Public Library News

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From the Editor

Another year nearly over, but take a little time to read this issue. We look at pictures in Coffs Harbour and words in Albury, get a taste of an IFLA conference and see how Living Libraries is going around the state. Plus all your stories and photos from the last few months. Thank you for your contributions, and we wish you a very busy 2010 – and remember to share it with us!

VICTORIA ANDERSON
Editor

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Front cover image: Randwick Library’s
skylight (See story page 11)
This is an abridged version of my report about my attendance at IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) Conference in Milan (Libraries create futures: Building on cultural heritage) and the Satellite Conference on Library Services to Multicultural Populations (Libraries and Society: A Pan-Mediterranean Perspective) in Palermo, Sicily.

There were nearly 4,000 participants at IFLA Milan and that many librarians in one place are quite daunting! The austere venue was in an isolated place, nothing around outside except one little café.

I attended the Library Services to Multicultural Populations Standing Committee’s first meeting on Saturday August 22nd. All members were very friendly (of course) and came from Russia, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Canada, USA, Finland, Japan, Germany, Spain, England, Netherlands, and of course Italy. A bonus was a fellow Australian, Robert Pestell, who I know as a LOTE supplier and who has been a long term member. On Sunday evening I attended the Concert at La Scala organised especially for the Conference. It was a spectacular event with an extrovert conductor, excellent orchestra and 4 opera singers who sang solos and duets.

IFLA MILAN
Public Libraries and Metropolitan Libraries Session
Christine McKenzie’s (Yarra Plenty Library, Victoria) paper Emerging Themes for public libraries looking forward placed emphasis on three areas: use of buildings, staff development and work force planning and the increasing use of research to inform decision making and implement evidence based practice. Thomas Galante the CEO of Queens Library, New York - 2.2 million residents who speak 160 languages. The Library has a Board of 19 Trustees with government and non-government support. It collects in 26 languages and has 1800 staff including 450 librarians! I was particularly interested in their BOOST (Best Out of School Time) program which runs from 3-6 Monday to Friday. This program employs youth with excellent grades to tutor others. I was pleased that most programs he spoke about were already being done at Fairfield and many other NSW libraries albeit on a much smaller scale.

Paul Whitney from Vancouver Public Library spoke about the impact of technology on public library usage. Vancouver Library is researching to support decision making. They have experienced a huge increase in AV which he believes will not continue and a gradual decrease in print loans which he believes will continue.

Stockholm Public Library’s speaker discussed Learning, Lending, Reading. The slogan for the library is The Library makes the City grow if the Library grows with the City. Their common value is the good encounter (approach and attitude towards the customer and each other). They use process mapping to discuss what they are doing, why they are doing it and how they do it. They use evidence based learning and engage leadership at ever level.

Some recommendations from other sessions I attended:

- The red thread – New central Library in Hjoerring, Denmark
- Library of 100 Talents – Heerhugowaard, Netherlands

Consultation with children - an idea I came away with was Newspapers for Children by Children, something I would like to explore at Fairfield.

- Join us for a Journey through Islamic Art by Kirsten Leth Nielsen, Oslo Public Library.

This tells how a travelling exhibition based on a Picture Book can expose children to a different and often misunderstood culture.

- National Library of Serbia is digitising the literature and culture of the Romani people

- A paper from Romania about preserving the traditions of Russian minority groups on-line showed an effective librarian/community member partnership which was passionate and inspiring.
The Conference exhibition was, as expected, very large and I whizzed around it stopping at the Sirsi Dynix (our LMS) stand and any stands with library furniture.

The IFLA Satellite Conference in Palermo was an entirely different experience. There were only 35 participants including the speakers, so it was very intimate especially as it was held in the Steri Palace, a quite large and beautiful building which is part of the University of Palermo. I especially enjoyed the paper given by the Chief Librarian Sohair Wastawy from the Alexandrine Library, Alexandria Egypt.

The common theme which emerged for me from most of the presentations was the educational support to children provided by public libraries. My presentation, Public Library Resources and Programs to Pan Mediterranean Language Groups in Australia, which included video clips of children and adults who had attended library programs speaking about their experience, was well received. All speakers were passionate about services to their culturally diverse communities. The conference dinner in a very atmospheric restaurant beside the sea was preceded by a bus trip up the mountain giving great views of Palermo.

I am very thankful that I attended both Conferences. It was an experience I will always remember. I would like to say thank you to PLNSW-Metropolitan, State Library of NSW and Fairfield City Council for their financial contribution which helped to make my attendance possible. It’s much appreciated.

Anne Hall
Fairfield City Library
Write around the Murray Festival

Write around the Murray (known affectionately as WAM) is a literary and story-based festival managed by AlburyCity Libraries staff, in conjunction with a community committee. The festival events are targeted at writers, readers and illustrators. The festival has operated for three years, with the most recent festival on August 5 to 9, 2009. Thirty three events over five days, with the majority of the events taking place at the LibraryMuseum, and a total attendance of 2,500.

The program contained a mix of skill development writing and illustration workshops, a targeted schools program with presentations and workshops aimed at Years 1 to 12, presentations by authors Peter Fitzsimons and Susan Duncan, a crime writing evening, a literary lunch and dinner, an indigenous poetry reading, readings by local writers, a comic book creations morning for young people, an exhibition by children’s writer Alison Lester, a weekend master class for more experienced writers, a short story competition, an author event with celebrity chef Janelle Bloom at the Community Wood Fired Oven, literary pub crawls and two cultural development projects – Alphabet Suitcase and Maps Alive.

Festival highlights? Too many to name but a few standouts were the presentation by best selling celebrity author, journalist Peter Fitzsimmon, whose most recent book Charles Kingsford Smith and Those Magnificent Men includes local Albury stories; and Alphabet suitcase. Local writer Charlotte Teek and illustrator Mary Rose Riley collaborated with 33 newly-arrived migrants to the Albury region to develop a simple ABC book for children to capture the stories and experiences of the countries and cultures they had come from. The book is full of stories of farming rice, marauding elephants, market life, wildlife, domestic life, dangerous journeying and the simple pleasures of being a child. The book was read to preschoolers for the first time during storytime at the Albury LibraryMuseum and Lavington Libraries, with many of the 33 contributors present.

Another standout event was the Literary Pub Crawl, which was based on similar programs in Dublin. Members of the public joined writers and performers as they strolled through Albury’s CBD, stopping for refreshments in pubs, cafes and places of interest, and performing a number of works relevant in some way to that stop.

Further information about the 2009 festival can be found at www.writearoundthemurray.org.au, and keep an eye on programming for the 2010 festival.

CARINA CLEMENT
AlburyCity Libraries
Living Libraries

MAITLAND
Inspired by an edition of Enough Rope, which featured the Lismore Living Library, Kylie Lingard from the Maitland City Library Programs Team undertook the task of setting up our own local living library. Meetings with Council’s Community Planning section lead to the testing of marketing ideas on focus groups. Community information sessions and Book drives followed. The idea was publicised through International Women’s Day events, radio interviews and newspaper articles. Invitations to the information sessions were sent far and wide into the local community.

Our first group of Books was gathered! The process continued with Council volunteer inductions as well as staff training sessions. Finally, in May this year Maitland’s Living Library was officially launched. The Living Library was started with a focus on enhancing human rights. Much of our early advertising aimed at attracting people with stories of survival against the odds. As time has gone on, we have learnt people are interested in hearing stories that are from both the marginalised and the mainstream Book. Today, due to partnerships with community organisations such as ACON and Hunter New England Health, the Living Library is also a mobile presence in our community through festivals and special events. The Living Library now has 36 Books – which is just about as big as we can manage.

Kylie has driven the implementation of the Living Library. Her dedication and determination to keep the project going despite regular roadblocks has been inspiring. This project also shows the value of a dedicated Library Programs Team, encouraging the generation of ideas, and allowing the focus and time commitment necessary to drive a project capable of enriching a community. Most importantly, without the generous contribution of our Living Books, the Living Library would not be the success it is today.

TAREE
Greater Taree City Library recently held its first Living Library project as part of Mental Health Week. The project was a partnership with Manning Mental Health Services. This year’s Mental Health Week theme was Building Resilience – Sign up, Link in, Get Involved and the Living Library achieved just that. Greater Taree City Libraries Community Outreach Coordinator Danielle Donnelly said, the Living Library project was a unique opportunity for people in the Manning Valley community to talk about topics in a relaxed and comfortable setting.

There were a number of interesting Books available during the event whose life experiences included schizophrenia, loss of a loved one, breast cancer survival, adoption, living with learning difficulties, overcoming depression, growing up in a family with disabilities, and a life lived in a convent. As a result of the Living Library project borrowers were given the chance to better understand the lives of people in their community.

All our Books were trained over two sessions. During that time the Books clarified their story, designed a book cover and synopsis for their story, which we used in the promotion of the event. The training was a great opportunity for the Books to meet each other, hear the other stories and become confident in how to be a Book.

The concept of the Living Library started in 2000 by a non-government youth organisation in Denmark to challenge stereotypes and combat racism. The idea has since spread across the world with libraries and organisations using Living Library projects as a means to break down barriers and promote diversity, understanding and respect. The Living Library is just like a regular library except the books are people.

Evaluations were conducted with all borrowers and the recurring feedback was that sitting with a Book was an amazing experience that allowed borrowers to learn about resilience and courage. The event ran over three days with people given the chance to borrow a Book for a 30-minute session. There were
morning and afternoon sessions, and all sessions were fully booked. The enthusiasm from the community was fantastic, with many requesting more Living Library events be held at Greater Taree City Libraries in the future.

**DANIELLE DONNELLY**  
Greater Taree

**LIVING BOOKS CROSS THE MOUNTAINS**

Serving as ‘ambassadors’ from Auburn several members of our community volunteered to visit our sister-city of Oberon in a Living Book Exchange. Seven very excited Living Books boarded the mini bus at Auburn early on Friday 25th September and we headed off on our adventure over the Blue Mountains bound for Oberon.

After a coffee stop at Wentworth Falls the Books arrived at Oberon about 3 hours later and were greeted with smiles and laughter and a wonderful lunch which was organised by the Friends of Oberon Library. Our Living Books included an Aboriginal elder, the daughter of an Alzheimer’s sufferer, a Sri Lankan immigrant, a Muslim, a Turkish resident and someone who grew up in Hong Kong in the 60’s and 70’s.

When the Living Libraries program started the Books were overwhelmed with readers. Each Book ended up doing a number of short sessions with approximately 4 to 8 people in each session, and readers couldn’t get enough. Students from the local high school were so inspired by the project that they have decided to start a local youth focussed Living Library Program at Oberon. What a really great outcome.

All too soon it was time for our thrilled, but exhausted Books to head back to Sydney. In the short time we were at Oberon some wonderful relationships were forged and it was with a tinge of sadness that The Living Libraries event ended for the day. However this not the end; we have already started planning more events with our sister library in Oberon and look forward to reporting on more exciting programs in the future.

**MICHELLE DOWLING**  
Auburn Library
RYDE

After a lot of planning and promotion Ryde Library Services set up its first Living Library this year. We have over 20 different Living Books on our catalogue representing people from different cultural, lifestyle and life experience backgrounds. We have Living books representing such diverse groups as the parents of gay children, a transgender woman, local historian, archaeologist, world traveller and migrants from China, India, the UK, Italy and Afghanistan.

The Living Library was launched on Monday 24 August at the Gladesville branch. Special guests included Ryde’s Citizen of the Year Dr James Wright, the Mayors of the City of Ryde and Hunters Hill, a number of other councillors and staff, Victoria Anderson representing the State Library and over a dozen Living Books. The launch was a very successful and animated event with musical entertainment provided by Ryde Library Services staff Mark Ross and Vanessa Henderson.

After the launch we held three Living Library sessions, one each at the Gladesville, West Ryde and North Ryde branches. While attendance started out slowly it built up with each session and we were very happy with the response to the event. Comments by readers included:

- I learnt about different cultures and how they impact on peoples lives, a little about living in different countries and spirit and drive that lead people to lead the lives they have.

- It really opens your eyes to the life experience of others. This is something I believe today’s society lacks. Great job!

- Lupus was new to me. It’s not new to me now.

Learned the story behind two familiar phrases - 10 Pound Pom and PFLAG - learned more details and the human story.

Strength of the personalities made a big impression very inspiring.

Being able to ask questions I wanted to know about the story when I wanted to know it!!

As with any Living Library we have had to work hard at introducing the community to the concept of actually reading real people (sitting down for a one to one chat). As well as the positive response from the readers it was great to see how much the Living Books enjoyed participating in the event and are eager to remain on the catalogue into the future. Some of their comments on their experience as a Living Book included:

- It was good sharing my experiences with people of varied age groups.

- It was good meeting new people and learning one or two things from them

- I learnt a lot about myself.

- Pleasant company and found much in common with reader.

We will be running another three sessions in mid November where we will try different branches and times. We plan to run the Living Library a few times a year, with our next likely date being around Harmony Day in March 2010. This will give us an opportunity to try a completely different venue and clientele.

Living Libraries are a great way of promoting harmony and acceptance of individual differences in a diverse community and invariably are a positive experience for all of those involved, not least the library staff.

JULIE JUST
Ryde Library Services

Strength of the personalities made a big impression very inspiring.
What is Picture Coffs Harbour? It is very simply an online picture library that chronicles the history of the Coffs Harbour region. The aim of the project is two-fold:

- To digitally preserve this photographic heritage material for future generations, and
- To improve access to these pictures using the power of the World Wide Web.

The Library’s existing Spydus web catalogue provides the channel for this online delivery.

The idea for the project came about approximately three years ago, not long after Coffs Harbour City Council assumed ownership of the local museum when the Coffs Harbour Historical Society disbanded and we discovered the extensive photographic collection that they held. The Library itself has only a very small collection of pictures from John Rotar, a local photographer who worked for many years for the Coffs Harbour Advocate newspaper. The Rotar Collection consists of about 70 pictures mounted on display board and mainly covering the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Following discussions with Council’s Gallery & Museum Director, Dr Leigh Summers, and the Museum Coordinator, Ms Terrie Beckhouse, we decided to embark on this ambitious and exciting project and apply for a Library Development Grant to fund the work.

A $64,000 grant was secured on our second attempt, which enabled the project to get going, and work began in earnest from January 2008. The Library hired a temporary cataloguer, Pat Bailey, whose expertise, especially from her work at the National Library, was paramount in helping us to develop and implement the necessary procedures and policies.

The ‘bread and butter’ work of actually scanning and cataloguing the Museum’s extensive collection began in July 2008. Over 1,300 pictures have been processed so far (23 Oct 09) – we’re about a third of the way through the physical collection, with work continuing.

The project is a true collaboration between the Library and the Museum, with Museum volunteers creating high-quality scans of the pictures (TIFF files) and creating basic catalogue records directly into the Library’s Spydus LMS via a customised web worksheet. Library staff then finish the image processing, and fully catalogue and index the photo records, making them fully accessible to searchers. The image processing is fairly automated using batch processing and scripts in Photoshop. The catalogue records are indexed using the Australian Pictorial Thesaurus (APT) for topic headings and good old LCSH for personal names and geographic locations where appropriate. Additional notes are added wherever available. Finally, the catalogue records are also electronically harvested by the National Library’s Picture Australia web service, providing a wider discovery tool to these valuable records.

The partnership between the Library and Museum has at times been challenging while we figured out each other’s workflows and documentation. However a strong relationship and understanding has been forged, giving even greater potential for future heritage-based joint projects and skills/information transfer.

Picture Coffs Harbour was officially launched during History Week on 8th September 2009 and generated a lot of local media interest and the online picture catalogue has seen strong usage by the public since. Most importantly, this project continues to make accessible images of Coffs Harbour that many have never seen or knew existed. It is a project that we are very proud of, knowing that this visual heritage is being digitally preserved for future generations and is being made conveniently accessible to the local community.

For more information or to search the catalogue visit www.picturecoffsharbour.org
In the Libraries

MUSINGS ON THE MALL
On the morning of Saturday 24 October local residents arriving to do their shopping, meet with friends for breakfast or visit the growers’ market in the Oxford Street Mall, Bondi Junction were met with an extraordinary site. Part of the Mall had been transformed into a giant outdoor living room, complete with large comfy chairs, coffee tables, a bookshelf, and even a painting hanging from a specially constructed wall.

Residents and visitors were invited to sit down, put their feet up and enjoy a number of books on offer from the outdoor book swap. Classical music played and during the morning a blue-cloaked fairy appeared (also working as one of Waverley Library’s children’s librarians) and conducted an open-air book reading.

At another table the international book movement, Bookcrossing, came to Waverley for the first time. Bookcrossing began in the USA in 2001 and now exists across the world. Bookcrossing is simply the practice of leaving a book in a public place to be picked up and read by another person, who then does likewise.

The Bookcrossing website allows people to register a book, release a book into the wild i.e. put it in a public place for someone else to find and enjoy and also to notify when they have found a book, (in Bookcrossing parlance, captured). This way books stay in constant public circulation and in the words of Bookcrossing, the whole world becomes a library. It is possible to track a book’s journey over years and across countries. More information on Bookcrossing can be found on their website www.bookcrossing.com

One hundred and thirty new books were given away as Bookcrossing books, on the basis that these free books remain free – when the book has been read it has to be passed on to someone else. The concept was met with much intrigue and enthusiasm and already many of the Bookcrossing books have been registered and are being tracked.

What was all this activity in Oxford Street Mall about? It was an event called Musings on the Mall organised as part of the inaugural Waverley Words Literary Festival, organised by Waverley Council with support from local bookshops, literary groups and other local non-literary businesses.

The Festival program includes author talks and interviews, language discussion, book groups, poetry readings and workshops, stage performances and play readings, author breakfasts and hip hop workshops. It is also associated with the Waverley Short Story Competition and the national award the CAL Waverley Library Award for Literature, known as The Nib.

LINDA BATHUR
Waverley Library

SAND IN OUR PANTS
No, we weren’t at the beach but we were hosting Professor Ken Baldwin, a quantum physicist from the Australian National University. Thanks to a grant from the ACT National Science Week Coordinating Committee, the Bega Valley Shire Library was able to bring the world of quantum physics to the Bega community in a digestible form. Professor Baldwin gave a very successful evening presentation about the more intriguing aspects of the quantum world to over 70 people; clearly science is an untapped market for us. The next day he visited our local council preschool and encouraged the children to be scientists for a day by exploring colours, rainbows and prisms in a very hands-on way. Later that day he presented to two of our local high schools and talked to students from years 9-12, which was very well received.

In addition, the library ran daily showings of DVDs from SCINEMA: festival of science films, which covered a range of science topics. National Science Week was a huge success for Bega Valley Shire Library and now we know we have a large and enthusiastic audience we plan to make it an annual event for the library.

LINDA ALBERTSON
Bega Valley
CAMDEN AND THE CUP

Narellan Library was one of three host venues that displayed the Melbourne Cup on its whirlwind tour. Valued at about $120,000, the Cup touched down at 10.00 am on Friday 23 October, for a 45 minute stop-over.

Children in the library were thrilled to meet special guests, Camden’s Mayor, Chris Patterson, former Melbourne Cup winning jockey John Lettz and dignitaries from the Victorian Racing Club. A crowd of more than sixty gathered to be part of the historic event. Local school children, regular preschoolers and their parents, and members of the public shared the experience. When the official part was over and the photos had been taken, more than fifty children settled down to a special themed story time.

Pamela Allen’s Clippity Clop was read, followed by lots of singing, plenty of neighing, and craft.

BARBARA JENKINS
Camden Library

WINTER WARMERS

When organising our annual Wrap with Love knit-in we decided to combine a few events and tie them in with the Wrap with Love theme. We held a Winter Reading Club and all children who read five books received a sticker with their name on it which was placed on our knitted squares. The more books that were read the more the children contributed to completing a knitted wrap that would be donated to Wrap with Love. The children loved to see their names on their wraps and they couldn’t wait to see what the wraps looked like when finished.

We also held a Food for Fines amnesty throughout July. Tins and non-perishable food items, balls of wool, or a completed knitted square could be brought in and all fines were waived. The food was donated to a local charity and the wool and squares went towards our annual knit-in which is held in conjunction with ABC Radio 702 on August 7.

Our knit-in was a huge success - every year it seems to get bigger and bigger! Our wonderful Click Clack and Yakkers (the weekly knitting group) were on our doorstep bright and early armed with knitting needles, wool, cakes and a great attitude!
In the Libraries

Our community contributed in completing over 150 wraps (100 more than last year) and over 100 more squares. The local Rotary helped us out by delivering our 28 bags of wraps to the Wrap with Love branch at Alexandria.

It is wonderful that all members of our community can come together in their local library to help such a worthwhile charity.

ANNETTE CHAPLIN
Camden Library

DO YOU KNOW YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS?
To mark this year’s Adult Learners’ Week, Liverpool City Library hosted an information session for residents to keep them informed and knowledgeable on legal matters. The event aptly titled The Law and you: an introduction to some Australian laws and your legal rights, was held on Wednesday, 2 September, 2009. The guest speaker was solicitor Alira Morey from South West Sydney Legal Centre. Alira devotes the majority of her practice to working for disadvantaged clients in the community including migrants, the elderly and those living with a disability. Among the topics she discussed were family law, wills, consumer rights and driving and traffic offences.

The participants were as one in saying that this information session served as an eye-opener to them. Now they know where to go if they need help with legal matters. An 87-year old even brought a copy of her power of attorney to show to Alira and asked what she needed to do if she wanted to make a new one.

The South West Sydney Legal Centre provides free legal advice, education and referrals for individuals and groups who live or work in South West Sydney and cannot afford a private solicitor or may not be eligible to receive a grant for legal aid. The Centre also conducts Community Legal Education seminars such as this one and is a proactive group dedicated to law reform initiatives.

Based on feedback received from the participants, this forum has definitely achieved its objective of raising awareness among the local community in law literacy.

CARMEL MARTIN
Liverpool Library

LAKE MACQUARIE
Lake Macquarie City Library hosted free author events as part of the national Books Alive program on Monday 21 September. Books Alive is an initiative of the Australian Government to encourage people to turn off their computer and tv screens and get reading. Virginia Lloyd spoke at Charlestown Library about her acclaimed memoir The Young Widow's Book of Home Improvement, a powerful and gutsy story that explores the complexities of love, death, and loss without sentimentality. Toronto Library hosted Toni Jordon, whose successful debut novel, Addition, explores with wit, humour and insight, the problems not only associated with being an obsessive counter, but the problems associated with simply being human.

The Books Alive events, gave readers an opportunity to meet, and listen to, exciting new Australian authors.

FIONA WATSON
Lake Macquarie City Library

MAITLAND
Libraries from around the Hunter and Central Coast region banded together to bring two up and coming contemporary writers to town during the national Books Alive campaign in September. Libraries across six local government areas adopted a coordinated approach to attract Books Alive authors to regional NSW.

In a whirlwind tour of the valley through the vineyards and dairy farms to the coast, authors Toni Jordan and Virginia Lloyd entertained and enthralled audiences (one audience member used these exact words) in 12 finely tuned events over two days. Starting at opposite ends of the region, Toni and Virginia tirelessly wove their magic for Singleton, Lake Macquarie, Newcastle, Wyong, Cessnock and Maitland audiences morning, afternoon and night.

This was a great opportunity to introduce fresh new writers to our communities. People who had never heard of Toni or Virginia enthusiastically bought (or borrowed) their books. They left town in a cloud of dust (coinciding with the unprecedented
dust storm on 23 September), but the Books Alive authors contributed significantly to raising the profile of books and reading in our region.

KERYL COLLARD
Maitland City Library

BOOKS THAT GO ON GIVING
Christmas came early for a group of young orphans living in Kathmandu. Mitrataa recently distributed boxes of books donated by organisations including Randwick City Library Service to the delighted children. Adam Kordish, co-director and founder of Mitrataa, a charity supported by Randwick City Library Services, shared the special experience.

As Bec and I walked in carrying two very big boxes we quickly acquired a big group of curious followers... after an initial frenzy of squealing and grabbing we managed to get everyone to line up so that they could choose a book to take and read. It was amazing to see all of the children so enthusiastic about reading and learning new things. It was also very touching to see the older children helping the younger ones to read their books.

Randwick City Library Service has a long history supporting Mitrataa and their important work with women and children in Kathmandu. We often take the idea of reading a story to our children for granted. By donating preloved books to charities such as Mitrataa, we can be assured that the gift of reading goes on giving. In April 2010, Mitrataa are running a trek to Nepal which will include visits to these children and others that they support. If you are up for an adventure, visit www.mitrataa.org

MICHELLE KLINE
Randwick City Library

COME DISCOVER
The newly refurbished 1000 square metre Randwick Branch Library opened to the public (and 2,154 patrons) on 1 October. In the first eleven days of opening, 8,854 items were issued and 9,607 people passed through the doors!

After 18 years of service, the library was in dire need of a radical overhaul. Award-winning designers CK Design, known for their state-of-the-art library
In the Libraries

transformation, used an equine theme to create a space that is inviting and vibrant. It has been described by patrons as the coolest place I have ever been to; an inspirational space and a place that combines all the best elements of what a library should be.

An immense Discovery Wall welcomes patrons and invites them to learn about and discover the rich history of our city. The O Zone is a high tech area for young adults combining light, technology, a gaming area and the latest in HSC resources. In the central gathering place, The Spot, patrons can relax and meet under a skylight which offers its flower-infused sunlight during the day and expansive views to the heavens at night.

Younger explorers will enjoy riding the horses and borrowing the myriad of toys, games, books and other resources in The Little Spot. The Wired Zone welcomes those who wish to access the Net and The Lounge provides a quieter spot to read the daily newspapers while sipping on a steaming hot cappuccino. The circular shelves welcome patrons to browse through our enhanced collection with thousands of new titles on offer.

With visits up 95% per hour on the previous year, the library is definitely a hit with the public. Visit www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/library to view an extensive collection of photographs, or take a trip down to the library yourself – you’ll be so glad you did!

MICHELLE KLINE
Randwick City Library

INSPIRATIONAL GIRLS
On a Tuesday night in September, 90 people gathered at Bowen Library in Maroubra to celebrate the work of young women who entered Randwick City Library Service and Rotary Club of Randwick’s Inspirational Women writing competition. The project was targeted at girls aged 12 to 18 who were encouraged to write about a woman who has inspired them and acted as a positive role model.

The entries received were of a very high standard and the judges found it very difficult to make a final choice. First place in the 15 to 18 year group was won by Meagan Jenner of Randwick Girls High School for her heartbreaking but uplifting story, Smile.

The 12 to 14 age group was won by Eloise Lindeback, also from Randwick Girls High, for her entry, My Nana and the Bar Room Suffragettes, a poem about her grandmother who stood up for equality of all Australian women.

The Deputy Mayor of Randwick, Cr Margaret Woodsmith, who played a key role in developing the competition said, The Inspirational Women writing competition has lead to a most remarkable collection of stories. It is full of rich and varied stories of love, loss and learning, and of how seemingly ordinary women are capable of achieving extraordinary things. I heartily recommend it as a great read.

Mr Nick Jancev, President of the Rotary Club of Randwick said, We are delighted to be working with Randwick City Council to promote the important role that women play in society. Rotary International tirelessly supports equality and opportunity for all. We hope that by supporting this competition we will help to highlight the role that women play in inspiring the future female leaders, educators, health professionals and politicians, to name but a few.

Copies of the collection of stories can be downloaded from the Council’s website at www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/library or can be purchased for a nominal fee of $2 from Randwick’s libraries.

MICHELLE KLINE
Randwick City Library

COFFS NEWS
Coffs Harbour Library proudly participated in the Thanks Dad Travelling Photography exhibition, which was a popular stopping point for library customers as they poured over the hundreds of images. A number of locals also submitted their own photos of their dads in various poses and situations, which will be part of next year’s travelling exhibition.

Preben Sorensen, a clinical psychologist, author and teacher of Transpersonal Psychology spoke to a packed house at Coffs Harbour Library recently. Preben spoke about 2012 and the end of the Mayan calendar. The prophesies of ancient cultures, including the Mayans, modern prophets and New Age mystics are all talking about 2012 and the
approaching New Age. The library took the opportunity to add to our collection in this subject, to provide more information to the community.

JUDY ATKINSON
Coffs Harbour City Library

CWA COOKS
The travelling cookbook exhibition from the State Library of NSW brought out the best cooks in the country when Morna Wilson, the CWA State Lands Cookery Committee Chairman visited Maitland City Library on Tuesday 1 September.

Although it was pouring nothing can dampen the spirits of a good cook, and nothing brings people together like a good cuppa. The visitors to our morning tea idled away a pleasant hour talking of food and swapping recipes. Our guest speaker Morna talked about the trials and jubilations of being on the CWA Cookery Committee and shared her love of all things food. And, although we didn’t cook them, our scones and jam met the approval of our CWA contingent! The display, which revealed a fascinating insight into Australia’s culinary history, was extremely popular with members of our community, as they reminisced about recipes from their childhood.

KELLY SHANKLEY-PRICE
Maitland City Library

EPPING LIBRARY WINS!
On 22 July staff from Epping Library (a branch of Hornsby Shire Library and Information Services) attended the 2009 Northern District Times Business Achiever Awards and were pleasantly surprised to win a trophy in the Community Service/Not for Profit Category for the second time.

However, what reduced them to tears of joy and smiles was that they also won the most prestigious award of the evening - the Local Business of the Year award. The win reflects the hard work by both staff and volunteers to provide a customer focussed service.

The award is a testament to the fact that Libraries provide an important and indispensable service to their local community and that their customers recognise and appreciate the service.

MANI VEERAMUTHU
Epping Library
In the Libraries

NEW CRONULLA LIBRARY
It was with some sadness that the old Surf Road library closed for the last time on the 19th September, 2009.
Monday October 19th - the big day finally arrived. The day was sunny and after a hectic month calm descended on the staff of Cronulla Library. All was ready for the opening of the bright new library. Eager customers waited outside for the doors to open. Then... the race was on!

HSC students led the way and quickly occupied most of the tables. Children made a beeline for their special area. Newspapers were snapped up. Others wandered around taking in the colour and looking for their favourite authors. Bookatoosh, the Library’s mascot, was persuaded to make a guest appearance much to the delight of the children - young and a little older.

When Cronulla Library opened its doors customers experienced not only a visual feast but also a revamped, updated collection. A major addition was the Sight and Sound collection. This collection includes 1,270 DVDs, 1,515 CDs for children and adults including fiction, music, language tutoring, meditation, self help and children’s stories with accompanying read along books. Cronulla is the only branch apart from Sutherland to have a collection of Playaways for both young adult and adult customers. The Playaways are like an MP3 player with a single title loaded onto a compact sized unit. The initial collection contains 209 Playaways with plans to add more later. The print collection has also been updated with a variety of travel guides, graphic novels, new fiction and non fiction to suit all age groups. New magazine titles will gradually be added and expanded upon.

Cronulla Library is now able to offer many more Internet enabled computers and not too far in the future there will be a wireless hotspot for customers with their own devices. Customer comments were overwhelmingly positive. The vibrant colours and large open space drew much comment. While some were a little sad about the passing of their little, old well-loved library, most people realised that the time had come for a library that offered the community facilities and space. The library is located in Cronulla Central.

If anyone wants to see more photos there is a link to our flickr account on the library website at library.sutherland.nsw.gov.au

ANGELA LIVINGSTONE
Sutherland Shire Libraries

GREAT LAKES ON EBAY
Great Lakes Library Service is supported by many industrious and big-hearted volunteers who are engaged in a variety of work – helping in circulation, book sales, genealogy, home library and technical services. But the newest stars to shine among our volunteer ranks are Roger and Vicki Stewart, who have taken on the rather unique and exciting job of auctioning old book stock over eBay.

The library gets very many donations and can have some interesting ex-library stock to dispose off. In the past when we’ve got a hold of something we think just might have value we’ve not really had the means to maximise our profit. But this has all changed. It turns out that books on Ned Kelly are very popular and two titles we’d have probably sold for a couple of dollars fetched over $100 between them. Roger and Vicki are absolutely loving the experience and are now eBay experts with a good eye for what collectors are looking for. And it’s not always what you’d expect.

The launch of this new scheme completes a three-tiered book recycling program, the Great Lakes Library Annual Book Sale, an in-library book bin, and now a world market for our pre-loved popular and rare items. Thanks again to all our wonderful volunteers for their invaluable support.

BEV DILLON
Great Lakes Library

2009 - A GREAT YEAR FOR KNITTERS!
All through 2009 our tireless knitters and crocheters have been creating squares and rugs for Wrap with Love and other charities. Groups at Gladesville, Eastwood and West Ryde meet all through the year with a special effort in June and July to send a great contribution to the ABC’s Wrap with Love collection. This year we sent 254 completed rugs – a huge increase on last year’s 95 rugs. If this rate continues we will have a serious storage issue!
We had our special World Wide Knit in Public Knit-In on June 13 when experienced knitters and novices joined together to enjoy the time to be creative. On August 7 we held our first ABC Knit-In at Ryde Civic Hall. This was well attended by over 80 people – including a group of primary school children – all enjoying a morning of knitting and chatting. The hall looked very colourful with hundreds of rugs displayed on tables around the hall. Library staff took the opportunity to promote the library’s collections and services especially, of course, the knitting and crochet books!

ANGELA PHIPPEP AND CAROL SOMMER
Ryde Library Services

Tuggerah Library is facilitating a monthly knitting event with Council’s Community Worker, Annette Young. This started at the annual ABC “Knit In” in August, wherein the participants had such an enjoyable time they decided to come on a monthly basis. Annette is in contact with other community organisations to gather support for the knitters and the Library is used as a meeting place. This is a wonderful use of the Library as a community resource.

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Wyong Library

INVERELL KNITTERS

For the past year Inverell Shire Public Library has provided a venue for some very busy knitters and crocheters. The Library Knit-in Group formed as a result of ABC New England North West’s 2008 Knit-In. The Knit-in is an annual community event that supports Wrap with Love, an organisation that distributes wraps (blankets) to people in need.

The Library Knit-in Group meets monthly, providing an opportunity for a social outing as well as creating wraps for people in need. Group members are very productive as they talk and laugh with each other. Membership is open to anyone who wants to turn up and there is always someone available to teach the basics or more advanced techniques.

This year the group helped out with the library’s school holiday activities, teaching some of the junior
In the Libraries

library members how to knit and crochet. The Library Knit-in Group varies in size from ten to twenty people, depending upon what is happening on the day. People who can’t attend the monthly gatherings but still want to support the project donate wool or knitted squares. Inverell Shire Public Library staff are proud to be associated with this wonderful community initiative and highly recommend it as a great use of public library facilities.

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**CROOKS, SCANDALS AND MORE**

Kogarah Library had held an excellent range of history events in the second half for this year, focusing on the subversive and hidden parts of New South Wales’ past. In the last few months we have discovered the characters of Sydney’s 1920s and 1930s crime world, with enigmatic mug shots giving a graphic portrayal of these crooks and con-artists. This was followed in Family History Week by State Records NSW Senior Archivist Gail Davis who gave family historians hints and tips on finding elusive ancestors in their family trees through government records. The Library’s Local Studies Historian also led an introduction to family history research. Finally, in September, History Week 2009 brought scandal and corruption to the Library. A local historian presented on prominent local resident and NSW Premier, Joseph Carruthers and his clash with newspaper magnate John Norton, and Kate Bruxner talked about Sydney’s wild and wicked women of the 1920s and 1930s. All events were well attended and contributed to raising the profile of the Library’s Local Studies Collection.

We also hosted a series of jazz and folk musicians for a series of lunchtime concerts in the library’s exhibition space. The music provided a good ambience across the entire library and was well appreciated by customers.

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**WHAT YOU MEAN TO ME**

Swansea Library was pleased to host a display of fabulous photographs during July. The photographs were taken by the residents of the Southern Cross Tenison Apartments in Caves Beach. The residents are retired ladies ranging in age from 60 to 100 years. The subject of each photograph was an object, person or view that held special meaning and significance to the photographer.

The photographs in A4 frames were displayed along the centre aisle of the library, accompanied by a smaller photograph of the person who took the photograph, their name, and age. Library staff hosted a morning tea to celebrate the display and to show our thanks and appreciation to the residents for sharing their work with us and the local community.

The display certainly proved to be a valuable addition to our library, and all who visited during the exhibition period took the time to admire the photographs and express amazement at the abilities of these wonderful ladies.

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**LALOR PARK REFURBISHMENT**

Blacktown City Council was the recipient of federal infrastructure funding ($147,000) which was used for building improvements at the Lalor Park Branch Library. Building works included replacing the roof, removing the defunct atrium, and repositioning the internal staff area to give more public space within the Library. The carpet was replaced with modern carpet tiles, the foyer re-tiled to give a fresh new look, and the interior was repainted throughout.

The Library seized the opportunity to reposition the shelves, which has enabled the creation of a bigger children’s story telling area and a computer space large enough for 5 PCs instead of 3. Library users have been very complimentary about the improved amenity and attractive new look.

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**KATE WANCHAP**
Inverell Shire Public Library

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**NATALIE KOZARY**
Swansea Library

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**JENNIFER BURRELL**
Blacktown City Libraries
MEREDITH KIRTON

People from all over the Manning Valley recently came to Greater Taree City Library to hear stories from well-known gardening author Meredith Kirton. The turn-out was great. The people who attended were treated to an entertaining talk given by Meredith that included funny anecdotes about her road to success and professional advice on how to grow good food in our region. Meredith has a great personality and the audience was intrigued by her fascinating stories.

Angus and Robertson were on hand to sell copies of her latest release *Harvest*. We have a great relationship with Angus and Robertson and 10% of the sale of *Harvest* at the event was donated back to the library. To complement Meredith’s visit, local producers came along and provided samples of their product. Some of the local product available on the day included Greenpatch Organic Seeds, Hand ‘n’ Hoe Macadamia Nuts and Butters, and Yok’s Jams and Sauces.

DANIELLE DONNELLY
Greater Taree City Libraries

WINTER REVIEW

We decided to brighten up the cold months with a competition for all our library users. Housebound borrowers, Facebook users and in-house borrowers of all ages were encouraged to review a book that they had recently read to enter the draw for small prizes. There was one prize draw per week throughout the winter. Prizes were supplied by the Friends of Leeton Library. It was a great success with more than 100 different books reviewed in both adult and children categories. At the end of winter a brochure compiling the list of reviewed books proved very popular with the borrowers.

So what was on the list? Lots of titles that librarians could predict like the Stephanie Meyer novels and the blockbusters by John Grisham, Jodie Picoult, Roald Dahl etc. but also lots of more quirky titles such as *A Guide to the Birds of East Africa* by Nicholas Drayson, *Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins and *Someone knows my name* by Lawrence Hill. It was a
very successful exercise for Leeton - not so much because the prizes were fabulous but it provided the focus for a lot of chatting and laughter between patrons and staff, always a good thing when it's very cold outside and just coming out to the library can be a big effort.

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SANDRA WATSON
Leeton Shire Council

ATSI AND CULTURE
Marrickville Library Service celebrated NAIDOC week and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culture throughout the month of July in our libraries. We displayed artwork and jewellery created by Marrickville local elders at Marrickville Library, and artwork created by local students was displayed at all four of our libraries. We flew the striking Aboriginal flag and the Torres Strait Island flag behind our circulation desk.

The artwork and jewellery created by local elders was provided for display and sale in the library through the kind assistance of IWACC (Inner West Aboriginal Community Corporation) and our Indigenous Library Assistant, Joanne Timor. All monies raised went directly to IWACC to support their ongoing community programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

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LISA MARSCALL
Marrickville Library Service

BUS SHELTERS COME ALIVE
2009 was Waverley Council’s sesquicentenary and throughout the year a series of events celebrating living in the Waverley area and exploring our local history were held. Waverley has some of Sydney’s busiest bus routes and commuters waiting at bus stops were a great ‘captive’ audience to reach with information about the sesquicentenary celebrations.

Given this, one of the strategies which Council used to communicate with residents and visitors was to create special bus shelter posters which both informed locals of upcoming activities and also brightened up some of Council’s fairly drab bus shelters. The bus shelter project was an initiative of the Local Studies Librarian who saw it as a way to showcase images and stories from the large local history collection.

A template for the A1 sized posters was created by Council’s media company which was then simply updated each quarter. Each poster had a local history story, supported by a striking image together with information about up and coming Council events. The first bus shelter poster went up in March and new posters have gone up every three months since listing the next quarters.

The latest poster has a summer theme, featuring the story of swimsuit controversies over the decades on Bondi Beach, illustrated with a 1947 photo of four local girls enjoying a perfect summer day in their stylish swimmers. In a lovely media twist two of the four women visited a local bus stop to see the posters and remember their girlhood days on Bondi Beach, an event which provided a perfect media photo opportunity.

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KIMBERLY O’SULLIVAN STEWARD
Waverley Library

MOSMAN MEN
Mosman Library hosts five reading groups that are filled with women, but we’d noticed that there were a lot of older men reading in the Library and that made us wonder...would men be interested in joining a book group? What material would they be interested in reading and discussing?

After consulting with Campsie Library (which hosts a similar group on a weekday), it was decided to send out a press release to the Mosman Daily and advertise internally with posters and bookmarks available at the Lending Desk and around the Library. We had a successful response, and the Mosman Men’s Reading Discussion Group which started in early 2009 is now in its eighth month and has ten members.

Due to the strong local demographic of retired/semi-retired males, a time slot of 10:30am was the most appropriate and the Group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month. Although an open model of discussion topics was the initial idea, a more conventional structure for book groups (i.e. a pre-established list) has been adopted.
Books read so far include; *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry; *Slaughterhouse 5* by Kurt Vonnegut; *A Fortunate Life* by AB Facey; *Gallipolli* by Les Carlyon; and *Salt: A History* by Mark Kurlansky. Other books or articles people have read are usually reviewed during the meeting. 

I’ve found it is important to have some structure, and facilitation and ground rules are required to some extent. A generally democratic atmosphere is achievable, and being flexible with discussion topics or books to be read, enables a good flow. As a result meetings have been congenial and friendly, and the participants have genuinely enjoyed themselves. 

From the Group’s success it’s obvious that men like getting together and talking about what they’re reading too. Sometimes they just need a gentle push to get them going (we noticed that a lot of older women were taking the bookmarks home!) so why not give it a try in your Library.

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**DARRAGH CHRISTIE**
Mosman Library

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY UHRL**

In August 2009, the Upper Hunter Regional Library celebrated 50 years of service to its community. The service, with branches at Murrurundi, Merriwa, Cassilis, Muswellbrook (headquarters), Denman, Scone and Aberdeen, had a month of festivities together with all staff, past and present.

The festivities commenced with the Muswellbrook Council official celebrations in July. All previous Mayors and Chief Executive Officers as well as some previous Library Committee Chairmen were in attendance.

The highlight of the activities for the children was the visit by author Deborah Abela. Deb with her sparkling personality absolutely dazzled the children at all seven branches and they came in droves. At Merriwa branch, the Council Chambers had to be booked to accommodate the attendances. There was standing room only at Scone Branch at each of the sessions. Deb’s autographed books were completely sold out. Deb who had visited our region previously, had a great time and with the encouragement of the kids excelled herself in entertaining each group who
In the Libraries

attended. In addition to Deb, local author Simone Bailey did some workshops at some of our branches.

There were birthday parties galore with all branches joining in; many of the cakes were cut by our oldest borrowers (years of borrowing not their age)!

At Denman three generations of the same family cut the cake. At the Muswellbrook party our regular borrowers as well as our volunteers enjoyed the local belly dancers group Eastern Spirits who brought a special touch to the occasion. At Denman local residents sang and played the guitar and told stories, while the piece de resistance was the announcement at Scone by the Mayor that there were plans to move the library to larger plans.

A Staff Reunion Dinner was held in Muswellbrook, with pre-dinner drinks and cocktails being served at Muswellbrook Library for past and present staff of the Service. A display featuring photographs of all staff and activities from previous years was mounted. Fifty years is a long time and it was amusing to see the youthful faces of the staff who had been in the service for many, many years! These images also emphasised the importance of the children’s services that has been a forte of this library service.

With the celebrations behind us, we are well set on our way to providing another fifty years of excellent service to this region of the State!

ELIZABETH WALTER
Upper Hunter Regional Library

ORANGE BOOKS
Photographer and author of Under the Spell of the Ages: Australian Country Gardens, Trisha Dixon was the special guest at the opening of the Orange Blossoms Exhibition at Orange Regional Gallery on Saturday 19 September and also gave a talk about gardens at Borrodell Vineyard, Orange on Sunday 20 September presented by Central West Libraries and the Central West Writers’ Centre. Trisha talked about the landscapes and properties that have inspired some of our leading writers and artists including architecture, gardens, social and cultural history, art and design. People such as our Nobel Prize winning laureate for literature, Patrick White, who jackerooed on the high country property Bolaro Station and wrote his first novel there. He subsequently bought and burnt every copy he could find of it! Poet Banjo Paterson wrote his last poem in memory of this property as well. Another example is Micalago Station garden - said to be the only garden that Edna Walling saw that couldn’t be improved on and it was also the scene of artist George Lambert’s iconic The Squatters Daughter painting which now hangs in the Australian National Gallery. The wonderful little jottings and poems Lambert wrote in the Micalago visitors book tell as much about the artist as the property.

She also spoke about poet Betty Casey-Litchfield’s dog Happy who drove her car in busy Cooma CBD and about the life of General Chauvel’s daughter Elynne, who married ski champion grazier, Tom Mitchell and lived her life overlooking the Murray River at Towong Hill and wrote not only the Silver Brumby books for children, the playscript of The Man from Snowy River and The Lighthorsemen, but also some amazingly insightful books into caring for the land in her groundbreaking books Speak to the Earth and Soil and Civilisation. The audience was also fascinated by her concept of slow gardening - sounds perfect for summer!

Can you believe we were fully booked with 100 people coming along to see Kim McClosker, the 4 Ingredients cookbooks author. Unfortunately co-author Rachael Bermingham couldn’t make it, but, as girls do, Kim called her beautiful mum Jennette and she did a fantastic job helping with food preparation and supporting Kim. The 4 ingredients team have such an inspiring story to tell. They are both busy mums but believed in their idea to provide simple recipes with four ingredients or less to get people out of the kitchen and spending time with their families – and who doesn’t want that? Kim spoke enthusiastically about the whole recipe writing and book production process. The audience asked questions and sampled gluten free recipes from their latest book - including dips, fruit cake and biscuits. F A N T A S T I C!

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Journalist and author Peter FitzSimons was in full storytelling mode as he told yarn after yarn at the Hotel Canobolas in Orange on Friday afternoon.
Visiting the city courtesy of Angus & Robertson and Orange City Library to launch his book *Sir Charles Kingsford Smith and Those Magnificent Men*, the ex-Wallaby couldn’t resist a few rugby tales, some choice French phrases, anecdotes from his experiences writing biographies and of course the amazing story of Smithy. Most of the large crowd took time out to enjoy lunch and had the opportunity to ask a few questions learning about his research and work on the book. Thank you to everyone who came along for a unique literary lunch in the pub.

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**THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF JOHN WAYNE**

Recently while a staff member at Parkes Shire Library was working on the circulation desk she received a phone call from a borrower asking if it was possible to extend the loan on some DVDs that she had borrowed. One of the items was the only John Wayne DVD that the library held in stock.

It was extremely busy on the circulation desk so the staff member thought the best thing to do was to ask for the borrower’s name and library card number so that when things quietened down she could access the computer and renew the items.

The borrower said she didn’t have her library card with her but did give her address. The staff member reassured the borrower all would be well and the items would be renewed.

When it got quiet on the desk, the staff member got back to trying to renew the DVDs for the phone customer, only to find the borrower was not a member of Parkes Library and the John Wayne DVD was on loan to another local customer.

Being good detectives, and always concerned for our borrowers, we realised that the borrower didn’t belong in our library but which library did she belong to? More to the point if the borrower thought she had renewed her DVDs and then received an overdue letter or a fine, then we let her down!

So we set out to discover where the borrower really came from. Using the home address given there were three possibilities. The first was a strikeout. The
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second possibility was also closed so we tried the third. Bingo! Here was the answer. The borrower belonged to a library almost 300 kilometres away. That library confirmed that the borrower had the John Wayne DVD out. Problem solved and yet another example of wonderful customer service. If only the lady knew!!!

SHELLIE BUCKLE
Parkes Shire Library

COLD CASES AND CEMETERIES
Lake Macquarie City Library celebrated History Week (5-13 September) with two guest speakers. The first guest speaker was former Newcastle journalist, Vic Levi, who has reported on some of the area’s biggest crimes and cold cases over four decades. He talked about some of these intriguing cases and his book, *Hot Metal, Hot Stories and Cold Cases: Requiem for a Newspaper*, when he visited Toronto Library on Tuesday 8 September.

Charlestown Library hosted a Cemeteries and Family History presentation on Thursday 10 September as part of Lake Macquarie City Council’s Seniors Program. Linking past and present, the talk described cemeteries today, the options available in Lake Macquarie, and a question and answer session. In the second part of the session, library staff talked about how cemetery records are used in family history research.

FIONA WATSON
Lake Macquarie City Library

WEEKS AT PORT STEPHENS
To celebrate Local Government Week 2009, the staff at Tomaree Library and Community Centre, constructed an informative display focussing on careers in Local Government libraries. In addition to information regarding Library courses, photos of staff members were displayed, along with each person’s qualifications and career path. The display created lots of interest and surprise from customers, in particular regarding the qualifications and experience required to work in a library. Many commented that they had no idea how highly educated library staff needed to be, and how interesting it was to read of the various career paths people had prior to being employed at Port Stephens Library. The Careers Advisor at the local high school encouraged students to go the library to see the display and ask questions of staff regarding education for careers in Local Government libraries.

In celebration of Adult Learners Week, and in order to raise community awareness of adult learning opportunities at a local level, five different workshops were offered at Tomaree Library and Community Centre throughout September. These were Computer Q & A, Mobile phone texting, Digital camera basics, Introduction to Facebook, and Knitting – novices and beyond. The workshops were funded by a grant from NSW Adult and Community Education distributed by the State Library of NSW. These workshops presented an opportunity to celebrate, promote and highlight the value of all forms of adult learning in the community. They were also an initial foray for Port Stephens Library into diverse areas of activity not generally offered by libraries. The grant funds presented an opportunity to test the waters, and determine if there is a need in this community for these types of workshops. Activities chosen are not generally available as free-of-charge, short, basic workshops here. The target group was adult community members who may not have the funds and/or available time to participate in ongoing fee-based learning activities, but who do have a need or desire to acquire the basic knowledge offered in one or more of the activities.

Every workshop was booked out within days of advertising. There were waiting lists for the Facebook, Mobile Phone texting and the Digital Camera basics workshops. Library staff delivered the Facebook, Knitting and Digital Camera Basics workshops with the Mobile Phone texting and the Computer Q & A delivered by a staff member from Communicate Port Stephens, a business unit of Port Stephens Council. All workshops were very enthusiastically received by the participants and requests for further workshops in all areas were received by library staff.

A review will be conducted of each topic’s content, and staff and participants’ responses. A decision will
then be made regarding repeating the workshops in the future, either as one-offs or regular courses offered through Port Stephens Library.

SUE LEVERINGTON
Tomaree Library & Community Centre

PLAYAWAY LAUNCH
Our little independent library has a total of 39 Playaways. We hold in our collection a range of genres including biographies. We knew how popular these little books have become but how would they hold up in a little country town? Our collection began after a visit from book supplier, Bolinda. They were happy for the Gunnedah Shire library to trial two of the Playaways. We selected The Innocent man by John Grisham and The Loner by Josephine Cox because these two authors were frequently borrowed within our Audio book collection.

Our trial started with introducing and demonstrating these Playaways to our housebound members. Members were given the Playaways for a week with a survey slip to give us feedback. Over half of our housebound members (who had borrowed from our audio book and large print collection), were happy with this new technology and wanted more titles, saying this little item was lightweight, easy to operate and didn’t interfere with other people watching the television or listening to the radio.

We then introduced other members who borrowed from the Audio book collection to the new audio books devices.

Our members who tried the Playaways came back wanting more and raving how convenient, small and easy they were to use. After a three months’ trial, it was decided that the Playaways were a hit with our selected members and it was time to put our plan into action. We didn’t want to duplicate what we already had in our Audio book collection but wanted new, fresh favourite authors. Using a report that showed us what genres and which authors were frequently borrowed, we decided what to purchase.

After the buying was done and titles were delivered, Gunnedah Library staff wore the Playaways around their necks to introduce the device and demonstrate it to other library users. Members were curious as to what they were, some thinking they were some sort of new phone and others thought they were mp3 players (easily mistaken). In conjunction with this we decided on an official launch, set the date and organised a display to advertise the new Playaways.

Over fifty invitations went out to library members (who borrow from the Audio Book collection), VIPs including Mayor Adam Marshall and General Manager Mr Robert Campbell, and local businesses. Guest speaker was Mrs Heather Fogarty of Fogarty Fotos & G Montage Photographic Studio. The launch was a hit! Many attended and it was wonderful to see members of the library and community supporting our library.

Since the launch we have issued our Playaways 68 times. On average, we issue two a day and reserve one a week. To others this may seem insignificant but to us it’s a BIG success.

ANNE WOOLASTON
Gunnedah Shire Library

NEW COMPUTING AREA
Kempsey Library recently launched its new Seniors’ Computer Kiosk, with great interest shown by both existing and prospective computer users. The Kiosk was funded under the government’s Broadband for Seniors program, which aims to create approximately 2,000 Internet kiosks in communities all round Australia.

Under the funding guidelines, the facilities, consisting of two computers with broadband Internet access, webcam and Open Office software, may be used by anyone over 50. The aim is to increase access to computers and the Internet and to help seniors gain confidence and build skills using new technology. Library staff provide only limited assistance at this stage, with the expectation that new users will access the on-line help tutorials. As funding and staff time allows, it is expected that regular computer classes will be provided.

In the meantime, the launch of the Kiosk saw some of our senior computer geeks happy to share their knowledge and skills with the less experienced (but very interested) newbies.

ALISON POPE
Kempsey Library
In the Libraries

SENIORS SURF

Randwick City Library Service has been selected as the first metropolitan library host venue for a free Broadband for Seniors’ Kiosk to service the local seniors’ community.

Broadband for Seniors is part of a $15m Australian Government initiative to increase the skills of older Australians using computers and the Internet. Project partners include NEC Australia, Adult Learning Australia, Australian Seniors’ Computer Clubs Association and U3A Online. The aim of the initiative is to connect the seniors in our community to the world wide web. This will enable them to discover a whole new social experience and help them stay in touch with friends and family.

The Broadband for Seniors’ Kiosk, located at Bowen Library, Maroubra comprises two computers with broadband access for use by library members aged 50+. A team of dedicated library volunteers will provide one-on-one training to users who are new to computers and the Internet. Mayor of Randwick, Cr John Procopiadis said, The new Seniors’ Kiosk is a welcome initiative by the Federal Government and we are delighted to offer this free service to mature residents. Many older Australians feel left behind in the age of spiralling technology. This free service will help bridge that gap whilst empowering our community to embrace technology and all its benefits.

The Kiosk was launched on Monday 2 November by Cr Procopiadis, followed by a demonstration of the free digital library, OverDrive, and a screening of two Tropfest movies made and produced by seniors.

MICHELLE KLINE
Randwick City Library

MATURED ART

The annual MaturedArt@your library art and craft showcase was on display for two weeks in October 2009 and this year the showcase incorporated various art and craft media including for the first time photography and live music. The exhibition was viewed by many people including a group from a local aged care facility, Hevington House. The group was welcomed by accordionist, Mr Ron Bunt, who was invited to perform his well-loved tunes as an extra dimension to the exhibition. Ron’s laid-back style and the very rich, reedy and organ-like sounds of his accordion created a pleasant flowing musical ambiance and made the elderly visitors skip about as they viewed the displayed exhibits. The sound of all time favourites like Alley Cat, Just a little Street Where Old Friends Meet, Danny Boy and Dark Eyes got a few feet dancing in between the library shelves and fascinated some young students who took a break from their study and gathered around to watch Ron’s performance.

The MaturedArt display is a popular and free art and craft show that continues to attract many visitors. This is the fifth year that Auburn City Library Service has hosted this special exhibition, so it’s no surprise that many residents wait with anticipation to view the exhibits. During the two weeks’ show, hundreds of people visited the Auburn branch to view 52 pieces of artwork and craft created by mature artists.

Auburn City Library is committed to supporting the arts and providing opportunities for people to enjoy and participate in arts and cultural events in our community. We hope that the excitement created by MaturedArt will inspire all mature artists to continue their practice and to seek opportunities to exhibit their work.

ISABELLA ANDRUSZKIEWICZ
Auburn City Library

LITHGOW FORUM

The latest meeting of the Lithgow Forum featured Professor Michael Burton of UNSW talking on Our Place in the Cosmos to a fascinated group of about 50. Clear, concise and fast-paced, the professor had many of us wishing we had studied astronomy at university as it sounded so exciting. The Forum, begun 2 years ago, provides an opportunity to hear experts in their fields presenting issues of the day in an informal setting. Question time at the end tends to be very spirited! Topics covered in the past have been Energy and Water Security, the Interface of Science and Religion, Local Government in California and Possible Lessons for NSW and Environmental Issues in our Local Government Area.

MAUREEN BRECKELL
Lithgow Library
SCANDALS
The History Council of New South Wales certainly struck gold with the theme for History Week 2009. Over a hundred people came from as far as Sydney to hear about Wagga Wagga’s dark and mysterious history. Wagga City Library and the Charles Sturt University Regional Archive collaborated to present talks on such infamous cases as the nun in the nightgown, the human glove case, the Chris Bolger murder and the pyjama girl mystery.

The Friends of the Library provided catering, though the numbers grew to more than quadruple the number originally expected so food was a little scarce! The wine, however, was plentiful and all present enjoyed their trip into Wagga Wagga’s violent past. It was particularly interesting for family members who had only recently discovered the scandals in their family closet. The nephew and great nephew of different murderers in the human glove case were able to get together and compare notes.

Each speaker then loaded their talk and photographs onto the Wagga Local History wiki (http://waggalocalhistory.wetpaint.com) and we have since been contacted by the great-niece of a victim from the human glove case. The wiki is proving popular not only for true crime buffs but for those interested in anything to do with Wagga’s history. On average, sixteen people a day are accessing the siteto learn from and contribute to the online collection of photos, stories and memories.

AMY HEAP
Wagga Wagga City Library

POETRY SLAM
Wagga’s poetry and spoken-word talent was on show again in September during heat four of the Australian Poetry Slam. A good sized crowd indulged in the satirical artistry of Tug Dumbly, whose mode of delivery alternated between that of an easygoing man cruising in a big red Cadillac, to that of an angry brute brandishing a rusty Gatling gun.

The slam began with some excellent poetry, and the high standard was maintained throughout the
In the Libraries

competition, with only a couple of points separating first from second place. Ultimately, it was decided by the judges, randomly selected from the audience, that Zohab Khan and Derek Motion should go on to represent Wagga Wagga at the State Finals in November.

MICHAEL SCUTTI
Wagga Wagga City Library

WARRAWONG LIBRARY
ALL GROWN UP

Warrawong District Library has been developed in keeping with Council’s philosophy of libraries being larger, well-resourced, regional centres - a trend away from the older single person branches.

21 years ago, Berkeley, Port Kembla and the old Warrawong Library in Green Street were closed in order to establish the new Warrawong library within the Westfield shopping centre, with a larger collection, more staff and services and longer opening hours.

Then the library had a music and audio books collection based on cassettes, and were proud to offer videos for loan as well as books and magazines. Today, we offer so much more: cassettes have been replaced with CDs, videos have been superseded by DVDs and audio books have moved from cassette format to MP3 Playaways, (a complete book recorded on a device that you can hang around your neck). We also provide free Internet access. Of course we still hold lots of books and magazines as well as our newly created Fastback collection of new popular titles with a two week borrowing period.

Customers can now access their records, check for a title, place a reserve on a title online, renew their books and even search local studies photographs and specific databases all from their computer at home. Then you could borrow eight items, now it’s 16 items from the wider range of formats that the library offers.

Warrawong library averages 15,000 visits per month and handles 14,500 loans per month. We also offer weekly Storytime sessions open for all preschoolers, Born to Read sessions designed to develop a love of reading with babies from 9 months old, who then progress to Toddler Time as the next step. We also have a monthly Bookclub for our avid readers who like to get together to discuss the books they’ve read.

To celebrate the Library’s 21st birthday, Murphy’s Puppets presented a show to over 90 people. This was followed by a birthday cake decorated with an owl, taken from the branding of the library’s children’s services. The children had a great time, you could hear laughter all over the library, and no crying!

KIM NOOR
Warrawong District Library

TALKS AND AUTHORS

The people of Wyong Shire love their family history, so when we advertise a talk from State Records we are always inundated with people willing to book in. Family History Week was no exception. Lindsay Davies from State Records of NSW came to Tuggerah Library to advise our enthusiastic genealogists on how to locate those troublesome ancestors. Lindsay discussed using gaol records including photographs, coroner’s records, divorce papers and much more in a lively and humorous seminar. Of course, morning tea provided ample opportunity to pick Lindsay’s brain about specific queries. We plan to host more State Records talks in 2010.

Author Peter Yeldham came to Tuggerah Library in August to discuss his life and his writing. He has been a prolific writer of books including The Murrumbidgee Kid and his latest, A Bitter Harvest and screenplays for the stage and television, The Timeless Land, 1915 and All the Rivers Run. It was fascinating to hear his anecdotes about the screen world. The captivated audience asked many questions on the writing process and Peter was more than happy to share his experiences with them. Peter now lives on the Central Coast so it was wonderful being able to support someone from our local writing community!

Peta from ARAFMI (Association of the Relatives and Friends of the Mentally Ill) spoke at Tuggerah Library during Carer’s Week. Whilst it was a small gathering it was a very personal one, with attendees able to discuss their own problems. A bit pf
networking took place too, so hopefully this small talk at the Library has helped a few people with their problems.

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Derelie Cherry, author of *Two Dogs and a Garden* came to celebrate spring at Tuggerah Library in October. Derelie and her husband run the beautiful camellia garden and nursery, *Paradise at Kulnura*. Derelie spoke about the loves in her life, gardening, camellias, family and dogs. She signed copies of her book and discussed gardening with many people over sandwiches and tea. To top off a very enjoyable morning, every person that attended the talk received a free camellia.

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As part of our year long 50th birthday celebrations Tuggerah and Lake Haven Libraries recently held birthday parties for the Library Service. Patrons wandered into the branches to find cake and other party goodies available as well as many familiar faces from long ago. Our other branches have held their parties and it is interesting to note that some of our patrons are party hoppers, turning up at all of the events!

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**MICHELLE GOLDSMITH**
Wyong Library
In 2009 the Public Libraries Evaluation Group (PLEG) reviewed the Information request completion survey to make it more relevant and useful for libraries who need data for planning library services and reporting to their council.

The new survey is flexible and easy to use. It allows libraries to customise the survey sheet to collect the data that you need. For example

• you are considering an automated PC bookings system and want to know how many enquiries you get for booking a PC
• you have recently reduced the number of opening hours in your Local History centre and would like to know what impact it is having on information desk
• you need to know what areas you need better signage in because staff are always being asked for directions

Visit the new PLEG wiki http://pleg.wetpaint.com/ and use the Enquiry Completion Rate Survey templates at http://pleg.wetpaint.com/page/Enquiry+Completion+Rate+Survey to collect the data you need.

LEANNE PERRY
State Library of NSW
RAMADAN IN ROCKDALE

Rockdale City Council Libraries recently celebrated Islam’s holy month of Ramadan at Arncliffe Public Library. It was a day of sharing, understanding and promotion within the local community. Various speakers including His Eminence Sheik Kamal Mousselmani, Councillor Awada and women from Islamic Women’s Association spoke of different aspects of Ramadan and Islam enabling an understanding to all on the Islamic faith and culture.

The day was organised by Stephanie Lee, our CALD Librarian, Rachel Cox and Donna Streeter. Library Manager, Susannah Waller was MC for the occasion and was overwhelmed by the positive community response and their interest in Ramadan and library activities.

An array of activities took place commencing with Sayed Hassan Al Sayed reciting from the Qur’an, followed by the Islamic Children’s choir, Essra Fayeh speaking on Eid card making, an Arabic book fair, a morning tea of Middle Eastern sweets followed by a smorgasbord lunch of Middle Eastern food.

The day was a great success and taught us all about the celebration of Ramadan. It also made many Muslim families aware of the services available in their local public library.

DONNA STREETER
Arncliffe Library

HEALTH TALKS IN CHINESE

Healthy diet is a popular topic for people of all ages. In order to raise awareness of a balanced and healthy diet in the Australian Chinese community, and with funding from a successful SLNSW grant application, Chatswood Library invited an accredited practising dietician, Mr Jimmy Louie from the Australian Chinese Medical Association to present two talks on a healthy diet, with one talk in Cantonese and the other in the Mandarin dialect as part of Adult Learners’ Week 2009.

The talks were held in the lobby outside the Chatswood Library at the Mandarin Centre. Each talk was briefly divided into three parts: a basic overview of a healthy diet, common problems associated with an unhealthy diet, and methods for...
Multicultural News

overcoming these problems. At the conclusion of the talk the audience participated in a Q&A session.

Over 70 people attended the two sessions and the positive feedback demonstrated the success of holding informative talks and the potential for the Library to organise more talks in Chinese on similar topics in the future as part of our community learning program. Promotion of the talks was very active. Posters designed by Library staff in English and Chinese were displayed in the Central Library, all branch libraries, MOSAIC, Council Customer Services and on the Library webpage and Council’s intranet; flyers were passed on to customers at the Library counter; and posters were distributed to the Northern Sydney Region Chinese Community Network, Australian Chinese Community Association of NSW (Northern Centre), local Chinese newspapers, radio and television, and to the children’s playgroup for Chinese parents, which ensured the marketing was able to reach the broadest possible audience.

VIVIEN CHUNG
Willoughby City Library

CULTURAL ROOTS
As part of promoting cross-cultural awareness, Parramatta Library set up a wonderful display about Ramadan. Ramadan lasts for a month, during which Muslim's practice self-control, prayer and charity and it ends with a big festival, a celebration which could last for days. Ali Hussein and I (see photo) worked hard to put the display together drawing from our personal collections of religious artefacts as well as using items from the library’s collection. The display proved very popular, both for the large local Muslim community, as well as for the general public. It allowed library staff to connect with the community and demonstrate how our library reflects the diversity around us.

JOHNNY ALI
Parramatta Library

REVITALISING GREEK
Marrickville Library has long been known by the community for its collection of books in the Greek language. What most people don’t know is that over 40 per cent of the books in the collection are older than 10 years, with some of them dating back to the 1950s. Based on direct community feedback, which identified the Greek collection as large, old and out of date, the library is undertaking a massive project to breathe new life into the collection through the purchase of new items and the removal of old, out of date books.

The Greek community will enjoy a more current collection with newer items for loan, fewer old books and a strong focus on items recently purchased. The Library will produce new item booklists in English and Greek and a dedicated space for new items of high interest and demand. The Library is revitalising the Greek collection to ensure it remains relevant to the whole community. We recognise the historical importance of some items which will be removed from the collection, and offered to the Cyprus and Greek community clubs.

LISA MARSCHALL
Marrickville Library Service

FUTURE OF MYLANGUAGE
Representatives from State and Territory Libraries around Australia recently met at the State Library of Victoria to discuss a new vision and business plan to shape the MyLanguage website for the next five years.

The MyLanguage consortium consisting of the state and territory libraries of the ACT, NSW, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the State Library of Victoria came together in 2004 with a 5-year plan built around the development of a multilingual portal. One of the primary aims was to provide libraries across the country with an alternative source for non-English language information that could be shared by all.

Under the guidance of this consortium, the award-winning site has been enabling users to access information in over 65 languages over the last few years. As an example of this success, more than
1.4 million visitors came to the site between July 2008 and June 2009.

With changes in online technology and the current emphasis placed on both digital and social inclusion, the group has committed itself to developing MyLanguage to meet changing need. The current business plan that guides the project concludes in June 2010 and the two-day meeting was the first stage in developing a business plan to extend beyond that date. At the meeting the consortium started the process by developing the following vision and objectives:

**VISION:**

We will use information technologies to enable libraries to empower CALD communities to:

- achieve greater social inclusion; and,
- maintain and enrich cultural and linguistic identity

**OBJECTIVES:**

We will:

- Build collaborative partnerships across all sectors to develop multilingual resources;
- Further develop MyLanguage, implementing innovative solutions;
- Enhance access to diverse information resources in community languages;
- Understand and respond to the information needs of CALD communities;
- Value the role played by public libraries by supporting their delivery of multicultural services;
- Promote MyLanguage

Basic to this is the notion of moving from consumption to creation, to ensure that CALD communities are empowered to create their own content using the interactive technologies that Web 2 and multimedia can provide. New and emerging communities are identified as groups particularly in need of support.

The success and strength of MyLanguage so far can be said to draw on the diverse experience and skills of the members of the consortium. Vicnet is delighted to be able to be the website developer, host and convenor of this valuable project. The members
Multicultural News

of the consortium are: Brendan Fitzgerald (Convenor), State Library Victoria; Andrew Cunningham (Technical Project Manager), Vicnet; Sarah Steed, ACT Library and Information Service; Oriana Acevedo, State Library of New South Wales; Cathy Hilder, Northern Territory Library; Debra Cooper, State Library of Queensland; Teresa Brook, State Library of South Australia; Marilyn Cacavas, State Library of Western Australia.

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Oriana Acevedo
Multicultural Consultant
State Library of NSW

www.mylanguage.gov.au

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Thank You From the State Library

The number of items held in the Multicultural collection is about 70,000 in more than 40 languages. To improve and maintain these collections we plan acquisitions 12 months in advance, and whilst weeding the targeted collections.

This year I would like to thank Gayatri Krishnamurthy, Technical Support Services Coordinator at Auburn City Library Service. Gayatri focused all her energy working with the Tamil collection. As a result the collection will have new items early in the New Year and is already looking fresh and tidy.

Farah Hamzehniaan, has been working at Leichhardt Library since 2003. She is Iranian, a native speaker of Persian (Farsi). Farah of course came to take a very close look to our Persian collection, removed a number of dated materials from across the collection, and now the collection looks better and we have already in circulation 400 books that were purchased last year. Farah lived in Turkey for four years from 1992 to 1996 and came to Australia in 1996. Her favourite Persian Author is Mahmood Dolatabady who writes fiction and historical books.

This partnership between public library staff and the State Library is a success story that speaks of generosity and vision.

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And of course a special thank you to our committed volunteers, Phil Young from Korea, Pat Donelly and Herminda (Mini) Cortez from Chile. Their latest project was to work with the interfiling of traditional and simplified Chinese in one collection. (Simplified Chinese is clearly labelled, just in case you were worried!)

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Oriana Acevedo
State Library of NSW
Children’s News

**BOOK WEEK**
As part of our Book Week Celebration, Mosman Library sent kids into the wilds of the Library to search for hidden poems. We selected 20 of our favourite poems about animals, both wild and tame, and put them up throughout the main level of the Library, mostly in the junior and teen areas. Kids were then asked to grab a question sheet, find the hidden poems, answer a simple question about them and return their sheet to the desk where they were rewarded with a free Smiggle pen for entering.

The competition ran for the whole of August, so there was plenty of time for entrants to find all the poems, with a few cryptic clues from more generous staff members. We had a great response to this competition and kids seemed to get a real thrill from finding the poems and reading them aloud; it was really popular with parents too! The best thing about the Poetry Safari was that all it took to be a winner was a bit of time and perseverance.

Other highlights of our Book Week were a visit from author Frances Watts, a performance of the shadow puppet show ‘The Mermaid’s Daughter’ with songs, stories and music, and a special visit from the Mayor to present prizes to the winners of our creative competitions.

**KATE STEWART**
Mosman Library

Multiculturalism came to Denman during Children’s Book Week this year. Many of you may think so what? However, in our white Anglo Saxon community this session was embraced by the whole town. Our Denman Library Assistant, Janice Cracknell, is always keen to ensure her small community does not miss out. So her Book Safari included home schooled children and a visit to other lands. The event was coordinated by Elizabeth Walter, Acting Customer Services Librarian and Janice and was arranged for the home schooled students in the area. The event was organised around a visit to overseas countries through looking and dressing in national costume, stories from local people growing up in other countries and then a taste of food from other lands.
When we explained the display to some of our users, we were lent costumes from other countries, including Vietnam, India, Hong Kong, China and Japan. Elizabeth spoke of her life going to school in Singapore and a story from another resident was read by volunteer Colleen Oldman. This told of his life at boarding school in Mussoorie, a town in the Himalayas. Then it was to the most exciting part according to the children: The food! An enjoyable feast of Italian, Indian and Chinese food. There were families in attendance from our region as well as some from Singleton.

The visit from the home schooled children capped off a busy month for Denman Library as they also held Birthday celebrations to celebrate Upper Hunter Regional Library’s 50th anniversary. Earlier the same week Denman Library hosted the St Joseph’s Denman Primary School at Book Safari. This safari was to Africa featuring animals and included their librarian in pith helmet for the occasion. The craft was mask making with the cheetah and elephant being the animal of choice. Stories based around the theme were also told.

UNA GARLAND
Upper Hunter Regional Library

This year, our multi-talented staff entertained approximately 600 children and teachers/carers with our Book Week celebrations. Upper and middle primary students were involved with our Fun and Games, and Books and More sessions. Over 200 students played Book Week bingo, memory and celebrity head, and enjoyed a reading from Emily Rodda’s The Wizard of Rondo, nominated Younger Reader’s Book of the Year 2009.

Infants and preschoolers from all over the Shoalhaven were once again entertained with our all-singing, all-dancing Reader’s Theatre mornings. Over 400 children travelled to Nowra Library to watch theatrical interpretations of CBCA nominated books Puffling by Margaret Wild and Sunday Chutney by Aaron Blabey and a reading of Tom Tom by Rosemary Sullivan and Dee Huxley.

Once again Shoalhaven Libraries received a very high standard of entries in our competitions. These competitions were distributed to all primary schools throughout the Shoalhaven, and were divided into two sections: infants and primary. A presentation ceremony was held on Friday afternoon to award the winners their prizes. A large group attended this event and was even treated to an impromptu performance of The Lion Sleeps Tonight with Safari Geoff!

Five staff travelled to schools for pre and post-Book Week celebrations. Vincentia Public School had their infants and lower primary attend our Reader’s Theatre session in their school library. Teacher Librarian Marg Pike was extremely appreciative for us travelling out and would love us to come and visit again next year.

Jervis Bay Public School were also entertained by our readers theatre and we also ran some of our games sessions for the older students. These were really well received by the students who always enjoy memory, bingo and celebrity head. Teacher Katrina Watson organised this visit and was very grateful that we made the effort to celebrate Book Week with their school.

Visiting schools is an enjoyable and rewarding way to celebrate Book Week and it would be great if we could continue this service in years to come.

LEONIE MURPHY
Leeton Library

This year’s theme Book Safari led us on a bear hunt - and we weren’t scared! More than 1,000 children, teachers, parents and carers had to crunch their way through a river of stones, push through the long grass, squelch through soft mud, make their way through a swirling snowstorm and a dense forest to the deep, dark cave where a bear was lurking. There were lots of screams but it was all great fun for everybody, including the staff. There were stories to read and jokes to tell before they set off again on another bear hunt to find the shortlisted books which had been taken by some teddy bears to read in the Library. Nearly all children in the shire visited us during the week for half an hour of fun or produced fabulous posters to decorate the Library for this special week.
In celebration of Children’s Book Week, staff from Wollondilly Library and Information Service brought their Book Week Book Safari fun and games to nine schools and 2,500 students across the Wollondilly Shire.

Inspired by the Book Week Extravaganza we developed presentations for students in K-2, 3-4 and 5-6 classes. We developed presentations based on *Sunday Chutney*, *Audrey of the Outback*, *Perry of the Angels Suitcase* and *Wizard of Rondo*.

It was so action packed we actually had to run our activities over two weeks. We entertained students and teachers alike with our skit of the short listed book *Sunday Chutney*. Students learnt all about the short listed books, played an Aussie slang game, created funny poetry and acted up a storm in a Freeze Frame Cinderella!

I love my job because I get to connect reading with pleasure and seeing the students have so much fun and get excited about the books is just fantastic. The response was overwhelming and all the schools have asked to come back next year so we are thrilled.

GEORGINA KONSTANTA
Wollondilly Library

To celebrate Book Week 2009 Parkes Library invited schools, preschoolers, home schooled students and disability groups to a travelling reptile show. Crocodile Encounters visited on Thursday, 10 September with several sessions being held during the day. Some of the amazing animals featured in the show were Olivia the Python, Russell the Shingleback, Dot the Lizard and Mr Crunch the Crocodile!

The show included hands on activities for the children who were able to touch a turtle, snake, crocodile and lizard. There was also an opportunity for the very brave to have Olivia the Python draped around their neck. All who attended were thoroughly entertained and educated in some of the mysteries of the reptile world.

SHELLIE BUCKLE
Parkes Shire Library
Children’s News

When beginning preparations for Book Week the theme, Book Safari, immediately brought to mind animals, and that brought to mind...the chicken dance! Having completed a teaching degree last year, and in a final attempt to get some actual value from the experience, I was focused on providing a program of Book Week activities that would engage and entertain. Getting the assembled throng up to do the chicken dance halfway through the Book Week presentation seemed an ideal way of keeping minds focused on the books at hand.

I wasn’t able to locate an actual chicken suit, but by a happy coincidence I found that Council owned an egret suit. I’m 6’4” and have always been too big to fit into Santa suits, but I fitted into the egret suit...just.

David Marley, our resident storyteller par excellence, joined me in putting together this year’s Book Week presentation. In addition to the chicken dance we prepared animal track quizzes, felt board activities, charades and a readers’ theatre.

At Maitland we hold the philosophy that the Library is a service rather than a location and so we prepared to tour our 50-minute show around the four branches as well as to local schools and pre-schools.

By the end of Book Week David and I had presented 13 shows to almost 900 children. Shows were presented to audiences ranging from pre-school to year six and varying in number from 30 to 230. By the end I had been pushed, pulled, punched, sat on, hugged and kicked in the shins – and had lost about 5 kilos in sweat! It was great fun. Bring on next year!

ROB STEWART
Maitland City Library

TEDDY SLEEPOVER

The teddy bears and other toys came out to play when Swansea Library held its first sleepover in July. This special school holiday activity was planned by Sue Leask, one of our Library Assistants. Nana Sue, as she is more commonly known, invited children to drop off their teddy bears or favourite toy for a sleepover in the Library. The children would be able to collect their friends the next morning at a special story time where they would hear all about their adventures.

Assisted by Rachel Mallaby, our Library Technician, Nana Sue supervised a handful of mischievous teddy bears and their friends in the Library. Photos were taken as the playful group enjoyed themselves among the shelves, played on the computers, listened to some exciting stories, and feasted on some delightful party food.

After their big overnight adventure, the teddy bears and toys were reunited with their loving owners, taking home a certificate and photo as a keepsake. Links to the photos were placed on the Swansea Library blog. (http://swansealibrary.blogspot.com) for all to enjoy.

NATALIE KOZARY
Swansea Library

PARRAMATTA

The always popular holiday activities, proved yet again to be a roaring success this October at Parramatta City Library with a series of afternoon programs. Guest presenter Reuben Xuerube presented a lesson in the Japanese art of manga for teenagers, with the afternoon being topped-off with pizza and coke in our Manga ‘n’ Muchies program. Tammy Howell from PacificSmiles Dental gave a great presentation for our Teeth Talk, allowing the kids to literally get hands-on experiences in caring for their teeth. William Kostakis the author of Loathing Lola presented a half-day writing workshop Way to Write and Cleanaway delivered a sustainable shopping talk in our Smart Shopping holiday activity. Library staff also conducted their own programs with an afternoon of board games for the Games Arvo, and an Easy Origami program. These programs, along with special holiday story times, have all been well attended averaging 80 kids at each session. The mix of guest performers and speakers along with our in-house activities has proven to be the winning combination for holiday.

ANNE PAVLEK
Parramatta City Library
DENILIQUIN

Holiday activities were very popular these school holidays with lots going on. The boys enjoyed two games’ arvos in the multi media room playing 10 pin bowling, tennis, golf and other games on the Nintendo Wii. There was a huge response to the microwave cooking and button making sessions. Twelve mini master chefs cooked up a storm making macaroni and cheese and chocolate puddings. The button jewellery making was attended by 20 youngsters who are now sporting high fashion button necklaces, bangles and even a couple of rings.

A Special Birthday

Storytime was also held to celebrate the Library’s birthday with 25 children who got to listen to stories, sing and decorate their own cup cakes to enjoy at the party afterwards.

PETER PAPANDRIOPOULOS
Central Murray Regional Library

GAMES AT TUMBARUMBA

On Thursday, 15 October, as part of our school holiday program, we ran a Games Day for Primary school aged children. We had 40 children attend from 10:30am to 3pm and they participated in computer games, X-box games, Nintendo DS’s, and board games. We had a competition throughout the day on the X-box where all children played off against each other. Friends of the Tumbarumba Library prepared lunch for the children of sausage sandwiches, fruit boxes and fruit and marshmallow kebabs. A great day was had by all.

PETRINA SMITH
Tumbarumba

TUGGERAH

Parties always prove to be very popular at Tuggerah Library. For the October school holidays, we held a spooky storytime. Scary stories were read and ghastly goodies were eaten. Many young folk turned up dressed as their favourite spooky characters. Parents were also captivated and kept asking Jo Potter, When are you going to do this again?

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Wyong Shire Library Service
Children’s News

BLUE MOUNTAINS

Fortuitously, our digital photography course landed on a beautiful spring morning. Seven participants, aged between 10 and 15, arrived armed with their cameras and a palpable eagerness.

John Merriman and I introduced ourselves to the group and ran through some of the digital photography basics, such as: composition, angles, lighting and the rule of thirds, camera accessories (John brought along various tripods and a snazzy SLR camera); and examples of how other photographers have utilised digital photography. We watched a slideshow about techniques and then we broke into two small groups to venture outside and get snapping! The bushland running alongside Blaxland Library proved to be a great place to practice the skills we had just discussed, with ample scope for creative inspiration and various interesting subjects to explore through the lens: dandelions, wonderful ferns, birds, lizards, gum trees and paper barks.

When we congregated back in the Library afterwards, the participants uploaded their fantastic images to the public PCs and had a look through them. There were a number of quite impressive shots. Next the group had loads of fun playing with the photo-editing website called www.dumpr.net, which they used to morph pictures of their faces with a goo tool, and turn their photos into Rubik’s cubes, jigsaws, Easter-eggs and more. The course concluded with a brief look around the photo-sharing website www.flickr.com to get a sample of how it works, and a final suggestion from John and I that many photography books and magazines be borrowed before the young photographers left!

**NAOMI OLIVER**
Blaxland Library

Editor’s note: Naomi is a Library Assistant at Blaxland Library, as well as an artist who has exhibited her artwork both nationally and internationally. [www.naomioliver.org](http://www.naomioliver.org) and John is the Local Studies librarian at Springwood Library and a fantastic photographer. You can check out his work on Flickr at [http://www.flickr.com/photos/merryjack/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/merryjack/)

WILLOUGHBY

Willoughby City Library enjoyed a very busy School Holiday program in October 2009, with almost 400 children participating in the mosaic craft workshops.

Although craft activities are always popular during the school holidays at the Library, numbers are often limited due to space availability. For this reason Willoughby City Library approached the management of the Mandarin Shopping Centre, where the Chatswood Library is located, in relation to running one week of school holiday activities in the open space in the centre on the Ground Level. It was agreed that the mosaic craft workshops would be held from Tuesday, 6 October until Friday, 9 October, from 11am to 2pm.

A bonus for holding the workshop in this space meant that our usual booking system didn’t need to be implemented. Instead, children were free to join the activity when they wished and stay for as long as they liked. Even at the busiest of times children didn’t have to wait too long to obtain a space at a table. In total, 358 children attended the mosaic craft workshops.

This joint venture saw the Willoughby City Children’s and Youth Library Services team provide publicity, prepare the raw materials to be used and also supervise the children who attended the workshops. The Mandarin Shopping Centre supported the mosaic craft workshops by creating and displaying publicity by promoting the workshops via the local newspapers. They also provided the venue to hold the workshops plus the setting out and packing up of the tables and chairs.

More children were able to attend the activity and a fun time was had by all in creating beautiful mosaic designs from colourful paper. Young children enjoyed creating their own personal designs using simple shapes and older children loved creating more intricate designs using the templates provided. Willoughby City Library looks forward to running more school holiday events with the Mandarin Shopping Centre in the future.

**CLAIRE STALKER-BOOTH**
Willoughby City Library

PIRATE QUEST

Upper Hunter Regional Library service has been involved with the Pirate Quest Program organised by our local Youth Workers. What is Pirate Quest? It is an Expo of Services for youth in the community.
It targets year nine students and tells them of the support services available in their local area. It is held by local high schools with students from private schools invited to join them.

Using the Pirate metaphor, the students discover Safe Harbours to call upon in Rough Seas. They learn about each service and are given contact information. The participants search for Treasure by going on a quest from Island to Island – the information is treasure and the students move around to each service station that is set up at tables - the islands. At each island a friendly native will tell students about their service, how it can help them or their friends and how they can access the service.

Each of the groups is given a big picture of a pirate ship which has many sails. Each group has to input the information they have discovered about the various service points and write it on the sails of the ship. They are to decorate the pirate ship appropriately at a colouring station island. The completed Pirate Ships are then judged and prizes awarded. The completed Pirate Ships are then displayed at the school.

The Pirate Quest has given us the wonderful opportunity to show and tell the students about our services. It gives the staff attending, all dressed up in pirate gear, a great chance to speak with the students on a one-to-one basis and talk to them about what they can expect from our libraries. We have learnt what the students really want and to use this in planning services. Some of the teens have never entered any public library however at the last Pirate Quest, some of the students were surprised to learn of the CDs and Playstations available in the library.

Our staff look forward to the next Pirate Quest as this is a golden occasion when we can spruik about our services and what invaluable mines libraries are in their quest for information, knowledge and recreation. Also we get to spend the time speaking one-on-one with a group that is under represented in usage of our service. Regularly we also get voted the most interesting island by the students.

ELIZABETH WALTER
Upper Hunter Regional Library
Children’s News

LEETON PIRATES
Aaarrgghh and shiver me timbers...there were young pirates everywhere in Leeton Library one Thursday evening in September - 23 of them in fact. They had all come along to a pirate party where they could sign up for a new Kids Klub which will be a monthly activity in the Library for primary school kids.

Lots of them came in costume and signed up with their new pirate name. Then off they went to listen to pirate stories, go on a treasure hunt around the Library and play some pirate games. Of course there were jugs of blood to drink and lots of pirate goodies to eat. What pirate doesn’t love a chocolate chip cookie?

Every young pirate went home with a handful of gold coins from the treasure hunt and a Library bag of goodies ready for the first official meeting of the Kids Klub in October.

LEONIE MURPHY
Leeton Library

LITTLE BIG DAY OUT
As part of Wagga Wagga City Council’s annual Little Big Day Out - a community festival for 2 to 12 year olds - the Wagga Wagga City Library transformed their children’s area into a Spooky Kooky Library, decorating the space with bats, spiders, ghosts and skeletons. A smoke machine, a spooky soundtrack and images of old episodes of Scooby Doo projected onto the ceiling added to the atmosphere. The children who braved to enter were treated to some fun and gross-out games, such as loose eyeball races, wrapping the mummy competitions (pictured), and pin the bones on the skeletons – all without a single scaredy-cat in sight!

MICHAEL SCUTTI
Wagga Wagga City Library

DADS ON SAFARI
Our survey of preschool story time patrons revealed that parents would like more frequent story time sessions than the weekly programs run at each branch location in school term only. An increased budget to run special Children’s Book Week programs and the ideal theme, Books on Safari, gave us an opportunity to run daily preschool story times in each of our three branches for a week. We chose five programs based on five different countries with five different presenters who each went on safari around the three branches during Book Week. The countries chosen were Africa, Australia, China, France and Lebanon.

Three regular staff members presented and we also had two guest presenters, one an African who is a local community worker and father of children who regularly attend story time at Auburn Library and another, a Council community development staff member, also the father of a young child, who grew up in France.

We are fortunate to have at our disposal the beautiful puppet kits from the Dreamweaver Collection owned by the Children’s Librarians Alliance of Western Sydney of which Auburn is a member Library. The delightful musical voice of Mohamed, our African presenter, enlivened the presentation of a very special puppet kit version of the African story Handa’s Surprise. The story chosen by Patrick from his child’s French language books was not the usual choice of our exclusively female story time staff members, and some of us expressed our reservations about his chosen story – how wrong we were! The story was about a fish who tries to avoid being eaten by a six year old boy by telling him about all the nauseating locations he has been before he landed on the plate! Patrick enlivened his presentation with his Gallic facial expressions and a fish made from recycled materials. This French story session hit the mark in particular with four year old twin boys, attending story time for the first time and who have a reputation for being unable to sit still long enough to hear a story let alone one told in French with English subtitles as asides. They amazed their mother by being enthralled.

Although not many fathers attend our story times, these sessions suggest that deliberately programming to involve fathers might produce many unexpected bonuses for our community of children and parents and we have resolved to do so in the next twelve months.

MICHELLE DOWNING
Auburn Library
GOOD WITCH

It is said that the staff are an organisation’s greatest asset. This is certainly true for Kempsey Library, where Lee Walder has been employed for around 5 years. Apart from being on hand to help out when short staffed at any one of the Library’s three branches, Lee has developed a loyal following in her role as Lavender, the Friendly Book Witch. Story times, Children’s Book Week parties, and other children’s events have seen Lavender draw squeals of excited anticipation from her young audience, as she emerges in her full regalia of purple wig, stripy stockings, pointy witch’s hat and genuine witch’s broom for another fun-filled session.

Lavender’s latest success was at the new Riverfront Plaza in downtown Kempsey during the July school holidays, when a total of over 60 children came along to two interactive story time sessions. Lavender and her assistant Sam gave out balloons and lollipops to the young audience, as well as distributing Library bags filled with bookmarks, temporary tattoos, flyers for coming events and the all important Library membership form.

The goal of reaching families and children that would not normally attend the Library was certainly achieved; no doubt due to the pulling power of Lavender the Friendly Book Witch, whose reputation as a performer-plus is a terrific asset to the Library.

ALISON POPE
Kempsey Library

AUTHOR VISIT

Michael Wagner, author of the popular Max Rumble and Undy series presented an entertaining presentation to primary and secondary school children from Culcairn, Henty and Holbrook over two days and six different sessions. Michael enjoys working with all primary and secondary aged school children and has been described by teachers and librarians as “fantastic and very inspiring, especially for young boys who are reluctant readers”.

Michael discussed with the children the importance of ideas and if not written down how they can be easily forgotten. The children loved listening to Michael’s extremely funny, and at times gross,
Children’s News

stories and were in fits of laughter most of the session. Since the visit the Max Rumble series has been borrowed repetitively and the children are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the Undy series which has been purchased by the Culcairn Library.

Author/illustrators/entertainers visits to the Greater Hume Shire are an ongoing program, provided at no charge to participating schools. This is the fifth year of the program with previous authors/illustrators/entertainers including; David Miller, Geoff Kelly, Phil Kettle and Peter Klein, all proving extremely entertaining and inspiring for students.

MANGA AND ANIME
Auburn Library recently launched its new enlarged manga and anime collections. We chose Children’s Book Week as the time to screen several episodes of a favourite TV anime and to offer those attending first pick of the new books and DVDs. We served halal pizzas at sundown so that Muslim children could attend, as Children’s Book Week this year coincided with Ramadan. This proved a great hit as many young people spend time in the Library whilst they are fasting.

Usually the focus of Children’s Book Week at Auburn is primary school class visits and a primary class poster competition. This year (as Auburn LGA had recently been declared a city) the poster competition was to collage Book Week characters into an Auburn Cityscape in the manner of Tohby Riddle’s charming picture book *Nobody Owns the Moon*. Winning classes earned a session with Tohby Riddle later in the month at their school. This allowed schools to present some online activities which prepared the winning classes for a very productive and enjoyable session with the author.

READING READINESS
Liverpool City Library trialed a new initiative called Reading Readiness Skills for Preschoolers. This is an eight-week literacy program for parents and their pre-school aged children. The Reading Readiness program aims to give children a head start as emergent readers and train parents how to read to their children.

The program ran for two hours every Friday morning for eight weeks in school term and included an appreciation of stories and books, phonemic awareness, the ability to distinguish shapes and letters of the alphabet, looking at pictures and telling a story and the ability to identify and write their name.

Liverpool Library’s Reading Readiness program will enable parents to develop the skills to read to their children and assist in the development of their reading ability. It is also highly recommended for those from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Reading is considered a foundation for success and children who have been prepared and encouraged to read even before they start school will have an advantage in school and in life.

Very positive feedback has been received from the parents who attended this program. And in response to the clamour of more parents wanting to participate, our Young Peoples’ Librarian Cheryl Dodson has made this a regular program of the Library.

ZONE CHILDREN’S SERVICES
Children’s services staff from public libraries in the North East Zone met in Coffs Harbour recently to share ideas and discuss current trends and issues. We were fortunate to have Mylee Joseph from the State Library of NSW join us for the meeting, and present a ‘train the trainer’ style presentation entitled *Are you Internet savvy? An overview of Web 2.0 for parents*. This presentation was designed to raise awareness amongst Library staff, and provide a tool that can be used locally to inform parents of the issues associated with Web 2.0 technologies.

Representatives from 14 Library services attended a jam packed two days. The What a Great Idea! sessions were invaluable in allowing us to swap information, resources, templates, and programs. Topics that were discussed at length included, What we do about babies?; Homework Help sessions for
parents; How do you keep up to date with collection knowledge?: Children’s policies - strategies and Examples; Premiers Reading - It’s our challenge too and Experiences with YourTutor.

We have developed a wiki as an information sharing tool, and look forward to providing ongoing support for all children’s and youth services staff across the North East Zone.

JUDY ATKINSON
Coffs Harbour City Library

STORYTIME AT BOTANICA

Staff from Coffs Harbour Library were fortunate to participate in Botanica – the Green Living Festival held in the Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens in October. With perfect weather, and a nice shady space under the trees to welcome the children, we told stories throughout the day. With a focus on environmental awareness and Australian flora and fauna, we had no trouble capturing the attention of children of all ages at the eight story time sessions held. The children were also able to sit amongst the Aussie puppets to read, colour in and participate in craft activities to while away the day. With a range of eco focus books on display as well, it was a great opportunity to promote the Library service to parents and grandparents.

JUDY ATKINSON
Coffs Harbour City Library

ELF RUTHERGLEN

The town of Rutherglen was taken over by little elves on Friday, 21 August to launch celebrations for Book Week 2009. The Early Learning is Fun (ELF) project is a community program helping to get books into children’s lives. It is an initiative of Berry Street Victoria, and this is the third Community Reading Day to be hosted in Rutherglen.

Chris Bursill from Upper Murray Regional Library’s Rutherglen Branch again joined Indigo North Health’s Occupational Therapist Anna Hession and various community members to help in the planning of this program. The Library supplied all the material for the volunteer readers.
The day saw over 150 young people descend upon the local main street to hear well known children’s books read to them in the local businesses, by the staff of those businesses. Junior students from the local Rutherglen primary schools, kindergarten, and playgroup joined with Wahgunyah primary school and playgroup for a morning of fun. Rain didn’t dampen the spirit although the launch had to be moved indoors at the Memorial Hall. This year’s official guest was Tallangatta author Ian Trevaskis who launched the program and read from his books Gumboots and Quincy.

The project aims to help parents in their most important role of fostering the love of reading in their family. Our community, beyond our schools and kindergartens can have a very important role in creating a strong book culture for our young people. We know that developing strong foundations in literacy before school has life long benefits such as better employment opportunities.

*Being part of the Community Reading Day is wonderful, said Chris, and it shows our young children that their love of books is shared with the whole community.* This year there was a special Book Bus which took some lucky children out of town to the local Country Rural Trader (CRT) store and then on to the Bird Sanctuary for a reading of *Olga the Brolga*. Then they all joined in on a merry Brolga dance.

Along with the UMRL Rutherglen Library other participating businesses included the local newsagency, Vet Clinic, Glenview Nursing Home, Medical Centre, Parker Pies, two bakeries and the Wine Experience Centre.

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**CHRIStINE BURSILL**  
Upper Murray Regional Library

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**OPEN WIDE**

We have seen a lot of dental activity over the last few months. At South Hurstville branch a registered dental health hygienist ran a session called Dental Adventures for the under 5s. Using puppets and stories, she showed the children how to care for their teeth. Participants were given a sample kit of dental products and all came away with bright smiles.

At Kogarah Library we have also had a series of dentistry workshops for adults. Topics have covered new technology in dentistry, dentistry in total body makeovers, dental implants and oral health. Interest in these topics was very high, providing another dimension to our health literacy programs.

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**LINDA HEALD**  
Kogarah Library

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**BOB THE BUILDER**

Always a big hit with the little kids – and the big kids who accompany them, Bob the Builder Storytime was held again in Leeton in August to coincide with Local Government Week. We gathered at the sports’ oval for stories and songs then out to the car park where the roads gang was working. They had barriers set up so we could safely watch all the action before they brought their big machines out into the car park for us to explore. The kids were very excited and especially loved having a ‘drive’ of the trucks, diggers and graders. Thanks to this great spirit of cooperation between Council departments we have been able to run this very successful story time every couple of years with plenty of planning to ensure that the sessions run smoothly and safely.

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**Leonie Murphy**  
Leeton Library

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**PJ STORYTIME**

Love a story? Love lots of songs? Love to cuddle-up in your PJs? Well head to the library. It was a cold and rainy night and still they came!!! During the October school holidays Ryde Library held their most fantastic PJ storytime. Over 50 kids, mums and dads came to hear a range of wonderful stories and songs performed by Ryde Library’s Children’s and Youth Department with lots of help from our other musical staff, known locally as the Ryde Rovers. There was a bubbling cauldron full of munchy, crunchy, chewy wombat stew, lots of bells, drums and maracas that were jingled, jangled and drummed with great gusto to *Tie me Kangaroo Down, Sport*, and even the one eyed, one horned flyin’ purple people eater had a roaring time.

Once all were exhausted and supper was eaten everyone made their way home dreaming of possums in the house, mice on the run and big red baths only to look forward to the next PJ storytime full of lots more stories and songs.

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**Gabbi Wyllie**  
Ryde Library Services
**IT'S ABC TIME**

It was wall to wall prams recently when *It's ABC time* visited Parramatta City Library. A morning of rhymes, songs, stories and dancing were performed for a preschool audience, courtesy of the Little Big Book Club and Vegemite. The performers, who have toured with the show, commented that with over 150 people in attendance it was bigger than some of their Westfield performances, but our children’s librarians know that this number is nothing unusual for them. When we hold our popular Bibs ‘n’ Books baby program, staff have to be rostered to pram parking patrol. The Library service has extended the early rhymes program to some of the suburban Library branches where it is well received. These programs help promote literacy and foster a love of reading in our borrowers which create a life long relationship with the Library.

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**NARELLE ADAMS**
Parramatta Library

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**THE DAY ANDY GRIFFITHS CAME TO TOWN**

Robots, apples and others things quite unmentionable were topics discussed by best selling children’s author Andy Griffiths and his fans at Orange City Library recently. Children asked lots of questions about where his ideas come from, how he came up with his book titles, details about his characters and what’s coming up next.

Andy was in Orange to promote his latest book *Robot Riot* and he encouraged children to tell their own stories, getting them to generate ideas throughout his talk and even calling on volunteers to perform a robot showdown. It was all in good fun as he took time to sign autographs, shake hands with fans and learn from them their favourite things about Orange. He suggested a name change was in order because the city was known for apples but no one in the large audience voted yes. The event was a joint presentation with Angus & Robertson Bookstore.

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**JASMINE VIDLER**
Central West Libraries
Young Adults Update

**Swansea Teen Zone**
Teenagers in the Swansea area have a new place to meet, relax, play games, and listen to music with Swansea Library becoming a Teen Zone every third Wednesday of the month. Activities available include Internet, Wii games, board games, ping-pong, and browsing the library’s collection and displays. Swansea Library has spent a lot of time developing these new programs and consulting with local teens to deliver the activities they want. The addition of the Wii consoles has meant teens can chill out and relax, use the Internet or decide to take the gaming challenge as part of the Teen Zone experience. *Wii-ing in the Library* (yes we really call it that) occurs every Wednesday afternoon with the consoles set up with a digital projector so the games attract a large number of onlookers as well as players.

**Fiona Watson**
Lake Macquarie City Library

**Professional Learning Workshop**
During August I hoped to meet one of my outstanding targets - to offer at least one General Introduction and Tour to adults annually and to encourage groups and organisations to visit for instructional tours, covering a comprehensive range of target groups. To say it quickly it doesn’t sound like much!! However, simply making the offer is the easy part. I wanted the people - but the people needed to know they wanted me!! And the information I was offering! A plan was needed.

I targeted local high school, St Catherine’s College, and proposed a partnership with their Legal Studies class. The offer was accepted and I found the contact very useful not only for a most successful Law Week event, but also a successful Drug Information event. Singleton Public Library then decided to host a Professional Learning Workshop for the entire St Catherine’s staff.

After consulting with the Assistant Principal, I developed the program. This included an outline of services and resources provided by the library, an online presentation of library databases, and guided tours of the library. I invited Karen Bruce, our YA and Children’s Services Officer, and Sharon Muir, our Special Projects Librarian, to participate. We welcomed 55 staff members who were enthusiastic, attentive, and clearly very interested in the resources our library has to offer.

There has been valuable flow-on from the event. Due to contact with other staff members at conclusion of the program, a tour was planned for a NESB group comprising students and adults. Two of these tours have taken place, and a new partnership is developing to provide foreign language items for NESB students. Further flow-on has been that many staff of St Catherine’s have become members of the Library.

The response from the teachers was overwhelmingly positive. To have ticked off my target by simply offering the same unwanted tours that I offered last year. But by rethinking them, targeting them to a specific market, and partnering in a collaborative approach, the library has achieved a very pleasing and valuable result. I have future plans to continue inviting other schools and interested groups along for similar events: more partnerships here I come!

**Joan Ingram**
Singleton Public Library

**Partying Like The Sisterhood!**
On July 14th 2009, 24 teenage girls came to Kiama Library to help celebrate Gosford Library’s Jean Genies arrival. We had a huge day planned and the girls were up for it. First up, a Manga artist from Cartoon Kingdom travelled to the library to teach the girls how to draw Manga characters. The girls picked it up quickly and easily and some even borrowed...
some of the youth collection’s how to draw Manga books.

Next, the girls enjoyed some refreshments – pizza and soft drink – and we headed out to the library deck and discussed *Harry Potter* and *Twilight*. Finally, we decorated the Travelling Pants. We first discussed what we should put on the Travelling Pants. We agreed to decorate the front panel with Kiama during the day and the back panel with Kiama at night. The front panel features the blowhole, Kiama’s beautiful beaches, a surfboard, seagulls and much more. The back panel features Kiama’s historical trees with twinkling lights. The girls were split up into 2 groups. One group decorated the front panel of the Travelling Pants, while the other group decorated the front of the Kiama Pants. Then we grabbed hair dryers and dried both pairs of pants. Some of the girls checked out the youth collection and played hangman while the pants were being dried. The groups swapped over and continued being the creative geniuses that they are.

At the end of the day, the girls swapped mobile phone numbers and promised to contact each other on MySpace. They each received a Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants Party Bag, which contained lollies and lip gloss and key rings with lights attached to them from drug info @ your library.

**ALISON BAMBACH**  
Kiama Library

**MANGA MADNESS**

A good crowd of enthusiastic teens turned up at Mosman Library during the October holidays to participate in a range of Manga related activities. First up was a Manga Drawing workshop where kids got to fine-tune their cartooning skills and walked away with a pretty neat portrait of themselves and some great ideas for creating their own characters. We followed up this event with the Anime and Manga Mini-Convention, where we invited kids to join in a celebration of all things Japanese (and all things animated). To a soundtrack of Japanese pop music, teens tested their cartoon smarts with a trivia quiz, made some Candy Sushi using marshmallows, rice bubbles, jelly lollies and other sweet treats (yes, they
Young Adults Update

promotional sessions run by the library that led to a significant increase in usage of Yourtutor, an online tutoring service.

The Library signed up to Yourtutor so that local students could get extra help to support their learning needs. BCU credit union and Griffith University also sponsor the Yourtutor service in our region, both recognising the unique value of the service for school-aged children in the local community.

The use of Yourtutor had been increasing steadily since it started in Coffs Harbour. However, there was a potential to improve it even further, so I prepared a program designed to promote Yourtutor and other online library services by showing live demonstrations as part of a Year 6 Information day and also via an HSC Seminar for Year 11 students.

To entice the students to use the service repeatedly we decided to run a competition over April-June 2009. The Library offered seven lucky draw prizes for participants including an iPod nano, iPod shuffles and 4GB USB memory sticks. Each Yourtutor session entitled them to an entry into the lucky draw.

Over the 12-month period 2008-09, Yourtutor usage had increased 267% over the previous year, with the April-July 2009 period accounting for 489% increased usage compared with the same period in the previous year! Wider student awareness, live demonstrations, and the possibility of winning an iPod had paid huge dividends for us.

Tutoring Australasia Chief Executive Jack Goodman presented the Top 5 National e-Learning Leader award to the Library at a special morning tea at Coffs Harbour Library on September 22, with BCU’s Chief Executive Lyndon Kingston as a special guest.

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KATE STEWART
Mosman Library

ANTI-HSC STRESS

Wollongong library is the best place to study for the HSC exams! It’s so nice and new, bright, with all the latest techno gadgets and helpful librarians who are very tolerant and customer [me] focused. Better than home actually, I don’t have to clean up after myself.

Private study rooms are provided and if you can round up five or six friends with library cards, you can practically use one all day. If you miss out on a room [because that cow from St Mary’s got in first with her friends] you can still have a picnic, socialise and make new friends at any of the tables in the main area. The librarians will only crack up if the noise reaches jumbo jet level.

My advice - come to Wollongong Library to study - tell your parents that you will be well looked after by lots of motherly women – bring some snacks and drink (which may be shared), and your iPod if you want some peace and quiet. You can even bring your laptop, get onto the internet using Council’s WiFi connection or use one of the many computers provided free of charge.

The librarians will supply help to download a YouTube video onto your iPod or upload something onto Facebook. They also supply useful information, staplers, tissues, pens, paper and most other things you may need.

On the ground floor in the Children’s Library you can now use the PlayStation with Wii and even get some fun exercise.

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CHEERS, TALLY
Tahila, a very stressed out HSC student

TOP 5 E-LEARNERS!

Coffs Harbour City Library has been recognised by Tutoring Australasia as one of the top five e-learning libraries in Australia after a series of successful

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SURINDER KAUR
Coffs Harbour Library

DRUG ACTION WEEK

Singleton Public Library invited all the local high schools’ PDHPE and year 9 classes to visit the library during Drug Action Week 2009 for an hour of drug info, games with prizes and a tour of the drug info collection. I sent printed invitations in the mail to all schools.
Over fifty students and teachers accepted our invitation. We played a Bingo game using words from our pamphlets and phrases like drug info @ your library, Singleton Public Library, State Library of New South Wales, Safe Passage and Designated Driver. Prizes were USB wristbands donated by State Library and they were very well received by our winners.

Our students sat on the floor of our large meeting room as I took them through the drug info @ your library website.

Next we walked through the Library to our drug info collection, where I gave the students an outline of the collection emphasising that it is for their use anytime, with free pamphlets, then left them to browse. I incorporated the State Library pamphlets quiz into this session. The students were impressed with the amount of material they saw. We ended the event by giving all our visitors a goodies pack of pamphlets and info, including our students’ bookmark, State Library torches and lip glosses, and some handouts from ADCA.

The students were attentive at all times, and engaged fully in every session. Teacher feedback has been extremely positive – and they asked to come again next year!

JOAN INGRAM
Singleton Public Library

HSC CRAMMING
Parramatta City Library has become a hub of studious activity with a huge number of HSC students cramming for their exams in the reference study area. Students en masse have packed into the library, with staff opening up additional quiet study areas to accommodate the growing number of young people coming to our library this October. Also during this time Parramatta Library brought its year long series of programs for HSC students to a close with a free HSC workshop for school leavers on Oct 17th. School leavers came along to learn the skills to help them acquire the career they want. This workshop included learning resume writing, and practicing interview skills and helped students acquire the skills and techniques needed to effectively apply for work once school finishes.
In response to this obvious trend Parramatta City Library sent out an email to encourage working parents in the area to send their children down to the library these school holidays and join the crowd, as it turns out it’s the place to be!

**SPRAY ON!**
The Spray On! untamed & on the wall exhibition was the result of school holiday workshops held with young people, aiming to encourage them to consider other ways of using their aerosol skills. Developing graphic design skills for future employability was emphasised in the workshops and by exhibiting the work in Kogarah Library’s exhibition space in October, it was hoped to provide the participants with a sense of local community and positive recognition of their skills.

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**LINDA HEALD**
Kogarah

**LIVE AND LOUD**
Live ‘n’ Loud, a youth based music event, was recently held at Taree Library. The event attracted more than 140 people, which not only included young people but their families as well. *The night was a huge success – the crowd were all interested in the music which included local youth bands TAB, Yeti, Rainbow Flat Gumnuts, The Influence, Jacob and Maddy, Illusion, and the night’s People’s Choice Award winners, Struck.*

We included an Open Mic session which further showcased some of the impressive talent that is here in the Manning Valley.

But it wasn’t all about the music. Attendees were encouraged to wear their best pirate gear to celebrate International Talk Like a Pirate Day. Some people went all out and won prizes for their efforts. The library was also treated to a make-over with pirate flags, banners, a pirate ship, and library staff all dressed in full pirate regalia.

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**DANIELLE DONNELLY**
Greater Taree City Libraries
In touch with the State Library

THE MITCHELL CENTENARY
In 2010, the Mitchell Library celebrates its centenary. Originally created to house the generous benefaction of David Scott Mitchell, the Library holds a truly exceptional Australian collection. Mr Mitchell was an avid collector of rare and exquisite manuscripts, maps and pictures, as well as book, journals and pamphlets.

The Mitchell’s collections are central to how Australia and Australians can define themselves and their history.

The centrepiece of the celebrations is a major exhibition ONE Hundred. This exhibition celebrates the Mitchell Library’s remarkable achievements and ongoing relevance to Australian cultural life. Just 100 items have been chosen from the breadth of the collection - some of them have never been seen before, others the most famous founding documents of our nation. All of them tell an Australian story.

From July 2010 a travelling version of ONE Hundred will tour to regional New South Wales, with curator visits planned.

The exhibition is showing at the Mitchell Library for just 100 days, from 9 March – 15 June, 2010, but will then be available on a dedicated website <www.onehundred.com.au> throughout 2010.

We have created our own alphabet in celebration of the Mitchell Library centenary. This A-Z intriguingly incorporates pictures, maps, manuscripts, ephemera and paintings, bringing these items ‘out’ from the stacks in a surprising and contemporary way. Look out for it being used in surprising ways throughout 2010!

— BROOKE Hutchison
Marketing and Business Development

FAMILY HISTORY FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS
The TV program Who do you think you are? has inspired many people to explore their family history.

And staff in public libraries are in a unique position to help clients on their journeys.

But what special guidance can you give to Indigenous Australians in New South Wales wanting to look into their own roots? The Family History: Indigenous Australians (NSW) Research guide on the State Library website is designed to help you and your clients find the most appropriate and useful resources. It includes websites as well as unique material such as the Minutes of the meetings of the New South Wales Aboriginal Protection Board, and instructions on how to use each resource. Books covering Aboriginal genealogies for particular regions such as the Wiradjuri Region and the North Coast Region are also listed.

— MELISSA JACKSON AND RONALD BRIGGS
Australian Indigenous Service

HEALTH MATTERS
Swine flu? High blood pressure? Pre-diabetes? How do you help your clients with these and other health topics? Where do you begin?

A survey conducted by the Pew research group in December 2008* found that 75% of Internet users were looking for health or medical information. What the survey didn’t ask was: did they find what they wanted and most importantly, could it be trusted to be up-to-date and accurate?

The new Health Information guide on the State Library website has links to carefully evaluated websites, databases and telephone help lines. It also includes lists of excellent medical reference books that we have here in the State Library and which may be available in your own libraries. There are explanations of many conditions as well as treatments and tests.

There is also a section on keeping healthy through
We hope finding maps on the State Library website is less confusing following a revamp of the Maps pages. Start at http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/about/collections/maps/index.html The Maps pages contain information on access, frequently requested maps, online collection highlights and RSS feeds. This is just the first stage in improving online access to our Map collections. Please send us comments or suggestions on the new content.

As you may be aware in June 2008 the State Library received funding from the New South Wales State government for an electronic records project. Over the past 12 months over 3,000 maps records have been added or upgraded. It is becoming a lot easier to find our maps on the online catalogue although there is a long way to go. You can view records added by the eRecords project by subscribing to an RSS feed available on the State Library website at http://library.sl.nsw.gov.au/feeds/maprecords.xml.

As part of the eRecords project, we are also creating contents lists for subdivision plans in over 800 localities in and around Sydney and in regional areas. Contents lists, in the form of Excel spreadsheets, will be attached to collection level records for each locality. Collection level records are now appearing on the catalogue. For example, the catalogue record for Baulkham Hills subdivision plans tells us that there are 73 items in this collection. A location number is provided and clients can see that they need to view the aperture cards before requesting an original. We’ll let you know when the subdivision content lists are being linked but if you would ike a preliminary view for you library please contact us and we can send a draft copy.

Good food and exercise. The main focus is on information that is written for the layperson. Look on the State Library’s homepage under Research guides to find the Health Information guide. We welcome your comments and suggestions!

*http://www.pewinternet.org/

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LAURA MOLINO
Access and Information Branch

ERECORDS

Thanks to the eRecords project at the State Library of New South Wales, public libraries and their users in rural and remote NSW will increasingly have the same access to the Library’s collections, via its online catalogue, as those in metropolitan Sydney.

The eRecords project is unlocking the contents of the State Library’s unrivalled cultural and historical collections with project funding of $10m over three years from the NSW Government. Although SLNSW has been using electronic catalogues since the 1980s, one million collection items remain accessible only through hand-written or typescript cards – necessitating a visit to Sydney or telephone or email contact.

By September 2009, a total of 218,473 eRecords had been created for collection items such as The Dixon Library sheet maps which document the exploration and charting of Australia and the Pacific; pictures and photographs in the Library’s heritage pictorial collections; over 20,000 Australian literature titles, from popular penny dreadfuls to rare first edition literary classics, including We’re all Australians now: a letter to the troops at the Dardanelles by A.B. Paterson; the MacPherson Drama collection of 4,000 20th century plays, including rare and quirky female-only productions, and classics that became major motion pictures, for example Rebecca: A play in three acts – the film adaptation which scored Alfred Hitchcock his first Academy Award for Best Picture; The Robbins Magic and Conjuring Collection; and the Nelson M Richardson collection of bibles and medieval manuscripts including the Library’s oldest manuscript, The book of Isaiah (1224).

You can keep up to date with the progress of this major retrospective conversion project via the SLNSW website at www.sl.nsw.gov.au/about/projects/erecords/index.html and the project blog at blog.sl.nsw.gov.au/erecords/

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JENNY BERRYMAN
e-Records Project

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MAP MISCELLANY

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MAGGIE PATTON
Original Materials Branch

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LIAC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

I would like to congratulate the two winners of the 2009 LIAC Centre of Excellence Award! Auburn City Library and Coffs Harbour City Library were presented with their awards at the Justice Awards dinner at Parliament House recently. It was an inspiring night with many people in the justice sector receiving acknowledgement for their work.

Auburn Library is located in a very ethnically diverse community so Annetta Kucharska developed a Law Week program which included showing a DVD on tenancy in Arabic and Dinka, and other legal information seminars for new arrivals.
Liz Thomas from Coffs Harbour Library collaborated with Legal Aid, Office of Fair Trading and NSW Police to offer some popular seminars.

All the entries for the Centre of Excellence Award were terrific and it was difficult to choose winners. Thanks to all of you who took the time and care to enter. It’s great to see what you’re all achieving.

JILL QUIN
Legal Information Access Centre

PROBLEM GAMBLING
The NSW Government’s Responsible Gambling Fund and the State Library have joined forces to help lower the impact of problem gambling on communities. Libraries have already been sent print materials aimed at problem gamblers and their families. These promote the Government’s range of free Gambling Help services, including self-help materials, and counselling by phone, online or face to face. The services are available in all communities in NSW.

Also sent to libraries was the new DVD featuring Water Rats star Jay Laga’aia, which looks at how gaming machines work and sorts out truth from commonly-help myths. Coming in the new year will be a range of materials in Mandarin, Cantonese, Greek, Arabic, Vietnamese and Italian. Chair of the Responsible Gambling Fund, Rev Harry Herbert, said that Gambling Help counsellors were ready and willing to give free talks on the issue at libraries, in English and in other languages. Libraries are a known and trusted source of information in every NSW community, he said. Problem gambling is one of those things that isn’t often discussed at a community level. Libraries can really assist people to become more aware of the issue and of sources of help, by making materials available and by hosting talks.

For more information, or to find a Gambling Help counsellor in your area, please contact me

MARIA SALVADOR
Project Coordinator, Responsible Gambling Fund
Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing
Communities NSW
Tel: 02 9995 0637 or email: maria.salvador@communities.nsw.gov.au
COMING SOON

Summer Reading Club
1 December – 12 February
Read on the wild side

Information Online 2009
20-22 January 2009
Sydney

IN THE STATE LIBRARY GALLERIES

ONE hundred
To celebrate the Mitchell Library’s centenary in March 2010, the exhibition ONE hundred reaches down into the riches of the Library’s incomparable and internationally renowned collection and presents just one hundred items which tell, in their unique and surprising way, some aspect of the Australian and Pacific story.
Mitchell Galleries
9 March 2010 – 16 June 2010

Heritage Collection
Supported by the Nelson Meers Foundation this exhibition showcases some of the most beautiful and significant items from the Mitchell, Dixson and Rare Books collections.
Mitchell Galleries
5 July 2010 – 10 October 2010

THE GOVERNOR: LACHLAN MACQUARIE, 1810 TO 1821
On 1 January 1810, Lachlan Macquarie took office as the 5th Governor of New South Wales. To celebrate this 200th anniversary and examine Macquarie’s contribution to the development of colonial Australia, original letters, journals, watercolours, miniatures and realia from the Library’s collections will be displayed.
Mitchell Galleries
5 July 2010 – 10 October 2010

DEADLINES FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS
April 2010 issue 26 February 2010
August 2010 issue 25 June 2010
December 2010 issue 15 October 2010

THE TEDDY SLEEPOVER
(SEE STORY PAGE 36)