Coming soon

2004 International Year of Sport and Physical Education

reference@your library
State Library of NSW
2 May 2005
Phone: 02 9273 1525

Library services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
State Library of NSW
3 May 2005
Phone: 02 9273 1525

Digitisation standards for public libraries
State Library of NSW
13 May 2005
Phone: 02 9273 1525

Marketing seminar
State Library of NSW
14 June 2005
Phone: 02 9273 1526

CPLA Conference
At Feats of Formats
19-22 July 2005
Gosford

Eye4Photography
To 29 May 2005
The State Library’s largest and most ambitious photographic exhibition to date, from the earliest daguerreotypes to stunning contemporary photographs.
Mitchell Galleries

Kisch in Australia
To 24 April 2005
The story of Czech activist, Egon Kisch
Mitchell Galleries

A magnificent spectacle
To April 2005
Theatre posters from J C Williamson’s, 1905 – 1914
Macquarie Cases

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

Mr Mitchell’s monument
An architectural history of the Mitchell Library
To March 2005
Dalkey Walkway

Deadlines for Public Library News
July 2005 issue 15 May 2005
November 2005 issue 15 September 2005

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www.sl.nsw.gov.au

Big & bright at Dubbo

In the State Library Galleries

National winners!

Carnivale at Willoughby

In the libraries • Multicultural news • Young adults update
Renovation Rescue

For many years, whenever there was heavy rain in Dubbo, staff at the Dubbo Branch of Macquarie Regional Library (MRL) were tempted to hand out umbrellas, for it was quite possible that staff or patrons could find themselves anointed from the Heavens above. So it was with much delight that staff finally put away the umbrellas and returned garbage bins to their rightful purpose when the commencement of a major refurbishment began in October 2004.

The Branch had received just on $130,000 from a Library Development Grant in 2002 for new shelving and display panels, furniture and fittings and a new microfilm reader/printer. Dubbo City Council also contributed to the project and provided funding for a new roof, painting and carpeting. The Library was to have a new colour scheme throughout which reflected MRL’s corporate colours. The refurbishment programme also included feature walls, designed to give an illusion of space and rooms without walls within the Library. The installation of new shelving and the removal of old shelving was coordinated with precision and worked like a dream. The final phase involved staff in the huge physical work that was in store. Meetings were held to nut out all the details associated with the library’s facelift. Media releases, extended loan periods, and safe work spaces for staff – there seemed so many things to consider. The implication of closing the Library for an extended period of five weeks was at the forefront of everyone’s mind. So many decisions – book return facilities, bulk deliveries to housebound patrons and the implementation of a telephone Information and Reference Service. In the lead-up to the period of closure, patrons could borrow up to 30 items. Many patrons took advantage of this and some requested a wheelchair to take all of their books to their car. Staff were delighted with the issue statistics for the month but gasped the day when they would be buried under mounds of returns when the Library re-opened.

In preparation for the renovation, staff and contractors moved all of the shelving from one half of the Library to the other. At times there were cries of ‘Look Out!’ as the shelves teetered dangerously and everyone scrambled to steady them. If the contractors had known they would have to move the shelving twice more before the end of the renovations, they may not have been so quick to agree to assist! Other factors to contend with included collapsing shelves, dust, a lack of air-conditioning for weeks on end and confused Library staff searching for collections under plastic cover sheets whilst trying to locate a reserved book. Various collections had to be moved a number of times during the period and staff continually helped each other answer questions such as, ‘Where is the Indigenous collection? Or Where are the Easy books? A couple of staff members also had to drag themselves out of bed at 5:30 am to let workmen into the Library building. As you can imagine there were not too many volunteers for this job.

Had we ordered enough shelving? How are we going to fit all of the old shelving into the Stack area? Are we going to have everything ready in time for opening again next Monday? Of course we are! The final stage of the renovation involved staff in the huge task of moving the 121,000 Library books and resources onto new shelving in three days. And it didn’t end there. There were also the OPACS and computers and pamphlet stands etc, all of which needed to be set up ready for the much anticipated re-opening. As the deadline approached everyone moved into overtime.

Staff felt a great sense of achievement on 13th December when the library re-opened to the oohs and aahs of the public. It looks so big, bright, lovely! was the feedback received. The renovation process was considered an outstanding success. Everyone was proud of what was achieved through the teamwork of the Dubbo branch and Regional Office staff. Perhaps most importantly was that ecstatic feeling when all the hard physical work was over and weary bodies could rest... but only until the people with their barrow loads of books were seen heading into the Library!

Tanya Cover
Reference Librarian
Dubbo Branch
History Week in public libraries

The History Council of NSW is inviting public libraries across the state to get involved in History Week in 2005. History is a key element of the cultural life of any community; it strengthens communities by strengthening their sense of identity. By hosting an event during History Week you can encourage local residents to reflect upon the many histories that make up their shared past, to think about the impact of the past on the social and physical world around them, and to discover how history has transformed the life of their community.

History Week is also an ideal occasion to promote the role of public libraries in preserving and presenting local history.

History Week is held in the third week of September each year. Inaugurated by the History Council of NSW in 1996, this annual festival offers a community-based, state-wide program of events designed to showcase the rich and diverse history being produced by organisations and individuals across New South Wales. History Week celebrates and promotes the practice of history and emphasises the role it plays in the cultural life of the community.

The theme for History Week 2005 is transform. It highlights the changing practices of history as well as the dramatic changes to environment and society that have taken place during our recorded history. History Week will run from 17-25 September 2005.

Individuals, community groups, historical societies, local councils, libraries, archives, museums and universities are all encouraged to host events during History Week. You can host an event on your own or in association with another organisation. An event can be an exhibition, open day, guided walk, heritage trail, photographic display, film showing, talk, lecture, workshop or behind-the-scenes tour. A number of libraries organised events for History Week 2004, many reflecting the interests of their local community.

Cessnock Library hosted a display by the Cessnock Historical Society, with artefacts and information about the mining history of the Cessnock area. At Merrylands Library, locals were treated to a photographic display and oral history interviews relating to the history of food in Holroyd. Mosman Library examined the impact gardens and garden planning have had on Mosman. Stanton Library organised a walking tour of Kurrawa Point. The City of Canada Bay Library ran family history workshops. Kempsey Library hosted a talk on convict ancestry. And the Southern Tablelands Regional Library outdid themselves, with displays, walks, talks, museum visits and other activities, all planned around the theme of the railways.

So get involved in History Week 2005 and showcase your local history. Registration of events for History Week is free and can be completed online at the History Council website at www.historycouncilnsw.org.au.

Registration for History Week 2005 opens Tuesday 1 March and closes Friday 27 May 2005. All events registered will be featured in the History Week Calendar of Events, available in early August. Over 10,000 calendars were distributed across the state last year.

For further information on History Week contact Carolyne Carter at the History Council office on (02) 9352 8715 or via email at <historyweek@historycouncilnsw.org.au>.

And don’t forget, History Week coincides with Treasures @ your library!

Advertising goes beyond the newspaper

Wollongong City Library has expanded its advertising beyond the local newspaper, using a combination of cinema and radio advertising to send an up-to-date, relevant message to targeted sectors of the community. We are using non-traditional advertising sources to target non-traditional library users.

Now showing @ your library!!

If you go to see one of this summer’s hit movies at the Wollongong Greater Union Cinema you will see a hip, professional library ad. The ad is young and fast paced. It doesn’t tell viewers what they already know, that the library has books. The message of this ad is that the library has music CDs, DVDs and the Internet, that it is modern, relevant and youth friendly. The image of young people using the library is set against a technology look background.

The ad targets young people and young men in particular. The male voice over is a deliberate attempt to reach that key target market.

In deciding how to target the ad’s messages, we reviewed statistics provided by Val Morgan. Whilst 24% of frequent cinemagoers are 50+, we know that the library has music CDs, DVDs and the Internet, whilst 24% of frequent cinemagoers are 50+

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Wave FM is the number one adult contemporary radio station in the Illawarra. Their breakfast show recently took first place in the A. C. Nielsen survey making it the most popular radio show in the Illawarra. Reading more than 92,000 listeners per week the station targets the 30-54 year demographic. The station is also number one with all male listeners 25+ in the Illawarra. These statistics amount to unbeatable exposure for our library.

Whilst ten questions per day is a lot to prepare, the workload is greatly reduced by the generous contribution of all library staff. The questions and answers are entered into a shared excel spreadsheet. Some questions come virtually out of thin air but a lot are found by poring through our reference books and the Internet. Once a week a selection of questions is compiled and then sent off to the radio station along with advertising copy. We use the free advertising time to make the community aware of events, services, and collections with messages as diverse as Internet training and the availability of the latest Bryce Courtenay novel.

This partnership is proving to be a very successful venture. The hosts of the breakfast show, Phoebe and Dave, have been very supportive making positive comments about the library on air. They attended our @ your library® launch and are keen to lend their support to events in the future. The exercise has also been a great opportunity to reinforce to library staff the importance of advertising in new and creative ways, to new and varied audiences.
In the libraries

Seniors Online
Hastings Library and The Port
Macquarie Senior Computer User Group joined forces to apply for a grant of $12,500 from the NSW Department of Aging, Disability and Home Care to provide basic computer tuition for seniors in the Hastings area. The application was successful and since September 2004 over 100 senior citizens have enjoyed learning the basics of computers, including applications such as word-processing, spreadsheets and home publishing, as well as accessing the Internet and email.

Never too old!
The premise for the grant was that the target group were not necessarily interested in enrolling in accredited courses at TAFE colleges or Adult Education, but merely in becoming familiar with the machine and its functions so that they could pursue their own interests.

Response to the courses was overwhelming, with the greatest demand being for the most basic content.

Planning is well under way for this year with the courses funded until June 2005. This next group of courses will look at hardware, such as using CD burners and digital image processing.

Michael O’Donnell
Hastings Library Service

No trace at the book club
Everybody likes to talk about a good book they have read and most people enjoy a friendly coffee and chat. With this in mind the Share a Book, Any Book Club was started at New Lambton Branch Library. Members meet on the first Thursday of every month to talk about books they have read. Book Club members find out about books that they may never have considered reading, as the forum includes discussions on a wide range of genres.

To celebrate the first anniversary of the Book Club, well-known mystery author, Barry Maitland visited the library to talk about his latest novel, No Trace. Barry spoke of his travels to London to research the location of the story and how he developed characters and storylines. The talk was interesting, informative and humorous. The audience asked a number of questions, which Barry gladly answered.

Afterwards the audience had the chance to meet Barry and get their book signed. The morning was a great success; every Barry Maitland book put out on display disappeared with no trace.

Wendy De Fion
Newcastle Region Library
New Lambton Branch

Colloquium
A number of public libraries were invited to attend a Colloquium on Libraries and Indigenous Knowledge at the State Library on 9th to 10th December 2004, including Bega Valley Shire Library. Qualification speakers from a wide cross-section of the community presented their research and cultural experiences, to help us understand the issues, and to stimulate conversations.

As a Library Manager working towards developing an Indigenous Unit within our library service, I found the presentations and conversations over the two days to be extremely inspiring and thought-provoking.

A panel discussion in the afternoon of the first day consisted of representatives from various institutions, including yours truly from the public library sector. We discussed what each of us had gained from the forum so that point, and what would be some of our priorities when we returned to our libraries to make it happen.

The forum gave everyone real food for thought, whether setting up a brand new Indigenous Knowledge Resource Unit in their library, or how to make what you already have of so much more value and significance to the broader identity of our communities. Many of the public library representatives attending were no doubt at various stages of planning, developing and actually providing adequate and appropriate indigenous resources. Speaking at a local public library level, and giving a little background on what’s happening at Bega, we:

• currently hold a small amount of indigenous material
• have identified an Indigenous Knowledge Centre in our Collection Development Policy within Local Studies, and as part of lending collections
• work closely with Council’s Aboriginal Liaison Officer
• have developed a Memorandum of Understanding between Council and Communities
• have a full-time indigenous position as a result of traineeships, a key element in developing a positive understanding and respect for local indigenous culture through language, protocols etc.

The key values of the colloquium for me were:

• knowing the appropriate protocols to communicate effectively with local indigenous communities
• engaging and working together from the beginning
• respecting the sensitivity of handling, storage, access and ownership of the assets
• effectively translating and working with each other’s language
• respecting and understanding each other’s points of difference
• ATSILI Protocols will be very valuable for public libraries
• investigating and targeting funding opportunities and partnerships
• researching and liaising with the State Library of New South Wales for relevant resources held on our local indigenous communities

• cross-cultural awareness and training and in accordance with the protocols. As usual State Library staff did an outstanding job in providing us all with 2 full days of conversations and inspiring presentations. A summation of the Colloquium can be found at <www.sl.nsw.gov.au/colloquium>

Papers from the colloquium will also be posted.

Janice Biggin
Manager, Library Services
Bega Valley Shire

News from Corryong
Towards the end of October the Elyne Mitchell Public Library at Corryong Library hosted an exhibition developed by the Museum of Lillydale and organised in conjunction with the Country Women’s Association. No Strings Attached was an exhibition that explored the social role of the apron in the life of women during the first half of this century. The exhibition was very popular and drew in a large number of non-library users to admire the handiwork involved.

November saw Treasures @ your library being highlighted with the presentation from the local newspaper of the paper on CD to complement the hard bound copies recently acquired by the Friends of the Corryong Library. The theme also gave us the opportunity to highlight the local history collection, particularly the titles by Elyne Mitchell. December was of course Christmas Party time and for the first year we concentrated on the school age children who regularly flock to the library after school, mainly for computer use. In conjunction with the Pizza Cinema Cafe directly across the road from the library, a Movie & Pizza event was organised for children aged between 5 and 12 yrs. This event far exceeded our expectations and was a sell-out! 36 children had a drink, some pizza and watched Garfield The Movie. The Library staff organised a display of Garfield memorabilia at the back of the cinema and the Librarian gave a short talk on the history of the Garfield comic strips. A very successful afternoon (4pm to 6pm) with many children asking if we could do this every week! (and that was before the lollies were handed out!).

Music and books!
The Friends of Corryong Library (FOCL) have also been busy, organising a wine tasting and social evening in early December with a percentage of all wine sales going into the FOCL funds. The winemaker involved presented a very educational and informative talk on each wine to nearly 50 interested people, with nibbles provided by FOCL.

FOCL also organised a successful second-hand book sale for New Year’s Eve. Nothing unusual there, but it was timed to take advantage of the large
On the first official open day, the Lachlan, Councillor Brian MacCormack, Chief Executive and the Mayor of Upper Schmidmaier AM, State Librarian and were officially opened by Mrs Dagmar. The extensions were funded for more collections, displays and its original size, with plenty of room. The library has been the official opening of the new look Gunning Library. The lively and colourful atmosphere on the only day the Library was open between Christmas and New Year. The day included live music by a very talented singer/musician named Kase O’Brien and was very popular with visitors and locals alike.

Marita Albert Corryong Branch Coordinator

News from Southern Tablelands Regional Library

Gunning Library Extensions

The Goulburn Library, thanks to funding support provided by the Goulburn Workers’ Club, has recently received the Dementia Resource Collection consisting of books, audiobooks and videos. Goulburn Mulwaree Mayor, Councillor Paul Stephenson and Ms Ann Pearson, the Community Development Coordinator with Alzheimer’s Australia NSW launched the new collection at an afternoon tea attended by interested members of the community, local health workers and representatives from the Goulburn Worker’s Club. Sylvia Brook Goulburn Library Manager

Books to Burn

Numbers of tourists and visitors in the town at the time and also presented a special appearance by the Barriers Choir and the New Lake Peer Support Dance Encore Performance Group. This was followed by a storytelling event for children at City Library, which focused on stories about children with a disability. The audience were treated to an exciting and very loud performance by the Life Without Barriers percussion group, and invited to join in the music-making with a range of instruments and craft activities.

In the Libraries

Support Dance Encore Performance Group.

In the libraries

Alongside our books! However, we had not gone into the firewood supply business, it was all part of the Goulburn Regional Art Gallery’s contemporary visual arts program, Conversations, Public Art in Public Sites. Local artist Allison Clousen, creator of the installation Books to Burn, said ‘By using quantities of wood sawn and split to book size, I think of the whole library of human knowledge brought resoundingly back to its relationship with the natural realm’.

Kirsten Farrell, whose work Babel Game is made of individual letters on acrylic sheets arranged in a pyramid shape, says of her work, ‘words are made of letters, letters make words, and, as in an impossible scrabble rack, they make nearly words...’. Both installations generated much interest and conversation among our borrowers and library staff.

Sylvia Brook Goulburn Library Manager

Dementia Resources

These activities were a wonderful opportunity for us to introduce the library to members of our community with special needs, and also provided library staff and patrons with some fantastic and unique entertainment.

Christa Herridge Outreach Librarian

Newcastle Region Library

Tutu Good to be True!

The exhibition was launched by the Associate Artistic Director of the Australian Ballet, Danilo Radojevic. The opening featured a contemporary dance piece by a local company using the Library’s Cultural Centre building as a unique backdrop. Newcastle is renowned for its long ballet tradition. The Australian Ballet’s first season in 1962 featured Newcastle trained Principal Dancer, Marilyn Jones. Since then many talented dancers from Newcastle have followed Marilyn to the...
In the libraries

Australian Ballet, including Terese Power, Elizabeth Toovey, Lisa Pawane, Veronica Mahon and Oliva Bell. This block buster exhibition included stunning pieces worn by dancers from many well loved ballets. Visitors were delighted by the craftsmanship, colour and delicacy of the pieces in the exhibition. The Library’s extensive Local Studies Collection provided an invaluable record of local dance memorabilia from the 1940s in Newcastle.

The exhibition was the first of its kind at Newcastle Region Library and attracted thousands of new visitors including budding young dancers and people with an interest in costumes and theatres. This partnership with The Australian Ballet enabled us to bring this fascinating and unique exhibition to Newcastle Region Library and the people of Newcastle.

Carol Edmonds
Education and Promotions
Newcastle Region Library

Parramatta Matters

AMLIB – go live

On October 13th 2004 Parramatta Library finally went live with AMLIB, a Councils on Line library management software system. The system has been successfully implemented into our libraries with staff embracing the new system in a professional and determined manner, daily gaining confidence and expertise, going out of their way to assist and support each other.

It was with great trepidation the morning that library staff awaited the actual ‘Go Live’ moment. To add to the drama, the portal crashed moments before the Library was due to open! Fortunately this problem was soon rectified and all sites were live by 10.00 am, and the library’s online catalogue became available by lunchtime. It was a very successful day largely due to the excellent teamwork from all Library staff.

AMLIBING and loving it!

Wendy Hogan from Capgemini commented that staff were very comfortable with the circulation process, as were the borrowers who came in droves to try out the new system (the library having been closed for two days prior… it was obvious that staff had spent lots of time preparing manuals and training and it certainly paid off’.

As Wendy observed, the trainers had done an excellent job in preparing library staff for AMLIB. Staff also benefited from the time spent developing and documenting their business rules and devising manuals. All in all a great success!

Bernadette Nicholl
Research & Information Service Manager

Parramatta City Library

Copping the Change, or One woman’s journey into the unknown

They say, A change is as good as a holiday. They could be right But I’ve been through both of late And the holiday was better

It was strange, Copping the change without a hitch. But coming undone on the everyday things That stayed the same. There’s life, Jim, but not as we know it There’s life, Jim, but not as we know it We were well prepared, Well trained, information overload if anything Shockproofed against the new

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Rhonda Brown
Collection Services Officer.

(This poem was written as a reflection on our rollout of the new Amlib library system. It also has a relationship to the big Russian trip that a lot of library staff went on recently.)

Parramatta Heritage and Visitor Information Centre

The Parramatta Heritage and Visitor Information Centre had a very busy and productive 2004. Patrons enjoyed a fascinating variety of programs which included: Tracing Your Aboriginal Family History workshop, Dark Deeds & Disasters: Scandalous Tales from Parramatta’s Past, More Dark Deeds & Scandalous Tales, Dating Old Photographs workshops, Hunting Your House’s History workshops and Behind the Scenes tours for Adults, Learners Week and Seniors Week.

By the end of 2004, 1106 people from pre-schoolers to seniors participated in 66 education and public programs. Children’s education programs at the Parramatta Heritage Centre, without exception, were keenly watched for by eager parents whose children enjoyed such programs as Hanging Around – combining recycled and new materials to make a mobile. Playing with Drama with the Australian Theatre of the Deaf and Games - What did people play with before Playstations and PCs? to name but a few.

Local Studies and Archives displays such as Mills of Parramatta, Demolished Houses of Parramatta, Historic Hotels of Parramatta, 1930s Snapshot, Parramatta at Play, Parramatta - Food bowl of Sydney, The George Street Story and Down the Tracks were popular, providing much insight into the history of Parramatta.

Rhonda Brown
Collection Services Officer.

Tomorrow is another day.
I hope they’re right.
I look forward to the change.
I need a holiday.

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Rhonda Brown
Collection Services Officer.

Successful partnerships with the Department of Education and Training, Uniting Church, NSW Transcultural Men’s Health, Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, Orange Regional Gallery, Members of the Indian Community, the Aboriginal artists’ community of Western Sydney and regional artists strengthened and fostered community involvement.

Keri Whiteley
Director
Parramatta Heritage & Visitor Information Centre

© your library

Parramatta City Library @ your library campaign was a festive affair officially launched by the Lord Mayor of Parramatta, Councillor Julia Finn, who read stories to a vast number of children during a very special story time. A guest appearance by Santa Claus, and an extremely large walking Christmas tree, added to the festivities. A party followed for the preschoolers and their parents with Santa and his ever-present Christmas tree delighting our preschoolers.

Roger Henshaw
Manager, Information & Library
Parramatta City Library

Warringah online

November saw the initial launch of Warringah Library Service’s new library management system, Millennium. Warringah had been using their old system for over twenty years so the time had well and truly come to have a web-based interface. The library has staged Millennium’s introduction and our catalogue is
You never know what you’ll find

Recently featured as an exhibit in Bathurst Library was a 1928 Model A Ford, part of an ongoing program of experiences we use to make the library interesting and to enliven the customer service interface. Cynics may say the car was just in the Library because the Library Manager has always wanted to see a car in the library but I leave it to you to reach your own conclusion.

The Model A Ford highlighted a display of books and audio visual material on cars, planes and trains held by the Library and attracted interest from a considerable number of non library users, who came to see the car, particularly and spectacularly, many of whom entered in the ‘guess the model of the car’ competition, which we held and which had some great prizes offered by our local Angus and Robertson bookstore and by the Commercial Hotel, the owners of the car. The prize winners in the competition were drawn on local radio and this generated positive publicity for the Library.

The reaction from our regular patrons was also of interest with many commenting on how exciting the Library now was. The display also resulted in an article in the local newspaper that promoted the Library, a good result in itself.

Free promotion

He was the sort of guy you really didn’t want to have staring at you in a supermarket checkout line, six foot six, muscled, with a lean face, arms covered in tattoos and obviously out for trouble.

The Express Zone or where have all the new books gone

The imitation of a bookshop style environment, through the provision of proactive customer service, easy seating, cafe facilities, sale of food and beverages and the creation of an effective browsing area through large-scale cover-out display of as many books as possible, has been a feature of Bathurst Library for several years now. In terms of user satisfaction this new look is a real winner, with comments being made by users about the relaxed atmosphere, ease of browsing and with many users now only going as far as the new book or featured books displays to select their material.

Currently we have well over a thousand books displayed in areas such as new Fiction, new Non Fiction, new Large Print, a reader’s selection stand where our readers can place a book they have read to recommend it to others, a true crime stand and a thriller stand, as well as a seemingly permanent Harry Potter display! The practice of cover-out display is carried through to the Young Adult area, with comics and graphic novels as well as many new books being displayed in this manner.

All our paperbacks are displayed cover out, in stands holding romance or science fiction or thrillers and in four stands holding general paperbacks. Attempts to label specific stands as holding authors A – K for example, were soon abandoned as the constant replenishment needed to maintain a retail standard of display was not achievable within the constraints imposed by trying to keep and fit the books in order in their respective stands.

The library has designed and built some display stands and bought others from commercial outlets, with some shelf stands from a closed Grace Brothers store being particularly useful. More paperback racks similar to those used alone the walls in many bookshops are now being purchased and these are all angled to show covers.

Our fiction shelves now contain very few of the latest titles as new books always go to the cover-out displays where they are often borrowed immediately. Should gaps appear in the displays they are filled quickly, just like in a retail outlet, even to the extent of suitable books being removed from the normal shelves. Certainly some compromises are made in terms of books being displayed this way for browsing as little importance is attached to having them in order by author or Dewey, for to do so would limit the ease of refreshing the display as well as the browsing nature of the arrangement. Our library users have expressed a liking for the display arrangement both in terms of use patterns and the number of compliments received. The facility of being able to easily view all new books has far outweighed any consideration by our users (or Library staff) to have all books in order.

The cover-out display presents the book as it was designed to be shown. Paperback in particular need to be shown cover out like the bookshops do, and by doing so Bathurst Library has increased its paperback loans from...
some 11,532 issues in 1998/1999 to 18,224 in 2003/2004. To enhance this browsing area concept further we are going to rename our cover-out display area, the Express Zone and provide even more shelving for paperbacks, DVDs and CDs, all in an area close to the entrance and all presented cover-out.

John Cumberford
Library Manager
Bathurst City Library

Joe Cinque’s Consolation, a true story of death, grief and the law. THIS IS NOT FICTION! I’m one of Phillip Adams’ Gladdies! Radio National at 10 pm is a must and I had been waiting to hear Adams interview Anu Singh and Maria and Nino Cinque. Adams introduced his theme for the night by telling his listeners about a book, Joe Cinque’s Consolation by Helen Garner which he has just read and then goes on to describe the impact and effect it had on him. Helen Garner took 5 years to write Joe Cinque’s Consolation. The book is a true account of how we humans struggle to deal with wounded lives, the legal system, victims of crime, perpetrators of crime, manipulation and control, unbearable grief and living with the dead. Garner periodically takes time in the book to recognise and reflect on her own personal condition in relationship with those whom she is writing about. The book is also Garner’s consolation. What she faced daily during the period of the court case in Canberra in 1997 was what she described as dealing with evil, clothed in a 20th Century western culture. And in the court are the silenced victims.

I have just finished reading Joe Cinque’s Consolation. I ring Maria and Nino Cinque! Nino answers the phone. I introduce myself by saying my name and that I live in Bathurst and I work at Bathurst Library. I have read the book by Helen Garner. I tell him and Maria that six weeks ago I listened to Phillip Adams on Radio National interview them and Anu Singh. We then talk about parenthood, racial discrimination and justice. There is not a day which passes that Maria and Nino do not think of Joe.

When was the last time you read a book that so stirred your conscience? You were compelled to buy five copies for your library?

Aniko Korob
Outreach Program Officer
Bathurst Library

(Editors’ note. This is an edited version of Aniko’s review. Contact her if you would like to read it all.)

Tamworth’s new library and art gallery

After years of gestation the former Tamworth City Council finally approved the appointment of Architectus Brisbane Pty Ltd in 2003 to design a new city library and art gallery development. The firm had many credits to its name with dramatic and exciting new and refurbished library buildings in Queensland. A last minute decision by Council changed the proposed site of the building from rising phoenix like on the old Marius Street library building site, to the current site in Peel Street giving the building a much higher profile in the City. The former building on the site was demolished and the building began in earnest in February 2004. The new Library and Art gallery is located on a narrow-fronted, long, sloping site. It is set back from Peel Street allowing the opportunity of a gathering space in a public forecourt. Glass windows at the front of the building provide passers by with a view into the library. The front is divided into three bays in reference to the existing streetscape reflecting the façade of the adjacent Masonic Hall.

The building is constructed on two levels with the Library on level one and the Gallery on level two. Both facilities can be reached by an external walkway from the car park behind or by an elegant staircase allowing views to the upper gallery foyer or lift from the front of the building.

The Library is arranged internally into living rooms and not by the traditional Dewey Decimal and alphabetical arrangement. Each living room offers its resources in all formats and also computer technology. Study desks and an amazing number of easy chairs and sofas are scattered throughout the living rooms affording clients privacy and comfort. The entire adult non-fiction collection had to be done in the new building to get everything into its right place but it was just as worth the effort’, said Tamworth and Information Services Librarian, Kay Delashunt. People are delighted to find everything on their subject almost within an arm’s reach from the easy chairs. Many people say that they now stay too long at the Library!

The new desk

Young people enjoy the colours, burnt orange, lime green and strong blue and their own areas near the coke and coffee vending machines. Children are dragging their parents back to the library to use the little mushroom seats or to steal quietly away and sit in private seats of their own (an unexpected form of noise control!). Adult-sized furniture beside the children’s area has proved a real hit and they are filled with parents and children reading and looking at picture books together. There is now more room for everyone.

Each level is almost 1500 square metres over a length of 745 metres and 20 metres width. Upstair the beautiful galleries complement any visit to the Library. On the upper level there is a meeting room with 54 seats, a studio and well equipped kitchen. The total project cost of Tamworth’s newest cultural building is $7.95m with a construction cost of $6m.

From 8 public computers with Internet access in the former building, we now have 22 flat screens. People return their books through the foyer after-hours return chutes so that the moment they enter the library nothing holds them up from what they wish to do. And people have been filling the air-conditioned front foyer patiently standing or sitting on the divans talking to each other and waiting for the magic doors to open and let them in!

It has become the place to be seen and with forthcoming events planned to take place in the library there is a high expectation of many more people using the new library than did before.

History of Library Development in Tamworth

A Library has been in existence in Tamworth in some form since 1856. A Mechanics Institute/School of Arts began it all in 1856. It was housed in the National Public School in Peel Street. In 1866 a Mechanics Institute was built in Brisbane Street and a local storekeeper donated £150 to add a reading room. In 1877 the National Public School changed locations and Council bought the old school building for a Town Hall, Council Chambers and to house a free library. The Mechanics’ Institute closed its library through lack of use in 1883 but reopened again in the 1890s. Emotions were stilled in June 1933 when a Country Book Club subscription library opened in town.

World-War II saw the Mechanics’ Institute close and be converted into a canteen for the troops. In 1941 the Council books were donated to the Mechanics’ Institute and the Council closed its library.

A great spot to relax

In 1947 a greatly improved library service came into being. Council took over the Mechanics Institute building and established a Library and Art gallery. In 1950 Tamworth Council became the Executive Council for the new Namois Regional Library and remained in the Mechanics’ Institute Building until the opening in 1961 of the V Guy Kable building in Marius Street. Into this building the Library and Art Gallery were duly moved and remained there for 43 years. In 1973 Council opened a new branch library building in South Tamworth.

On 14 December 2004 the new Library and Art Gallery building opened again in Peel Street, the main street of Tamworth and its CBD. This was a particularly significant year in Tamworth’s history with Tamworth being amalgamated into the greater Tamworth Regional Council. The Library’s influence now extends to residents of the former Shires of
In the libraries

Barraba, Nundle, Manilla and Parry as well as Tamworth.

Alan Barclay
Regional Manager
Central Northern Libraries

Greatest gift is in the giving
Giving is a great way to share in the Christmas spirit and residents of Lake Macquarie were asked to donate toys to help disadvantaged children. The annual Mayors' Christmas Toy appeal was launched at Toronto Library during December with the Mayorress, Lyn Piper of Lake Macquarie City Libraries is hoping to raise enough money to provide a Christmas present for all disadvantaged children.

Kylie Duncan
Lake Macquarie City Library

What's new at Singleton (apart from the library...)?
One of the features of the new Singleton Public Library is the meeting and training rooms. These rooms have enabled us to provide more programs for adults. Recently we hosted a very successful Meet the Author evening with well known ABC radio commentator and author Craig Hamilton. Craig, who originated from Singleton, wrote the book Braten open in which he details his mental breakdown and diagnosis of bipolar disorder. Craig's motivation for writing this book was not only to provide information about mental illness but more importantly he wanted to dispel the stigma that often surrounds people with depression.

The format of the evening was a short talk by Craig in which he detailed his personal experience with Bipolar Disorder. This was followed by a very rigorous question time. Craig also brought along copies of his books for purchase and did a book signing. The evening concluded with wine and nibbles.

The guitar!
Not every library can boast that they have a guitar signed by three of Australia's leading bands, Powderfinger, Jet and Magic Dirt. The guitar, encased in a stunning carnival masks which she decorated with the comforts of home and camped out for Shire wide Youth Services six of us information Week and to raise money and provided inspiration to art lovers and craft enthusiasts of all ages.

Isabella Andruszkiewicz
Home Library Service Officer
Auburn Library

Breaking the record!
To celebrate Australian Library & Information Week and to raise money for Shire wide Youth Services six of us from Sutherland Shire Libraries gave up the comforts of home and camped out at the library for three nights. We did this in an effort to break the Guinness World Record for reading out aloud.

Art at Auburn
The Local newspaper was very impressed by a mouth painting artist whose story was featured on the front page of the Auburn Review. The exhibition attracted many young viewers and provided inspiration to art lovers and craft enthusiasts of all ages.

Isabella Andruszkiewicz
Home Library Service Officer
Auburn Library

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The new building includes greatly managers in the South East Zone CPLA. Rather than be defeated, we envisioned.

In this, we were successful. The community took great interest in the event and many people took on an active role. Local Rotary and Lions clubs assisted us by giving their time to witness the event and local businesses supported us by donating food, massages and hair care (which were greatly appreciated by the gang!)

We achieved a good deal of media coverage. This included great radio coverage. We spoke to Adam and Will on the Triple J breakfast show, which was a highlight for all of us. Ashley the rowing reporter from 2BL, with Angela Caroamt turned out for a live interview and we spoke to Angela later in the week to tell her how it finished up.

We had two interviews on 2SSR (our local radio station). Our attempt was mentioned on Nova and on 2GB with Alan Jones. We had an interview on 2GB in the afternoon with Jason. There were also two articles in the St George & Sutherland Shire Leader, as well as an article in the Daily Telegraph.

The library was buzzing during the attempt, with a constant stream of supporters, curious bystanders and puzzled patrons, all of whom seemed to enjoy the unusual nature of the attempt.

Staff support was great; they really got behind us and helped to make the attempt a success.

We got through 27 books during the attempt, all by Australian authors, the longest being My Place by Sally Morgan (13 hours) and the shortest being How to Love a Bug: A Love Story by Simon Beecroft (8 minutes).

Copies of all items read were sent to Guinness for verification along with log books, signed declarations and a short video of highlights.

Participating was for the most part a lot of fun for all involved and was certainly one way to celebrate library week that we won’t be forgetting in a while. I can’t imagine what we will do next year!

Arny White
Branch Librarian
Engadine Library

Author visits

The Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library was successful with a Library Development Grant application for Aussie Fiction which involved the purchase of Australian fiction for all ages, and a series of promotional author visits.

During 2004 staff have busily been purchasing and processing new Australian fiction titles. On 3 December adult author Robyn Lee Burrows spoke at the Kyogle, Evans Head and Casino Libraries. Robyn writes Australian sags as well as having some non-fiction work published. Her visit was well publicised in the local print and radio media and within the libraries. Robyn gave a fascinating talk to people at the Kyogle, Evans Head and Casino libraries.

More author visits are planned for 2005.

Gary Illen
Regional Library Manager
Richmond Upper Clarence

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What’s a good book to read?

Following years of tackling computer literacy for staff and the public, the library managers in the South East Zone CPLA turned their thoughts back to that oft-heard plea from the public of “What can I read next?”

Viewing the sophisticated websites being produced in the United Kingdom produced very pleasant ideas until we remembered the funds we would need and quickly thumbed back to earth. If you wish to feel envious, take a look at http://www. whichbook.net/index.jsp http://www. whichstoryouwhootonight.com/welcome/ http://www.readroutes.org.uk/.

Rather than be defeated we envisioned a future where there were tools and resources both staff and the public could use in Australia. The resources we do have is our staff. The first stage was to develop a Reading’s Advisory training program for library staff in the zone. We applied for and were successful in getting a Library Development Grant. Ian McCallum and Sherry Quinn from Libraries Alive worked with staff from the zone to develop a train-the-trainer program, Rewarding Reading do you have any more books like this? which would enable participants to return to their libraries and train other staff. While trainers need 3 days to complete the trainer program, the course for staff can be delivered as 4 half-day blocks.

During the train-the-trainer course there was a great exchange of ideas of things which were easy to do and worked. Presently library staff are being trained throughout the zone. It...
seems to be a pleasant as well as useful experience. Once the program has been evaluated it will be made available to other library services in the state (and maybe further afield).

While the immediate aim was to improve the skills of library staff, an exchange of ideas quickly followed. This is being facilitated by a mailing list, alias.READ, which you can join by following the subscription link on http://www.ala.org.au/alianet/e-lists/

The list is moderated by Ellen Forsyth of Public Library Services who has a deep knowledge of, and lively interest in, reader services. If you would like more information about the South East Zone’s Rewarding Reading Program please contact Jean Jamieson, tel: 02 4823 4432 or email jean.jamieson@goulburn.nsw.gov.au.

Jean Jamieson
Client Services Coordinator
Southern Tablelands Regional Library
and in action…

Last year staff at Wingecarribee Libraries took part in a Reader’s Advisory Training Program designed to help staff promote rewarding reading. As it was late in the year we decided that it would still have to return the item! were more than happy to be involved. Some borrowers came back every week in December to get more and lots gave us positive feedback. With item returns we received thank you notes, reviews and abstracts. We have introduced new authors to borrowers and found out that contrary to some beliefs, our borrowers have not read everything on our shelves! It was an easy promotion to organise and involved all our library staff in the Christmas spirit of giving.

Helen Cowen
Wingecarribee Public Library

Shopping for a shrink

Cindy and Todd

Todd Zemek, trained psychologist and psychotherapist and Director of Melbourne Counselling and Psychotherapy, chose Willoughby City Library to host the Sydney launch of his book. Shopping for a Shrink: A Simple Guide to Seeing a Counsellor or Therapist. Coinciding with Mental Health Week, the launch was held at the Civic Centre on 14th October 2004.

At the launch, Todd was introduced by Dr Cindy Fan who described his book as ‘evasive, comforting, reassuring and bright’. She went on to praise him for providing a book that ‘answers the questions we’ve all wondered but felt too shy to ask’.

Todd’s talk on the topic of mental health echoed the light-hearted approach of his book. Shopping for a Shrink provides the reader with a practical guide to seeking therapy using a cheerful and entertaining approach to a topic that is still not completely without stigma. Following the Author Talk and launch Todd signed copies of his book for guests. Dymocks Bookkeepers, Chatswood, provided Shopping for a Shrink for sale at the venue.

Todd Zemek’s Author Talk and launch concluded a highly successful year of Author Talks hosted by Willoughby City Library. Information about up-coming Author Talks can be obtained at the library or at Council’s website at www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au.

Clare Evans
Willoughby City Library

Happy Birthday!

The Library is housed in a multi-use building that we share with Council Customer Services, the Youth Centre and community meeting spaces. As a whole we are known as the Erina Centre and considering the fact that it was our first birthday we had to celebrate in a big way. Naturally, a week-long party was planned!

The week started with a visit, co-promoted with Dymocks Erina Fair, from author and ABC Radio personality, James Valentine who spoke on a wide range of topics, including his young adult series Jumpan, which he has just finished writing. From there we had daily storytimes, face painting, scrapbooking, quick meals on a budget, a home and leisure expo, music making, hip hop and break dance, circus skills, a bucking bull (which most of the library staff tried, with hilarious results), an astronomy workshop and much, much more.

There were also special visits from a magician who we called Greg – which was a good thing as that was his name (his joke not mine), a man dressed as a duck teaching our storytime kids about water safety and Whizzy Wally Water Drop who danced while she handed out birthday cake to lucky customers. Snakes, turtles, lizards, a crocodile and an alligator also made an appearance.

Snakes, turtles, lizards, a crocodile and an alligator also made an appearance. There were also special visits from a magician who we called Greg – which was a good thing as that was his name (his joke not mine), a man dressed as a duck teaching our storytime kids about water safety and Whizzy Wally Water Drop who danced while she handed out birthday cake to lucky customers. Snakes, turtles, lizards, a crocodile and an alligator also made an appearance. One morning – much to the delight of staff and customers alike.

To finalise the week the library hosted a Kids Christmas Party where there were games, music, stories, more face painting and lolly bags for the kids, all topped off by the lighting of the library’s Christmas tree. Staff and customers were treated to the beautiful singing of the Harmony Chorus throughout the party, which was a peaceful and uplifting end to a very hectic and successful week.

All that’s left now really is the clean-up, oh and to start planning for next year’s party of course!

Kristen McElroy
Erina Branch Librarian

Understanding Cancer

The Understanding Cancer pilot project was completed last year. The project formed a partnership between the Health Information Service, State Library of NSW, Cancer Council NSW and 20 NSW public libraries. The partnership assisted libraries in providing access to quality assured, reliable and up-to-date cancer information for their clients.

The pilot was a great success for library staff, clients and the Cancer Council NSW. Library users provided positive feedback about the display stand and the ability to access quality cancer information through their library.

The top three titles taken from the stands were Understanding Food and Cancer, Understanding Chemotherapy and Understanding Emotions and Cancer.

Publicity surrounding the project created positive media exposure for participating libraries and the Cancer Council NSW. Each component of the pilot is now recommended for statewide application.

The Cancer Council has recently offered options for participation in the project to all NSW libraries and asked libraries to register an interest. As with the pilot, the project provides libraries with a display stand, brochures and booklets, a recommended reading list and online training sessions. Costs to libraries will be determined by the number of libraries involved in the project, their location and number of registered borrowers. As part of the project, libraries are encouraged to consider purchasing books from the

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In touch with the State Library

Voluntary service and communicating on the Internet, and making increasing use of the Internet for service delivery. Public libraries, as providers of community access to the Internet, have experienced increasing demand from clients who want to access government services online. To establish a greater understanding of the role public libraries play in supporting Government services, the Public Library Network Research Committee commissioned the research NSW Public Libraries and eGovernment. The project involved interviews with a selection of public library staff across NSW as well as with local councils, TAFEs, schools and other community services.

Interviews were also held with State Library and public library representatives and NSW government agencies. A questionnaire was then distributed to all NSW public libraries. Environmentics conducted the research. For the first time we have a detailed picture of the role public libraries play in supporting the community’s use of online government services. The key findings to emerge from the study are:

• growing demand: public libraries are experiencing a continual growth in client use of eGovernment services;
• invisible draw on resources: while use of some eGovernment services is highly visible, it is difficult to know the extent to which clients use these services at public libraries. This prevents a true assessment of the impact Government is having on public libraries;
• unintended impacts: greater access and efficiencies are the reasons for eGovernment services. However, for public libraries and their clients, use of these services can result in an extra burden in terms of access and resources.

The project’s steering group is currently reviewing the report before it is finalised and a response is provided. For further information regarding the project go to <www.sl.nsw.gov.au/pln>.

In touch with the State Library

In 2003 Amanda Vaccaro from Albury Library was trained and has since conducted many courses from the General to the Advanced. Here are Amanda’s comments about her skills.net experiences:

I am looking forward to continuing these courses this year and to continue to gain the wonderful feedback we have received from our participants.

Amanda Vaccaro
Albury Library

Richmond Upper- Clarence Regional Library (RUCRL)

Since June 2004 we have held 13 sessions of the basic beginner module of SkillsNet, ‘Searching on the Internet - General Information’. The pitch at RUCRL in 2004 was beginner- based Internet training, because basic Internet literacy and searching skills were gauged as the area of greatest need from library clients. The sessions were held at a variety of locations within the RUCRL region which included Kyogle and Evans Head libraries and Bonalbo Community Technology Centre (CTC). Our participants came from various backgrounds, but it was really encouraging to see so many seniors and ladies doing the training.

We have had a lot of very positive feedback, as well as some very useful constructive comments from all our session participants. Participants appreciate our practice of having sessions only when closed; the need for a tea-break, which we have as an ice-breaker at the beginning; water on-hand for re-hydrating our brains: to ensure each training group was able to complete the session together. Some other client comments have

been very positive:

...the best thing since sliced bread!“

Joanne Smith
Raymond Terrace Branch Librarian

NSW Public Libraries and eGovernment

All levels of Australian Government are making increasing use of the Internet for service delivery. Public libraries, as providers of community access to the Internet, have experienced increasing demand from clients who want to access government services online. To establish a greater understanding of the role public libraries play in supporting Government services, the Public Library Network Research Committee commissioned the research NSW Public Libraries and eGovernment. The project involved interviews with a selection of public library staff across NSW as well as with local councils, TAFEs, schools and other community services. Interviews were also held with State Library and public library representatives and NSW government agencies. A questionnaire was then distributed to all NSW public libraries. Environmentics conducted the research. For the first time we have a detailed picture of the role public libraries play in supporting the community’s use of online government services. The key findings to emerge from the study are:

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In touch with the State Library

Recommended reading list. This list is available on the Health Information Service website http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/health.

Please contact the Health Information Service on (02) 9273 1694 or Graham Newling at the Cancer Council NSW on (02) 9334 1923 for further information.

BHP Billiton Skills.Net training update

BHP Billiton Skills.net NSW delivers free Internet workshops to people living in rural and remote communities across the state via public libraries. The program is a partnership between BHP Billiton, Rural Link (with Commonwealth Networking the Nation funding) and the State Library. This train the trainer program has been available through country public libraries since 2003. 108 public library staff have been trained and are delivering the Skills.net workshops in their local communities. As of January 2005, 2500 people across country New South Wales have been trained by public library staff in approximately 100 towns. At the end of last year the State Library’s Policy and Research section conducted an evaluation of the Skills.net project. As a result of some of the findings of this report, and comments and observations made by public library trainers we will be making some changes to some of the Skills.net courses in the near future such as introducing two one-hour beginner workshops. In July 2004, Heather Hanley from Orange Library offered her valuable experience of Skills.net training and here are some comments from three other public library trainers about their Skills.net experiences:

Upper Murray Regional Library (UMRL)

UMRL has been a member of the Skills.net team since the program began in July 2003. In 2004 Amanda Vaccaro from Albury Library was trained and has since conducted many courses from the General to the Advanced. Here are Amanda’s comments about her skills.net experiences:

I have found that the courses are popular due to their simplicity in presentation, and the amount of knowledge obtained by the participant. The sessions are also age friendly, as I have had participants ranging in age from 20 to 85 years, all of whom gained knowledge regarding the Internet and its uses. The slides are an interesting and proactive way of exploring the Internet, as well as being termed in language suitable for the novice. This is greatly appreciated by the participants, who often find Internet awareness overwhelming.

The sessions are flexible as well, which allows us to tailor a course suitable to the participants’ needs and our usually busy schedule. We often have people returning to participate in follow-on sessions, such as advanced Internet searching and email and communication on the Internet. With the introduction of the one hour sessions, I find that participation may rise and the courses will be easier to schedule into our roster. It has been of great benefit to me in presenting these sessions as I have gained more experience in presentation skills and a deeper understanding of the internet.

I am looking forward to continuing these courses this year and to continue to gain the wonderful feedback we have received from our participants.

Amanda Vaccaro
Albury Library

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resources for your library? You might like to explore the following options for some creative funding options. The Australian Government has GrantsLINK which is a searchable and browsable list of grants available from the Federal and State governments. <http://www.grantslink.gov.au/index.htm>.

Communitybuilders is a State government of New South Wales web site, with information on grants and other funding sources which your council may be eligible to apply for. <http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/funding_funds/>. You can join their email list <http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/> which will provide updates on key sites they are linked to. You can even contribute your events and information to Communitybuilders.

New South Wales State Government grants can also be found by going to the State government web site <http://www.nsw.gov.au> and searching for “grants”.

Ellen Forsyth
Public Library Services

Update on the New South Wales Government Gazette Project

The New South Wales Government Gazette Project is gathering momentum. Late last year the Library expressed its intention to microfilm the New South Wales Government Gazette. Many libraries and organisations indicated interest in contributing copies for filming or in eventually subscribing to the microfilm version.

In the first phase of the project the aim is to produce microfilm copies of the New South Wales Government Gazette from its first issue in 1832 up to 1900. The Library has now received the first six reels covering the first seven years, 1832-1838. The Collection Preservation Branch of the Library has inspected 100% of the microfilm carefully to ensure quality control on this key project.

The project timetable to June, 2005 is:

- 1832-1838 Completed 6 reels
- 1839-1840 31 Jan 2005 3 reels
- 1841-1865 30 June 2005 50 reels

As the size of the Gazette gradually increases there are more reels per year. We have been advised that in the period after 1865, the average number of reels per year will go from two reels in the 1841-1865 period to three reels. One thing we are interested to know is whether other organisations have indexed any of the volumes over the years. The Library has the published indexes which will be filmed towards the end of the project, but we would like to canvas the range of options available to enhance access to this significant resource. Please contact me with information about the years indexed and type of indexing, such as name indexing or by subject, for example. Your comments are welcome.

The microfilm supplier working with the project has said that he will circulate details enabling libraries to subscribe when he has completed filming the first 10 years in the first quarter of 2005.

Jorjylyn Brown
Manager, Collection Services

Multicultural news

Chinese Helpline

The Alzheimer’s Australia NSW Chinese Helpline operates every Thursday from 9 am to 1 pm. Information is just a phone call away for the Chinese speaking community on 1800 300 386. Both Cantonese and Mandarin are spoken. The Chinese Helpline is for those who are worried because they or a loved one are becoming increasingly forgetful, and would like information and support about memory loss and dementia.

Information is provided on:
- What is dementia
- Early warning signs
- Available treatment
- Managing difficult behaviours
- Available services
- The stress on the carer
- Who can use this service

People living with dementia
- Carers of people living with dementia
- People concerned about memory loss
- Aged care workers and professionals

There are also free Chinese help sheets on dementia and related issues.

The Chinese Helpline is for Chinese communities and Sydney, of Chinese respect they deserve and the support for the Arts.

The main aims of this project were to:
- raise awareness among the broad migrant community and Sydney of the existence of an extensive range of Languages Other Than English (LOTE) lending collections and other related services in NSW public libraries,
- raise the profile of the public library system in general
- and remove some of the barriers to achieving access and equity to migrant groups who want to visit libraries.

To go your local library: Discover a whole new world. This message was previously tested in a campaign run in 2001, and it was agreed that the messages and colour in the ad should remain the same as they were simple, succinct and easy to translate.

And the winning bus!

In 2001 billboard sites were seen as the best medium to promote the message as they fitted well within the aims and objectives of the campaign. Unfortunately participating libraries in the eastern suburbs were not comprehensively catered for. In 2003 to guarantee even coverage across the West, South-West and Eastern suburbs, research was conducted into the media
that would best service the needs of 
this campaign, and bus sides and bus 
interiors were chosen as the primary 
advertising medium. Buses provided 
comprehensive coverage in the above 
areas and were able to accommodate 
the nine languages targeted. Languages 
used were Greek, Italian, Russian, Hindi, 
Indonesian, Serbian, Croatian and 
Korean.

**Multicultural news**

A post card from Denmark
Lotte Petersen from the State and 
University Library/Section of the Danish 
Central Library for Immigrant Literature 
was very impressed by the outstanding 
results of the Multicultural Advertising 
Campaign when she heard the State 
Library’s Multicultural Consultant, 
Oriana Acevedo, speak about it at the 
2004 IFLA Conference. She sought 
and was granted funding to develop a similar 
campaign in Denmark.

Spreading the word Bengali style
The Multicultural Service of the State 
library of NSW has been undergoing 
a long and steady process of enhancement 
over the past year. Oriana Acevedo and 
Shauna Miller have worked tirelessly 
to ensure the collection is up-to-date, 
presentable, informative, entertaining 
and a good read. The multicultural 
collection provided by the State library 
of NSW contains books in over 50 
languages and covers fiction, non-fiction, 
adult, children and bi-lingual books. 
The collection also includes books on 
audio tape and videos to aid in learning 
English. As a volunteer over the past 
year, it has been my job to oversee 
the promotion of the Multicultural 
collection for my community, the 
Bangladeshi community.

Bangladesh is a country of 140 million 
people who are deeply influenced 
by their cultural and traditional roots. 
The Multicultural collection of the State 
library has a comprehensive coverage of 
Bengali literature and lifestyle including 
material for all ages, cultures, religions 
and lifestyles. As such it is a crucial 
resource for Bengalis in Australia to 
feel confident in the maintenance of 
their cultural traditions through the 
availability of reading material for 
themselves and their children.

Enjoying the fair
Before working at the Library I was 
blissfully ignorant of the fact that these 
books were so easily accessible to the 
public. Once I had learned of the 
process of borrowing I realised the 
need for the Bengali community at 
large to be informed of this delightful 
resource. On the 24 of October 
2004 the Bengali community held a 
feast consisting of many cultural 
and traditional stalls with food, clothing, 
ornaments and music, and as a result of 
extensive planning on behalf of Oriana 
and myself, literature. A stall was booked 
on the day and colourful and attractive 
banners and posters were used to 
decorate it. Promotional material 
included, pamphlets in both English and 
Bengali and brochures and bookmarks 
containing information regarding the 
services and steps for borrowing Bangla 
books. A few books were chosen 
as examples of the types of genres 
available and put on display to attract 
attention.

The stall was a great success as a result 
of the various decorations, give-away 
and displays. The Bengali community is 
now well informed and able to make 
the best of this extensive collection. 
It is now our aim to promote greater 
awareness to other communities 
which are in similar ignorance. It is 
our privilege to be able to provide 
numerous communities with the 
knowledge to read in their own 
language and thus contribute to the 
thriving garden of multiculturalism in 
New South Wales.

Shafeen Mustaq

Carnivale 2004

It has been our tradition to feature 
a different ethnic group each year at 
Carnivale. This year Willoughby Library 
featured Filippo culture, with Filippo 
clothes, accessories and woven grass 
baskets displayed in a glass cabinet 
near the library entrance to welcome 
customers during the Carnivale period. 
Two sets of Filippo national dress, the 
Balintawak and the Maranao were hung 
in the centre of the information and 
circulation desk area with a decorated 
Filippo umbrella. Filippo wreaths of 
flowers, hats, mats, the national flag and 
pictures of the beautiful scenery were 
on display in the library. The exhibition 
attracted many library users who 
stopped to look as they walked by. 
The Filippo cultural atmosphere also 
extended to the Children’s Library. One 
of the famous sighting destinations in 
the Philippines is called Chocolate Hills. 
A large poster of Chocolate Hills and a 
lot of chocolate pictures were displayed 
in the Children’s Library. Our young 

Denis Moore, Waverley Library 
Manager and Cr Beverley Giegerl, 
President Metropolitan Public 
Libraries Association

The creative work displayed on the bus 
sides was adapted to posters, post cards 
and banners. There were five language 
combinations, and a total of 10,000 
postcards and 1,000 posters were 
printed. Postcards and posters were 
distributed to public libraries in NSW, 
Migrant Resource centres, over 100 
community groups, community language 
schools, TAFE colleges, places of worship 
and community clubs.

The intention behind the message, Go 
to your local Library, was to inform and 
stimulate interest in the use of libraries 
and the campaign highlighted learning 
English, borrowing books in your own 
language and accessing the Internet.

To reinforce the message that public 
libraries are more than books and 
are used by a diverse client group, the 
photographic artwork featured images 
of computers, newspapers, discussion 
groups and people of all ages and 
national backgrounds.

The photography was done by Scott 
Wyon from the State Library and 
the photos featured library staff from 
the State Library and public libraries 
including Durga Soni, Barbara 
Lysikowsky and Allan Bruzzese as 
well as members of the communities 
targeted during the campaign.

Statistical data was received from 
Botany Bay, Blacktown, Burwood, 
Fairfield, Liverpool, Parramatta, 
Randwick, South Sydney, State Library 
of New South Wales and Waverley.

The information collated was based on 
monthly LOTE circulation figures for 
the nine targeted languages, collected 
both before and after the campaign from 
libraries located along the paths of the 
bus routes. Lending figures are from 
the period June to October 2001 - 2003.

These figures also include requests 
for books, (from public libraries) in 
the targeted languages from the State 
Library, commonly referred to as bulk 
loans. For further information, read 
publications/

Oriana Acevedo
Multicultural Consultant
Public Library Services

**Multicultural news**

March 2005 vol 11 no 1
Multicultural news

customers were also attracted to the colourful display in the main library.

Willoughby carnivale

The highlights of Carnivale 2004 included:

A Street Fair

Every year the library’s Carnivale coincides with Willoughby’s Spring Festival. As usual the Library ran an art and craft stall at the Council’s Spring Street Fair Day. Many children enjoyed the library stall where they made headbands and had a temporary tattoo applied.

Harlequin to the Rescue

The award-winning puppeteer, Dennis Murphy entertained our young clients by performing an Italian puppet show, Harlequin to the Rescue. Both children and adults gathered together bravely in the Children’s Library to help Harlequin rescue the princess. Everyone was happy when the princess was rescued successfully.

Needlepoint Workshop

Carnivale 2004 included a special activity for adults. Award-winning needlepoint artist Clare Muzzatti was invited to run a needlepoint workshop at the Library. Clare patiently taught the participants one of her beautiful designs, gum blossom. Attendees enjoyed the workshop and were proud of the pieces they made themselves.

Wild and Woolly Tales

During Wild and Woolly World Tales children were invited to travel the world with Anne Jarrett through stories and music. Anne sang hello in different languages then told us stories from different parts of the world. Anne used a lot of musical instruments from different countries to create the atmosphere for her stories. The children were very excited with these sound effects, especially the sound of sea. Children were also interested in participating in Anne’s storytelling by playing the large drum and singing together with her.

An Audience with Miaow

Our last activity was An Audience with Miaow, a puppet show presented by Bronwyn Vaughan. Bronwyn brought Miaow, a fluffy Chinese puppet cat, to Willoughby Library to tell children stories from and about China. The show also included the two pocket dogs Yam and Cha and the children were taught Chinese Lion Dancing. The audience was fascinated with the Chinese traditional costume that Bronwyn wore, not to mention the cat Miaow.

Clare Evans

Community Information

Willoughby City Library

Willoughby carnival

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Willoughby City Library
**Children's news**

**The Bad Book**
Following an article in the local newspaper by an adult member of our community on the lack of merit in the Bad Book by Andy Griffiths, we decided to let the children in our community speak for themselves. We invited our junior readers to write book reviews of the Bad Book and we organized for the local paper to take a photo and print their reviews. Some excerpts are provided, but suffice to say the word was positive and powerful!

**My favourite story in the Bad Book was the bad ant and Humpty Dumpty. If you're bad and you know it, you really want to show it, you better read this very bad book, it is wickedly funny, it just gets badder and badder and badder. Poppy, aged 7.**

I enjoyed this book. I especially liked the comic about a rather brainless mother and her unfortunate son. I liked this book but would only read it once. **Gabriela, aged 11.**

**I would give the Bad Book a 7/10. Daniel, aged 13**

**John Cumberford**
Library Manager
Bathurst City Library

**Summer in the Hunter**
Lake Macquarie City Library took part in the recent @your library launch with local magician Joel Howlett entertaining the crowd. The library used the proceedings to also launch the Hunter Libraries Summer Program. Twenty-eight libraries from Lake Macquarie, Cessnock, Maitland, Newcastle, and Port Stephens will hold weekly fun activities during the Summer Program.

During the summer program, children and parents can enjoy fun activities including science workshops, craft, cartooning, puppet shows, dancing, stories, and music.

Children also had the chance to win prizes by borrowing Library items between 4 January and 22 January 2005. All entrants went into a draw to win a $100 gift voucher to spend at Angus & Robertson bookstores.

The Hunter Libraries’ Summer Program is part of the state wide campaign, Holiday Fun @your library. The aim of the campaign is to encourage residents to participate in the programs, services and facilities available at Hunter Libraries. If other library services would like further information about the Hunter Libraries Summer program please phone Lake Macquarie City Library 0249 210 447.

**Visiting author Penny Hall, now a resident of Lake Macquarie conducted 13 creative writing workshops for school children and the finalists during July and in November we held our zone presentation at Toronto Library with all 20 finalists and families in attendance to see who would be the Zone winners for 2004.**

**And they were…..Adrian Romano, Year 5 and Caitlin Turner, Year 6 both from Gosford Public School. Mayor Greg Piper and Val Noake, National Coordinator presented both winners with their backpacks and book prizes for their school.**

**Kylie Duncan & Rachel Mallaby Nestle Zone Coordinators 2004**

Lake Macquarie City Library

**Lake libraries’ young writers**

Skateboarders, pianists, fairies, seashells and monkeys were some of the ideas featured in stories that made the zone finals in the Nestle Write Around Australia competition for Zone 7, Lake Macquarie and the Central Coast. Lake Macquarie City Library was a host library for 2004 and we were extremely impressed with the wonderful entries from Lake Macquarie and Central Coast young writers.

**On 15 November Children’s Services Coordinator Rush Marsh and City of Wodonga’s Pre-School Coordinator Min McDade-Tate visited a local playgroup to deliver a modified story time. This playgroup was chosen due to its location within a housing commission area. The session was held outside in the play area and children were encouraged to stop playing and participate. Thirteen enthusiastic children from 6 months to 6 years and 3 parents joined in the activities.**

After three sessions parents were offered the option of becoming members of UML if they weren’t already, and children could then borrow three books from a selection brought from the library. The Storytimes consist of a song, two or three picture books and a poem. A colouring-in and craft activity is left with the playgroup for parents to complete with their child should they wish. After the story time children are left to play with each other outside and it has been interesting to hear them using the ideas in the stories when they play. The hippo storytime was very interesting with children digging in the sandpit to look for hippos in the sand. The story had hippo digging in the mud!

**Storytime is continuing each fortnight and will be rolled out to two other**

**Ruth Marsh**
Children’s Services Coordinator
Upper Murray Regional Library

**Holbrook**
Holbrook has had a busy few months with visits from the local schools and the pre-school before the end of 2004. We celebrated National Simultaneous Storytime when St Patrick’s kindy and year one class visited, listening to great pets books like Sleepy Pendoodle and Gordon’s Biscuit. A Spot in a basket colouring-in activity and a pet chocolate frog each followed storytime and were a great success.

The pre-school visited in December; preparing the children for school visits. This time crocodiles were the story topic and all the children enjoyed making a crocodile on a straw to walk back to pre-school with.

The Library joined with the neighbouring Community Technology Centre in December in having an afternoon tea for our volunteers. We have many volunteers who help with book exchanges and the CTC newsletter throughout the year.

The 2005 summer holidays have been fairly quiet but on Tuesday 18 January nine children joined Cathy and Ali for a Teddy Bear’s Picnic. After listening to some great teddy bear stories and rhymes the children made teddy bear masks before finishing off with some very tasty tiny teddy biscuits.

**Wodonga**
Upper Murray Regional Library (UMRL) has implemented a program with City of Wodonga to encourage parents and caregivers to read to their young children.

**Children’s news**

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Upper Murray Regional Library

**Holiday Fun @ the Bowen Library**
This year saw some new and exciting holiday activities introduced as part of our January Reading Ruzi Holiday Activities. Some of which included t-shirt painting, sports games activities, sunglasses case making and creating paper ball people. All of these activities were very successful as was also our Tae Kwon Do demonstration where 30 children were able to participate in basic Tae Kwon Do exercises. This entailed a lot of excitement and participation on the children’s behalf which made for a very successful day.

**Chris Kordas**
Children’s and Youth Services Library Assistant
Randwick City Council Library and Information Service

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Lake Macquarie City Library
Children’s news

Parents and library staff enjoyed his performance.

Entertaining the kids!

Duncan spoke for over an hour at each session, which involved his reading from his popular books, telling them of his life, and a lot of laughter. It was a very popular and successful day and Duncan signed a lot of books and autographs.

The previous evening staff and partners enjoyed a very nice dinner with Duncan at the famous Cecil Hotel. I’m sure in years to come Duncan will still be talking of the monstrous steak he had that night!

Gary Ellem
Regional Library Manager
Richmond Upper Clarence Library

Babies into books

Narellan Library was happily bursting at the seams with babies on Wednesday 27 October as Camden Library Service proudly launched its Babies Into Books Program. Approximately 76 babies with parents and onlookers packed into the library to witness the official launch and joined in a Lapsit Session, where we shared nursery rhymes, songs and stories. The sound of babies filled the whole library and yet it was amazing how silent they were when songs and nursery rhymes began! All of these babies were the first to receive our Babies Into Books Library bag containing two board books, a bib, a bookmark, information and reading lists of recommended titles for parents and babies.

Bundles of babies.

Babies Into Books bags have been developed by Camden Library Service with the wonderful support of Quota International of Camden and grant funding from the State Library of NSW. The aim of the program is to promote reading to children from early infancy and encourage new parents to share the world of books with their babies. These bags will now be given to all babies born in the Camden Local Government area through the Narellan Community Nursing Service at the baby’s first clinic visit. Following the huge success of the launch, we are now looking at providing regular Lapsit Sessions in the library for new parents and babies.

Jenny Rosevear
Camden Library Service

Online storytime resources

Upper Murray Regional Library is currently working on the creation of a database for our children’s activities. The plan for the session is scanned into the computer complete with words to the songs and poems, the completed example of the craft and suggested list of stories. The entries are assigned subject headings and will be available to all staff directly from the server. This is a strategy to provide timely plans for our branch coordinators who often are unable to plan as well as they wish because they are the sole staff member for their library!

The UMLR website is also being redesigned and when completed will have a link to children’s activities that can be completed online or printed and completed at leisure. This is to allow those children who cannot come to the library to be able to participate in some of the activities we undertake in our storytelling sessions. This will be of benefit to the children in our remote communities as the improved and increased technology on our new mobile library will allow them and their parents to access this during the times the mobile library is in their town. If other library services are interested in joining with UMLR to build a database of resources please contact me on lynnem@umrl.nsw.gov.au.

Lynne Makin
CEO & Manager
Upper Murray Regional Library

Bilingual storytime at Parramatta

Parramatta City Library will continue our successful Bilingual Storytime program this year. The program, which is held in Cantonese and Mandarin on the first Tuesday of every month, includes traditional Chinese festival stories combined with popular Australian stories. The stories are read to the littlest and craft making encourages further interaction and enjoyment of reading. Our Bilingual storytime program is jointly organized by Parramatta City Library and the Australian Chinese Community Association Western Centre.

Pauline Chan
Parramatta City Library Multicultural Services Librarian

Fun in any language!

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Children’s news

What if...?

What if Campsie Library was a PlayStation 2 game? This is what potentially could happen.

Ghost Hunter

You play Conan the Librarian in his quest to track down and slay the elusive Stack Monster! Jump, Duck, Slash and Cleave your way through 23 levels of mayhem! But beware of the dark, or you’ll be eaten by a grue! Will you survive the final assault against the dreaded Balrog?

Beyond Good & Evil

Join Detective Tex Bradford as you struggle to uncover the sinister plot instigated by several cunning patrons of Canterbury City Library. All is not as it seems in this sleepy suburb! Forget CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, this is the real deal man!

Judge Dredd

You play Judge Dredd, library tough guy extraordinaire as you dish out those overdue fines to various obstinate folk! Give no quarter, and expect none in return! But be careful, worthy adversaries include The Grandma, who has been ill for 13 weeks and has had to attend five separate funerals of long lost second cousins and half-brothers as well as the wake for her two cats, and The Cunning Punk, who expertly sneaks his overdue books back on your shelves before claiming they were returned long ago.

Max Payne 2

You are Remus Graphicus, a library assistant level 1, greenhorn fresh out of library school, and on your first day on the job you face an onslaught of angry patrons intent on slicing your hands off in the returns chute! Pain is the name of this game, buddy! Dodge those nasty high velocity returns as you expertly scan the barcodes, sort the reservations and win the day!

Mission Impossible

Spend a day in the shoes of Special Agent Ish Dewey as you struggle valiantly to meet the tidal wave of crazy demands and bizarre requests from Canterbury City Library patrons. Can you get all the patrons out by closing time at 8pm? Good luck special agent, you’re gonna need it!

James Bond 007

You are Royal Navy Commander Joe Lane, a highly trained secret agent tasked by Her Majesty the Queen herself to infiltrate the dreaded stronghold of Canterbury City Library, and recover that precious notorious ancient artefact, Sing Tao weekend edition!!! Battle your way through 16 assorted levels of determined minions as you check-in, sort and speed monkey extraordinaire. As you compete against other secret agents to reach the ultimate prize!

Need For Speed

You are Sergeant Timothy Hastings, gung-ho circulation supervising officer and speed monster extraordinare. Your mission is to coordinate your fire team of three battle-hardened library veterans as you check-in, sort and shovel 3,689 stock items in two hours. Are you game, or are you just plain chicken? Remember that you’ll be racing head-to-head against your long time arch-rival, Hurstville City Library, Mortal
Briefly speaking

2005 Colin Mills Scholarship

I am excited to announce a not-to-be missed opportunity for professional development: the opening of the Colin Mills Scholarship applications for 2005. Colin Mills was passionate about professional development so it is fitting that this scholarship be made available in his name. Up to $8000 will be awarded to a staff member from a CPLA (Country Public Libraries Association of NSW) library to gain skills that benefit both the applicant and the New South Wales public library network. This generous and prestigious award is being offered by the CPLA, in association with the MPLA and State Library of NSW.

Get your thinking caps on: the possibilities with an award of this size are limitless. Maybe you would like to undertake a course, attend a conference, or undertake a research project. The deserving winner will present a paper at the CPLA conference in Coonaarabran, and have their work published - truly a career enhancing opportunity! Please start your preparation early: conditions and application forms are available now on the Country Public Libraries Association’s website at www.cpl.asn.au/colin_mills_scholarship/cmillship.html. Applications close 29 April 2005. And remember: this opportunity will not present itself again until 2007!

Suzie Roberts
Chair
Colin Mills Scholarship Committee

Libraries Australia forms new partnership with Informit

The National Library and RMIT Publishing are pleased to announce a new in-principle agreement to extend access to information about Australian journal articles through Libraries Australia, RMIT Publishing, through its Informit service, offers access to the APAIS (Australian Public Affairs Information Service) database. APAIS contains over 330,000 records for articles in Australian social sciences and humanities journals from 1978. Over 1000 journals a year are currently indexed, 250 of them comprehensively. This database is a key resource for access to Australian journal literature.

Libraries Australia, launched by the National Library in December, provides access to material held in Australian libraries and many other national collections and catalogues. Adding APAIS to the resources available will increase access to this important resource for the many libraries that do not already have a subscription to APAIS via RMIT Publishing.

Access to the APAIS database through Libraries Australia will be available in early 2005.

Roxanne Missingham
Assistant Director-General
Resource Sharing
National Library of Australia

Right or left - right or wrong?

Library entrances are tricky to design. So are the positions of service points, return chutes, directional signs and everything else just inside the library entrance. One question always seems to pop up. Do people entering the library tend to keep to the left, or to the right, or do they go all over the place? This is a critical question if you are planning in and out doors (especially automatic ones) or are thinking of an island-style service desk. In a busy library you need to avoid people coming in and cutting across the paths of people going out, or crossing in front of them to deposit returns.

The answer is that in Australia pedestrians more often than not keep to the left. If you don’t know why - perhaps because we drive on the left or because our sword hand is on the right. In Sydney many years ago there was an attempt to formalise this by painting a line in the middle of the pavement in some main streets, with occasional arrows to remind pedestrians of the keep left rule. This system did not work well. People kept changing lanes and stopping to look in shop windows. And there were no demerit points for ignoring the system. Nowadays the large number of tourists from keep right or walk anywhere countries would make pedestrian traffic regulation impossible.

At the library entrance, however, you can call the shots. Nobody coming in likes to be baulked by someone going out or vice versa. You can get your clients in a good frame of mind by easing their way into the library. If you are planning two sets of doors, the in door should be on the left. If you don’t believe me, spend a while observing people entering and leaving buildings, especially libraries and other public buildings. Watch people walking in the street. You may get some funny looks, but I think you’ll find this observational research helpful. Of course the layout of an existing space or other design constraints may make you bend the keep left rule, but it’s a useful principle to keep in mind.

Dr David J Jones
Library Building Consultant
State Library of NSW

Young adult’s update

The launch was a huge success. Over 60 kids came along to help celebrate the introduction of this new collection. 95% of those who attended the launch got into the spirit of things and came dressed up. There were a lot of wonderful costumes. The kids came dressed up as ghosts, princesses, skeletons, devils, vampires, and witches. We had staff dressed as a Vampire, Cruella De Vil, and Galadriel from Lord of The Rings.

After starting the night with the official launch of the Comic Novel Collection we continued the night with a lot of fun and exciting activities for the kids to join in. The activities of the night included such things as dancing to the Time Warp, and a screening of the movie The Haunted Mansion. During the movie screening the kids feasted on chocolate, chips and soft drinks. To end off the night all those who dressed up for the launch paraded their costumes around the room. Prizes were awarded to the best dressed. It was a hard decision to make because all the costumes looked fantastic.

Overall, the launch was a great success and the new collection was well received and considered very popular by all those who attended. Since the launch the Comic Novels have proven to continue to be a popular addition to the Young Adult collection of our library.

Michelle Birch
Youth Librarian
Campbelltown Library

dangers await you, including incomplete returns, AMLIB crashes and crazy nutcases who charge into the put room and want to kick your teeth in. Good luck soldier! Yippee Kiya!

Ninja Assault

Hooyahhh! You are honourable ninja master Joe Sixpack, founder of the infamous clan of The Ultimate Power in the Universe. Your aim is to navigate the long-forgotten subterranean warrens underneath Campsie Library in your quest to get inside the library and be the first to reach your target objective, the Auspicious Newspaper Stand. Be careful, death and danger lurks behind every bookshelf! Rival ninja warriors desperate to get to their little hands on the Weekly Trading Post are sure to throw a spanner into the works...

Anon
Canterbury City Library

Comic Novel Launch

On Friday 29 October 2004 Campbelltown City Library held the launch of their new Comic Novel Collection. Since the launch was so close to Halloween it was decided that the Youth Area would get into the Halloween spirit, the Youth Area would be wonderfully decorated with such things as cobwebs, spiders, witches, skeletons, devils, vampires, and witches. We had staff dressed as a Vampire, Cruella De Vil, and Galadriel from Lord of The Rings.

To help create a wonderful atmosphere, the Youth Area was decorated with such things as dancing to the Time Warp, and a screening of the movie The Haunted Mansion. During the movie screening the kids feasted on chocolate, chips and soft drinks. To end off the night all those who dressed up for the launch paraded their costumes around the room. Prizes were awarded to the best dressed. It was a hard decision to make because all the costumes looked fantastic.

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Campbelltown Library

The answer is that in Australia pedestrians more often than not keep to the left. If you don’t know why - perhaps because we drive on the left or because our sword hand is on the right. I don’t know why - perhaps because we drive on the left or because our sword hand is on the right. In Sydney many years ago there was an attempt to formalise this by painting a line in the middle of the pavement in some main streets, with occasional arrows to remind pedestrians of the keep left rule. This system did not work well. People kept changing lanes and stopping to look in shop windows. And there were no demerit points for ignoring the system. Nowadays the large number of tourists from keep right or walk anywhere countries would make pedestrian traffic regulation impossible.

At the library entrance, however, you can call the shots. Nobody coming in likes to be baulked by someone going out or vice versa. You can get your clients in a good frame of mind by easing their way into the library. If you are planning two sets of doors, the in door should be on the left. If you don’t believe me, spend a while observing people entering and leaving buildings, especially libraries and other public buildings. Watch people walking in the street. You may get some funny looks, but I think you’ll find this observational research helpful. Of course the layout of an existing space or other design constraints may make you bend the keep left rule, but it’s a useful principle to keep in mind.

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