tea as they listened to Susanne, all while raising money for the Cancer Council.

We held our annual Book Fair over three days in LIW too. Clr Shapiro, Mayor of Woollahra officially opened the Fair on Friday, and it was a great success with over $5000 raised. Over the weekend children had the opportunity to have their face painted and participate in storytime and craft. Rotary were on hand to feed the crowd with sausage or bacon and egg sandwiches. Approximately 4000 books, 1000 magazines, and over 100 CDs and DVDs were sold, and the unsold stock was donated to Rotary.

BELINDA BOURKE
Library Team Leader - Customer & Outreach
Woollahra Library and Information Service
In the Libraries

WHERE HISTORY MEETS ART

The Amazing Stories exhibition was held during April as part of the National Trust Heritage Festival. It was an amazing story in itself and saw some unique collaborative work between Leichhardt Library and Hill End Print Press artists, Bill and Genevieve Moseley.

52 original zinc printing blocks, dusty and wrapped in 1920’s waxy lunch paper were found in the back of the library archives. A journey began to discover what lay on these print blocks. The blocks revealed the original illustrations to an historic Council publication The Jubilee History of Leichhardt 1871 – 1921 by A Vialoux and C M Reeves. The images were the relief prints of the work of renowned Council photographer J G Parks who photographed prominent local buildings, mayors and aldermen and school children. What lay on these metal printing blocks were 52 amazing stories - an eerie vacant Norton Street, municipal parades, boners and cutters, school children cultivating experimental grasses, street sweepers, and new schools and churches which still stand today.

A weekend trip to the historic town of Hill End found me stumbling upon Hill End Press where artists Bill and Genevieve had restored a 100 year old Gordon Vintage Press (the same model owned by Virginia Wolf). Bill and Genevieve were presented with the box of 90-year old printing blocks and embarked upon a five month journey in which they cleaned and revitalised the blocks, adding their skills of using moveable type and creativity to deliver a body of work in the arts and craft style.

It all came together with 52 beautifully framed images for the Leichhardt Jubilee Pressed Exhibition. The library walls were decked with a rich panorama of the area in 1921. Historic connections had been made between Leichhardt and Hill End, between librarians and artists, between history and art and between the past and present. The opening of the exhibition attracted a culturally rich crowd of locals, heritage groups, and art and history enthusiasts including celebrated photographer Lewis Morley. A short film on the process captivated and enthralled people as they viewed the historic methods of the industrial print press, clanking and echoing from an era long gone and contrasted with the present age of digital imagery, speedy reproduction and chip driven media.

AMIE ZAR
Local History Librarian
Leichhardt Library

LIW AT MOSMAN

Throughout Library and Information Week Mosman Library held a quiz showcasing our online resources and challenging patrons to answer a set of ten questions using the databases. The reward for all the hard work was the chance to win a new Apple iPad. The winner was announced during our Big Day In celebrations on Saturday 28th May.

On the tail of our successful Heritage Festival Local Studies exhibition, Bookends: Another Chapter, we launched our Mosman Faces Project <www.mosmanfaces.net> The Project, funded by a Library Development Grant, provides a visual history of Mosman through filmed interviews. These interviews will be complemented by scanned images from the Local Studies Collection and enhanced by voice-overs and music. The project was launched on Monday 23rd May and was a huge success with audience members taking to the microphone to tell their own stories of Mosman.

With barely enough time to recover from the Mosman Faces launch we then threw ourselves into the National Simultaneous Storytime. The Children’s Library staff covered themselves in feathers to sing and dance their way through Feathers for Phoebe. At the same time in another part of the Library we were hosting a special full day workshop in for people interested in publishing their family history. The workshop was presented by Dr Noeline Kyle and Lorraine Purcell, experienced family history writers and publishers.

In our spare time (!) we really went to town to celebrate Library and Information Week 2011 with our Big Day In! Fun was had by all, as our patrons (and staff!) enjoyed free barista-made coffee, gorgeously decorated mini cupcakes, lucky door prizes, free giveaways such as journals and postcards, behind the scenes library tours and a mini book-sale. And the children and teens didn’t miss out either, with entertainment from Catrina Hylton, free drinks and Tim Tams, balloons and lucky dip prizes and a Guitar Hero tournament.

One of the highlights of the day was the announcement of the winner of the iPad. She was over the moon to win, especially in light of an upcoming overseas holiday! At the end of the day we drew lucky door prizes and three fortunate borrowers walked away with sumptuous hampers full of goodies. Seeing people crowded around chatting,
with coffees and books in hand, created a warm and friendly atmosphere and served as a reminder of the importance of local libraries as community hubs for learning and the sharing of information. People still need to connect and it is reassuring to know that libraries can provide the type of environment that not only provides information in all its formats but brings people together as well. It’s just a shame we can’t have coffee and cupcakes in the library every day!!!

Check our Flickr page for a taste of the Big Day! <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mosmanlibrary>

ALYCIA BAILEY
Promotions & Youth Services Librarian
Mosman Library

MARRICKVILLE NEWS
Marrickville Library and History Services held its third adults-only event to conclude our Marrickville Reads program which is held in conjunction with our Summer Reading Clubs for children and youth. Our adults-only event is designed to promote and develop our adult reading community. Over 60 adults enjoyed a talk presented by author, columnist and radio presenter Richard Glover. Richard is a dynamic speaker who amused the audience with excerpts from his own experiences and his books (which, he said, often bear a close resemblance to life!) Light refreshments concluded the evening along with a chance to view displays featuring a history of entertainment in and around the Marrickville local government area and the option to purchase a book and have it signed by Mr Glover.

Ever been asked to participate in a festival or event where there’s a lot of noise and other activities with which you have to compete for attention? What can you do that hasn’t been done before, will it be successful, get you recognised by the community and help grow your local studies collections? We think we’ve found the answer! Marrickville Library and History Services hosted a photo booth for four hours along with more traditional library activities such as displays of historic photos and realia at Council’s annual Australia Day event. People wanting to secure a memento of their Australia Day celebrations signed a release to allow us to use photos for displays and retain them for our historical collections of the future. Photos were branded with the Council logo and available to take away almost straight away, and we retained a digital copy for our collection. An assortment of wigs, glasses, hats were available for people to wear in the photos if they chose.

LISA MARSHALL
Coordinator Community Programs
Marrickville Library

MONDAY MATTERS
In July 2010 Mosman Library introduced a program of monthly Monday morning speakers. The sessions are open to all Library patrons, but are aimed in particular at the young retiree. Speakers come from a variety of fields, and have included a paralympian, a colour consultant, and a travel agent specialising in holidays for seniors. Many of the speakers, such as those promoting a book, do not charge a fee. The talks are held in a small meeting room, and audience numbers usually range from 20 - 25, allowing for plenty of questions, and informal discussion. Audience members are starting to make the sessions a regular event, and meet friends, and have a coffee together afterwards. Presenters are usually local people, who have either been sourced from the internet or who have contacted the library themselves. Many have come from word-of-mouth recommendations. The program has been very successful; it has a lovely community feel about it.

JANE ROUGHLEY
Librarian - Reader Services
Mosman Library

MEDICAL BOOK LAUNCH
A medical history book titled In sickness and in health: How medicine helped shape Orange’s history by Elisabeth Edwards was officially launched with a witty and entertaining speech by Paul Brunton,
Senior Curator of the Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, at a ceremony for sponsors and invited guests in March. Paul commended author Elisabeth Edwards on her research and writing skills as well as the editing, proof reading and indexing of the book. He described it as an important publication for the city outlining its significant medical history.

Many of the guests had assisted the author with information and photographs for the book. The project was supported by Orange City Council, Pinnacle Healthcare, Orange Regional Arts Foundation and a number of gold, silver and bronze sponsors; and the project was coordinated by Central West Libraries, Library Services Manager, Jan Richards.

The book depicts the hardships experienced by settlers before there were doctors, dentists or hospitals, and the evolution of the public hospital from the small District Hospital in Anson Street, Orange to the 21st century Base Hospital on the Bloomfield campus. It tells the stories of the doctors, nurses, ancillary staff, volunteers and benefactors who have collectively ensured the best care for patients over many years as well as the healing powers of Holloway’s pills, the first operations and the ongoing support of the community for medical services.

*In Sickness and In Heath* was produced to coincide with the opening of the new Orange Base Hospital. Copies are available for purchase from Orange City Library.

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**JASMINE VIDLER**  
Reading and Writing Coordinator  
Central West Libraries

**PAINTING AND DRAWING**

During March, Swansea Library hosted a small but inspirational display of artworks by local artist and art teacher, Peter Lankas. These treasures included sketches inside old books and landscape works, as well as an assortment of the tools of the trade. With a Masters degree in Fine Art from the University of Newcastle, and a wealth of experience as an art teacher, Peter kindly agreed to provide a free talk at Swansea Library. Peter demonstrated both his drawing and painting techniques to a captive audience, with the assistance of a friend who had volunteered as a model. There were plenty of murmurs of approval throughout the talk, and lively chatter over a cup of tea during the short break, and it was clearly an enjoyable experience for all who attended.

Many thanks to Peter and Tim (the model) who willingly gave so freely of their time; and thanks also to Ahn Wells, Library Assistant at Swansea Library for arranging the demonstration and display.

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**NATALIE KOZARY**  
Library Technician  
Swansea Library

**LIBRARIANS ON THE AIRWAVES**

Shoalhaven Libraries, in partnership with Triple U Community Radio station have begun regular broadcasts on the station’s Community Access program. This partnership is an exciting way for the library to get its news and events out to people without going to the great expense of paid advertising. The Community Radio Station is situated in the Shoalhaven City Arts Centre which is conveniently right next door to the library. This means staff can simply walk out of the library five minutes before they go to air.

Going live to air is a new experience for some staff, but they are quickly becoming used to the idea
and are keen to get the word out about what our libraries have to offer. We are fortunate that we are geographically so close to the station and that we have the support of an announcer that understands the value of libraries to communities. Shoalhaven Libraries has a regular promotions meeting and we are always looking for different and effective ways of marketing services and products. Partnering with the community radio means we can reach out to a new audience using a powerful media tool.

The interviews have allowed Shoalhaven to promote its community directory, book club, databases and upcoming events. There is no shortage of content with the opportunity to review new stock and read aloud from featured titles. There is also the chance for listeners to interact by phoning in questions or comments during the interview. Martin O’Connor, the stations Community Access announcer has got behind the idea as his program is geared towards publicising community services and events in the Shoalhaven.

An avid library user himself, Martin was only too happy to allow the staff 15 minutes of his time each fortnight to promote activities, services and events. He said, As an announcer for community radio I am always thinking of interesting stories to share with our listeners. The library is where a lot of stories are held and it’s an important community hub so it’s only logical to combine our resources and discuss library events and services on air.

The program has been a new and inexpensive way to market the library’s services and staff are having fun learning the art of being a radio personality.

ROBIN SHARPE
Shoalhaven Libraries

BLAND SHIRE NEWS

Bland Shire Library is very excited to have received a Library Development Grant for the installation of an RFID system. Library staff have been busy promoting and preparing patrons for the new system with installation to commence in June 2011.

The library recently received a number of playback devices thanks to a Library Initiative funded through the Department of Families and Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The devices will support people with print disability - those who are unable to read standard print with ease due to vision impairment, a physical disability or a learning disability.

The library held a number of activities to celebrate Library and Information Week including a Biggest Morning Tea, a special storytime, a movie night, basic Internet training for seniors, school class visits and competitions for all ages. The Weird and Wacky Inventions competition proved popular, with Glenis Taylor of Ungarie winning herself a Target gift voucher. There was also a pictorial display of the library’s history and current library services.

The library held a variety of craft activities targeting school aged children during the Easter school holidays. Activities included making kites, salt dough ornaments, picture frames and Easter chocolates. The library is now preparing for the upcoming school holidays which will include a games day.

During April we hosted a travelling exhibition of photos from the People’s Choice Awards. In conjunction with the exhibition, we ran our own local photographic competition with all local entries entered in the national competition.

CATHY LANGE
Bland Library

OPEN ALL HOURS

Kogarah Library was a popular place to curl up with a book one wet May night, right up until midnight! The Edwina Blush Jazz Trio could be heard in the Town Square and drew people in – What’s going on here? they wondered. Well, this is the story.

Open Day was held to mark Library and Information Week and our aim was to showcase the many services Kogarah Library and Cultural Services
In the Libraries

The crowd at open day

In the Libraries offers - to a wider group of people in the community than our regular users. We promoted the event throughout Kogarah – especially the fact that the Library was open until midnight. We also offered a one day fines amnesty to lure back a particular group of customers and get back as many of our overdue books as possible. Anyone who returned library books on the day would have the fines for those items waived. On the day we had 2,257 people spend time in the Library, quietly reading or studying, or participating in the many activities on offer. Our loans and returns went up 20%.

Around the Library were displays for new titles and special interest areas: biography, audio books, health, cooking, travel, large print books, the Home Library Service, craft and dummies books. Kogarah Council education officers set up displays on Weeds in the Kogarah area, up-to-date information on solar energy and rebates, and composting.

There was a busy program of activities including English Conversation classes, Library tours in English and Chinese, roving storytelling, and the launch of our new Drop-In Computer Help. The community Quilting Group displayed their quilts and demonstrated how they are made, and the Knitting Group (who create blankets for Wrap with Love) taught people how to knit.

After school, Murphy’s Puppets filled the Exhibition Space with children delighted with his eccentric twist on the traditional ‘frog-prince’ story. High school students joined The Link with pizza, new books and DVDs for young adults – and from the Activities Room you could hear dodgy versions of Living on a Prayer and other Guitar Hero hits.

In the evening Brett Osmond, Publicity and Marketing Director from Random House came to give the gathered group industry insights into the emerging field of eBooks. We had a selection of eReaders for people to try out - Sony, iPad, Kindle, ACER and ecoReader. Local retailer, The Good Guys, sent along a helpful and enthusiastic demonstrator to encourage people to try them out. And then came the jazz. The Library is a lovely place at night. Not only are there books to browse, but sultry singing, tea, coffee, chocolates donated by local chocolatier Fardoulis, and, of course, the odd glass of wine!

Arabella Lee
Project Worker/Researcher
Kogarah City Council

SPECIAL GRANTS WORKING HARD

When Randwick branch library was substantially refurbished, there was very little money left in the budget for Bowen Library at Maroubra. Manager Barbara Todes felt that as the main branch, Bowen was looking like a poor relative. We couldn’t ask Council for more money after Randwick branch’s major refurbishment, so I had to use special grant funding and make it go as far as possible.

Barbara targeted those areas in the library that were most heavily used. The children’s area was looking very tired and was drab and unwelcoming. New carpet and paint have brightened up the area and made it a much more welcoming space for both children and parents. The foyer was next on the list; it is now a stylish entrance to the library with purpose-built shelving to accommodate the donations and discarded books that the library sells.

The newspaper and serials area was another heavily used part of the library, especially by the more senior patrons. It is now a bright and comfortable place thanks to new carpet, paint and specially
designed shelves which help patrons find the newspaper or magazine they need much more easily.

I have to thank the staff as well, Barbara continued, they moved books, serials, DVDs and CDs all over the library as the work was being done, with good grace and little complaint. It is planned to upgrade the rest of the library in stages as funding becomes available.

CHRISTINE HOWARD
Supervisor, Events and Marketing
Randwick City Library

REGIONAL LIBRARY ROAD TRIP

Four times a year Upper Murray Regional Library (UMRL) holds Branch Librarians’ meetings, where staff from Headquarters and all branch libraries meet for training and information-sharing. On 31st May this year the staff, including brand new CEO/Library Manager Debbie Paylor, were treated to a road trip to five of the branches within the region. This was seen as a great way for staff to network in an informal way, and to showcase their libraries to the rest of the staff within UMRL.

With experienced Mobile Library operator, Margaret Ross, at the wheel, we started at HQ in Wodonga, and the itinerary took in the following branch libraries: Chiltern Library to pick up local staff; Beechworth Library for morning-tea; Rutherglen Library for lunch; Mulwala Library; and finally Corowa Library for afternoon-tea (note the priorities here!) At each branch the librarian gave a talk on their library and activities – no branch library is the same! While on the bus staff were entertained with two trivia quizzes: one relating to the history of UMRL and to branches visited on the day, and the other testing knowledge of books made into well-known films (e.g. complete this book/film title – Romulus, my ….)

The branch staff saw this as a fantastic and invaluable opportunity to see how other staff managed their libraries, and found the day to be a great way to network in a relaxed atmosphere. Another trip to the other five library branches in the region is already being planned.

ANNIE ROENNFELDT
UMRL

NEW LENNOX HEAD LIBRARY

There’s been great excitement in the air and a flurry of unpacking as Richmond Tweed Regional
In the Libraries

01 Libbi signing books
02 1000 cranes

01 event kicked off a big day at the centre with the new skate park also opening.

This facility is a major improvement on the old cramped public library which was located in the grounds of Lennox Head Public School, a large, well lit and very colourful public space. Library staff are looking forward to establishing partnerships with other community services and clubs who will be using the centre, such as family and community health groups in the Children's Area and CWA members attending events at their new premises.

The library incorporates a heritage room to be used by the Lennox Head Heritage Committee and library patrons will enjoy free access to wi-fi and public computers for members as well as a myriad of other library resources such as books, DVDs, CDs, children's and HSC resources as well as large print items. With the close proximity to the new skate park and oval as well as the improved location and visibility in the town we envisage families and visitors making the most of Saturday opening hours to call in to the library on their way to or from their other sporting and leisure pursuits. As well as Saturday opening, the library has extended its weekday hours.

Library staff are looking forward to sharing their new fabulous premises with the community and are hopeful of increased usage into the future. For more information visit <www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au>

Jo Carmody
acting manager
Richmond Tweed Regional Library

02 Libbi Gorr visited Ryde as part of the Sydney Writer’s Festival on 17th May. North Ryde community hall filled up with expectant mums, Elle McFeast fans and others keen to have their questions answered on the social minefield that is modern motherhood. Libbi had the group in stitches as she set out the rules of engagement in her new book, *The A - Z of Mummy Manners: Managing Other Children’s Mothers and Assorted Mummy Dilemmas*.

Libbi’s warm nature and insight were apparent and during question time we heard comments reminiscent of Elle McFeast. One gentleman joked, *I thought I was coming to see Chopper Read speak tonight* to which Libbi responded *Look, Chopper claimed he was dying of cancer ten years ago and we’re still waiting!*

Close to 80 people attended the event and many of those bought copies of the book and lined up to meet the author and have their books signed. Libbi’s talk was a wonderful first taste of the Sydney Writers’ festival for the City of Ryde, and we are excited to be part of the festival again next year.

Kim Thomson
Information Services Coordinator

1000 paper cranes

Gosford City Library was proud to host a special display, *One thousand paper cranes*. Made by members of the local Japanese community the cranes were displayed throughout April at Erina Library. In response to the catastrophic earthquake and tsunami, local families endeavoured to channel their deep sadness into a beautiful message of support. The fragile media reflected the situation facing many Japanese families. Drawing on the traditional Japanese legend, the cranes (senbazuru) symbolise wishes for health, happiness and prosperity.

Alongside the cranes we displayed books on Japan and copies of *Sadako* by Eleanor Coerr. The children’s library team provided origami paper and instructions for patrons to take home, or spend a few minutes making a crane in the library. This opportunity has enabled us to form closer ties to this small but vibrant community. We are planning some more children’s events that can be held in the library and also in the Edogawa Commemorative Gardens, a feature of the Gosford Regional Gallery.

Claire Stuckey
Gosford City Library
ART @ THE LIBRARY
The foyer of the Tumut Library has been transformed into a gallery to showcase the talents of local artists. The initiative was developed after it was discovered that there were limited places that local artists could display their work outside a competitive environment. Unless they were a member of a TAFE group or a society there was not the opportunity to display work to the public.

The Tumut Library foyer has been professionally set up with gallery style hanging facilities available, and we plan to host exhibitions of work including art photography, paintings and fine or fibre based art. Tumut Library Assistant and local award winning artist Rhonda Twomey kicked off the 2011 Art @ the Library calendar with a display of a number of her pastel and pen & ink works. Ten exhibition blocks have been scheduled for the 2011 Art @ the Library Program, with the standard period of time for displays being 28 days. Exhibitors have the potential to show a maximum of 14 works depending on size and space availability. Those artists with less than 7 works are grouped with similar artists during the display period. Artists also have the opportunity to sell their works and are not required to pay a commission.

The success of the initiative is seen in the number of EOIs received by the library for the space. The 2011 schedule is completely booked with a waiting list and 2012 is also filling fast. The success of Art @ the Library lies in our ability to link with small organisations and individuals who alone can’t get exhibited but together with the library, they make a formidable force.

KRISTIN TWOMEY
Tumut Shire Library

THE BLUE SUITCASE
The Elaine and Jim Wolfensohn Gift – Blue Suitcase, was presented to the public at Upper Murray Regional Library, Rutherglen Branch, by Indigo Shire Council Arts and Cultural Development Officer Susan Reid. As part of the National Gallery of Australia’s program of regional access to the National Collection, the Elaine and Jim Wolfensohn Gift – Suitcase Kits have been developed for the enjoyment of audiences throughout Australia. Indigo Shire Council was delighted to present this program to its local communities during April 2011.

The Wolfensohn Gift enables people from all around Australia to discover and handle works of art, and was made possible by Jim Wolfensohn, the Australian-born former president of the World Bank. Jim’s passion for art stems from his early experiences of handling beautiful objects and he recognises the impulse to touch as part of experiencing the full measure of an object. In 1988 the Wolfensohns generously donated funds to enable the National Gallery of Australia to buy museum quality works of art for the enjoyment of children and adults living in regional and remote areas. This unique program enables a wide range of audiences, including those with special needs, to experience the works in a powerful and intimate way. Rutherglen Library Coordinator Chris Bursill said it was a fantastic opportunity for people to handle fascinating and beautiful art works. It’s very rare that members of our
local community, in particular children, are able to interact with works in such a unique way.

CHRISTINE BURSILL
Library Co-ordinator
Indigo Shire Council

VOLUNTEERS’ WEEK
Central Murray Regional Library at Deniliquin was the scene of a great morning’s celebration and entertainment on Monday, 9th May. Our volunteers (some of whom have been volunteering for over 25 years) were presented with certificates of appreciation and a badge celebrating Volunteers’ Week 2011. Their assistance is highly valued and it is great to be able to show our appreciation in this way.

Entertainment for the 80 or so people who attended was provided by the Sing Australia Choir, and local bush poet Alex Allitt who provided lots of laughs, and were much appreciated. Following morning tea we held the launch of Love and Laughter: The Best Medicine, a collection of bush verse by award winning author Kathy Edwards. Everyone who attended the morning agreed that her performance was simply fabulous, and a great addition to the morning. Our thanks go to all the volunteers for their assistance during the year, and to those who entertained us on the day to help us celebrate Volunteers Week 2011.

JANET MATTHEWSON
Library Officer
Central Murray Regional Library

EDGECLIFF ALBUM
Recently staff from Woollahra’s Local History Centre put a slideshow up on Flickr. The Edgecliff Album contains coloured photographs dated June 1966. Much of this area was extensively redeveloped during the 1970s with the construction of the Edgecliff Centre and the Edgecliff Interchange. This album was compiled by the donor’s father who worked at Jarman’s wine and spirit shop on New South Head Road, Edgecliff, in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The photographs are captioned with clippings from a newspaper article A world dies, by Heinz A. Bernhard, of Hall Street, Bondi Beach and several have Jun 66 printed in their margins. Watch with Show Info on to read the captions.

<www.flickr.com/photos/woollahra/sets/72157626769012122/show/>

BELINDA BOURKE
Library Team Leader - Customer & Outreach
Woollahra Library and Information Service

Wyong News

Lake Haven and Tuggerah Libraries held energy and water efficiency workshops during March and April. Run by Council these practical workshops covered the most effective methods to save energy, water and money for the whole community. Participants really enjoyed them and said they learnt a great deal about saving money!

Local author Peter Yeldham came to Tuggerah Library during March to discuss his new book Glory Girl and his previous writing experiences. Peter also spoke about his career as a writer for such television series as A Town like Alice, 1915, The Far Country and many others. The feedback from Peter’s talk was amazing - everyone thoroughly enjoyed listening to him. He also gave the audience a hint as to his next book - but we aren’t telling!

Phil Morley from the Wyong District Museum and Historical Society told some amazing stories for Heritage Week. Phil discussed the Wyong Estate and the prominent families that started it all. Local old timers really enjoyed the stories as many could remember growing up with the grandchildren of the first families. Over a cuppa and muffins, tales of old Wyong were exchanged and people and events remembered. It was a very community spirited event.

MICHÉLLE GOLDSMITH
Reference Librarian
Wyong Shire Library Service
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

I have often heard authors cite the public library as a great influence on their early lives, and it is not surprising that a literary person would be drawn to a place of books. The local librarian who nurtures children’s reading and keeps special books aside for them could be influencing the next Markus Zusak or Tim Winton. Many of our borrowers say that they feel comfortable in the library environment, whether it be browsing and borrowing, or participating in Book Clubs and events, but there are a lot of untold stories waiting to be uncovered in our own communities.

John Carroll is 82 years old and lives in Weston in the Hunter Valley. He was not a reader in his younger days, as work and family took most of his time and energy. But he took to reading novels a bit later in life and trips to the library became part of his routine. At the age of 77, John found himself with time on his hands. Although he had never picked up a paintbrush in his life (except to paint walls and ceilings) he found himself drawn to the artist supply section of his local store. He went home with brushes, paints and canvas without really knowing what to do with them. On his next trip to the library, he found the art section and has never looked back.

John taught himself to paint from library books. Each week would see a new book borrowed and a new technique learnt. He dismissed the idea of taking a class, as his brief experience of this made him realise that the books have taught him all he needs to know. He studies up on an artist’s techniques, attends local exhibitions and talks to like-minded people. John has no interest in entering competitions or selling his art. He simply gains enormous satisfaction from looking at the walls in his house that are now covered with his original artwork. John’s biggest problem is that he is running out of subjects to paint. He has even turned the picture on the lid of one of our jigsaw puzzle boxes into a painting! And while he’s waiting for the paint to dry he reads novels borrowed from the library.

This is an example of the public library at its best - offering free access to a wide range of materials that make a difference in people’s lives. Who knows how many more stories there are in our aisles waiting to be told.

KAREN BRUCE
Kurri Kurri Public Library

ART OR NOT?

Newcastle residents had the chance to look back on 25 years of political satire when the award-winning Newcastle Herald cartoonist Peter Lewis displayed his But is it Art? exhibition at Wallsend District Library during March 2011. When asked what motivated him to mount an exhibition of his work, he replied, Unlike conventional art which is on display for years, political cartoons are very momentary. They enjoy a large newspaper audience but are soon forgotten. I have over 8,000 cartoons in my files destined never to be seen again. These aren’t spent shells however, they’re time capsules. They remark on years of Hunter’s local history including the stranding of the Pasha Bulker, the proposed Tillegra Dam, the closure of BHP and the endless rail-line debate.

When the opportunity arose to host this retrospective exhibition we jumped at the chance. The hardest part was choosing which cartoons to display - not just for the exhibition but also for the commemorative book that was to be released at the same time. The title of the exhibition, But is it Art? was a cheeky comment on the status of cartoons in the Fine Art world, which by implication are Not
In the Libraries

Fine. The exhibition was a partnership between the Newcastle Herald and Newcastle Region Library. The media partnership helped to extend the library’s marketing budget and provided opportunities to reach an extended audience across the Hunter.

Peter Lewis was born in 1953 in Mungindi and came to Newcastle in 1956. He attended Newcastle Art School and graduated with a Diploma of Fine Art in 1976. He spent the next ten years painting landscapes while also driving taxis, making pizzas, designing for amateur theatre and even fitting in some ballet-dancing. Lewis insists these activities were an important part of the development process. I had to produce cartoons of a professional standard from day one; there was no apprenticeship, so it was important to have a lot of life experience.

Lewis shared his techniques with budding cartoonists in two workshops at the library. These were organised in collaboration with the Arts Emporium, a local art school, and were well attended. The kids were encouraged to think outside the square because cartooning is more about ideas than drawing. In 1998, Lewis added the now familiar little dog called Romeo to his cartoons. People didn’t notice him at first but now he’s a celebrity in his own right.

To mark Romeo’s popularity, sixty images of him in various guises decorated the walls of the exhibition and several two metre high transparent prints of him were applied to the windows of the library.

The exhibition was an example of how libraries can form successful corporate partnerships. The program was so popular that it was extended an extra two weeks, eventually attracting almost 9,000 visitors to Wallsend District Library.

Carol Edmonds
Newcastle Library

Men’s Health

International Men’s Health Week is an annual event that stimulates discussion about men’s health and what it means to all of us. In the interest of public awareness, Ermington Library hosted a health talk on prostate cancer on 17th June 2011. The talk was presented by John Goodall, a Dundas resident who survived prostate cancer. John is the coordinator of the Royal North Shore Prostate Cancer Support Group and conducts talks on the importance of prostate health. John has a long standing interest in the human experience of prostate cancer and its treatment.

Eighteen people attended this talk and I am absolutely delighted to state that John Alexander, Federal Member for Bennelong was one of them. We are fortunate that Mr Alexander assisted in promoting the talk by a media release in the Northern District Times and Parramatta Advertiser which encouraged a few extra people to attend the talk. John talked about his journey through cancer, and explained what prostate cancer is, who is at risk, what are the symptoms, what testing methods are available, what is the overall risk of developing prostate cancer and many more questions that the audience asked. During the question time John was happy to answer further queries that people had. After John finished his talk Mr Alexander complimented John on his tremendous knowledge on the subject and how people had benefited from his talk.

John’s talk was so interesting that one of the attendees even asked him to give a similar prostate health talk to the executives of his company, AUSGRID formerly Energy Australia. It is good to know that this particular talk created such interest and was so well received by our community.

A morning tea was organised and a lot of books on the subject were displayed for loan. The audience were very appreciative of the library’s initiative in organising such an important talk.

Gargi Mallik
Ermington Branch Library

Library Week at Coolah

Library Week was celebrated in Coolah Branch Library with 30 people attending a very enlightening local history talk, Snippets from the Craboon-Coolah Railway History by local historian Roy Cameron (O.A.M.). Roy is currently writing a history of the Craboon-Coolah Railway and was happy to talk about some of the interesting aspects of the Coolah Railway history over a scrumptious high tea. Many people in the audience also shared their stories about the Craboon-Coolah railway and we were fortunate enough to have a train driver in the audience. Everyone enjoyed the talk, the camaraderie and the food. The opportunity was also taken to promote the launch of audio books for download from the Macquarie Regional Library website.

Bronwen Owen
Coolah Branch Manager

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PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS August 2011
APPLY NOW!

Applications are now invited from eligible NSW library staff for the 2011 Colin Mills Scholarship and the 2011 Kath Knowles Young Leaders Award.

**Colin Mills Scholarship:**
- a biennial award to the value of $8,000
- the Council and/or Library of intending applicants must be a current financial member of either Public Libraries New South Wales or the New South Wales Metropolitan Public Libraries Association

The Colin Mills Scholarship provides the opportunity for library staff to fulfill a professional development need which is outside their library’s normal staff development training resources.

**Kath Knowles Young Leaders Award:**
- an annual award to the value of $5,000
- the Council and/or Library of intending applicants must be a current financial member of either Public Libraries New South Wales or the New South Wales Metropolitan Public Libraries Association
- sponsored by Local Government Procurement Pty Ltd

The Award provides the opportunity for library staff aged under 40 years to build leadership skills through a professional development project that is undertaken over a 12-month period with the support of a nominated mentor.

**Public Libraries NSW Life Membership**
Nominations for life membership of Public Libraries NSW are also now open. Life membership may be awarded to members who have rendered 15 years continuous service to the organisation and/or who have provided an exceptional level of contribution to the organisation. There will be two categories of life membership: active life membership will be awarded to a person who is still serving on a council or employed, and life membership will be awarded to those who have retired.

Applications close on 26th August, and more details are available on the website at www.plnsw.org.au

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**BRAIN GAME**

Sutherland Shire Libraries have continued to hold a range of events and activities, focusing on the major areas of interest to the shire community. April and May saw the continuance of the *Introduction to Online Brain Games* sessions, which proved so popular with older adults an additional six sessions were conducted!

May was a also busy month, with the ever-popular HSC lectures kicking off, as well as the annual library book sale and a number of parent information sessions on anxiety in children, run by local author and counsellor Kerry Moss, at Engadine and Menai Libraries.

To top it off, Library & Information Week activities ranged from *Introduction to e-books & e-reader*
sessions, through to a lively Trivia Night held at Cronulla Library. The highlight of the week was a booked-out author talk featuring well-known radio presenter and author Richard Glover. Attendees braved the dismal weather to hear Richard give a funny and candid talk on his life and how much of it had shaped the themes and characters found in his books.

We’re now gearing up for 2012 – The National Year of Reading with great ideas for reading-based activities and new ways to interest and communicate with the public about library resources. A community survey has been developed and launched, with the aim of determining what activities and topics interest the shire community for future programs, as well as finding out what the community thinks of the library’s online resources and advertising channels.

Sutherland Shire Libraries are looking forward to a busy and successful 2nd half of 2011 to cap off what has so far been a fantastic year.

JESSICA SMALL
Sutherland Shire Libraries

BEGA BONNETS

There have been a number of commemorative convict bonnets made in Bega this year. I had heard about the *Roses from the Heart* memorial project when visiting the World Heritage listed Cascades Female Factory in Hobart. The project, developed by Christina Henri, artist-in-residence at Cascades, invites worldwide bonnet tributes to be made as a memorial to the 25,266 female convicts who were transported to Australia. The artist conceived the cloth bonnet symbol as a signifier of the convict women’s worth - their economic value to Australia’s prosperity.

The Bega Library and Regional Art Gallery proved to be a community focal point to display the bonnets and to promote the stories of the convict women. In subsequent weeks many bonnets for the memorial were made, including a number made by women who are descendents of convict women. Regional Arts NSW provided funding to bring Christina to Bega to meet with interested people who were eager to learn more about the lives of the convict women who were transported to Van Diemens Land. Amazingly at least 60% of the audience were descended from convicts and they spoke about the significance of connecting with their ancestors through the making of a personalised bonnet. One of the bonnets presented had this short story attached; paying a tribute to a descendant’s great, great, great grandmother, Margaret Duggan.

Margaret was transported on the ship the Experiment that left Cowes, England, on January 2, 1804. Two males and 130 female convicts including Margaret disembarked in NSW on June 12, 1804. Margaret had been sentenced to death for the crimes of breaking and entering but her sentence was commuted to transportation. In 1811 Margaret married John Turlington and in 1813 was granted an absolute pardon, having conducted herself with the strictest sobriety and honesty. She died on February 6, 1834 and is buried in St John’s Cemetery Parramatta. She is survived by many descendents, including Marie Rheinberger, the maker of the bonnet.

More information about this fascinating project and patterns for bonnets can be found at http://www.christinahenri.com.au/

ROS RAWARD
Bega Library
NEW KIDS ON THE BOOK
Children’s services at Bathurst Library have extended to include new baby rhyme and read sessions. Our new baby club is called New Kids on the Book with the catch phrase, Combining expectation with surprise! The Outreach Programs team have enlisted a positive, enthusiastic leader to run the sessions, Catherine Grimmett. Catherine has brought character and language alive for the mums and bubs of Bathurst. Our sessions run every Wednesday during school term from 10:30 til 11:00 am, and include rhymes, songs, finger plays, puppets, and basket time - with a special surprise each week.

Catherine has even included elements of baby massage, invited guest speakers, and helped the group swap parenting tips. The interest in New Kids has grown every week, with new families to town coming along to meet other mums, as well as our regulars inviting more friends to attend. Our Outreach Programs team have also been invited as guest speakers to the Community Nurses’ meetings in Bathurst to help spread the word about this great new program.

NATALIE CONN
Outreach Programs Officer
Bathurst Library

AND A NOTE FROM CATHERINE
The goal of New Kids on the Book is to encourage and inspire a love of words, word patterns, rhyme, and rhythm. Building in a love of books and language is a vital component of early childhood development. New Kids attempts to maximise this with a combination of the expected, sprinkled with surprises. The format of the program remains constant, with repetition, and thus expected; but the content is subtly changed each week. We incorporate both rhyming and action songs; tickle rhymes; nursery rhymes; and age-appropriate resources such as simple pop-up books which have been very popular. We also use tools such as finger and hand puppets, other props and surprises. The main surprise each week is in the form of our What’s in the Basket? segment – each week is different, from musical instruments to coloured, sheer scarves, to balloons. It is truly joyful to observe the anticipation and excitement of the attending children who know there’s a surprise in the basket.

The response from our library members and community has been really positive, and we are overjoyed with the program’s steady success. Numbers commenced with 8 children; built to an average of 14 to 17, and peaked last session with 20 children attending. The session is FUN, interactive, and full of words. The groups, including parents, grandparents and children, are warm, responsive and are becoming a truly connected dynamic. It’s very rewarding to be a part of this program and its evolution. I’d like to extend a note of gratitude to the management and staff of the Bathurst Library for their on-going support and encouragement of me, personally, and their continual striving for Library and customer service excellence.

CATHERINE GRIMMETT
Bathurst Library

BANKSTOWN NEWS
The Questacon Science Squad visited Bankstown Library in March and enthralled 25 preschoolers, their parents, and some baby siblings with a morning of scientific fun. The Squad used the story of the three little pigs and building a wind-proof house,
to teach the kids about air and sound. They then demonstrated some great examples of air and noise. All types of science-based toys were set up around the room; such as kaleidoscopes, slinkies, sound boxes, a shadow puppet tent, water tornado bottles, magnets and lots more. The children roamed freely and played or experimented with the toys, all while learning about sound and energy. At the end of the session everyone was asked about their favourite discovery. The children were very responsive and excited to have been a part of this special event which allowed them the freedom to choose and try things they had never seen before. The feedback from the parents and library staff was very positive. It was a great opportunity to give Bankstown pre-schoolers a fun introduction to science.

Magic was in the air at Chester Hill Library during May as twenty youngsters enthusiastically participated in an evening of stories, games and craft at our magic-themed After Dark Adventure. The After Dark Adventure program is for primary school aged children and their parents to enjoy a variety of fun activities at the local library. We aim to develop literacy and comprehension skills, a love of books and reading, and social inclusion for families of diverse multicultural backgrounds. Ten children tried to win a million dollars by taking turns to fold a piece of newspaper in half ten times but alas to no avail! However they were mollified by listening to the story, The Best Pop-up Magic Book Ever! by Nick Sharratt; playing a game of Pass the Magic Rabbit, and making their own magic card to take home. All left expressing their enjoyment and asking when the next party will be held.

Evening storytimes in May celebrated all things Pirate.

ROBYN OWENS
Coordinator Library Services
Bankstown City Council

LITTLE MORNING TEA
At the Bland Shire Library’s special storyline held during Library and Information Week the children dressed up as their favourite book characters, enjoyed storytelling and other activities and made some fantastic masks. They also had their own little Biggest Morning Tea to raise money for cancer research.

The library held a variety of craft activities targeting school aged children during the Easter school holidays. Activities included making kites, salt dough ornaments, picture frames and Easter chocolates.

The library is now preparing for the upcoming school holidays which will include a games day.

CATHY LANGE
Bland Shire Library

CHOCOLAT!
School holiday programs at the library are always popular but when you include chocolate everyone wants to come. In the April school holidays 120 primary school children came to the library to learn chocolate trivia, tie jelly snakes into knots without their hands, fish marbles out of jelly with their feet,
...dip fruit into the chocolate fountain and play lots of sweet games. Apart from the young man who had given up sweets for Lent (and he came to a program called ChocoLOT! – give me a break) everyone had their fill of sweet treats. Sharon Smith from the Riverina Regional Library designed the program and lead the first of three interactive, fast paced sessions. Children also read a chocolate-themed book together and answered questions from the chocolate facts on the PowerPoint, so there were literacy outcomes, honestly there were!

AMY HEAP
Wagga Wagga City Library

NEW LOOK
Lots of fun was had by lots of children at a recent storytime. After a two week break for the library’s refurbishment there were larger turn outs at all the storytime sessions. We received lots of positive comments about the new look in the children’s area and the carpet. Our new carpet really gives the area a warm welcoming feel. While we were closed staff rearranged the picture book collection by subjects. Our transport category has proved to be very popular and was almost empty by our last storytime session this week. These changes have also helped to highlight the strengths and weaknesses in our collection.

KIM MUSSCHE
Wagga Wagga City Library

HOME SCHOOL SUPPORT
Marrickville Library and History Services has established two book groups to support a number of home school children and young people in the local government area. The first group was established to address the fiction and literature curriculum components. This has proved successful and a second group was established to address modern history requirements. It has been a great opportunity to demonstrate relevant databases which they can access in-house or remotely. Home-schooled students and their parents have provided great feedback to date on this initiative.

LISA MARSchALL
Marrickville

OUTREACH STORYTIMES
For Library Week 2011 Wagga Wagga City Library took their storytime to the Wiradjuri Aboriginal Community Child Care Centre and the Ashmont Preschool Centre. It was a wonderful multicultural experience as children of diverse cultural backgrounds enjoyed the stories, rhymes and songs presented by the library staff. The most enjoyable activity for the children were the egg shakers that got them up and dancing, while the childcare staff and parents were very appreciative and expressed their desire for the visits to become a regular event.

Wagga Wagga City Library aims to develop a regular outreach storytime program that targets Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities, as well as those living in low socio-economic areas. Outreach storytimes are a fun, entertaining way to introduce the library to people who may view it as an unfamiliar or intimidating environment. We expect to reach parents of children who do not use the library facilities and resources regularly, or at all, and build connections between those parents and the library.

MICHAEL SCUTTI
Wagga Wagga City Library
Children’s News

PARRAMATTA NEWS
We have had fun during March, April and May 2011 with numerous programs including Harmony Day, Easter, Library and Information Week, and National Simultaneous Storytime. ANZAC Day storytime was with Chris from the Lancer Barracks in full official army uniform, who explained the significance of ANZAC Day, with the kids fascinated by the emu’s feather on his slouch hat. In the afternoon we topped it off with ANZAC Day craft - making a traditional wreath and explaining the meaning of the laurel leaf, red poppy flower and rosemary sprig.

I attended a storytelling training workshop at Blacktown Library; special thanks to Lee and Margaret. As a result we have revamped the Bibs ‘n’ Books program aimed at 0 to 2 year olds, which we had been trialling. We have now included share a story where the carer sits with the child and talks about the book (if pictures only) or reads the book (if book has text); use of musical instruments; and expanded on our dancing. The program is set monthly with finger plays, rhymes and songs which are on a handout for the parents/carers to take home and practice. So far we have had success with even the non-English speaking grandparents singing along with us at storytime, where we repeat some of the songs.

Anne Pavlek
Parramatta City Library

E-RESOURCES
I presented an e-resources training session to years 5 and 6 students at Dundas Library. The students from Telopea Primary School were interested to learn about the different resources available through the Parramatta Library website. Two sessions were held with each running for 30 minutes in total. The students showed enthusiasm practicing their new skills.

Hiba Kanj
Parramatta City Library

NATURE’S RECYCLERS
Theresa from Cleanaway presented her Nature’s Recyclers free kids workshop at Constitution Hill Branch Library, during the school holidays. 40 children met the hungry worms which help us to recycle and reduce our organic waste. The workshop was very practical and showed both parents and children how to set up their own compost bins and worm farms at home. The workshop was so well received that we have already booked Theresa for the next holidays.

Jo Bertoncelj, Dean McDowell, Dina Krastins & Zhorik Terrazzoilo
Constitution Hill

WELCOME FATHERS
This year, Parramatta City Library worked more closely with other organisations in fostering partnership. In partnership with the Uniting Care Burnside, the library provided the venue for a fathers’ parenting course, Hello, Dad, during April for six weeks. The library staff also talked with fathers about the library collections. From June, a new program, Fathers’ storytime, will start on the 3rd Saturday morning for three consecutive months. It is another joint initiative of Parramatta City Library and the Uniting Care Burnside. This storytime is aimed at fathers and kids, and stories will be told in English, Arabic and Hindi. There will be more library staff involved in the program.

Yan Zhang
Parramatta City Library

COMMUNITY OF SCHOOLS
On Wednesday 19th May from 3 til 6 pm the Marsden community of schools used the West Ryde library space for a mini expo. This was an opportunity to introduce schools to parents and their children who will be starting school in 2012. And of course the library was introduced and promoted as well. The schools involved included Melrose Park, West Ryde, Meadowbank, Ermington and Marsden High School. Each school had a display table with their banner and brochures, spread around the various areas. The meeting room was open and violinists and cellists entertained the crowd. Over 200 people visited the library – a very favourable response for both schools and the library.

Kim Thomson
Ryde Library

THE CIRCUS COMES TO TOWN
Chris Lavery of Distractions is a definite crowd pleaser. From twisting balloons into amazing...
creations to face painting, juggling a multitude of objects to building human pyramids, Chris held every kid's attention throughout his intensive circus skills workshops in the libraries of Temora, Coolamon, Wagga Wagga, Junee, Cootamundra, Gundagai and Tumut during the April school holidays. Chris travelled hundreds of kilometres to get to the Riverina and then travelled hundreds of kilometres more to reach our outlying libraries with two performances a day to entertain close to 200 kids!! He was thoroughly professional, fitted his performance to any size library and wonderful to work with. Riverina Regional Library highly recommends this entertainer for any library.

Here are some comments from astounded library staff!

*The Gundagai gang went ballistic over the balloons and couldn't get enough of them, they had a go at the sausage dog as well as the more elaborate poodle with varying degrees of success! The juggling was also a tremendous hit with many of the older kids juggling three balls by the end of the session and the younger children at least able to balance a saucer or spin a diablo.*

Cindy Smith Gundagai Library

*It was wonderful to be able to offer something for this age group. Children were inspired by this activity; great entertainment and a learning opportunity. The kids, ranging from 8 up to 14 years, enjoyed every minute of the activity. We would definitely have them again!*  
Kim Richards Junee Library

*We had a wonderful afternoon session with a huge crowd attending. The time he spent with each child was amazing considering our large group - he even had me juggling and turning plastic plates around by the end of the session. A great school holiday program, we would be more than happy to have him back again.*

Helen McLoughlin Coolamon Library

*Both parents and children were very happy with the event. The presenter interacted well with everyone and was very entertaining. The entertainer catered for all of the age groups and abilities.*

Tumut Library

*Excellent – presentation was informative and fun. All children got to have a go at everything. I even learnt to juggle scarves and twirl plates, so he must be pretty good at what he does!*  
Ros Floyd, Temora Library

*Children seemed to really enjoy the juggling. The face painting became painting on hands and arms; and the pyramid building and ballooning was also very popular.*

Wagga Wagga City Library

*The presenter kept things happening at a lively pace; juggling using fabric whips and other juggling equipment, sometimes the kids worked in pairs, then, the finale, balloon twisting! The kids' reactions were awesome, keeping them engaged for two whole hours - great individual involvement.*

Cootamundra Library

__SHARON SMITH__  
Wagga Wagga City Library

__MISSING CHAPTER__  
Children in one of our popular Missing Chapter Bookclubs enjoyed the privilege of a creative writing workshop over two weeks in April with funny man and published author, Keith Whelan. The kids had a great time workshopping story ideas, character development, genres and all things bookish.

__MICHELLE GOLDSMITH__  
Wyong Shire Library Service

__BATHURST BABY MASSAGE__  
During the last few months, Bathurst Library has been the regular, weekly meeting place for a group of approximately 20 mothers with babies from 3 to 5 months. Members of this group expressed interest in learning baby massage, so we decided to hold an information session. On Wednesday, June 22nd we held our inaugural Baby massage information session. 13 mothers and 14 babies attended this one-hour session. The goal was threefold:

- to provide mothers with initial information that would help them to incorporate baby massage into their family life, should they so choose;
- to give further understanding of the benefits of massage, for both parents and their baby; and
- to provide information that encouraged mothers to become more confident in their own intuitive touch.

Much preparation went into the information session. Trainer Catherine, a Bathurst Library
Children’s News

Assistant, has certificates in Swedish Massage, Reiki I and II, and also sought further advice from other qualified, accredited massage therapists, as well as researching several books and on the Internet. The responsibility of conveying the information was taken seriously. Attendees were informed that the session was an information and public service event only. They were notified of the appropriate warnings and disclaimers and were advised to seek further information from qualified health practitioners.

Segments discussed in the session included: Why massage?; How massage can help your baby; How massage can help you (the parent); When to massage; What to massage with – carrier oils / base oils; Becoming an ingredients detective; Getting ready – what you need; Creating the space; and When not to massage. The talk included some general information on massage techniques and a baby massage routine was demonstrated.

The session was definitely a success – with many mothers expressing their gratitude and giving positive feedback. One highlight was the delicious laughter of a baby girl whilst receiving a foot massage from her mother. The delight and laughter was contagious. It is hoped that many of these babies will soon attend our baby rhyme time, New kids on the book, which targets babies 6 months to 2 years of age. Parents were invited to explore the library’s resources on massage, nutrition and health, organics, raising happy children, aromatherapy, and herbal medicines books. Several mothers expressed their positive thoughts and feelings specifically about our Library and our services.

CATHERINE GRIMMETT
Bathurst Library
Young Adults Update

**WI FI**

All Bankstown libraries have become wi fi (via NSW.net from the State Library of NSW) hotspots and our students in particular have taken advantage of this to use their own portable devices and laptops to access the library’s online services. The public can use laptops, notebooks, phones or other suitable portable devices to access the wireless connection provided at their local libraries. Library members have been accessing online databases and the OPAC and downloading digital audio books from the library website using the wi fi. The library’s federated search has been very popular with students using their laptops.

ROBYN OWENS
Coordinator Library Services
Bankstown City Council

**GOSFORD NEWS**

Gosford City Library was excited to host a visit from author Laurine Croasdale during Youth Week. Kariong Mountains High School was the setting for a vibrant and noisy creative writing session. The session was well received by students and teachers with laptops and notebooks busy. After an overview of her latest *Aussie Chomp* book *iHarry* which had the students laughing as they suggested designs for weird and wonderful apps, Laurine gave an overview of her published works and long career. Laurine led the twenty selected students from Years 7 to 9 through a series of short exercises including writing a six word memoir. Forced to use the short word count the students produced a variety of intriguing memoirs. Another fabulous exercise based on an amazing visual and auditory cue encouraged and stimulated the young people further. There was absolute silence as they were drawn into the short but stimulating video clip. Given some time to record their responses the groups then produced a long list describing what they heard, saw and felt.

Our afternoon event at Kincumber library was presentation of the *Surf Reflections* awards. We had spent some time promoting the art competition at local high school and our Tangents Bookclub. Friends and families of the finalists gathered to hear the winner of the $100 gift voucher announced. It was a great afternoon with speeches from Laurine and Craig Healy, team leader of Council’s Lifeguard Services, both good friends of the library. Everyone mingled over afternoon tea and the library was filled with a lively chatter and a friendly atmosphere.

Some parents joined in our usual Bookclub chat, reviewing their recent favourite books, and two young friends are planning to join. Thanks to Laurine for supporting our programs and we look forward to another visit soon when she is joined by others in the new *Literature Live!* team to connect classroom teachers and librarians with writing and illustrating workshops. <www.literaturelive.net>

CLAIRE STUCKEY
Children’s Librarian
Gosford City Council

**LENS OF YOUTH**

To coincide with National Youth Week, Mosman Library held a photography competition to encourage young people to express their creative talents by capturing images of the things that have meaning to them. 2011 marked the second year of the *Lens of Youth* event and Mosman Library was determined to
make certain that local youth would get as much out of the competition as possible. This year there were two categories for submissions: The Open Category, where submissions were of the photographer’s choice as long as they were taken in the local area; and the Shorefest Category, where photographers were to submit a set of up to ten photographs of the Shorefest Youth Concert.

Entry was open to anyone aged between 12 and 24 years. The submitted photographs were put onto the Mosman Library Flickr website and attributed to the photographer. Prizes totalled over $500 in value and included cash prizes and Flickr Pro memberships. Each participant also received a Certificate of Participation.

Mosman Library hosted photography workshops, conducted by Hans Lignell from Mosman Camera Club, in the lead-up to the event to give advice to young people looking for the perfect shot. Mosman Library also teamed up with Shorefest this year, which provided prize money and sponsored the Shorefest category.

This year’s judges were Hans; Angus Megarrity, Youth Development Officer at Mosman Youth Centre; and me.

Each winner in the Lens of Youth open category received a certificate, a $100 cash prize and a 1 year Flickr pro membership. Here’s what the judges had to say about the winners’ entries:

Lens of Youth 1 by Aimee
An outstanding self portrait that’s somewhat haunting as it makes the viewer think about what the photographer is telling us. What is going through her mind? Overall an excellent and well thought out image that has a great deal of impact.

Ferry by Rachel
I really like the grit of this photo. It captures the most beautiful harbour in the world in a manner which is rarely seen. … this shot shows something different, a darker side, a moody brooding side that is still extremely beautiful but is more honest in its presentation.

Last Rays by Danis Dacires
I fell in love with the way that this photograph depicts a moment of un-self-conscious sweetness as the sleeping figure follows the sliver of sun during a siesta.

Judges Special Mention: Nimbostratus by Akayuki:13
Another superb image that has been well seen by the photographer. There is a wonderful story here. A very dramatic shot that is technically superb.

The winner of the Shorefest category received a certificate, a $200 cash prize and a 1 year Flickr pro membership.

Shorefest by Akayuki:13
a unique perspective of Shorefest
Mosman Library would like to thank our judges, who have put a lot of time, effort and thought into their decisions and who have shown incredible support in the recognition of the talented young people of Mosman. Along with the Judges we would like to thank the Shorefest committee who have provided the prizes for this competition. And most of all, we would like to thank the photographers who have shared their talent and hard work with us.

**ALYCIA BAILEY**  
Young Adult Librarian  
Mosman Library

**HENNA WORKSHOP**  
During the second week of the school holidays, we held a couple of henna body tattoo workshops at Constitution Hill Branch Library. Our staff member Kusum, did a fantastic job organising and running the event. Kusum helped the children and even some adults discover their artistic talents by inspiring them to create some beautiful designs using a combination of cold henna wax cones, design templates and their own imaginations.

**JO BERTONCELJ, DEAN MCDOWELL, DINA KRASTINS & ZHORIK TERRAZZOLO**  
The Constitution Hill Branch Library Team

**YOUTH ROCK**  
Parramatta Library was loud and fun during this year’s Youth Week. The theme of Own it inspired young people around Parramatta to make the library theirs. During Youth Week, the library tried some new ideas and all events were well received by youth. The library locked an entire floor and had a Rock & lock music night. Two young musicians Natalie Duarte and Natalie Eliot gave a stunning performance.

Young author Sacha, came to the library and spoke with the youth about how to keep oneself motivated. His self published book was a perfect example for young people. We wrapped it up with a Pizza and Anime Movie Night screening Summer Wars. The young people had a chance to see new graphic novels and anime DVDs and could select titles they liked for inclusion into the Young Adult collection. They were thrilled that the library provided this chance for them to help choose resources. Parramatta City Council supported Youth Week with a grant which enabled the library staff to organise these amazing events for young people.

**YAN ZHANG**  
Parramatta Library

**MANGA**  
Bankstown City Council conducted free manga art workshops in March for children and young people from across the Bankstown area. Students had an opportunity to learn the special techniques used in Japanese manga art, and create their own style. They learned how to draw action figures, the details of faces and how to make an image appear to come alive on the page. The workshops are designed for young...
Young Adults Update

people aged between 9 and 15 and are held weekly in a five week program. The workshops were organised by Council’s youth officer and held at Bankstown library and were so popular an additional series had to be held, doubling the number of available places for young people.

ROBYN OWENS
Bankstown City Council

LIW AT MOSMAN
Young adults shared in the fun at Mosman Library’s Big Day In during Library and Information Week with a Guitar Hero competition and plenty of rock music.

ALYCIA BAILEY
Promotions & Youth Services Librarian
Mosman Library
All library events were fully booked for Seniors’ Week with a variety of activities on offer at all the Bankstown libraries. The book repair workshop held at Panania Library proved very popular with our seniors. Participants learned how to repair torn and missing pages, glue pages back into a book, reattach the cover of a paperback, remove graffiti, scribble and chewing gum safely, and how to repair those treasured children’s picture books. The history workshops for seniors were also a hit again this year. Participants enjoyed lively discussions and learned so much about the resources available to search the history of their family home and how to best preserve and store valuable family photographs. The workshop, held at Padstow Library, was a practical demonstration of how to preserve and store precious family photographs for future generations to enjoy.

Our first ever Seniors’ Technology Expo was held at Bankstown Library on Tuesday 22nd March, to meet the great demand for information about new technologies from all members of our community. The Tech eXpo started with an overview of the Library’s online computer training resource. This online computer training is very useful to those learning the basics of computers, and it allows self-paced practice to improve skills. We then demonstrated how to set up phone contacts and to send messages, using our volunteer tutors for the day – the students from the Australian International Academy. Our seniors were extremely grateful as demonstrated by the spontaneous round of applause for the students! Fire and Rescue NSW gave a presentation on the Smoke Alarms and Battery Replacement program (SABRE). This program is designed to help reduce the number and severity of fires in seniors’ homes, and Fire and Rescue NSW did a fantastic job outlining the program and keeping everyone informed. The eXpo also included time playing PC console games, which caused much hilarity among participants.

Thanks to funding from the NSW Seniors’ Week 2011 grant program, through Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care, the Library was able to run a competition with a great brain training prize. The prize was won by Mr Eddie English, who thought his grandchildren would be a little jealous! All in all, a great morning where seniors learned about useful new technologies.

During the Sydney Writers Festival Bankstown Library held a writing workshop for seniors. The topic was How to write one’s memoirs, and our guest speaker focused on techniques for getting started. During the workshop seniors were given absolutely precious tips on how to put their life story onto paper. This is a two hour workshop, presented by a local author who has worked with several writing groups in the community. The workshop was aimed at beginner level and introduced writing techniques, suggested where to start writing, how to start and how to decide what stories to tell. The workshop was so popular that an intermediate workshop has been requested by participants.

ROBYN OWENS
Bankstown City Council

BILLABONG HIGH

Culcairn Library and Billabong High School have formed a partnership, to provide computer training for seniors in the Culcairn community. Billabong High School Year 9 students attend Culcairn Library each Wednesday during school term from 2.00pm to 3.00pm to provide basic computer and internet training for seniors living within the Greater Hume Shire. The program has been established to provide Years 9 and 10 students an opportunity to participate in the NSW Premier’s Student Volunteering Awards program. This program encourages students to undertake a minimum of 20 hours of volunteering in the school and community. All students who achieve this receive a certificate from the Premier of NSW.

The Computers for Seniors program at the Culcairn Library was established entirely by a number of Year 9 students from Billabong High
School. This included the students selecting a name for the program, creating the promotional materials, the booking sheet and a learning booklet. The learning booklet is broken into four lessons which are provided to seniors over a four week period. To date the program has been quite successful with students now being asked by the Greater Hume Shire Community Development Officer to assist with adding information to the new Culcairn Community website. This has been a worthwhile partnership for both the Culcairn Library and the students. As the students are required to be members of the library to be part of the program we have increased membership and are also to provide them with an overview of programs and services at the Library.

This program has helped enable the seniors in the community to learn how to use a computer, access the Internet and create an email account, therefore bridging the communication gap that many feel when isolated from family and friends. An example of this is one eighty year old who now has a Facebook account and is communicating online with family and friends.

The students from Billabong High School have been totally committed to the program; and have shown a maturity and knowledge of computers which has been well received by the staff at the Culcairn Library and Greater Hume Shire and most importantly the seniors being provided with lessons.

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SUSAN KANE
Culcairn Library

CRAFTING MEMORIES FROM SCRAP

How do you define “success” at your library? Do you measure it by the numbers that attend an event, or do you measure success in terms of outcomes?
At Kempsey Library, we recently gave the stamp of success to our Senior’s event on both counts. Our Crafting Memories from Scrap event, funded through a Seniors Week grant, attracted a total of 30 participants over two days. These included members of a Senior Day Care group, as well as several Home Lending Service clients who were picked up and delivered back to their homes by one of our wonderful long term library volunteers. Eight experienced scrapbooking ladies volunteered their time to help participants create their own memory pages, while yet more volunteers helped serve refreshments.

At the same time, the library hosted a display of scrapbooking albums created by ladies who get together regularly at a local craft shop. In order to attract funding, the event needed to include meaningful activities for seniors, by addressing their social, recreational and emotional needs. It had to include opportunities for volunteering, to be inclusive and to celebrate the creativity of seniors in our community. Judging by the request for more sessions like this, I think we are onto a winner! There are plans to hold another session later this year, and hopefully involve more of our Home Lending Service clients.

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ALISON POPE
Kempsey Library
UNRAVELLING THE MYSTERY OF E-BOOKS

During discussions with our local U3A group about how Kiama Library can support their programs it was suggested that the library do a presentation about library programs and services. The presentation took place with a crowd of around 50 members.

We had been discussing e-resources in the library due to our successful zone grant application to implement an e-book collection, so I decided to include a couple of slides in the presentation about what the future held in terms of e-resources. The presentation was really well received with many of the questions about e-resources. It was suggested that another presentation could be given early in 2011 on e-books and e-readers.

After discussions with the U3A committee about the session, we decided to have a presentation on the Kindle and Kobo with the local JB HiFi Store invited to demonstrate a generic e-book reader and the Apple ipad. After a refreshment break the opportunity would be provided for the U3A members to have a hands-on play with the different devices available.

Our e-book session was held in March to a full house of more than 70 U3A members. After describing the development of e-books, different devices on offer including types of file format, pros and cons for each device, JB HiFi demonstrated the iRiver reader and the ipad. We were very lucky that ipad 2 had been released just three days earlier so many people were very interested in having a play with the new device. The participants demonstrated their extreme interest releasing a barrage of questions to all the presenters during the session and really enjoyed the chance to have a closer look and play with the different devices.

Since our presentation many people have bought e-readers or ipads and are looking forward to exploring the e-book collection when it becomes available from Kiama Library.

MICHELLE HUDSON
Kiama Municipal Council

FALLS PREVENTION

NSW Seniors Week is our way of acknowledging the remarkable contribution seniors make to the community. It is a great opportunity for us to say thank you for their gift of time, effort and sharing of expertise, especially via the volunteer work they do. The theme of this year’s Seniors’ Week was Live Life and was meant to encourage seniors to actively participate in community events staged throughout New South Wales.

One such event took place in Liverpool City. Liverpool City Library, acting on requests by seniors, organised an information session on falls prevention to mark this special week. The guest speakers, Alicia Gibb, Occupational Therapist and Natalie Jennings, physiotherapist, both from the Aged Care Assessment Team at Liverpool Hospital, covered the following topics in their talks: What is a fall? What causes falls? Falls statistics; Footwear and clothing hazards; Hip protectors; Medical conditions and medications; Vision and lighting; and, Physical Activity. They also outlined the Falls Programs available in the community and showed how to make or get a referral.

Katica Siric, Falls Coordinator from the Sydney Local Health Network & South Western Sydney Local Health Network presented a DVD titled Healthy Older Peoples Safety (HOPS): Home Hazards. This DVD showed how to identify hazards in the home environment as well as what can be done to remove or minimise these risks. It was a really good falls prevention tool.

The information session was well received by the participants who requested for follow-up sessions.

CARMEL MARTIN
Liverpool City Library

WHAT’S NEW AT THE TECHNOLOGY ZOO

Marrickville Library and History Services have been working on the concept of a petting zoo to introduce seniors to new technology at an upcoming Seniors Week event. The Library has purchased an iPad, Kobo e-book reader, Sony e-book reader, state of the art digital camera to supplement more established techno devices such as laptops, mobile phones, etc. These were demonstrated and then available for petting at our technology zoo during Seniors Week. Interested people were able to trial the devices with technical support available on the spot.

LISA MARSHALL
Marrickville
Seniors News

CONSTITUTION HILL SENIORS
To celebrate Seniors Week, on Monday 21st March 2011, Constitution Hill Branch Library held Tai Chi demonstration classes. The seniors were shown by our staff member Minh, the basics of Tai Chi and how it can make them feel relaxed as well as help improve their physical and mental well-being. The seniors were shown some simple instructions that they could continue on their own at home as well as shown a selection of library resources ranging from DVDs to books on Tai Chi. The seniors enjoyed a morning tea and a chat after the event.

JO BERTONCELLI, DEAN MCDOWELL, DINA KRSTINS & ZHORIK TERRAZZOLO
The Constitution Hill Branch Library Team

GRANVILLE SENIORS
To celebrate Seniors Week Granville Library hosted 3 events. Our first event was Beyond Maturity Blues-Awareness and Understanding of Depression in Older People. This talk was presented by a volunteer from COTA, Council of the Aging. The talk covered symptoms, causes and treatments of depression. All thirteen participants thoroughly enjoyed this talk saying how engaging and knowledgeable the presenter was and refreshing to have somebody of their own age.

The second event was a Decorative Painting Demonstration presented by students from the PCC Seniors Outreach Painting class. Many beautifully decorated items were on display with demonstrations of various techniques.

Our third event was Parramatta Computer Pals for seniors that showcased a range of their computer classes. One attendee had recently moved into the area and was delighted to find such an informed group.

These events demonstrated the range of interests and activities of seniors in our area.

LESLEY THOMPSON AND TEAM
Granville Branch Library

LAKE HAVEN SENIORS
Lake Haven bussed in their housebound borrowers for a special morning tea during Seniors Week. Staff enjoyed the opportunity to meet with the borrowers they select resources for and we all shared a good yarn over a cuppa. One of our housebound borrowers performed a soliloquy by Pam Ayers and many participated in our Seniors Art Exhibition where patrons were offered artworks to colour or paint. A fun time was had by all, even if the staff did enjoy one too many profiteroles...

Later in the week Lake Haven Library enjoyed its first foray in inter-generational programming where some of our youth patrons involved in the MUSE literary discussion group assisted staff in facilitating a Mobile phones for seniors workshop. The meeting rooms were packed to the rafters with the workshop experiencing full registration with over 20 seniors in attendance. The MUSE team patiently showed the seniors how to set up contact lists, how to create, send and receive messages, how to change their profiles and ring tones and even how to use their cameras! The feedback was exceptional. We will be hosting more of these in the days to come.

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Wyong Shire Library Service
In touch with the State Library

Library Amendment Bill 2011
This Bill to amend s12 of the Act was assented on 7 June 2011

Library Act 1939 – Section 12A
The NSW Government has created additional flexibility in the operation of regional library services through the introduction of a new Section 12A into the Library Act 1939. Section 12 of the Act enables councils to agree to provide library services regionally, that is across more than one council area. Such arrangements are termed “regional libraries”. At present 70 councils (68 in country NSW) are party to s12 agreements for regional library services. Prior to the amendment, councils entering into such arrangements needed to adopt an executive council model as detailed in Section 12(1) or (1)(2) of the Act. This involved one council accepting the responsibility for the management and provision of the library (or an aspect of the library service) on behalf of the other council or councils. The other council or councils also needed to delegate their library management to the executive council.

Section 12 had generally operated well, but it was considered more restrictive than the Local Government Act 1993, given that councils are able to operate other types of services under alternative arrangements in a more cooperative way under that Act. The new s12A enables councils that wish to operate regional library services using alternative arrangements to propose the arrangements that suit their situation. Such proposals need to be approved by the Minister for the Arts with the agreement of the Minister for Local Government. This will ensure that alternative arrangements for regional libraries meet the Library Act and the Local Government Act requirements and Government policies.

Note: The existing executive models are still available under s12 (1) and (2), and do not require Ministerial approval.

A proposal for alternative arrangements under Section 12A is triggered by two or more councils. No Council is required to enter into arrangements under section 12A. Participating councils will need to propose the new arrangements that work best for them. Arrangements will need to be consistent with the Library Act and with the State’s policies for local government. The approval processes will ensure this. Arrangements under section 12A may relate to libraries, library services, information services OR an aspect of libraries, library services or information services.

It is intended that the Library Council of NSW will advise on proposed alternative arrangements prior to consideration by the Minister for the Arts. The key issues for the Library Council in advising the Minister will be ensuring any proposed alternative arrangements meet the requirements for public libraries under the Library Act and will result in a sustainable library service that meets the needs of library users.

For further information contact Cameron Morley, State Library of NSW, email: cmorley@sl.nsw.gov.au or tel: 02 9273 1483.

Satisfaction Survey
As part of the Public Library Network Research Program, a satisfaction survey tool is being developed which will enable the consistent measurement of client satisfaction across NSW libraries. The data collected will also provide information that will inform the planning and provision of local library services.

Currently there is no standardised tool for measuring client satisfaction of library services in NSW. There have been several projects in the past and many public libraries in NSW have developed and undertaken their own satisfaction surveys at a local level. However, these surveys vary in content, detail and frequency, which means data is not comparative across libraries.

It is intended that the satisfaction survey project will:

- Establish a comprehensive framework for evaluating client satisfaction of library services in NSW
- Develop a standardised tool for measuring client satisfaction
In touch with the State Library

• Meet the Living Learning Libraries: standards and guidelines for NSW public libraries key performance measure
• Provide efficiencies in terms of research costs and time for public library services
• Ensure rigour and consistency in methods and reporting, and
• Facilitate benchmarking processes within the NSW public library network

Taverner Research has recently been commissioned to undertake this work on behalf of the Public Library Network Research Committee. The project will involve significant consultation with the public library network.

NEW STATE LIBRARIAN TO LEAD ONE OF THE WORLD’S GREAT LIBRARIES

The Library Council of New South Wales is pleased to announce today (29 June 2011) the appointment of Dr Alex Byrne as the new NSW State Librarian and Chief Executive of the State Library NSW.

George Souris, Minister for The Arts, said the role of NSW State Librarian holds an influential cultural position in the community, which includes the world-renowned Mitchell Library and the public library network. With his wealth of knowledge and experience, Dr Byrne will maintain and grow the State Library’s international standing as a leading research library as well as its strong connections with the NSW community. I look forward to working with Dr Byrne.

Dr Byrne will formally take up the five year appointment on 5 September 2011. Rob Thomas, President of the Library Council of New South Wales, said: Dr Byrne brings tremendous senior level experience from both library and university sectors across Australia, together with in-depth experience in digital technology and a special interest in Indigenous people and knowledge.

During the World Summit on the Information Society, Dr Byrne led the drive for universal access to knowledge by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the global peak body for libraries and information services. He was the International Federation’s President from 2005 to 2007. As a researcher, writer and international speaker on vital areas like accessibility and the role of memory institutions in the digital age, Dr Byrne is well placed to lead the State Library of NSW into its next exciting chapter, said Mr Thomas.

The State Library of NSW is renowned as one of the great research libraries of the world, with an extraordinary and unrivalled collection related to the discovery and exploration of Australia and the Pacific. The Library’s charter has always been about access and under Dr Byrne’s leadership, the Library will continue to embrace new technologies and look at innovative ways to connect the people of NSW and beyond with our premier cultural collection, said Mr Thomas. Alex Byrne joins the State Library during a time of great change. The Library is about to embark on a major renovation project which will transform the entire Macquarie Street building to a contemporary, community-centred space, and help cement the Library’s place as a leading Australian cultural destination.

Dr Byrne said that he felt honoured to be appointed the new NSW State Librarian. The State Library holds the foremost collection of Australiana and is central to the cultural life and economy of the state. I am delighted to have the opportunity to lead the Library and its wonderful staff, he said. I am also looking forward to working closely with the dynamic public library network. More than half the NSW population belong to libraries, and I plan to support and help strengthen public libraries and their connections with the community.

We will build on the achievements of my predecessor Regina Sutton and earlier great Australian librarians such as WH Ifould and John Metcalfe to make libraries a vibrant force for the future of New South Wales.

Dr Byrne has been the University Librarian at the University of Technology, Sydney since 2000. Prior to this he was Chief Librarian and subsequently Vice President and Pro Vice Chancellor (Information Resources) at Charles Darwin University, and Deputy Librarian at the Australian Defence Force Academy. On a personal level, Dr Byrne’s interests include his family, reading, walking, sketching and printmaking.
Multicultural Update

MULTICULTURAL SERVICES
The Transfer of the Multicultural Bulk Loan Service from Access and Information Branch to Public Library Services Branch has been completed. The purpose of the change was to locate the provision of multicultural services to public libraries within the Multicultural Consultancy arm of the Public Library and Community Learning Services Division to provide a single, integrated service for the provision of multicultural collection support to NSW public libraries and to facilitate timely delivery of these materials.

Public Library Services would like to formally thank Access and Information (A&I) staff for their diligent and supportive work in handing over the Multicultural Bulk Loans service. Many people have contributed but we would especially like to thank Mark Hildebrand, Alison Bennis, Maria Weimers and Panya Guex for their assistance. The training in the relevant systems has been very comprehensive, and the advice on policy and procedures has been most welcome. The new team has had their path made a lot smoother as a result. A&I’s work over many years in delivering the multicultural collection to public libraries has made a huge difference to the community, and we look forward to continuing this good work with the State Library’s most popular and in-demand collection.

The new team members are Lenore Whalan, Alicia Jin, Phuong Pham, Jacqueline Lawrence and Jason McPherson. They join Oriana Acevedo, Multicultural Consultant, Jana Longauer, Coordinator of the multicultural bulk loans team and Shauna Miller, Coordinator of the Multicultural Purchasing Cooperative.

CHANGE TO MULTICULTURAL BULK LOAN REQUESTING
NSW public libraries have been using multiple avenues to request bulk loans from our multicultural collection including email, fax, VDX, Libraries Australia and the online form available on our website. With demand approaching 100,000 loans per annum, one of our priorities with this collection was to improve the efficiency with the processing of requests. To assist we asked that libraries submit all multicultural bulk loan requests online via the web form: <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/services/ask/forms_nswpublib.html>

Our records show that 100% of NSW public libraries are now using the form, and we thank you for your support and want to advise you that this change has contributed to service improvements. If you require any assistance or have a comment please contact Jana Longauer, Coordinator Multicultural Bulk Loans on 02 9273 1541 or email: jlongauer@sl.nsw.gov.au

Please note that this change is only for multicultural bulk loan requests, not for general interlibrary loans or alternate format loans from the State Library.

CIRCULATION DATA
As part of the ongoing development of the State Library’s Languages Other Than English (LOTE) collection, we need to collect accurate data on the usage of bulk loan material. Currently we are only able to access limited data on bulk loans circulation, such as the total number of items in the bulk loans sent to NSW public libraries. This figure does not reflect the number of times the items are borrowed from the public library. For example, in 2009/10 the State Library loaned 110,000 items to NSW public
libraries. However if these items were borrowed by more than one client while in your library the usage figure will be many times higher than this. Accurate circulation data by language will also help us to identify those languages where we need to build and strengthen collections and allocate higher budgets and so improve the value and responsiveness of the service.

From 2011/12 we will ask you to report on the following in your Bibliostat statistical return - collection circulation figures for State Library LOTE material loaned to your clients, by language. It would be appreciated if you can collect this data from 1 July 2011.

Please note, the Statistics will also inform the State Library’s report to the Community Relations Commissions on the services provided to the CALD communities of NSW. It is understood that not all libraries will be able to report this data in the first year. However your assistance will be appreciated and is important in the further development of the collection.

Please contact Oriana Acevedo on 02 9273 1544 or email: oacevedo@sl.nsw.gov.au

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**MYLOANS**

[https://library.sl.nsw.gov.au/patroninfo-S2]

Myloans allow you to see the items currently checked out to your library. You do need to know your library card number. If you have misplaced or don’t remember your number, contact any one of the Bulk Loans team.

Jacqueline Lawrence (jlawrence@sl.nsw.gov.au); Jason McPherson (jmcperson@sl.nsw.gov.au); Jana Longauer (jlongauer@sl.nsw.gov.au); Alicia Jin (ajin@sl.nsw.gov.au) or Phuong Pham (ppham@sl.nsw.gov.au)

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**MULTICULTURAL HEALTH INFORMATION PROJECT**

Seeking information about chronic illnesses can be challenging for members of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities (CALD) due to cultural and linguistic barriers, lack of access to technology, or awareness of available resources. Traditionally, public libraries have worked with the community to provide information in community languages at a local level. This project aims to bring together public libraries and the State Library to improve awareness and access to health information for CALD communities in NSW and at a national level.

**The project outline:** To trial a targeted community health information project at Fairfield City Library and Riverina Regional Library linking resources from the State Library’s multicultural collection, the MyLanguage website, community health worker expertise and the promotional materials created by the NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service.

**The project aims:**

- To raise awareness of health issues in the CALD community and available resources via the public library network (staff and clients)
- To provide access to existing health information resources in community languages through the NSW public library network and MyLanguage
- To liaise with other relevant organisations including the NPS Community Quality Use of Medicines (CQUM) program, Multicultural Mental Health Australia etc.

To launch multicultural health week at the State Library of NSW on 5th September 2011

**Trial project:**

- NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service will design branding and promotional materials.
- Trial onsite at Fairfield City Library targeting the Vietnamese community.
- Trial delivery of Health information via the State Library of NSW Multicultural Bulk Loans
- Develop a model to deliver health information at a local level
- Develop a model for the State Library of NSW to deliver health information via the multicultural bulk loans services. The partner for this trial is the Riverina Regional Library (Wagga). The targeted languages will be Arabic and French
- State Library of NSW will continue to develop sustainable multicultural collections with a stronger focus on health in community languages.
- Update MyLanguage website to offer centralised access to health information in community languages
- Raise awareness with all library staff of the MyLanguage health webpage
- Access to promotional materials created by the NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service to develop a sustainable model.
- Support public libraries in the acquisition and
development of health information in community languages via the Multicultural Purchasing Cooperative

- Encourage and support the development of health information in community languages in all public libraries in NSW
- Identify relevant materials produced by health organisations and have these available free of charge to public libraries in NSW
- Free health resources are catalogued and distributed at no cost to NSW public libraries

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Oriana Acevedo
Multicultural Consultant
oacevedo@sl.nsw.gov.au
02 9273 1544

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**ARE YOU PROUD OF YOUR LIBRARY’S MULTICULTURAL LIBRARY SERVICES?**

What multicultural services or activities have you organised in the past two years? Have you done Internet training, organised ESL classes or bilingual story-telling, or something really different? A great way to celebrate your achievements and share them with other libraries is to apply for the 2011 Multicultural Excellence Awards. These Awards recognise a public library service and an individual practitioner who have demonstrated excellence in the delivery of multicultural library services.

The Multicultural Excellence Awards are presented biannually by the Working Group on Multicultural Library Services, Public Libraries NSW – Metropolitan Inc. All public library services in NSW and individuals working in the field of multicultural public library services in NSW are eligible for the Awards. Don’t miss this opportunity to show how your service shines. The deadline for applications is 21st October 2011.


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Vivien Chung
Willoughby City Library
Chair, Working Group on Multicultural Library Services

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**YEAR OF THE RABBIT**

Marrickville Library and History Services celebrated Chinese New Year and hosted an art exhibition called *China beyond Graphics*. The project was the result of a partnership with the Consulate General of China. Items on show were drawn from a larger exhibition and were displayed for six weeks and attracted much positive feedback from the community. Staff applied a different approach this year which was successful in involving a wide cross section of the community in the celebrations. In addition to an afternoon tea we hosted two Chinese craft activities which included lantern making and Chinese brush painting on paper fans which attracted lots of new people.

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Lisa Marschall
Marrickville Library

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**HARMONY DAY**

Tuggerah Library purchased the Adult Literacy Resources developed by the Australian Migrant English Service and had a special launch of the collection to coincide with Harmony Day. TAFE Teachers of English of Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) as well as the general public showed great interest in the collection that is now displayed in the general non-fiction collection with our other adult literacy resources. We have since hosted a library tour with ESOL students from Wyong TAFE to show them the collection and to encourage them to become members of the library service. We hope this will become a regular partnership.

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Michelle Goldsmith
Wyong Shire Library Service

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IN THE STATE LIBRARY GALLERIES

On sale! Shops and shopping
Shops are central to everyday life. Wherever people have settled, retailing has followed. Originally we shopped from necessity; these days it’s a leisure activity and a form of entertainment.

Galleries
Until 30 October

COMING SOON

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

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

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

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