

Public Library News



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—
Volume 20 No 1
April 2014



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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our first issue for 2014 and my first issue as editor.

I have enjoyed reading all your stories and looking at the wonderful photos as I've put this issue together.

We feature articles about Blue Mountains' 40th birthday, Wollondilly's new mobile libraries and much more. You can also read about Library Lovers' Day and the Summer Reading Club in many libraries throughout the State.

Thank you to all our wonderful contributors and public library staff.

Don't forget to look at the photos in full colour on the *Public Library News* Pinterest page.

KATE O'GRADY
Editor



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Public Library News is distributed free to NSW public libraries. There are three issues per year in April, August and December. The first issue, Vol. 1, No. 1 was in March 1995.
ISSN 1323 6822

Edited by Kate O'Grady
Layout by Cameron Emerson-Elliott
Printed by Seed Print Group on Raleigh Paper ecoStar 300 gsm (cover) and 100 gsm (text), 100% post consumer recycled paper made carbon neutral

P&D-4128-04/2014

Front cover image: Clowns Charlie, Kobe and Gwen at Orange City Library (see Circus Storytime, page 52)

Celebrating 40 Years of the Blue Mountains City Library Service

Blue Mountains City Library opened its first Public Library branch at historic Braemar House in Springwood in 1974. The Blue Mountains Community first began applying pressure to the local Council for a Public Library service in the early 1960s, forming a Blue Mountains Library Promotion Council to champion their cause. The demand for library services during this time was met by various School of Arts and commercial subscription libraries. Due to financial considerations, and despite community pressure, it was not until 1967 that the local Council adopted the Library Act. In 1974 the position of Chief Librarian was advertised and the City's first Chief Librarian, Mrs Gay Baker, was appointed. This position was quickly followed by the appointment of a cataloguer, two library assistants and a clerk-typist. By the end of 1975, the Blue Mountains Library Service had branches at Springwood, Katoomba, Blaxland, Lawson, Blackheath and Mount Victoria, with a total membership of 16,033 (about 35% of the population).

2014 will be a year of celebrations as Blue Mountains Library Service celebrates turning the big 4-0. To kick off the festivities, the Library hosted a huge Birthday Party on *Library Lovers' Day*, Friday 14 February. Marking the 1974 opening of the first Library branch, the party featured a 70s theme. Katoomba Library was decked out with 70s decorations - spotty bunting, mirror ball, lava lamp projections, and images of books, newspaper headlines, record album covers and magazines popular in the 1970s. To top it off, the Youth Team designed a yarn-bombing workshop where teens got hands on and covered the library in crochet projects.

As well as appropriate decorations, there was 70s food (coloured cocktail onions, fondue, prawn cocktails, and Hawaiian punch), live music from local bands, and activities for all ages. Customers and staff were encouraged to come dressed in their best 70s gear - with prizes for best dressed and best moustache.

As well as looking to the past to see where the Library has come from, the celebrations will also focus on our future. 2014 marks the official launch



/01



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of our new eBook collection. With over 500 new titles on offer, we know the Blue Mountains Community will be excited to start downloading right away. In March the Library hosted a special "Tech Connect" user information session specifically focussing on using the new eBook collection. Tech Connect is a regular program run through the Library which answers questions on all things digital.

ADRIANNA DEMMOCKS
Blue Mountains City Library

- 01 FIRST BLUE MOUNTAINS LIBRARY AT BRAEMAR HOUSE.
- 02 COMMUNITY SHOWS SUPPORT FOR A PUBLIC LIBRARY IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS.

clickHistory Great Lakes

Thanks to the State Library of NSW Library Development Grant funding the Great Lakes Library is deep into a major digitisation project working with the Great Lakes Historical Society to digitise their photographic collection and make it available through the library catalogue.

We were fortunate to employ a digitisation officer for a twelve-month period who not only had significant strengths in both the areas of photography and local history, she also provided us with an excellent linkage to the Powerhouse Museum. With the vital input that this gave us we decided to re-evaluate how we would implement the project, starting from the ground up.

As a result the collection will have the flexibility to incorporate a range of formats and the cataloguing structures put in place will maximise the ability to describe the items as well as making catalogue searches even more powerful.

An outcome of the project that exceeded expectations has been the collaboration between the Library and the Historical Society. The Society has embraced the project and they now have a team of 19 volunteers working on numerous key tasks, such as collating, sorting and scanning the photographs, placing the originals in suitable archival storage and sourcing vital information on the contents of each photograph, which is then captured through data collection sheets. Thanks to *ClickHistory Great Lakes* a strong bond has formed between us and the Society and there's a real air of excitement at the Great Lakes Museum, where the Society operates from.

As part of the project the library LMS providers, Libero, are developing an automated process that will extract metadata from the catalogue records. This data will then be manipulated into a suitable format and uploaded to Trove. Once this software has been developed it will be available for all other Libero libraries.

The digitisation project team, which includes library staff with expertise in both IT and collection management, recognises the importance of good branding and the role of social media. Social media provides us with the opportunity to promote the collection as well as encourage public feedback and content enrichment. The project is now operating under the brand *clickHistory Great Lakes* and the team has already established a Facebook page with this name. In conjunction with this the team has

created a blog at clickhistorygreatlakes.wordpress.com, which will be linked to a Facebook page. Other forms of social media are being investigated for suitability to the project.

Whilst this has meant a lot more work in the formative stages we think the outcome will be far superior to the original approach we were taking and this will be reflected in the quality of the collection when it is launched.

Because of this ground-up approach we've already investigated a range of new technologies and we're still discovering new opportunities and approaches. If you're thinking of heading down this path I'd be happy to talk to you about what we've learned, and are continuing to learn, along the way.

—
PETER FLEMMING
Great Lakes Library



CLICKHISTORY LOGO

It really isn't the size that counts!



WOLLONDILLY'S NEW MOBILE LIBRARIES

Our new twin van mobile library service has hit the road! 16 townships are provided with a dynamic service which is delivered by all staff and the community love it!

Our previous Mobile library service consisted of a massive truck which made some really impressive noises when the extension pod was opened. It also had two computers and a photocopier and printing service. It held an enviable number of library books, CDs, DVDs, magazines etc, you know, the usual collections and of course, the community loved it! But unfortunately, just like us, it eventually started to wear out.

So what did we do?

Well we assessed the need for replacing like with like. Did we really need another huge truck which will receive a pounding covering 2,557 Km² of country roads? It was towing around its own generator like an intravenous drip and driving it required a special licence. So this meant that if the holder of that special licence was off sick, so was the service!

So given the known issues with having a big truck we really didn't want to go down that same highway! This time we wanted to go small and zippy and sexy, all staff will be able to drive the vehicle and we'll have two thanks!

Hello Mercedes Benz Sprinters.

Next came the transformation from an empty shell to a... well... mobile library. Everything in the back of the vans is completely secured eliminating the need for a cargo barrier. Both the driver's seat and the passenger seats swivel around to face the back of the van. The driver's seat becomes the chair for the built in desk complete with mounted monitor and fixed keyboard.

This is the sexy part. The down lights over the soft grey interior illuminate the collection, a granny step

comes out automatically when the door opens. RFID? absolutely, wifi, a wheelchair hoist at the back of the van, a table and two chairs fit snugly in its own nook, an awning without legs. These items combined creates a lovely outdoor seating space, photocopying, printing and scanning services and two Surface Pros for public use. The vans rotate locations so the public have access to a larger collection eg: Van A visits Warragamba one week and Van B the next. But the biggest asset of all is the ability to bring the collective knowledge and skills of the library staff to these communities.

All staff are rostered to the Mobile Library service desks just as they are rostered to the Picton Branch. Between the two vans we are able to cover 16 locations in one week. Each time the mobile library visits a location they can expect to see a different member of staff who can help them with a range of requests, just like the central branch service desk. The staff have a catalogue of different talents and areas of responsibility. The community can talk to the person who runs the Tech Savvy Seniors or the children's programs or book group, and the staff have the opportunity to interact with the greater community.

Our new service model started in November 2013, visitor numbers and loan statistics are increasing every month showing that this is a much valued service throughout Wollondilly Shire and the staff are enjoying getting out and about and being part of the evolution of the service. Of course, you need amazing staff to make this happen. We are lucky to have the incredibly innovative and courageous staff that we do. So as you can see, going small does not mean providing less!

GAIL DUNN
Wollondilly Library and Information Service

Pain Management Collection

A partnership between the State Library of NSW and the Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) is bringing the latest evidence-based information on pain to public libraries across NSW.

Dr Nigel Lyons, Chief Executive of the ACI explained that the ACI's *Need help for your pain* website was formally launched by the Minister for Health Jillian Skinner on 25 March at the State Library of NSW and is already improving access to evidence-based information on chronic pain.

"The website provides a series of consistent messages to consumers with pain, their families and the healthcare professionals managing their care. This message is one of hope that people are not alone, that they can work in partnership with their healthcare professionals to better understand their pain and learn how to reduce it," said Dr Lyons.

"The resources available online enable General Practitioners to help people in chronic pain by encouraging the widespread adoption of self-management strategies and a reduced reliance on prescription medication," Dr Lyons said.

"Talking with people across the state highlighted that many people with chronic pain use community libraries to access information in addition to the internet," Dr Lyons said.

Armed with this information the ACI established a partnership with the State Library of NSW to provide the latest evidence based consumer books to public libraries, complementing the approaches promoted by the chronic pain website. NSW public libraries were invited to participate in this partnership to receive books and promotional material via their central library.

"The partnership with the State Library and NSW public libraries will be critical in spreading the word about the new website to the local community. It's helping us make sure that people who don't access information online will be exposed to the latest science on the management of pain," Dr Lyons said.

Dr Alex Byrne, Chief Executive of the State Library, explained that the books in the collection address the different aspects of chronic pain management people experience.

"The books included in the Chronic Pain Book Collection are written for people young and old and provide a practical understanding and self-management strategies to address pain in their everyday lives. They are also a valuable resource for family members and carers", said Dr Byrne.

"We commend the ACI and the Minister for Health for this community-focused initiative which uses the reach of NSW public libraries across the state to get

these important books to those who can benefit from them," Dr Byrne said.

The ACI plans to evaluate the latest books on chronic pain annually, to make sure that the book pack in participating libraries has the most relevant and up to date research findings.

Dr Chris Hayes, Pain Expert and Co-Chair of the ACI Pain Management Network explained that chronic pain is pain that persists for more than three months or beyond the usual time for tissue healing.

"Chronic pain is real, it's not imagined. It affects 1 in 5 people living in NSW and interferes with people's lives, work and relationships," said Dr Hayes.

"There is now a growing recognition that pain-related nervous system changes are potentially reversible. That we can teach people with chronic pain to use the latest scientific knowledge to change outcomes, to "retrain the brain" to bypass the sensitised brain pathways that cause chronic pain," said Dr Hayes.

This consumer research identified that the most sustainable and accessible solution was to develop an integrated chronic pain website with printable information, resources and tools for people with pain and the healthcare professionals who look after them. The collection of books in participating NSW public libraries strengthens this initiative.

The Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) chronic pain website builds on the latest scientific knowledge on how to manage chronic pain. Visitors to the website can access:

- Interactive learning and self-management modules for adolescents with chronic pain



ACI CHRONIC PAIN WEBSITE



Pain Management Network

Need help
for your
pain?

www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/chronic-pain



- Online resources that promote self-management to help people to retrain their brain's response to chronic pain
 - Inspirational videos of people young and old sharing their experience of how adopting an evidence based approach to pain made a real difference to their daily lives
 - Practical tools and resources to help people with chronic pain to improve daily sleep and mood, guidance on the role of pain medication and the importance of healthy lifestyles
 - A health professional toolkit that includes assessment and management tools for doctors and healthcare professionals working in the community, factsheets for patients and information on NSW Pain Clinics.
- Visit the ACI Chronic Pain website at: www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/chronic-pain or scan the code.
- Goossens, R. (2009). Pain Management: learning to live with pain. Rockpool Publishing
 - Moseley, G. L. (2007). Painful yarns- metaphors and stories to help understand the biology of pain. Australia: Giraffe press.
 - Nicholas M, Molloy A, Tonkin L, B. L. (2001). Manage your pain. Practical and positive ways of adapting to chronic pain. Sydney: ABC Books.
 - Pohl, M, et al.(2010) Pain Recovery for Families: How to find balance when someone else's pain becomes your pain too; Central Recovery Press,
 - Sarno, J. E. (2006). The divided mind. The epidemic of mindbody disorders. New York: HarperCollins Publishers.
 - Siddall, P, Mccabe R, Murray R (2013) The Pain Book: Finding hope when it hurts
 - Colbert & Kajander, R 2007 Be the boss of your pain: self care for kids
 - Miles, B (2006) Imagine a rainbow
 - Morgan, C. Grouch! Pain is like a grouchy bear

Perhaps you know someone within your suburb, town or region that lives with chronic pain?

Please encourage your library users, schools and communities to have a look at the new website. Or you can encourage readers to access these new evidence-based books on pain for every age group. Remember to share your feedback with us!



Join the discussion at the ACI Need help for your pain? Facebook page, Tweet us at @NSWACI #needhelpforyourpain

Contact: Jenni Johnson
ACI Pain Management Network
Email: jenni.johnson@aci.health.nsw.gov.au

Books provided in the Chronic Pain Book Collection include:

- Burch, V. (2008). Living well with pain and illness: the mindful way to free yourself from suffering. London: Piatkus Books.
- Butler, D., & Moseley, L. (2003). Explain pain. Adelaide, South Australia: Noigroup Publications.



Library Lovers' Day



JUDY ATKINSON AND
TRACY MCGEE VISIT
COFFS HEALTH CAMPUS

COFFS HARBOUR

This year we celebrated *Library Lovers' Day* by taking 'library love' to the children's ward of the local hospital; Coffs Harbour Health Campus. Two staff from the storytime team; Judy Atkinson and Tracy McGee were given a warm welcome when they arrived with helium heart-shaped foil balloons, brand new books, and showbags containing colouring in, puzzles, coloured pencils, bookmarks, a Coffs library lover water bottle holder and of course, some chocolates!

The Book Warehouse gave us a generous 50% discount which allowed us to choose a wide range of titles, including board books for the toddlers and babies, picture books, junior fiction, and a good selection of young adult novels. Judy and Tracy enjoyed helping the children choose the right book and Tracy said, "the older children were so happy to get a new book and the puzzles were a welcome distraction". Judy is pictured reading to Liam *The Very Brave Bear* - she said, "it really brightened his spirits, the whole visit was a great experience".

When we first approached the hospital about this idea they were very keen and they worked with Council's media officer to ensure there was good media coverage. We couldn't have asked for a better result, that night it was on the local Prime TV news and the next morning it was on the front page of the *Coffs Coast Advocate* newspaper. We're so pleased with the result that we are looking at doing something similar next year.

CAROLYN ELMES
Coffs Harbour City Library

MARRICKVILLE

What better way to mark Valentine's Day and *Library Lovers' Day* than with a romance writing workshop? Following a similar event in 2013, Cathleen Ross and Kandy Shepherd held another event at Marrickville Library for aspiring romance writers. The workshop was booked out with participants keen to learn tips and tricks from the two successful novelists.

TANYA HO
Marrickville Library and History Services

WILLOUGHBY

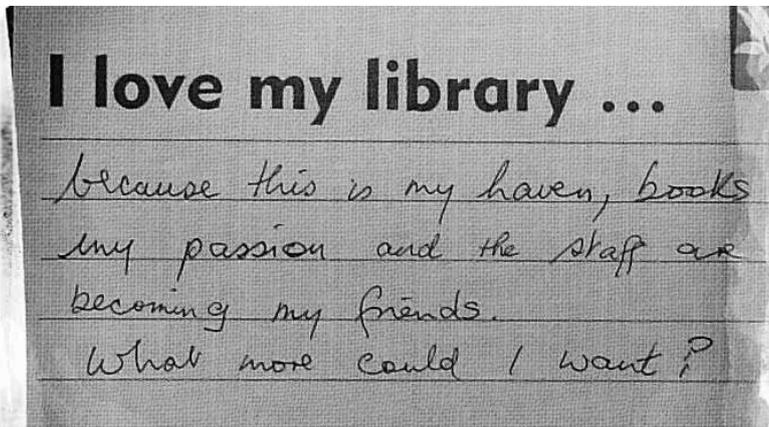
Following on from the popularity of our *Blind Dates* in 2013, Willoughby City Library once again celebrated *Library Lovers' Day* with a selection of mystery pick *Blind Dates* wrapped in brown paper for our customers to choose from and borrow to take home. This year we included a range of novels, DVDs, cook books, biographies, home decorating and more, as well as items from the Chinese, Korean and Japanese community language collections. Each item had a short, tempting clue as to its contents, and the blind date was revealed once borrowed at our self-check out machines.

We complemented the *Blind Dates* with a display of shiny, new romance fiction - which flew off the shelves - as well as small cabinet displays of romantic and nostalgic ephemera, such as old love letters and wedding photos, and romantic music scores, to set the mood.

Around the OPACs we encouraged customers to *Find Love Online* and check out our eBook and eMagazine collections, and to *Share the Love* by contributing to our online write a review feature available through our Library catalogue.



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We also sent small gift baskets to the staff tea rooms in Council – both in the administration building, as well as the Depot, with little goodies and information about Library services, and a list of reasons: “What’s to love about your Library?”

We’ve had some great feedback from our customers, the *Blind Dates* proved popular again, and staff were impressed to see that true love never dies with the new romance fiction being such a hit with our borrowers.

LIZ PARKER
Willoughby City Library

WYONG

Monthly knitting groups coincided with LLD at a couple of our branches, thus resulting in a ready-made audience! However, thanks to a great article in our local paper and our library e-newsletter, everyone in the Shire was invited to come in and celebrate *Library Lovers’ Day*, share morning tea with staff and chat about why they love their library. At Toukley Library jam, cream and scones were eaten very quickly whilst at Tuggerah chocolates with library quotes were handed out to everyone and morning tea turned into lunch and afternoon tea for many customers! Bateau Bay and The Entrance both had wonderful turnouts of over 30 people eating everything in sight. As a focal point, Lake Haven Library had made a special tree that was covered in hearts with messages written by customers as to why they love their library. This became a talking point around which people sipped their tea and ate chocolate!

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Wyong Library Service

LANE COVE

On Thursday 13 February Lane Cove Library hosted an evening of craft sessions to celebrate *Library Lovers’ Day*. Presented by our talented staff, the workshops included beading, scrapbooking, bonsai and card making.

The foyer display cabinet also showcased a range of crafts created by Library staff. The display featured embroidery, doll making, jewellery and French polishing.

The bonsai workshop was presented by the Friday Office Manager (and Casual Library Assistant), Paula who is also a trained horticulturalist. Her demonstration included a potted history of bonsai and instructions about soils and plants to use.

Kristen, who usually works at Greenwich Library presented a card making workshop. This session was very popular with young children and their mothers who made Valentine’s Day cards together.

The Manager-Customer & Information Services, Karen’s beading workshops are always popular! Participants from different age groups had a chance to interact and even took home some jewellery.

The Manager-Local Studies and Archives, Naomi demonstrated scrapbooking and encouraged hands-on participation.

All materials for the workshops were supplied by the Library and refreshments were available at each workshop. There was also a refreshment table in the foyer - for borrowers who just wanted to have a chat.

The sessions were a good opportunity for the public to get to know the staff and for the staff to impart their varied skills and knowledge.

JILLIAN YAU
Lane Cove Library

- 01 WILLOUGHBY LIBRARY LOVERS’ DAY BASKETS.
- 02 WYONG LIBRARY LOVE.



LA CAFÉ WARILLA

SHELLHARBOUR

Bonjour Librarian Loverz! In 2014, Shellharbour City Libraries wanted to celebrate Library Lovers' Day in an exciting way. We wanted to expose our customers to something new, cultural and (perhaps to some) something naughty. To do this, we transformed Warilla Library into La Café Warilla Library (and yes, when taking bookings we actually had people asking where the café was located). With our French flavoured theme in place we captured the ambiance of Paris the City of Love, in good old downtown Warilla Library and it was the place to be!

The booked out event, featured the amazing talents of our library staff, who were all dressed up in character and overwhelmingly pleased the audience with their rendition of *Chanson D'Amour* - there wasn't a dry eye in the café. With the laughter out of the way, our audience had the pleasure of a burlesque show featuring the *Velvet Heists' Diamond D'Amour* and *Aurora Night*. To finish off what was an amazing experience for all... our audience celebrated in style with some bubbly (fake of course) and French food! You can check out a mash-up of our performance on youtube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_qQ6aBmNGM

The positive feedback was phenomenal so I wanted to share this quote 'I think all the workers in this library put their heart & soul into their work - very talented & engaging. Today was a great opportunity

to expose the community to an art form that may have otherwise been considered inappropriate. Definitely 11/10'

MICHAEL JAZBEC
Shellharbour City Libraries

BLACKTOWN

Blacktown City Libraries marked *Library Lovers' Day* 2014 by inviting patrons to have a *blind date* with a book. A varied selection of new books were gift wrapped by volunteers to allow readers the opportunity to select books from different genres as a *blind date* so they could extend beyond their usual personal preferences and venture into discovering something new.

Blind dates were available at Blacktown City Libraries from 12 to 18 February. In preparation leading up to this week, we carried out the following:

- rolled out a promotional strategy which included local newspapers and social media promotion through Blacktown City Libraries' new Facebook page
- promotional materials were developed using ALIA's online poster and bookmark as a starting point
- building up a selection of new books in collaboration with Resources Access and Customer Service areas of the library ensuring over 400 books were set aside for blind dates and a team of volunteer staff were able to transform books into blind dates by gift wrapping them and attaching a bar code tag for each package

We were successful in stirring people's curiosity, love of reading and spirit of adventure, as many patrons engaged with the library, offering positive feedback and borrowing gift wrapped new books off library shelves. One female patron said 'It was love at first sight! A real perfect match. I look forward to the hours we will spend together' about her blind date. Another commented a blind date with a book was great because it's less likely to be a letdown and a patron who is a mum shared she'll try the same thing at home with her kids' washing by wrapping up some clothes to see what they got. Blind date with a book generated interest about Blacktown City Libraries in the media and was a fun and enjoyable way to mark *Library Lovers' Day*.

DHARSHINI PERERA
Blacktown City Libraries

CHESTER HILL

Valentine's Day – cards, roses, chocolates, candlelit dinners ... a day to celebrate relationships of all kinds. What better day for *Library Lovers' Day* 2014, a day to celebrate the heart of public library service.

At Chester Hill Library we came up with creative and innovative suggestions to make *Library Lovers' Day* 2014 a memorable one for patrons.

A random idea of guessing the titles of book covers translated into a display of 16 coloured and numbered covers of well-known fiction titles. The display did not fail to entice library patrons to take up the challenge 'Can you judge a book by its cover?' Heart-shaped chocolates and a mystery gift from generous donations of contemporary fiction, beautifully wrapped in red with gold raffia ties, rewarded our patrons' efforts.

The guessing competition created a rich opportunity to chat with our patrons; encouraging them to participate; talking about books and reading; enjoying conversation and relationship; inviting stories, comments and return visits.

We ourselves were rewarded, watching our patrons' positive reactions, as they selected their gift books from a heart-shaped pile. One regular customer unwrapped the very book she had been planning to read for a long time, before she would watch the movie, and expressed her appreciation of her library experience with handmade sweets for all Chester Hill staff.

Library Lovers' Day is the celebration of what we do best – building meaningful connections with our patrons.

RENATA REKIEL
Chester Hill Library and Knowledge Centre

MOSMAN

Library Lovers' Day gave us the perfect opportunity to bring a little love into Mosman Library with a romance writing workshop run by local authors Kandy Shepard and Cathleen Ross. Twenty aspiring authors spent the morning getting advice, writing tips and insiders' knowledge in the hope of joining the lucrative and ever growing romance writing industry. Our participants found the workshop not only fun but highly motivating. Currently the biggest selling fiction genre there is no better time than now to hone those writing skills and explore the makings of the romance novel. According to Kandy Shepard and Cathleen Ross there are a few guidelines one



CHESTER HILL: CAN YOU JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER?

must stick to in writing a romance novel but none more important than the golden rule.....always have a happy ending. We can't wait to organise the next genre writing workshop because you never know there may be a bestselling author out there just waiting for the right inspiration!

MERILYN PORTER
Mosman Library

SWANSEA

Swansea Library recently launched a new movie event on Friday 14 February, celebrating *Library Lovers' Day*.

A small group of enthusiastic patrons gathered in their finest attire to enjoy a screening of Baz Luhrmann's debut feature from 1992, *Strictly Ballroom*. An acknowledged Australian classic and international success, this funny and colourful romantic film was well received by those in attendance.

Light refreshments, chocolates and popcorn enhanced the experience of watching the movie on a big screen with 5.1 surround sound, courtesy of our newly acquired Blu-ray entertainment system and data projector.

Positive response on the night has prompted us to schedule further screenings. Our next film will be Tim Burton's romantic fable *Edward Scissorhands* on Friday 28 March and the early Coen Brothers comedy *Raising Arizona* on Friday 16 May. These films are courtesy of National Film and Sound Archive.

TRENT ALTERATOR
Lake Mac Libraries



CAMPSIE'S BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK

CANTERBURY

The City of Canterbury was busy on *Library Lovers' Day*. To celebrate the launch of Zinio we held a *Connections Drop In* program where members of the community could drop by with their device and staff would show them how to access the eLibrary, one on one. They didn't have to book a place. It was a busy morning for staff as the interest in our eLibrary has been growing.

Blind Date with a Book also proved to be popular with our community with members enticed to borrow something especially wrapped for them. Campsie Library also launched its AWESOME display. This is a member driven display where members are encouraged to return items they liked with a *This was Awesome* slip located next to the returns chute. When items with this slip are returned, they are then placed on our display encouraging people to borrow.

PAULA PFOEFFER
Canterbury Library

WAVERLEY

All that love couldn't fit into just one day, so we let it flow for the whole week. Members could have a blind date just by picking up a mystery book (wrapped in brown paper) from the *Library Lovers' display*. They were encouraged not to unwrap it until they got to the self checkers. We're sure it was the beginning

of some beautiful friendships with new authors. Love notes were also popular. Visitors told us what they love about Waverley Library by writing on heart shaped paper. Is it our staff, our marvellous programs or our excellent collection? A pin board of the wonderful love notes was displayed for all to read. Magazine lovers were also delighted with the launch of our new Zinio service. It was a great week and a valuable celebration of the very special role Waverley Library plays in the community.

FRANCES MAHONY
Waverley Library

COBAR

Cobar Shire & TAFE Library staff and friends had heaps of fun with *Library Lovers'* this year. For the whole month of February, readers were encouraged to dice with the delicious uncertainty of a *mystery read*. What fun and frolics (or chills and thrills) awaited behind the brown paper packaging? *Library Lovers* were also encouraged to proclaim their love loud and proud in an interactive and evolving window display. Finally, *Library Lovers' Day* itself was marked with a delicious morning tea, plus fun games of pin-the-quill-on-the-author and pass the parcel. MORE games were planned but everyone was having TOO MUCH FUN just chatting.

JANE SIERMANS
Cobar Shire & TAFE Library

WOLLONDILLY

Love was definitely in the air for a whole month at Wollondilly Library. Patrons were asked to participate in the *Library Lovers'* competition for their chance to win double movie passes, a romantic dinner for two and romance novels pack. Patrons confessed their love through love letters, poetry and creative writing.

There's stories and movies and music galore
And friendly faces when you walk through the door
The bus travels to those who can't go too far
So no one misses out when they don't have a car
There's internet and reference and picture books too
There's things for the adults and children to do
There's a helpful hand to find your way
And it comes with a smile that brightens my day

By. C. Crane

GEORGINA KONSTANTA
Wollondilly Library Service

In the Libraries

Blue Mountains

POETRY UNDER THE STARS

November 2013 saw the second annual *Poetry Under the Stars* event, hosted by Blue Mountains City Library, occurring under the cover of digital stars... well, fairy lights really! The inclement weather prevented the Library from holding this event in the Courtyard at Katoomba Library, but the crowds rolled in along with the clouds for a beautiful evening of entertainment.

The audience were serenaded by local musicians including jazz pianist Neil Sagewood and choral group *Canon Fodder*. Christine Wheeler and Friends delighted onlookers with their musical interpretation of the poetry of Henry Lawson, a project supported by the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia.

The MC this year was Miles Merrill, Creative Director of Word Travels and the brains behind *Australia's Poetry Slam* events. His relaxed yet engaging style had the audience primed for hearing from the invited poets: Craig Billingham, Erica Brazil, Steven Herrick, Tez Mak, Sandy Holmes and Gregory North. As well as brilliant performances from our invited guests (snippets of which can be viewed on our blog at readersinthemist.wordpress.com), this year at *Poetry Under the Stars* we introduced a new segment – Open Mike.

The Open Mike sessions were a chance for poets in our community (and beyond) to have their turn at performing. Registrations were taken on the night, and all up we managed to hear 17 volunteers perform one of their own poems. Originally we intended to offer two sessions – one for under eighteens and one for adults, however we discovered that the under eighteens had lost their voices! Next year we hope to hear from more of our local youth, and will be incorporating school holiday workshops on poetry writing to encourage this.

The goals for *Poetry Under the Stars* this year were to promote the Library and literacy, to foster a love of poetry across multiple generations, and to showcase some of our talented local poets and musicians. With around 200 members of the community braving the cooler weather, including visitors from as far as Newcastle, and ranging in age from 6 months to 60 plus, library staff can be satisfied in a job well done. Blue Mountains City Library is pleased to be



hosting *Poetry Under the Stars* again in 2014, and by incorporating feedback from our audience we plan to make this the best one yet.

POETRY UNDER THE STARS - STEVEN HERRICK

ADRIANNA DEMMOCKS
Blue Mountains City Library

AUTHOR TALKS @ BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY LIBRARY

In November 2013, Katoomba Library was pleased to host travel writer Walter Mason, who gave an Author Talk on his latest book, *Destination Cambodia*. Walter was a guest speaker at the 2013 State Library NSW Readers Advisory Seminar, where he shared about his book, *Destination Saigon*. Speaking so openly about his experiences in Vietnam, with humour and enthusiasm, Walter was such an engaging speaker that we knew we had to give our audiences a chance to hear him for themselves.

The beautiful images shown in the slideshow presentation added to the atmosphere and interest of a great event. Walter's talk was very well received by audience members, who were keen to ask questions and find out more about the beautiful, yet somewhat haunted country that is Cambodia. In fact, no one wanted Walter to stop speaking, so we are sure to invite him back when his new book is released.

In February 2014, local author Trevor Shearston presented an Author Talk at Katoomba Library. Trevor has been a published author since 1979, and has lived in Sydney, the South Coast and Papua New Guinea, but now calls the Blue Mountains home. Trevor's latest book is *Game*, the story of legendary bushranger Ben Hall. Described as "a moving and

In the Libraries

01 VICKI EDMUNDS WITH
WALTER MASON
02 COFFS HARBOUR
eLENDING SESSION



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/02

brilliant literary novel about the [bushranger's] last days" by publishers Allen & Unwin, this novel examines the personal life of this iconic figure in Australian history.

Trevor was able to share fascinating detail about his process of researching and writing *Game*. His explanations into the value of visiting the physical locations where crucial events occurred (such as Ben Hall's home, the place where he was shot and killed by the police, and the towns and roads where Ben Hall carried out his robberies) transported the audience to another place and time.

As well as sharing about the story, and especially about his writing process, Trevor sang two of the old Ben Hall death ballads. This was an emotive and rather impressive experience, lending the atmosphere and emotion of a bygone era to the event. The feedback from the audience was highly positive, with members saying it "provided great insight into the process of novel-writing" and "great anecdotes of the people and times, and of the author's search for details of ambience and spirit".

ADRIANNA DEMMOCKS
Blue Mountains City Library

ONGOING E-READER AND E-LENDING SEMINARS

Coffs Harbour Library is actively educating its clients about available e-readers in the marketplace and e-lending services provided by the library.

In the e-reader sessions, we discuss unique features of dedicated e-readers versus tablet based e-readers. We discuss pros and cons of various devices based on battery-life, available storage, glare factor etc.

Customers are prompted to assess their own needs to decide what kind of e-reader will suit them best. After providing an hour of information, participants are offered a *petting zoo* session. This allows them to lay their hands on various devices and see for themselves what feels right.

Our e-lending seminars are also found useful by our clients. The two hour sessions include showcasing our e-book and e-audiobook lending service. Following the seminar, we offer a cuppa to allow time to ask specific questions and have a brief individual troubleshooting session.

Handouts are given to help follow the process step-by-step. The presentations and handouts used in these sessions are also useful in training our staff.

These sessions are parts of our digital literacy campaign to showcase our services.

SURINDER KAUR
Coffs Harbour Libraries

FORSTER LIBRARY MAKEOVER

Thanks to a State Library of NSW Library Development Grant the Forster Library has undergone major internal renovations. The entire library was recarpeted, a task made much easier by use of patented shelf-lifting equipment. The entire public Internet access area was overhauled, giving a modern and much more open feel. In conjunction with this we installed two bayend OPACs.

New shelving enables us to clear significant areas of floor space, providing a greater sense of space and making it much easier to hold events for large audiences. As part of this process we created and entirely new magazine and relaxation area. At the same time the children's area was consolidated and

brand new shelving and furniture installed. We even established a new youth space.

Probably the most popular feature of the project has been the creation of a meeting room which always seems to be in constant demand and has required a booking system to be implemented.

We are now at the final stage of totally changing our displays and how we display pamphlets, taking advantage of the opportunities slatwall shelving provides. We are also planning to implement a large wall-mounted screen along with an integrated PA system.

Looks brilliant.

CHRIS JONES
Great Lakes

UNDER A SUDANESE STAR BOOK LAUNCH

In September 2013 we were approached by Dianne Jacobson a local multicultural worker and Yai Atem to launch Yai's book *Under a Sudanese Star* at Coffs Harbour Library in November. This was Yai's first book and it tells the story of his experience as being one of the 'lost boys of Sudan' and his eventual resettlement in Australia. It is truly an amazing story; Yai was forced to flee his village from the very real danger of the advancing government militia. Yai tells of his incredible journey where 20,000 children, some as young as six years old, travelled for years across South Sudan and Ethiopia seeking refuge from the second Sudanese civil war. Yai and his friends faced the threat of death from starvation, dehydration, disease, malnutrition, attack from Africa's wild animals, and of course the advancing militia; over half the children did not survive. The children consisted of mostly boys and were called the 'lost boys' as they had to fend for themselves without the guidance of parents or elders.

Yai anticipated a good response from the local Sudanese community to attend this launch so we planned for around 120 people. We share a building with the Regional Art Gallery and we chose this venue as we couldn't really manage 120 people in the library. We publicised the event and the bookings were strong but we noticed that there was an absence of African names in the bookings so we wondered what was happening with the Sudanese community. Yai assured us that they would attend, and sure enough we had at least 180 people at the event, the gallery was jam packed!



YAI AND LIZ WITH AUDIENCE

The publisher, Jo Hilder, sold approximately 170 books on the night with follow on sales through the website. Jo commented that even now she still receives positive feedback about the launch.

Liz Keen, local ABC Open Producer, who is a great supporter of the library did an outstanding job interviewing Yai and bringing out his story.

The evening was a great success and we look forward to future opportunities to work with the Sudanese community and some of our other emerging communities.

You can read Liz Keen's blog post at <https://open.abc.net.au/posts/in-conversation-with-a-lost-boy-of-sudan-36ss2jm>

You can buy Yai's book online at <http://www.johilder.com/under-a-sudanese-star-by-yai-atem/>

CAROLYN ELMES
Coffs Harbour City Library

LAUNCH OF NEW COUNCIL HISTORY BOOK AT FAIRFIELD

What makes a community? Partly it's the physical landscape and environment, partly the businesses, clubs and organisations but mostly it's the people both past and present. Unfortunately, information about the leaders who built our communities is often sketchy and hard to locate. A common enquiry for our Local Studies Librarian Marilyn Gallo has been for information about particular past mayors or councillors - when they served and their key achievements.

In the Libraries



/01



/02

- 01 AUTHOR BEVERLEY DONALD SIGNING *SHAPING FAIRFIELD*
- 02 VOLUNTEERS AND DESCENDANTS WITH MEMBER FOR FAIRFIELD GUY ZANGARI (LEFT), MAYOR FRANK CARBONE (CENTRE) AND MEMBER FOR CABRAMATTA NICK LALICH (RIGHT)

A new book, *Shaping Fairfield: the aldermen of Fairfield and Cabra-Vale Councils 1889-1948* by Beverley Donald, was written to help fill this gap in our local knowledge. The book is the result of many hours of painstaking research by Beverley and some dedicated volunteers, through Council minutes, local newspapers and oral history interviews. It covers the lives of the 130 aldermen and the one woman who made up the councils of Smithfield, Fairfield, Cabramatta and Canley Vale from 1889 until those councils amalgamated to form Fairfield Municipal Council in 1948. The one female alderman of this period was Gertrude Melville who was also one of the first women Justices of the Peace in NSW and one of the few women of the time who was subsequently elected to the NSW State Parliament. An article in *The Biz* from 13 September 1945 entitled *Knitting Alderman* commented that “her skill with the knitting needles does not impair her thoughtful deliberation and discussion on contentious issues that worry the aldermen well into the night”. After her death in 1959 journalist Tom Fitzpatrick (*The Biz*, 26 August 1959) eulogised her as “...Gertrude, old Battle Axe, friend of the poor, friend of the sick, friend of the worker.” Donald’s book means that intriguing information, such as this about Alderman Melville, as well as a plethora of other social and local history, is not lost, but will be available to future generations.

Launched at the Whitlam Library, Cabramatta on 10 February by Mayor Frank Carbone, *Shaping Fairfield* has proved to be very popular with the first print run almost selling out within the first week.

The book launch was MCed by Fairfield’s new Library Manager, Paul Scully and attended by well over 100 people including local dignitaries and many proud descendants of the aldermen highlighted in the book. A second book, also written by Beverley Donald, covering Fairfield Council’s story from 1948 until the present is currently being researched and written and will be published in 2015.

CAROLYN BOURKE
Fairfield City Library

FAIRFIELD WELCOMES NEW LIBRARY MANAGER

Fairfield City Libraries are happy to announce that Paul Scully has been appointed the new Library Manager following the retirement of Anne Hall in 2013. Paul comes to Fairfield with a wealth of experience as the Manager at Liverpool for 12 years and prior to that was at the State Library of NSW. Paul brings a passion for ensuring that public libraries are visible and relevant in the community as well as appropriately funded. This focus will further enhance Fairfield’s library service to the community.

CAROLYN BOURKE
Fairfield City Library

TANIA MCCARTNEY VISITS GOULBURN MULWAREE LIBRARY

In November the Goulburn Mulwaree library had author and blogger Tania McCartney visit the library with some talks for all the family. First up was a

session for the older kids looking at Tania's new book *Eco warriors to the rescue*. The kids talked about how they can help the environment and be eco warriors themselves! Tania shared with the kids how she created the book using beautiful botanical paintings from the National Library archive. Then Tania took the younger kids on a tour around Canberra with *Riley and the jumpy kangaroo*. The littlies loved hearing the story and especially meeting the very jumpy stuffed toy kangaroo Tania had brought along.

After the kids had packed up Tania had a chat about her experiences living as an ex-pat in Beijing as chronicled in *Beijing Tai Tai: life, laughter and motherhood in China's capital*. Tania lived in Beijing with her two young children for several years while her husband was posted there. Tania shared how she and her family immersed themselves in the experience of living in another country and the exciting and sometimes intimidating experiences that meant for them. She shared some of her favourite moments, as well as the more harrowing ones such as visiting a silk market. She also talked about the adjustments involved with moving back to Australia – including how quiet it is here compared to the bustle of such a huge city. With a total of 35 people attending, all agreed this was a great Saturday morning out at the library.

SUSAN MCILROY
Goulburn Mulwaree Library

SET IN STONE

In January 2014 an exhibition of locally discovered fossils was displayed at the Erina Centre, Erina Library.

Organised by Gosford City Council's Heritage officer, Rebecca Cardy, the fossil exhibit, loaned from the Australian Museum, included a range of plant and animal specimens that depicted species most typical in Gosford during the Triassic Period.

The exhibition was well received by an interested community with one of the most significant fossil finds discovered near Gosford. The aptly named Gosfordia Truncata specimen was found in a block of sandstone dating back to the Triassic period some 220 million years ago. The Gosfordia Truncata was a lung fish, one of the first animals to venture out of the fresh water lagoons and rivers onto land. Its discovery has shaped scientific thinking in this matter over the last couple of decades.

The exhibition also included 43 pieces of fossils of plant and water specimens in addition to a one metre long, half scale, fibreglass replica of a Temnospondyl, a cross between a salamander and a frog.

Visitors were enthralled by the display which stimulated interest in the areas' local history. The exhibition was launched by the Gosford Mayor Lawrie McKinna and General Manager Paul Anderson and included an engaging keynote speech from Dr. Ian Percival of the Australian Geological Survey.

ALEXANDRA BRINTON
Gosford City Library



AUTHOR TANIA MCCARTNEY



LAUNCH OF SET IN STONE

In the Libraries

GREAT LAKES
VOLUNTEER WITH
STUDENT



BETTER READING

Literacy and how to tackle it can be a vexed question for public libraries. It's easy to establish a literacy collection but if the people who need it the most don't come into the library, for a range of obvious reasons, then it really is a pointless exercise.

In 2013 the Great Lakes Library turned its attention to literacy and how we could do something meaningful about improving literacy levels in our area. Coincidentally, funding through the Productive Aging through Community Education (PAACE) grant program became available and we were able to secure \$5,000 to run a course (twice) to train literacy tutors. The course has been taught by North Coast TAFE and the outcomes have been beyond expectations.

The first course is complete and we ran to a full house. The second has just begun as I write this column and, again, it's full. This means that by the end of the second course we'll have developed a pool of around 40 literacy tutors who are willing to volunteer to help out anybody, or any organisation, that could use their skills.

As far as take-up of the tutors goes this has been another success. The local schools, all of which have great literacy programs but nobody to deliver them, would take on board every single tutor. It's been a little more challenging to connect tutors with adults

with literacy problems but we've been working on that as well and have started to see some real dividends there. Feedback from the tutors has also been wonderful and often profoundly rewarding for them on a personal level.

So, what's next? Possibly seeking more funding to run even more tutoring courses. We really haven't seen the end of the demand for people to be literacy tutors and we're confident we've only just tapped into the community need.

We are planning a brainstorming session with a range of community representatives to figure out exactly what we should be doing about literacy in the Great Lakes. We really don't know what will come of that but even if everybody decides that it's

all too much we'll almost certainly end up with more people wanting access to the literacy tutors.

And in conjunction with all of that we're establishing a new literacy collection but, unlike the old one, we're expecting that, thanks to the literacy tutoring project, this one will get plenty of usage.

CHRIS JONES
Great Lakes Library

LIVERPOOL LIBRARY SIGNING CHOIR TAKES A BOW

In August 1998, Access Services Librarian Carmel Martin received a fax from a deaf woman named Catherine asking if there was an Auslan group meeting in the Library so she could join and be part of a group. At that time there was none, but this message planted an idea in Carmel's mind to create one. To ensure that this would happen, Carmel enrolled in Deaf language courses, beginning with the Introduction to the Deaf Community held at the Parramatta Evening College. From there, she went on to Miller TAFE and DEN (Deaf Education Network) for more Auslan studies. It was there that she met students doing similar courses. She discussed with them the idea of meeting on a regular basis outside of class hours to practise signing. And fortunately they were delighted with the opportunity

to practise what they had learned. And so the Auslan Practice Group at the Library was born. In the beginning Carmel facilitated the meetings. Later on, she met some Deaf customers who she asked to join the Group. And that turned out to be a good move because the students were delighted with their presence and welcomed them with open arms. This mix gave both the Deaf and the hearing people a golden opportunity to interact in each other's worlds. Sixteen years on, the Group has more Deaf members than hearing ones, does Book Chat once a month, holds computer lessons for Deaf seniors and more recently, ventured into music 'signing'.

At the Carols in the Library held in the first week of December 2013, the members of the Auslan Group 'signed' *Silent Night* with feeling. For most of them, it was the first time that they performed in front of an audience. And what a big audience it was, close to 300 library customers were in attendance! Those present watched in awe as the Deaf performers did their number. It was a sight to behold! The Deaf signing the music they could not hear! Of course, Carmel was there to cue them. The Deaf performers were very pleased to see the encouraging and inspiring looks on peoples' faces. And now they're attempting to 'sing-sign' *What a wonderful World!*

CARMEL MARTIN
Liverpool City Library

QUEANBEYAN LIBRARY'S LATEST ARTWORK

Artist Adam Long has transformed the power box outside Queanbeyan City Library into a colourful celebration of some of the region's writers.

Queanbeyan Library manager, Peter Conlon, is very impressed with the new artwork. It has converted an industrial green power box impeding the view to the Library with an eye-catching bundle of books with street appeal that cleverly serves as a pointer to the nearby Library.

The book titles in the art project include the much-loved classic *My Brilliant Career* by Australian author Miles Franklin and Queanbeyan history books by Rex Cross and Errol Lea-Scarlett. The books are tied up with a piece of string and attached are little notes with quotes from the books.

The artist Adam Long grew up in Canberra and says he loves street art projects and converting power



QUEANBEYAN BUNDLE OF BOOKS

boxes and traffic signal boxes into public art. He has also recently been commissioned by Woollahra City Council to paint some of their signal boxes.

"I'm really happy with the books, they bring a quirky, and fun dimension to the streetscape outside the Queanbeyan Library" Adam said. "I selected the theme of a bundle of books tied up with string to reflect the Library's location."

The new artwork has received very positive and delighted responses from library users and the broader community. There has been a fantastic response to the posting of the new artwork on the Library's Facebook page with over 3,500 seeing the post.

The new artwork joins 6 other public artworks by local artists in and around the Queanbeyan Library, that add to the experience of visiting the Library.

PETER CONLON
Queanbeyan City Library

CHRISTMAS ON KEPPEL @ BATHURST LIBRARY

The second Library run Christmas fair, *Christmas on Keppel*, was held in our library forecourt on November 30th 2013 to promote the Library and Keppel Street (our street) as a cultural venue, retail centre and simply an exciting destination.

Since running the first of these events, the library forecourt has become a venue for events other than the Christmas fair. We now have a regular artisans market, library book sales, a retro market and pet expo, all of which attract crowds to use both Keppel Street and the library/art gallery complex.

In the Libraries

The fair was managed and initially developed, by library staff led by the Outreach Team.

The event was also used by some local organisations to promote their cause, the SES showed their resources, the Country Women's Association had a stall, Mitchell Conservatorium of Music provided live entertainment throughout the event, St Johns Ambulance attended, Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre promoted their new program and Australian Fossil Mineral Museum held a stall.

Keppel Street businesses got involved and held footpath stalls out the front of their shops. Each of these businesses were excited to be part of this event, and very happy that the Library is supporting Keppel Street Business.

Stall holders from around Bathurst were also encouraged to be a part of the event this year, by applying for a stall position within the Library forecourt. A total of 22 stalls were erected within the forecourt, including face painting, children's workshops, live music, Library run BBQ and book sale, and Santa Claus.

Stall holders were very pleased with the outcome of the day, and expressed their interest for next year, should the event be run again.

It is estimated that some 2,000 people visited the fair.

Bathurst library looks forward to making this an annual event, so look out for it this year on Saturday 29th November.

NATALIE CONN
Bathurst Library

ZINIO AT BLAND

The Bland Shire library has introduced Zinio digital magazines. The range of magazines available is huge and library patrons can access up to 100 popular magazines. It compliments well the physical magazines that the library stocks and is to great offer something to those who prefer to read their magazines on their ipads or other electronic devices. The response from the community has been very positive.

JOANNE RUSSO
Bland Shire Library



CHRISTMAS ON KEPPEL

A CHANCE MEETING WITH JONATHAN CASS

Two customers got more than they bargained for at Maitland Library when they were lucky enough to meet local author Jonathan Cass. One of the ladies had not visited Maitland Library for many years and decided to become a member again to pursue her love of novels. The ladies enquired into novels by Jonathan Cass to kick off their borrowing.

After picking up his book *Deadly Memories*, little did they know that Jonathan happened to be in the library at the time and overheard their enquiry. He approached the women to introduce himself and have a chat. Jonathan made their visit to the library one they won't forget too soon!

Which author will be next to surprise customers in Maitland Library? Matthew Reilly? J.K. Rowling? Now that would be a value-added experience!

KERYL COLLARD
Maitland City Library

HAPPY KNITTERS @ BATHURST LIBRARY

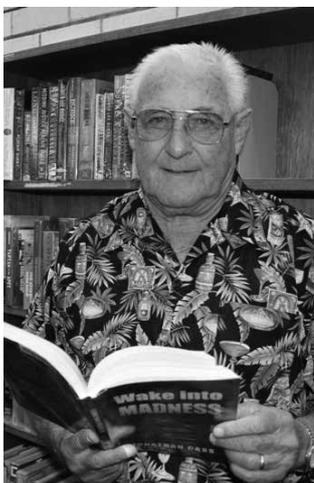
Bathurst Library has become home to a lovely group of knitting ladies, who call themselves *Knit One, Chat Two*.

The ladies meet up in the library 3 times a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the morning and share their love of knitting whilst also helping out local charities. They knit booties for the *Australian Outback Baby Project*, and cute little woollen Penguin jackets for those birds affected by oil spills.

Head of the group, Carol Dick, says *Knit One, Chat Two* has been running for 18 months now and has 12-15 regular members. However, since the group has been meeting in the library their numbers fluctuate and can double at times.

The ladies say there are many reasons as to why people want to join in; some want to learn or improve on their knitting skills, for others it may be just the need for social contact or some might be passing by in the library and notice the laughter and chatter of the group and enquire that way.

Whatever the reason for joining, the ladies always have a great time, their laughter fills the library and you can't help but smile yourself when you hear them



JONATHAN CASS



HAPPY KNITTERS

having so much fun. Bathurst Library is happy to accommodate community groups, especially those who share their chocolates with us!

NATALIE CONN
Bathurst Library

BLAND - FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOP

Members of the community with an interest in tracing family history were invited to take the first steps in an exciting new journey of discovery at a family history workshop. Hosted by the Wyalong District Family History Group and the library, this was the second year the workshop had been held following a positive response to the 2012 inaugural event. Participants had the opportunity to use Ancestry, were introduced to Trove and also discovered many of the other resources that are readily available to family history buffs. Members of the Family History Group were also available on the day to answer family history questions. Due to the popular response of the workshop we will hold more sessions in 2014.

JOANNE RUSSO
Bland Shire Library

In the Libraries

- 01 INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY MORNING TEA
- 02 HLS MORNING TEA
- 03 ORIGAMI INSECT

Marrickville

GETTING CRAFTY AT ST PETERS

Buoyed by the success of the fortnightly Craft Social Group at Marrickville Library, another craft based activity has started at St Peters Library. *Get Crafty* is a weekly meeting of local crafters bring their own materials and share their skills. With beginners and experts welcome, it's a great example of the community pooling their talents and encouraging lifelong learning in a friendly setting.



/01

INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY MORNING TEA

To mark the International People with a Disability Day (IPWaD Day), a morning tea and screening of related short films was held at Marrickville Library on Tuesday 3 December. With an introduction from Glenn Redmayne, Marrickville Council's Strategic Community Project Officer - Access and Inclusion, this event promoted and encouraged support for people with disability and their dignity, rights and well-being.



/02

HOME LIBRARY SERVICE MORNING TEA

More than 60 people enjoyed the annual Christmas morning tea for Home Library Services. The guests were entertained with Christmas carols, Chilean folk dances and a magician. Santa also dropped in briefly as a surprise guest. This annual event provides a rare opportunity for housebound library customers to visit the library, catch up with old friends, meet new ones and share some Christmas cheer.



/03

ORIGAMI INSECTS

The children's holiday event on Wednesday 22 January creating origami insects was a smash hit, with 11 kids concentrating on folding and pleating to create delicate grasshoppers. Kudos to the library staff for mastering the art of origami so they could pass the skills on to the enthusiastic participants.

WRITING FOR EVERY DAY

Marrickville Library and History Services has introduced a basic English writing class that teaches people how to improve everyday literacy. The weekly class takes into account the writing needs of the various individuals and is booked out with a growing waiting list, demonstrating the important role that libraries play in providing accessible community learning resources.

FREE STUDENT TUITION

Marrickville Library and History Services offers free student tuition in maths, science, Chinese language, and English (including ESL). Held weekly for primary and high school students during school term, tuition help is available at Marrickville and Dulwich Hill Libraries, and complements the *YourTutor* service available from the library website.

LUNAR NEW YEAR AT MARRICKVILLE LIBRARY

The local community celebrated Lunar New Year in the Year of the Horse at Marrickville Library. Chinese and Vietnamese cultural displays and a special Lunar New Year afternoon tea was held on Friday 24 January. Entertainment included a Tai Chi Fan performance and demonstrations of Chinese knotting and clay sculptures, and was followed with refreshments including traditional Chinese pastries.

Craft events for children and teens also ran to mark the Lunar New Year. Children made a sparkly dragon to celebrate the Lunar New Year, while teens created a majestic horse origami.

TANYA HO
Marrickville Library and History Services

NEWCASTLE

To some, it was history; to others, it was a mystery. 1963 was a year of momentous change. Kennedy died, Tim Tams appeared on the shelves, Doctor Who whirled onto our screens, The Beatles and Bob Dylan hit the music scene.

Wallsend District Library's fifth annual December Diversion celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Summer of '63, with lots of colour and laughter. With the tables decorated with leis, beach buckets filled with Minties and Fantales, and placemats made by staff members, 40 people gathered to test their memories of all manner of things from the 1960s.

Local Studies put together a wonderful slideshow of sixties music and advertisements from the era, as well as lending us some of their collection of photographs by Ron Morrison. Ron is a former press photographer on the Newcastle Herald and Newcastle Sun, and later owned and operated a press photographic agency with his wife Elizabeth, supplying photos Australia wide.

Lots of floral dresses, Hawaiian shirts, and bold patterns were in the room, both as decorations and as attire. Also on display, was an impressive picnic set in pristine condition, a 50 year old teddy bear, and other quintessentially '60s items.

Our writing competition (I didn't have a yellow polka dot bikini, but I did have...) attracted some very interesting entries, two of which appear below:

I didn't have a yellow polka dot bikini, but I did have an a la naturele [sic] swimsuit. I bathed at the nudist beaches in Sydney, therefore polka dots were not a design suitable with that attire though there were many hues and shapes that caught my eye on the beaches in the Summer of '63.

I didn't have a yellow polka dot bikini, but I did have a teased beehive and knee length dress and skirts that covered flared petticoats, made of net or cotton. More importantly, I had a Friendship Ring from my boyfriend, Bill, and when we went dancing on Saturday nights, he would bring me an orchid to wear on my blue chiffon dress.

Most of the negative feedback we received was along the lines of the following two comments on our evaluation sheets: "Should have been longer" and "My lack of answers".

This event was tied in to the release of a book by Ron and Elizabeth Morrison, and an exhibition of Ron's photographs at Newcastle Library's Lovett Gallery: Those were the days - Australia in the sixties.

DAVID JENKINS
Newcastle Library Service



RELIVING THE SUMMER OF '63

In the Libraries

IN PRAISE OF THE MOBILE LIBRARY

During 2013 my teenage grandson came to live me. He'd left school two years before and had been bumming around the streets and getting into all kinds of trouble.

He came to the mobile library with me one day and Bill recommended a book for him, *The Hunger Games*. Once he got started reading, he couldn't put it down. His mother couldn't believe it. She had been trying to get him to read all of his life. This was followed by a talking book *Zoo* by James Patterson. Next, a Matthew Reilly, a very thick small print adult book. He had to have a couple of extensions, but he made it.

He is now back at School and studying for the HSC. He does all of his assignments plus extras to catch up with his late start. Bill and the mobile library are totally responsible for this amazing turn around. Bill is so in tune with the books and his customers' tastes in reading matter. He recommended all three books, and who would have guessed that such a life changing effect that it would have on my grandson. With deepest gratitude.

SUBMITTED BY GARY ELLEM
Richmond Upper Clarence Library

CLUB CELLULOID

February 2014 welcomed the second season of Wagga Wagga City Library's *Club Celluloid*. *Club Celluloid* is our library film club, a program for adults that was created last year as a building block on our regions very successful book club service. We watch a film on the second Thursday evening of every month (after the library has closed for the day) with a glass of wine and snacks, before discussing it together.

Over half of the subscribers from 2013 re-subscribed (a flat fee of \$110 applies for membership for the year) and we have some brand new members, hoping to get a few more before the March film *Rear Window*. Narrowing down the shortlist of films for this year to get to the select ten was a particularly fun experience, trying to make sure that decades, directors and genres got a fair representation! We ended up with a fantastic list, including *Mary and Max*, *Happiness*, *American Beauty* and *Adam's Rib*. Screening rights for the films are sourced from Roadshow Entertainment, Amalgamated Movies and the National Film and Sound Archive.

Every month the members really enjoy the *Club Celluloid* evening, some of them even go out for dinner first and make it a real social outing. This

program also provides a base for promoting other film events happening at our library, such as our amazing screening of the *Mary Meets Mohammad* documentary last year.

JEANNIE HAZELL
Wagga Wagga City Library

LAUNCH: ONE BOOK ONE WAGGA 2014

On Library Lovers' Day 2014 the Wagga Wagga City Library launched its inaugural *One Book One Wagga* program. Many of you library folk will have heard of the popular *One Book One City* concept, but for those of you who haven't, it's basically the idea of a book club that covers an entire city. One title is selected, multiple copies are purchased and made available for loan through the library, and as many people as possible are encouraged to read and discuss the book over a defined period of time. Usually it will culminate in a closing event, discussion sessions, or author visit, for example. The project is great way to promote literacy and a sense of inclusion in any given community, which is a huge part of what public libraries stand for.

The Book chosen for *One Book One Wagga 2014* is *Spirit House* by Mark Dapin. *Spirit House* shifts time between Changi 1942 and Bondi 1990. It tells the story of a man, Jimmy, living through the hell of the Thai-Burma railway construction, and his later struggle in dealing with those experiences as an old man. Mark is also the author of *Strange Country* and *King of the Cross*, has edited two works of Australian war writing, has been editor in chief of ACP's men's magazines, and wrote a very popular column for Fairfax Media for many years. I'll also add that I can highly recommend Mark to all our public libraries - he's been an absolute pleasure to work with on this project.

The Friends of the Wagga Wagga City Library purchased 80 copies of the book, with the Riverina Regional Library Purchasing a further 30 copies to be



ONE BOOK ONE WAGGA

distributed amongst their huge Book Club network. The books are now available to loan from the library, and the project will run until May 9. We've calculated that with over 100 copies of the book and a three month running time, there's a chance that over 500 people in Wagga can borrow and read the book.

To finish *One Book One Wagga* in style, author Mark Dapin will visit Wagga on Friday, May 9. He'll work with HSC students in the morning and be a special guest at a gala dinner held that night. Mark will also run a writing workshop on Saturday, May 10.

Wagga Wagga City Library was able to get this project off the ground by partnering with, and getting support from, a number of groups and organisations in our community: the Friends of the Wagga Wagga City Library; the Riverina Regional Library; the Wagga RSL Club; the Wagga RSL sub-branch, and; the Australian Army Band Kapooka. And, of course, the hard work and creativity of the staff at Wagga Wagga City Library has been crucial.

We hope to bring people together at the conclusion of the project with these events and activities, to celebrate the shared pleasure of reading.

MICHAEL SCUTTI
Wagga City Library

WENTWORTH

The Wentworth Historical Society Inc in connection with the Wentworth Shire Library was delighted to be able to bring Carol Baxter, well known author and researcher, to Wentworth to run two days of workshops. Held on 27-28 November 2013, these were practical guides to researching and writing exciting family histories.

The adventure began the night before, when Carol entranced the Friends of the Wentworth Library at the AGM with an account of her personal voyage into research and writing.

Over the next two days, more than 30 people attended the workshop seminars, 35 at the research seminars and 32 at the writing seminars. These were filled with practical advice based on Carol's vast knowledge and experience in writing and researching historical records. The feedback from participants indicated that they were inspired to go home and begin writing or re-write what they had previously written.

Carol is well known as the editor of *General Musters of NSW 1811 and 1822*. Her most recent book is *The peculiar case of the electric constable: a true tale of passion, poison & pursuit* which was published in 2013 to rave reviews.

PEGGY MCKENZIE
Wentworth Shire Library



CAROL BAXTER WITH WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS AND ORGANISERS

THE YEAR THAT WAS 2013 DISPLAY AT DAPTO LIBRARY

Collecting local newspaper articles about the local area throughout the year of 2013 gave Dapto Library a large cache of material for a display in early 2014. Everything from sport and schools to commerce and development were carefully cut out, dated, laminated and filed away, waiting for the New Year and a chance to create a lively and very popular display. Everyone likes to see themselves and their community in the news, so this is a chance for the public to revisit and reminisce within their local area.

Customers had the month of January to checkout a year's worth of news, with many of our local identities on show. The collection will then be stored in our local cuttings file for future reference.

JANELLE SMITH
Wollongong City Libraries

FAMILY HISTORY TALK

Our 2014 Family History Program opened with John Cann from State Records presenting a talk on how to use *Archives Investigator* and the new Search online tool. We could have booked two events, such was the popularity of this topic! John explained techniques for making searching easier as well as presenting some wonderful examples and images of records they hold. Our Family History and Local Studies Research Room was booked solid for the rest of the afternoon as customers tried out their new found knowledge.

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Wyong ran its second short story in 2013. This was advertised heavily in the local press and around the schools, resulting in receiving eighty four entries, almost double the number received last year. Twenty five of these were shortlisted by our special judges, authors Jill Mather and Robert Bartlett. Stories had



ANDREA WITH JUDGES JILL AND ROBERT

to be up to 1500 words and residents could enter one of four divisions - Adult, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI), teenager and children. Winners each received an iPad mini to help them continue their creative writing output. The anthology is also for sale at Wyong Shire Library Branches for \$10 or can be viewed on our website at www.wyong.nsw.gov.au/library/ under *What's new*.

LIAC AND DRUG INFO COME TO WYONG

We were very happy in September to welcome Catherine, Andrea and Bernie from LIAC and Drug Info to Wyong for training. We booked the computer training room in Council Chambers and invited staff from all Branches to come and be trained by the experts! We were very lucky that the State Library Staff were able to provide training in the morning and afternoon, thus allowing as many of our staff as possible to gain the benefit of their experience. We also made the training available to Lake Macquarie and Gosford Libraries and were delighted that they took the opportunity to come as well. Everyone had an enjoyable time and the staff went away enthused about these wonderful collections and websites!

JOIN UP JANUARY

Wyong Library Service ran a *Join up January* to encourage more people to become library members. During the month a total of 724 joined either at a branch or online. It may have been the lure of winning a mini iPad but we prefer to think it was our fantastic collections, staff and services that encouraged people to join up! The Mayor presented the winner with the mini iPad.

IPAD AND TABLET LESSONS

With the introduction of ebooks and eaudio to our collection comes the necessity of showing people



BERNIE, ANDREA AND CATHERINE

how to use the products. Whilst staff are more than happy to assist customers as required, we prefer to plan in advance so we can accommodate these lengthy queries with adequate staffing. Initially we ran general *how to* sessions but quickly realised we needed to run separate sessions for the two main operating systems. We have discovered that these book out very quickly. It is great to see customers come back in and say 'I went to the training yesterday and went home and downloaded a book' - they are very pleased with themselves!

NEW LIBRARY E NEWSLETTER

We are very excited that we finally have a library e-newsletter! All customers who have an active email address receive our newsletter on the first day of the month. This includes updates about our services as well as a calendar of events for the month. We have received positive feedback and have already noticed on our event evaluation sheets that people are coming to programs they read about in the newsletter.

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Wyong Library Service

Gunnedah

SHOP BOUND LIBRARY SERVICE

This is an initiative that was begun in January 2014, to cater for business owners and employees who could not access the library service due to their business hours being the same as the library hours.

People wanting to take part in the *Shop Bound* service simply fill out a library application form if they are not a member already, and answer a brief questionnaire which will give the staff their reading preferences. Using this information, the library staff selects relevant materials, checks it out for the user,

and the bag of books will be delivered to the shop every two weeks.

We have 14 participants and everyone was very excited to get their first bag of books, which was delivered on the 12th of February. One business owner requested material for her 90 year old mother, and 9 year old son, as well as for herself, so it was truly a multi-generational bag!

The staff is still canvassing businesses in the Gunnedah CBD for more members. The service is advertised in the weekly newspaper column *Library Lines*, and also mentioned in the community radio announcements each week.

HUNGARIAN EMBROIDERY DISPLAY AND TALK

In November the library invited the Gunnedah Embroiders Guild for a library tour and a talk about Hungarian embroidery. As I do embroidery myself, and have lived in Hungary for 15 years, I had plenty of material – of all the right kinds!

We prepared for the visit by:

- decorating one of the face-out stands with embroidery and all the new fabric craft books that we had added to the collection;
- decorating the display stand with samples of Hungarian embroidery, made professionally, by myself, and by my mother;
- I had printed a special interest book list of all the new embroidery and fabric crafts books that had been added to the collection, and each person received one of the lists to take home.
- I also took the opportunity of dressing up in my beautifully embroidered Hungarian blouse, rather than my normal uniform shirt
- We filled the sales tables with discarded handicraft books; the ladies pounced on them, and we managed to sell some.
- We also had coffee, tea, cake and bikkies on offer, with everyone helping themselves as they wished



HUNGARIAN EMBROIDERY SESSION

The ladies – about twenty of them – came in, and I gave them a library tour, and those that weren't members were given the opportunity to join the library and borrow books. I spoke for an hour on the different styles of embroidery practised throughout Hungary, and where I didn't have actual samples of the work, I had photographs that could be passed around, and a big map so they could see which section of the country the different styles came from.

This was a lovely group to have in the library as they were so interested, asked plenty of questions (that I could answer!), and they admired all the displays and samples of work. We gained several new members, sold some old books, checked out new ones, and generated plenty of goodwill. Waiting to be served in a shop some days later I heard one of the ladies in front of me telling someone else what a lovely time they had had at the library, and how much they enjoyed it! What great word-of-mouth publicity!

We are hoping to repeat these special interest tours/talks with other groups in the community. The limiting factor is of course the staff ability to have supporting material that can be passed around and handled or looked at, and to be able to speak about a topic of interest.

CHRIS BIRKETT
Gunnedah Library

Central West

BANJO WORDS – A LITTLE PIECE OF HISTORY

More than 40 members and guests of the Rotary Club of Orange visited Banjo Words on show at Orange City Library as part of the 150th Anniversary Banjo Paterson Festival celebrations in February.

Central West Libraries Manager Jan Richards talked about the special item on loan from the State Library of NSW. She said the poem titled *The Reveille* in Andrew Barton (Banjo) Paterson's handwriting, is about answering the call to fight across the other side of the world and was written in 1899. Librarian Trudi Mayfield also talked about the research undertaken to prepare the display. Included in the display were two items from the library's Mary Elizabeth Byrnes collection – a signed copy of *The Man From Snowy River* which contains newspaper clippings of book reviews published in 1895, and a first edition copy of the book. The display also included a limited edition Banjo bust by sculptor Michael Lewis, the original watercolour from a more

In the Libraries

- 01 JAN RICHARDS TALKS TO ROTARY CLUB OF ORANGE MEMBERS AND GUESTS
- 02 JUDY NUNN DURING HER GET READING! TOUR OF THE CENTRAL WEST

recent edition of *Waltzing Matilda* illustrated by award winning book illustrator Freya Blackwood, and information panels about Banjo Paterson's writing, war service and connections to Orange.

TRUDI MAYFIELD
Orange City Library

AUTHOR JUDY NUNN VISITS ORANGE

Judy Nunn celebrated the top spot on the adult fiction books sales list with a literary lunch at Orange City Library with her many fans. Judy, known for her TV role as Ailsa on *Home and Away*, and now as an author has sold over one million books worldwide. During lunch she spoke about *Elianne*, her latest bestseller, a sweeping story of wealth, power, privilege and betrayal, set on a grand sugar cane plantation in Queensland.

"Librarians helped me research this novel in Bundaberg, Queensland, and I visited a sugar mill, the machinery wasn't working but the thing that hit me was the smell – toffee treacle smell of burnt sugar. It was like wading through it. I just loved it and that's how I start my book," Judy Nunn said.

Judy talked about her love of Australian history and events such as the building of the Snowy River Scheme and the first signs of multiculturalism, to Maralinga and its ongoing impact to generations as inspiration for her novels.

One audience member suggested Ms Nunn would enjoy writing about Orange with its rich historic links to the land and gold. The author said she would keep it in mind but it was a request she often heard at each town she visited.

The event was supported by Collins Booksellers and the national program to encourage reading – *Get Reading!*

JASMINE VIDLER
Central West Libraries

AUTHOR ANDREW TINK TALKS ABOUT WILLIAM CHARLES WENTWORTH, AUSTRALIA'S GREATEST NATIVE SON AT HISTORIC WENTWORTH MINE

2013 marked the bicentenary of the first crossing of the Blue Mountains by explorers Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth. In November author Andrew Tink visited Wentworth Mine, at Lucknow, near Orange to talk about his book on William Charles Wentworth.



/01



/02

He told stories of Wentworth's contribution to the region and thoroughly entertained the audience with stories of Wentworth and his larger than life character. The site was the perfect venue as mining area was on land initially owned by Wentworth. The goldfield was known as Wentworth Field until the name Lucknow was adopted in 1863.

Andrew Tink was Shadow Attorney General and Shadow Leader of the House in the New South Wales Parliament until March 2006. Since stepping back from politics Andrew has concentrated on two of his great passions: writing and history. His book *William Charles Wentworth* is the first comprehensive biography of Wentworth.

Wentworth built up a property empire and his pastoral vision included purchasing land at Lucknow in the 1830s. This was where the Wentworth Mine shaft and poppet head, along with the rest of the Lucknow gold mining field, was later established. It became one of the richest goldfields in NSW.

An explorer, a master political manipulator, a barrister, a newspaper proprietor and a physical giant of a man who was afraid of nothing and no

one, William Charles Wentworth was in every sense Australia's founding father. Mr Tink said Wentworth's story is the story of colonial Australia.

JASMINE VIDLER
Central West Libraries

Editor's note: Andrew is also a current member of the Library Council of NSW.

WHAT IS ZINIO?

Zinio – the digital magazine download service – was launched at the City of Canterbury Library on Library Lovers Day. Zinio allows library members to read and download a selection of magazines just by using their library card.

Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Library members can download the latest editions of *National Geographic Interactive*, *Delicious*, *Marie Claire* and *Ideal Home* amongst many other magazines to view on their Smartphone, Tablet or computer from home or anywhere in the world. All that is required is internet access and their library membership card number.

PAULA PFOEFFER
Canterbury Library

CORE ADULT LITERACY COLLECTION FOR LIBRARIES

According to the OECD Life Skills Survey of 2011 a large percentage of Australia's population (43%) struggle with basic reading, writing and numeracy (Level 1 and 2). This is an improvement of 3% from the 2006 Survey, but we still have a long way to go.

The NSW Public Libraries Literacy Working Group was formed in 2007 to provide advice and promote the provision of library resources to adult clients with literacy needs and adult literacy instructors.

The first objective of the Working Group's Strategic Plan is to provide advice to other libraries. The strategy we decided for doing this is to provide a Core Literacy Collection List by December 2014.

I am Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre's Multicultural Technical Specialist and also the Secretary of the NSW Public Libraries Literacy Working Group. In between working in libraries I was an adult ESL (English as a Second Language) and Literacy instructor for years, both in Australia and overseas. This gave me the knowledge of the materials used and the way they are used. Contact with the local NAVITAS and TAFE colleges has kept this knowledge fresh.

I was assigned the task of preparing the Core Adult Literacy Collection List with the Working Group.

Discussions at meetings, a call for contributions from members of the Working Group and continuous reviews meant the list became further and further refined.

A senior TAFE adult literacy instructor, Ms Jenny McGuirk, assessed, approved and added to the list; Ms McGuirk's contribution has been invaluable.

Senior library professionals, Carmel Martin of Liverpool Library and Pamela Davies, also the Working Group's Chair, of Auburn Library, assessed and reviewed the list. Sharon McIlwee of Kogarah Library was a wonderful neutral reviewer and offered another angle to the list.

The efficiency of all the Working Group meant the list was ready to publicise by the end of January 2014, almost a year ahead of schedule.

So far twenty-four libraries spread across New South Wales have purchased the Core Adult Literacy Collection.

Shauna Miller, the Multicultural Cooperative Coordinator at the State Library of NSW, formatted and distributed the list, and manages the purchasing of the Core Adult Literacy Collection by libraries.

I hope I can say on behalf of the NSW Public Libraries Literacy Working Group, we are delighted with the result and the response, and we hope more libraries will take up the opportunity to purchase the Core Adult Literacy Collection to help their adult clients with literacy needs.

Contact Shauna Miller for the Core Adult Literacy Collection List at shauna.miller@sl.nsw.gov.au

JANN DEBENHAM
Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre

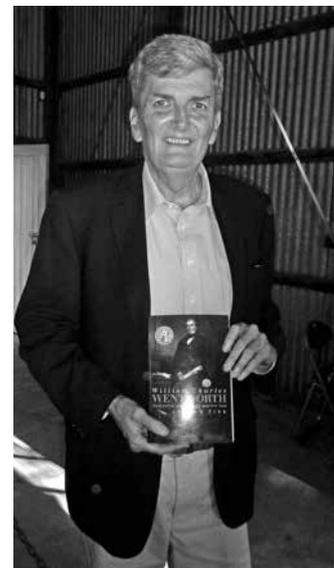
FLORAL LUNAR NEW YEAR AT PADSTOW LIBRARY

A special event was organised for Lunar New Year 2014 at Padstow Library and Knowledge Centre, a Branch Library of Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre.

Bankstown's Yen Florist, the first Vietnamese florist in Australia, was contacted and asked if they could present a flower arranging demonstration.

They had many commitments but fortunately found the time to voluntarily demonstrate flower arranging; the library only had to pay for materials.

The audience on the day comprised 23 people from all ages and backgrounds.



ANDREW TINK

In the Libraries

They were fascinated with the combinations of roses, orchids, ferns, berries and fruit arranged in a vase or basket to make beautiful bouquets.

The library used this as an excellent opportunity to promote cross-cultural understanding and harmony to the community.

The event went so well Padstow Library and Knowledge Centre would gladly recommend this activity to other libraries.

JANN DEBENHAM
Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre

RFID MEANS MORE PROGRAMS FOR PATRONS AT BANKSTOWN CITY LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE

Time flies when you're installing RFID – well here we are twelve months after installing RFID at Bankstown City Library and Information Service and what has the new smart technologies given patrons and staff?

RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology was implemented at Panania Library on 5 September 2012, Padstow and Greenacre on 19 September 2012, Bankstown Library on 8 December 2012, Chester Hill Library on 25 September 2013 as part of the new building. The final installation is being done in the new Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre on the site of the old Town Hall.

We have found that the RFID smart technology has reduced staff time spent performing circulation duties and increased efficiencies for library staff so that they are able to spend more time offering friendly face to face customer service. RFID has allowed staff to be more dynamic in providing a range of services. For staff and customers, RFID is faster and easier to checkout and return multiple items simultaneously rather than one by one as done previously by library staff. At the branch libraries the percentage of loans done by patrons using the self-check kiosks ranges from 54% to 87% and rising. The smaller branches with just 1 patron self-check kiosk experience queues and patrons will come to the desk for staff to assist. Branches with 2 or more self-check kiosks enjoy higher patronage. The RFID returns solution provides a more secure option for patrons and faster and more reliable return of items.

Due to the high rate of loans processed at the self-loan machines, staff can now spend more time with customers. As RFID becomes more familiar and the patron education is not required, more time will be freed up and staff will be able to offer more



BANKSTOWN FLOWER DEMONSTRATION

readers advisory assistance to customers. Staff have already begun to 'walk the floor' helping customers with reservations and enquiries on OPAC, WIFI, self-service loans, photocopying and finding items on shelves and staff can spend more time assisting customers with the public PCs. All our libraries have been able to increase programs for adults including new craft workshops which include knitting, folk art, jewellery, crochet, patchwork and Christmas craft. These originally began with one session a month but have now increased to weekly sessions. The craft classes have created the opportunity for social engagement whilst emphasising motor skills and hand/eye coordination. Other programs that have seen an increase in frequency include movie mornings for seniors, Family History Workshops and monthly email and internet classes, and more regular Author Talks, the introduction of an Adult Book Club at 2 branch libraries, an iPad Savvy session, and more successful Law Week Talks as staff have been able to better plan and promote specialist activities.

We have been able to increase the frequency of programs for children and youth with *Baby Rhymetime* and *Preschool Storytime* now held weekly where it was held monthly. *Help with Reading* and *Reading Hour* are new programs introduced post RFID implementation to help with childhood literacy. The numbers of outvisits to community groups has also increased helping to promote the library service to niche target groups of NESB and



SELF-CHECK AT BANKSTOWN

seniors and local schools and playgroup visits. At another branch we have been able to re-establish the *Lets Talk English* conversation groups and conduct more internet classes in community languages and the *FindStuff@yourlibrary* workshops designed for local schools by offering Library tours and promoting membership and online resources.

Bankstown Library has been able to conduct more training sessions for adults in downloading ebooks and eResources and all libraries have more time to explain the new library apps of Borrow Box, Zinio and Freegal and online databases which all enjoy increased patronage. Library staff have enjoyed more training in conducting programs and using the online resources in order that they can assist our patrons. Our libraries are endeavouring to reach a target of 90-95% patron self-check loans over the next 12 months. With big increases in patronage due to the membership drive we rely upon RFID to handle the high volume work of loans and returns so that library staff can provide more assistance to our residents in using and enjoying our public library spaces and collections.

Editor's note: Bankstown's RFID was assisted by a State Library of NSW Library Development Grant.

ROBYN OWENS
Bankstown City Library and Information Service

2013 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE AT BANKSTOWN CITY LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE

Council Libraries are enjoying more locals coming to visit and joining the FREE library service. Following the local newspaper campaign for the Membership Drive and Writing Competition we have seen increased enquiries about the progress of the new Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre and increased patronage to the reopened Chester Hill Library and Knowledge Centre.

Increase in membership has been continuous over the past six months with increases each month since the membership drive commenced in July 2013. Overall we have seen a 13.6% increase in membership with astounding increases at the new Chester Hill Library and Knowledge following the reopening on 30 September 2013. Membership has more than doubled in comparison with the same time last year at the Chester Hill library in the past 4 months since reopening.

In the Writing Competition our local students were encouraged to describe what they love about their local library and what they are most looking forward to about the new Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre. More than 60 entries were received and are being showcased on the library kidzone webpage leading up to the announcement of the winner and 2 runners up at the public opening of the new library. Council organised an iPad for the winner as an incentive for our local students to participate.

ROBYN OWENS
Bankstown City Library and Information Service

BANJO PATERSON FESTIVAL 2014 - RYDE-ING WITH THE BANJO

February 17, 2014 marked the 150th anniversary of the birth of Banjo Paterson. While Orange lays claim to his birthplace, we claim him as ours too. He lived in Gladesville with his grandmother while attending Sydney Grammar School, and when he died his ashes were interred at Northern Suburbs Crematorium.

Ryde Library Service organised a number of events including a Musical Morning Tea with a local group of singers, the *Rainbow Singers* who performed Australiana tunes including a captivating arrangement of *Waltzing Matilda*. Local historian and author Gregory Blaxell gave two presentations. The first, a lecture on the life and times of Banjo Paterson, was given on Banjo's actual birthday so we sang Happy Birthday and shared a birthday cake. His second lecture consisted of readings from Banjo's poems and stories. At this event Ryde Library's own *Ryde Rovers* provided musical accompaniment for two versions of *Waltzing Matilda* and *Flash Jack from Gundagai*. The other major event for the festival was organised with colleagues in the *Active in Ryde* program, which consisted of guided walks through Banjo Paterson Park. Our usual children's storytimes were specially themed with Australiana stories and crafts.

This Banjo Paterson festival was a fantastic example of working with other areas of Council and

In the Libraries



BANJO'S BIRTHDAY CAKE

branding pre-existing library programs and activities to give a breadth of experiences to our community efficiently and effectively.

ANGELA PHIPPEN
Ryde Library Service

CELEBRATIONS AT NORTH RYDE LIBRARY

North Ryde Library was closed for refurbishment for a few weeks in January. To celebrate its reopening in late January, the library hosted a Saturday morning of fun; face painting, a special baby rhymetime, cake and a visit from the Mayor!

North Ryde Library's makeover included new lightly painted interior, earth-toned carpet, fresh and vibrant furnishings, additional joinery and a new shelving layout. The refurbishment saw the opening up of the library space - room for more seating - while keeping the nooks for quiet study.

North Ryde Library is home to Ryde Library Service's Toy Library Collection. We run popular rhymetimes, storytimes, preschool visits and school holiday activities, giving the branch a children's services focus. However, this relatively small branch also runs regular programs and events for adults and older people; including a charity knitting group, book club discussion group, and technology Training.



CELEBRATIONS AT NORTH RYDE

It was a fun day, with many adults and children there to celebrate the revitalisation of their local library.

CHERIE GOLDSMITH
North Ryde Library

BOOK SALE EXTRAVAGANZA!

Wollondilly Library hosted their ever popular book sale. A plethora of pre-loved books and donations were available to purchase for as little as \$5.00 a bag. Residents and visitors bagged a bargain of fiction and non-fiction books, magazines and audio visual items.

GEORGINA KONSTANTA
Wollondilly Library Service

Clarence Regional Libraries News

NEW GRAFTON LIBRARY UPDATE

The new Grafton Library is on track to officially open in April. Council staff have received training in the building's environmental control features, including operation of the unique air flow system. The building is designed with blinds that are automatically activated to keep heat out and control the internal temperature. Other features include sensor lights which turn off if a zone is not occupied, solar panels and self-cleaning windows.

WHEELERS

Clarence Regional Library users are enjoying the use of Zinio and ebooks on offer. So much so, we are continually purchasing new titles and now have 1100 ebooks and 102 e-magazine subscriptions.

BOOK SALE REVAMP

Re-vamping of the wooden book trolleys in Grafton, Maclean, Yamba and Iluka Libraries have taken place. They are used for sale of donated and withdrawn stock.

The trolleys have been painted black and are all permanently signed to use for that purpose only.

The Library Service continues to donate excess donations and withdrawn stock to the local Rotary Clubs for the Rotary Book Sales.

ABC OPEN

ABC Open conducted another successful Workshop on Blogging at Dorrigo Library, with over 13 people attending over two sessions.

ANGELA CLARKE
Clarence Regional Library

POOL TO POND?

In February we had our very own Ku-ring-gai Council sustainability team of Peter Clarke and Liz Gibson present on the topic of *Pool to Pond* at Lindfield Library. It was an informative presentation for those in our community who had an unwanted or unused swimming pool in the backyard.

Since 2007 Ku-ring-gai Council has been helping local residents convert their swimming pools into ponds by supplying native fish, aquatic plants and technical advice for the conversion. The Pool to Pond conversion is an eco-friendly and cost effective alternative that promotes biodiversity.



CLARENCE REGIONAL BOOK SALE TROLLEY

There were a lot of questions for Peter Clarke from our keen audience of 30 who wanted to find out the nuts and bolts of the Pool to Pond conversion. In fact some of the new converts were also sharing tips!

Working in partnership with another section of council, in this instance the sustainability team, has certainly broadened our range of library programs and we hope to have many more such talks.

SHOBA ABRAHAM
Ku-ring-gai Library

Lake Mac News

WHAT DO LAKE MAC LIBRARIES, BRITISH LIBRARY, SMITHSONIAN LIBRARY AND POWERHOUSE MUSEUM HAVE IN COMMON?

Lake Mac Libraries were successful in obtaining a \$40,000 NSW State Library grant in 2011 for a significant local history project.

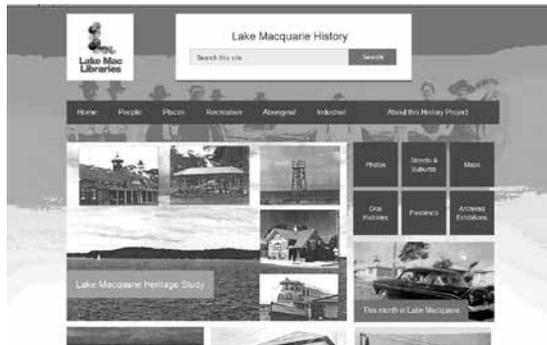
It has been two years in the making but Council's Lake Macquarie History Online website (history.lakemac.com.au) reached a key milestone when it was launched on 26 October, 2013. Our Data Asset Management Software (DAMS) provided by KE Software, is the same software used by the British library, Smithsonian Library and the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney

Lake Mac Library staff have scanned and typed endless amounts of information and images to ensure that our community and family history records are available to everyone online. Our DAMS provides the functionality for Community History staff and volunteers to add resources directly to the website without relying on a web developer or Councils IT staff.

Our online resources include;

- 96 suburb histories,
- 3432 street name histories,
- 3715 pages of the *Cockle Creek Newsletter* scanned,
- 74,300 names and places typed up,
- 302 historic maps,
- 6766 historic photos,
- Charlestown Court of Petty Sessions records from 1909-1936,
- 151 pages of the *Sulphide Corporation* engagement book photographed and 5001 employee names typed up.

In the Libraries



LAKE MAC HISTORY ONLINE

We have also researched and written 40 individual narratives covering People, Places, Recreation, Aboriginal and Industrial subjects.

Our plans for the future include; digitising and indexing our historic rate and evaluation notices, providing access to Lake Macquarie cemetery records, hosting Council's historic flood records and associated photographs and provide a walking tour experience for the Fernleigh Track with QR codes linking from interpretative panels back to our website.

Research using primary resources is a painstaking process. Local historians have generously donated their research for use on our website. We also have a project underway where our website will host local history data researched by Warners Bay High School students, linked to QR codes posted around Warners Bay. We look forward to the community enhancing our website through contributions which will capture our past, present and future.

ANN CRUMP
Lake Mac Libraries

BACKPACKING WITH MAGGIE AT LAKE MAC LIBRARIES

Strapping on a backpack and heading off to a foreign country may not be everyone's idea of a dream holiday, but for those with an adventurous spirit it signifies the ultimate experience. Confronted by language barriers and cultural differences, even the most adventurous among us often feel overwhelmed by the challenges we encounter. For Maggie Counihan these challenges, though initially daunting, were met head-on.

Swansea Library hosted Maggie and her partner Rollo as part of her tour of 20 libraries throughout New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia. Recounting tales of her adventures, Maggie entertained her audience with anecdotes about the

contrasts of life she experienced. This included camel rides through deserts that left her sore and sorry, but still able to enjoy the beautiful sight of a rising moon on the horizon, even how age is revered in Asia. Maggie shared one of her favourite thoughts – *celebrate your birthdays; if you don't then you are no longer here*. Maggie generously took the time to chat and listen to anecdotes from those adventurous souls who were at the library for her talk.

NATALIE KOZARY
Lake Mac Libraries

BOOKS & BICKIES AT LAKE MAC LIBRARIES

The last Friday of each month a group of avid readers gather together at Wangi Wangi Library to discuss what they have been reading. Sometimes, we are fortunate to secure a local author or two to discuss their latest release. Recently our group were treated to a visit from Jaye Ford, discussing her latest crime thriller, *Blood Secret*.

This book was of particular interest to our group as Jaye informed us that the inspiration for the setting, Haven Bay, was in fact Wangi Wangi! The World War II gun bunkers featured as well as quite a few streets and other local sites, although Jaye admitted she used a little bit of poetic licence in their placement. The inspiration for the storyline came after a real life incident involving her and her husband one evening, and her mind wandered off to what if..... and lo and behold the seeds of *Blood Secret* were formed.

Jaye spoke openly about her journey in becoming a writer and the long haul of getting published. She followed a few different career paths in the media as well as her own public relations business, before choosing to make writing her full time vocation with the support of her family. *Blood Secret* is her third crime thriller release.

The *Books & Bickies* crowd were absorbed in Ms Ford's chat and were eager to ask questions. Jaye gave generously of her time, the crowd greatly appreciating her willingness to share.

November's meeting secured another lovely local author, Wendy James, Wendy spoke of her journey as a writer and her upcoming release, *The Lost Girls*.

Books & Bickies continues to be a much anticipated monthly event within our tight knit community. The coming year is shaping up to be a ripper!

LYN DE SYLVA
Lake Mac Libraries

KNITTING AT LAKE MAC LIBRARIES

Every Wednesday morning Wangi Wangi Library hosts a wonderful knitting group 10am - 1pm. The group is well known throughout all Lake Mac Libraries and the Wangi Wangi community.

The group began after newcomer to Wangi Wangi, Chris Lanshaw, visited Lake Macquarie Art Gallery on its collection day for *Wrap with Love* in 2010. She was inspired to start a group, where likeminded wool lovers could gather together and share a common interest and develop friendships. Initially a small group met, but numbers have increased to around 26 members.

The knitting group gather together to share patterns, wool, hints and tips. It is a forum to learn new skills in a friendly environment. They make items to donate to *Wrap with Love*, Ronald McDonald House, hospitals, homeless shelters, women's refuges and Newcastle Mission to Seafarers. Their latest project is to knit poppies in commemoration of Anzac Day. Last January the ladies participated in one of the library's school holiday activities - *Learn to Knit*.

LYN DE SYLVA
Lake Mac Libraries

LAKE MAC LIBRARIES: ADVENTURES WITH TONY PARK

On 6 November, Swansea Library had the pleasure of hosting author Tony Park as part of his national tour with *Get Reading!* Tony is the bestselling author of adventure thrillers set in Africa, and his latest novel *The Prey* was selected as the November 2013 *Get Reading! Guaranteed Book You Can't Put Down*.

Described by some as Australia's own Wilbur Smith, and a master of adventure, Tony draws his inspiration from the varied landscapes and often harsh modern realities of Africa, where he spends six months every year. Surprisingly, Tony admitted that he doesn't plan his novels but simply makes them up as he goes along, using his visits to the continent to fuel his imagination.

A naturally gifted and engaging speaker, Tony enthralled his audience with a combination of humorous anecdotes and vivid descriptions of the conflicts, and social and economic issues that plague Africa today.

Tony spoke about his novels, and shared his background in journalism and his sideline writing

biographies at his publisher's request. At the conclusion of his talk, Tony made himself available to chat one-on-one with 45 old and new fans, whilst signing copies of his book.

The visit was an incredible success and we received extremely positive feedback from everyone, including Tony's agent, who loved the specially designed backdrop.

NATALIE KOZARY AND TRENT ALTERATOR
Lake Mac Libraries

NEW LAVINGTON LIBRARY

A new branch library in Albury's northern suburb of Lavington, was formally opened in July 2013 after the community outgrew the existing small, but well patronised 22 year old facility. The opening was a community celebration with 1800 people through the door on day one.

This project was supported by a State Library of NSW Library Development Grant of \$119,492.

Located on the ground floor of a multi story building only several hundred metres from the old library, this new library has proved to be a successful venture for the AlburyCity Council.



AUTHOR TONY PARK

In the Libraries



LAVINGTON LIBRARY SERVICE DESK

The library floor space is now 50% larger with the added bonus of 2 meeting rooms, the larger of which features the original stained glass windows from the old library, exhibition space for travelling and local exhibitions, 12 PCs for public use as well as free Wi-Fi, and a focal point in the children's area is the Magical Storytree, a commissioned public art work by a local artist.

An advantage for the Lavington community is the new Council Customer Service centre, making it a one-stop shop. Lavington staff are trained to assist with any customer service enquiry usually asked at the AlburyCity Council admin building e.g. Development application submissions, building inspection appointments, pet registrations, all rate payments and rate direct debit enquiries.

Children's programs attendance has substantially increased and adult programs are well received. The need for additional book clubs has been required, individual and group technology lessons are regularly offered and meeting rooms are frequently booked.

A significant increase in visitation, loans and other council services has proved that the Lavington Library has now become a cultural hub of the community.

JUDY KENNEDY
Lavington Library

LIVING IN A SENSORY WORLD: A PARTNERSHIP WITH VISION AUSTRALIA

Throughout December and January the Albury LibraryMuseum hosted the Vision Australia and Powerhouse Museum touring exhibition *Living in*

a sensory world: Stories from people who are blind or have low vision. The exhibition gave visitors an understanding of the world of the blindness and low vision community and celebrated their participation in education, the arts, sport, family and society.

To complement the exhibition LibraryMuseum staff were given *Greeting and Guiding* training by an Orientation and Mobility Specialist from the Albury Vision Australia office. This training gave staff an awareness of what it was like to have a vision impairment and how to best assist vision impaired people when they came into the facility. A number of January school holiday programs were developed around the exhibition theme in conjunction with Vision Australia staff, including Feelix storytimes where participants came along to a storytime and recreated the tale into a sensory book using textured fabrics and objects and sessions that featured seeing eye dogs.

Now that we have a link to our local office of Vision Australian and staff trained in assisting people with vision impairments, Albury Libraries are looking into how we can expand this partnership to future programs. Vision Australia staff will be undertaking an access audit of our libraries providing recommendations on ways to improve our access.

MICHELLE HEAD
Albury Libraries

THE HILLS

The Hills Shire Library staff took part in The Hills Council's first Chinese New Year Lunar Festival. Amongst the lantern display, entertainment, stalls, and film festival staff demonstrated how to use the Library's eresources and highlighted the collection of Chinese ebooks, audiobooks and newspapers which were very well received by those who dropped by for a look.

We have also launched our Hills Heritage Online Historypin channel. We have added over 160 images from our Local Studies collection into our channel and pinned them to locations on the map. See what we've pinned www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/library

ERICA WORT
The Hills Shire Library

VOLUNTEERS AT RANDWICK CITY COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE

Randwick City Library Service has approximately 80 volunteers. Their contributions to the Library and the Community are many, including computer



JOYCE GILCHRIST

classes, local history, repairing toys, art classes, and making selections for the Home Library service, just to name a few. They are all hard working volunteers who give their time freely to help others.

Joyce Gilchrist has been a Home Library Service volunteer for many years now and she is still happy to keep helping out at 90 years of age! She is an inspiration to us all and below is a letter from her:

I am a volunteer at Bowen Library in Maroubra. I find books for people who are readers but unable to get to the library through physical disabilities. I am given a list of the kinds of books they like and then I have to find a selection from the many hundreds of books in the library, so you can guess I am a reader too.

I love being a volunteer and have been for many organisations in my life, but now it's just Bowen Library, working with lovely people and helping those less fortunate. I hope to last out a bit longer.

MAGNOLIA SZABO & JOYCE GILCHRIST
Randwick City Council

EBOOK SUCCESS!

Thanks to a successful joint State Library of NSW Library Development Grant application the Great Lakes and Greater Taree City Libraries released a fantastic new range of eBooks in December, available through the BorrowBox platform.

The cooperative approach has provided members of both communities with access to a much wider range of titles than would otherwise have been possible.

The statistical reporting enables analysis across the cooperative or by each library service. Through the new platform both libraries have more than doubled their eBook loans in the two months following the launch and almost tripled the number of eBook users.

Another outcome of the project has been the establishment of a new eAudio collection which has proven really popular and is achieving amazing stock turnover rates.

MARGIE KIRKNESS
Greater Taree City Libraries

CHRIS JONES
Great Lakes Library Service

ROCKDALE LIBRARY SERVICES

Our program of Author Talks planned for 2014 began with two very successful talks. In January Jonathan King spoke on his book *Tall Ships, Tall Tales: a life of dancing with history*. Twenty five people listened to Jonathan talk about the reenactment of the first fleet voyage that he and his wife organised, did fundraising for and took part in for Australia Day 1988. Jonathan had the idea for the reenactment in 1975. Despite a lack of government support for funding the voyage, it still went ahead. There was a lady in the audience who was in England to see the ships off in 1987.

In February, Jesse Fink came to Rockdale to speak about his book *The Youngs: the brothers who built AC/DC*. Jesse brought along special guest Tony Currenti who was a session drummer for AC/DC and Stevie Wright. They entertained a group of AC/DC fans with tales of Tony's time as a session drummer and the story behind how Jesse came to write the book.

We are looking forward to continuing the success so far this year with Author Talks planned for April and May.

NATALIE GRAY
Rockdale City Library

STANTON LIBRARY'S 50TH BIRTHDAY

North Sydney councillors and staff gathered together to celebrate the 50th Birthday of Stanton Library in February 2014. Joining in the celebration was the State Librarian, Dr Alex Byrne, who spoke at a gathering attended by Library colleagues, volunteers and many of Stanton's loyal and supportive customers. Other activities during the week of festivities included an exhibition of photos showing past and present perspectives of the Library building, a quiz on the history of Stanton and the resources available through the library, and a display of well-wishes from the public.

In the Libraries

Stanton Library opened with 10,000 books in its collection. There was clearly some pent up demand for, within two months, well over 4,600 people had joined up and staff had issued nearly 17,000 loans. In 1979 the collection included 103,000 books. Today there are more than 140,000 volumes with many other items for loan including CD, DVDs and magazines. Well over 640,000 items are borrowed each year. Services have burgeoned as well. Stanton is now a community hub where clubs meet, authors speak, children listen to story time, researchers investigate family histories and so much more.

KATE STEWART
Stanton

ON THE WATERFRONT: THE ART OF THE NORTH SYDNEY'S FORESHORES

Artists have long been inspired by sights and scenes around North Sydney's foreshore. From the earliest decades of the 19th century, the northern foreshore was used by European artists as a convenient platform from which to depict the developing town and port of Sydney on the opposite shore. By the end of century the waterfront here held its own interest for those in search of the beautiful and the picturesque. These qualities and the theme of change,

which has been so much a part of North Sydney's waterfront through the 20th century, have continued to fascinate artists who live on or visit the harbour's north shore.

The artworks in this exhibition are all part of the North Sydney Council's cultural and heritage collections. Some works have been with Council for many years. Others have been acquired after entry in the North Sydney Art Prize, begun by Council in 1992. Some have been generously donated and others have been purchased because of their relevance to the North Sydney story. The theme of foreshores stands out as the dominant common interest throughout the collection and it was that thread which inspired this exhibition.

(North Sydney Heritage Centre, Level 1 Stanton Library, 234 Miller St, North Sydney. Exhibition runs from 8 April 2014 to 31 July 2014 and is open during Library hours).

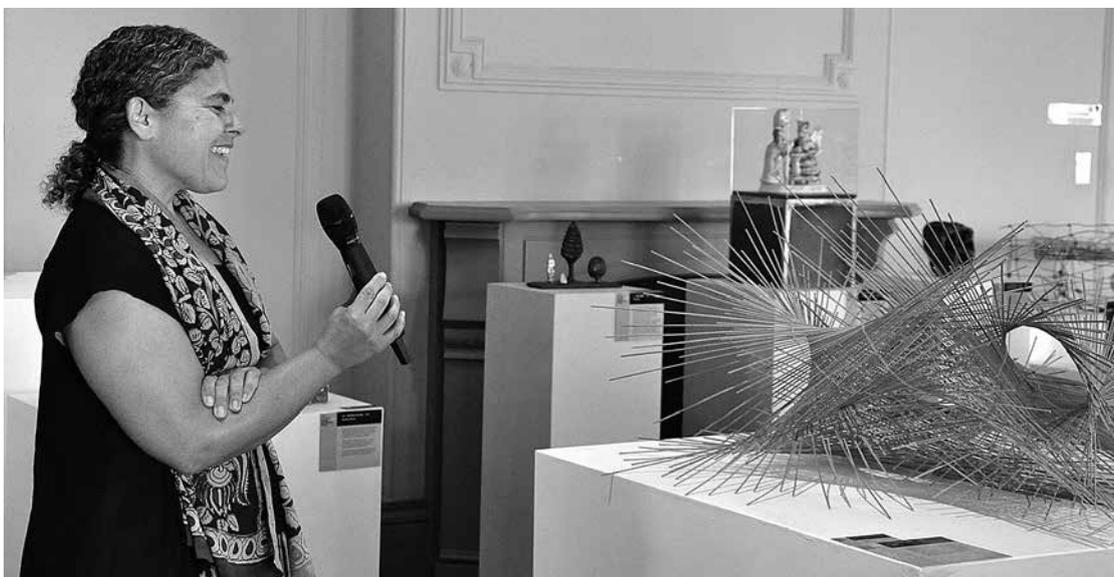
IAN HOSKINS
North Sydney Council Historian

WAVERLEY WORKS ON HOMELESSNESS

This February Waverley Library initiated and hosted a Think Tank of library and community services staff from Waverley, City of Sydney and Newcastle,



STATE LIBRARIAN DR ALEX BYRNE



TRACEY DEEP

along with representatives from the State Library NSW and charity organisation *The Footpath Library*. Discussion tackled public library services in the context of the needs of people who are homeless.

Working under the mission *libraries are for everyone* the group is developing a toolkit that will be shared with NSW public libraries outlining types of homelessness and the information needs of people who are homeless. Strategies for making library policies, procedures and activities equitable and supporting staff to uphold these will also form part of the toolkit, along with ideas for developing services to include those among the community who are in particular need.

HEATHER DAVIS
Waverley Library

TECH-HELP

Wollondilly Library is providing one-to-one tech help to those patrons who require assistance with technology services at their library. The 60 minute sessions are also “Senior Friendly” and aim to support patrons wanting to learn how to download e-books, search the internet, scan photographs, subscribe to social media and much more.

GEORGINA KONSTANTA
Wollondilly Library Service

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FOR ADULTS

Adults enjoyed a morning of creativity as Wollondilly Library hosted a workshop on Christmas craft. Participants made a variety of gift projects including hand-made coasters, cards, paper, soap and a cinnamon sugar gift jar.

GEORGINA KONSTANTA
Wollondilly Library Service

IN THE LIBRARY

The Library’s series of free, daytime Tea Topics talks continued in November with the 2013 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize session being held among the sculptures on display. Attendees enjoyed a tour of the exhibition and a talk by sculptor Tracey Deep about her art practice. To the delight of the group, Tracey also demonstrated using a variety of seasonal flowers and natural materials to create a floral sculpture, which she then presented to Council.

JOAN RUTHVEN
Woollahra

Children's News

Summer Reading Club

The State Library of NSW funds NSW Public Library participation in the National Summer Reading Club, including the provision of a kit to each NSW Council. Here are some stories from this year's program.

CANADA BAY

Canada Bay libraries once again took part in the *Summer Reading Club*. We had 197 children register with 119 children completing their Reading Log and reading approximately 1500 books over the January break. The highlight was our SRC party where the children were presented with certificates, lucky door prizes were drawn and party food was enjoyed by all!

WENDY BANISTER
Canada Bay

WENTWORTH SHIRE

Although registrations for the *Summer Reading Club* were lower this year, there was no shortage of fun as young readers tried to solve the mystery of the Wozinsky Inheritance. Using a really old book, *The Knowhow Book of Detection*, we constructed an *Investigation Board* at each library. Each child, upon registration received their pack, which included their reading log in the form of a detective's notebook. For every book read, the reader received a clue to help them solve the mystery. At milestones through their reading journey, the readers received rewards such as spy sunglasses, blacklight pens and magnifying glasses.

- 01 DETECTIVES IN DISGUISE
- 02 LOOK AT THESE DISGUISE CUPCAKES



/01



/02

The detective party was a great success. We revealed the answers to the mystery, and the kids really enjoyed the games such as *Silent snoops*, *The undercover relay*, *Hot and cold – find the firearm*, and *Memory tray – how much can a detective remember?* We also did a fingerprint recording exercise, and made a secret code scroll. The party finished with cool disguise cupcakes. Prizes and certificates were awarded to participants.

PEGGY MCKENZIE
Wentworth Shire Library

NEWCASTLE

Now in the seventh year at our libraries, many children and parents look forward to our reading promotion over the holidays. Over 550 joined up, with the lure of stickers, tattoos and especially this year's spy pens, enough to keep children reading. It was especially pleasing to see over 50% of these return completed logs. Donations for a number of small prizes were sourced, with those asked only too happy to assist in 'keeping kids reading'. Children that read ten books were eligible to go in the prize draw.

JULIE SWANE
Newcastle

OBERON

The *Summer Reading Club* organised at Oberon Library was a big hit this year. Using the resource kit provided, each participant received temporary tattoos, magnifying glass, invisible pens and best of all, lollies! The aim was to earn free tickets in a spectacular prize draw at the end of the school holidays. Great prizes were made available through the generous sponsorship of Oberon Rotary and Friends of Oberon Library. As the prizes were divided into three age categories, nine lucky winners were drawn by Mayor John McMahon on January 28th followed by a delicious afternoon tea provided by Friends of Oberon Library. Congratulations to all!

EILAGH RURENGA
Oberon Library

BLAND SHIRE

This year's Summer Reading club was a huge success. Over 150 children registered who ranged in age from 5 to 16 years of age. This year we introduced weekly Friday draws which commenced at the beginning of December and continued until the end of January. All the children who borrowed from the library received a ticket and automatically entered the draw. Two tickets were picked each week and the prizes were vouchers to use at the local pool. This was very popular and we are now looking at starting monthly draws to encourage the children to continue to regularly borrow during the school year. The *Summer Reading Club* finale party was held this year on *Library Lovers' Day*. We had a great turnout to the event. Prizes were handed out, games were played and plenty of food was eaten. The kids had lots of fun and so did the staff!

JOANNE RUSSO
Bland Shire Library

WINGECARRIBEE

We had a very successful *Summer Reading Club* during 2013/2014 and finished off with an End of *Summer Reading Club* party on February 12th.

We presented all of the children with their certificates then presented our major prize of an iPod. We draw one lucky door prize per age group and made some children very happy. Our manager happened to draw two people from one family in the two top age groups. We then put out lots of party food and drink which was eaten up very quickly. I think the children had a great time.

We will be running our Winter Reading Club again this year during July and August as it was very successful when we started it last year. It had been suggested we do a winter reading club because we have such a cold climate and so children in the Southern Highlands do stay indoors a lot during winter.

JULIANA GLUMAC
Wingecarribee Public Library

WOLLONGONG

Wollongong City Libraries participated in the *Summer Reading Club* joining 735 children from 0-12 years. All of our libraries created wonderful displays around the *Investigate* theme by inviting kids to search for hidden objects – such an easy crowd pleaser.



/01



/02

All of our frontline staff took extra time to encourage registrations and remind the kids to come back each week for their chance to win weekly prizes. To celebrate the end of another successful *Summer Reading Club*, we held two magic shows on the same day at two separate locations that were thoroughly enjoyed by both children (170) and adults (87).

Loans for junior items increased from 44,200 last summer, to 45,622 this summer. One of our branches, Dapto District Library, recorded 394 loans in just one hour after the presentation! That, according to our systems librarian is the highest ever recorded! Exactly half of those items were from our junior collection.

Overall, a fun and positive program to welcome young families into our libraries and to boost their love of reading - this is a challenge for library staff as we compete with the inundation of big screens, little screens, and twenty first century technology.

CLARA WIEBERS
Wollongong City Libraries

01 WINGECARRIBEE SRC PARTICIPANTS
02 WOLLONGONG SRC DISPLAY

Children's News

- 01 WHERE'S WALLY AND PARTICIPANTS IN CAMPBELLTOWN SRC
- 02 FREEDA FISHING ON THE LACHLAN RIVER

CAMPBELLTOWN

During the summer holidays, Campbelltown City Library branches were busy with young readers taking part in the *Summer Reading Club*. This was the third time we've participated in the program and were very pleased with the success of our *Summer Reading Club*. We opened the *Summer Reading Club* to 0 - 16 year olds so we could include pre-readers and help encourage parents to read to those children who could not yet read to themselves. Our youngest member was 5 months and our oldest was 16 years.

We made up starter bags full of *Summer Reading Club* merchandise and reading logs. When children completed a reading log they would come and hand it in and take another! We were thrilled to see how quickly the reading logs started coming in. Our biggest reader was a 4 year old girl who handed in 17 reading logs.

The *Summer Reading Club* concluded with simultaneous parties held at every branch of the Library. We had more than 170 children and their families come and join us for an afternoon of music, games, food, prizes and a special guest appearance by *Where's Wally*.

We were thrilled to receive some very positive feedback from parents and children about this program who were both grateful and enthusiastic for the opportunity to join in the reading fun over the summer school holidays.

We thank all 361 participants who joined our *Summer Reading Club* and hope it is a start to a wonderful year of reading.

MELINDA BENZIE
Campbelltown City Library



/02

ORANGE

The *Summer Reading Club* investigation theme triggered a wave of events across Central West Libraries branches that attracted children to read, colour-in, and use their super sleuth skills to help track down a missing Library mascot – the giant Platypus known as Freeda the Reader.

It all began when the newest member of the Central West Libraries team went missing during the Christmas break and she was reported missing to the local police. She was described as a female Platypus, with lots of dense brown fur, green eyes, a large rubbery snout, 175cm tall with webbed feet, and last seen wearing a red vest.

All staff and patrons from Central West Libraries were on the lookout for Freeda as she has been known to visit any of the 7 branches to find interesting titles to read or watch. From the start Youth Liaison and Crime Prevention Officer for Canobolas Area Command, Senior Constable Greg Treavors, was confident they would locate her. He visited the library to talk to colleagues, patrons and Freeda's friends as the first steps to finding her. He said any snippet of information – no matter how small – can assist.

During the school holidays there were many sightings of Freeda – swimming at Lake Canobolas, fishing on the Lachlan River, picnics by Lake Forbes, posting letters at Molong, checking our local sights and reading books along the way.

Summer Reading Club activities culminated in a spy mission at Orange City Library where the second Orange Scouts assisted a team of *young spies* to follow clues and use GPS to find Freeda. The spies became totally immersed in the search and they almost caught her when they discovered an book opened at *Old Man Platypus* by Banjo Paterson in the Library. Freeda was found at her favourite swimming hole-the Lake. Freeda was escorted by police and she was most apologetic explaining she had been busy



/01

planning the *Summer Read Wrap Party* and had just wanted it to be a surprise for everyone.

Most recently Freeda has found a special friend when she received a lovely bunch of flowers for *Library Lovers' Day* (and Valentine's Day!) from a surprise guest to the Library – Prime Possum. Freeda presented Prime Possum with his own Library membership card and they enjoyed some quiet time reading together after meeting with children visiting the Storytime area.

JULIE-ANNE SYKES
Orange City Library

KIAMA

What a busy time we have had at Kiama Library during the January school holidays. Our holiday activities began as usual in mid-December with the *Summer Reading Club* program. Reading records flowed in thick and fast with over 1000 books being read by just under 100 children.

Almost all our programs were booked out well before Christmas and we had to schedule extra workshops to meet the need. Unfortunately we still had children on waiting lists for spots.

Our annual Lego building competition is always very popular and this year we were very grateful to Friends of Kiama Library who purchased over 10,000 pieces of Lego and two very kind customers who donated several tubs of unwanted pieces for the Library collection. The Lego competition is judged by the Manager of Developments and Assessments at Kiama Municipal Council - he claims it is the highlight of his year!

Other holiday activities included *Fairy or Troll House Construction* based on the book, *How to Make Fairy Houses*, by young Samara Welbourne. We all had so much fun with this one that even the adult helpers wanted to build their own fairy house. In keeping with the *Summer Reading Club* theme, *Investigate*, we ran two excellent tours by robot of

the National Museum Australia. This one was rated *awesome* in the feedback. *Super Spies and Secret Agents*, an activity based on codes, ciphers and secret messages was also very popular especially with the boys.

SHARON JONES
Kiama Public Library

QUIRINDI

Quirindi Library, branch of Central Northern Regional Library organised a scavenger hunt inspired by *Summer Reading Club* theme *Investigations*.

Children 6 – 12 years old were asked to explore thoroughly the local library and to finish the tasks and collect points to have a chance to win an iPod shuffle and other great prizes sponsored by Friends of Quirindi Library.

The tasks were all about learning what is available at the library.

They explored the collections, the Dewey system, and events. Members of the library received 100 points! with extra points when they borrowed a book.

One task was to meet a librarian and ask her a question. The questions children came up with: How old is the library? How many people come to the library per day? How many books are in the library? What book is most popular? Why do you like to work as a librarian? Does the library have WiFi? Did you pay for the new tables and chairs in the children section? All these questions were great way to build a closer relationship between the library staff and the children.

- *Draw a picture or describe your dream library* was a favourite topic for us and it was very exciting to find out they were still full of books and some were identical to library's unsuccessful grant applications!!
- Some dream libraries:
- Sienna (8) drew a picture of library full of books with a coffee maker.
- Caitlin (8) drew a fantastic picture of a library with a spiral staircase, walls full of books and sunshine, with comfy sofas and beanbags, computers and a friendly fairy getting the books for her while she reads and cuddles a ginger kitten.
- William (10) would like have his dream library in Boy and Girls *only* sections.
- Martin (12) wished to have an indoor pool with Jacuzzi, tennis court, video games, lots of books and computers.

The winners were judged on *Library Lovers' Day*. The presentation was well attended and the Liverpool Plains Shire Council councillor, who



KIAMA ANNUAL LEGO BUILDING COMPETITION

Children's News

attended the presentation, will present the *Dream Libraries* to the Council's next meeting.

FRIENDS OF QUIRINDI LIBRARY

CLARENCE REGIONAL

There was great interest in The *Summer Reading Club* again this year. Bellingen, Urunga and Dorrigo Libraries held three activities over the school holiday period - *Create your own identity*; *Follow the clues*; and *Nature detective*. Bellingen and Urunga Libraries were fortunate to have the local Open Arms Vacation Care children attend two of the three events. There were over 150 children registered to participate in the SRC from Grafton, Maclean, Yamba and Iluka.

The Grafton community demonstrated its need for the new facility by turning out in strength for underwater photographer Brett Vercoe's talk on the Solitary Islands Marine Park. Brett's unique footage attracted 94 people to the library in January. Brett discussed marine life off our immediate shore and showed some spectacular underwater footage of big coastal critters.

ANGELA CLARKE
Clarence Regional Library

LAKE MAC

Lake Mac Libraries again held a successful *Summer Reading Club* with an increase in participation of 83% on last year.

We secured in kind sponsorship from *The Star*, a local newspaper. This included advertisements for our Summer Reading program, and news articles in December and January. It proved a great way to reach non-library users to join, with a jump in new borrower registrations compared to December last year.

As incentive to register (and join the library) everyone received a *Star Reader* starter pack, which included a reading log, activity booklet and small giveaways. Each time they borrowed, they placed an entry into the prize draw.

Our prize this year proved extremely popular with children, parents and grandparents, with one lucky member winning a magic show for themselves and 30 friends by *JD's World of Magic*. We also offered up to 15 minor prizes, which included books and family pool passes.

RACHEL MALLABY
Lake Mac Libraries



FRANCES WATTS LAUNCHES SRC AT MARRICKVILLE

MARRICKVILLE

Children's author Frances Watts launched the *Summer Reading Club* program at Marrickville Library on Tuesday 10 December. Local schools attended, and Dulwich Hill bookstore Gleebooks pre-ordered her book, picking up the copies on the day.

The *Summer Reading Club* ran from 1 December 2013 – 31 January 2014, and included colourful and creative competition entries from kids and teens. Parties were held to mark the close of the club for another year on Friday 14 February, with *Summer Reading Club* certificates and competition prizes awarded to participants. The children's party featured entertainers *Cracker and Dip* and themed cake, fruit and sandwiches. Teens had a separate celebration with pizza and giant versions of classic games like *Connect 4*, *Jenga* and *Snakes and Ladders*.

TANYA HO
Marrickville Library and History Services

WAGGA WAGGA

School holidays at Wagga Wagga City Library are a bundle of fun! Every day the children's area is packed full of families playing on our tables full of board games – *Snakes & Ladders* and *Connect 4* never get old - trying out the *Xbox Kinect* or busily crafting and colouring with the DIY crafting materials provided each day. Add in the free WiFi, comfortable couches and air conditioning and we have a winning formula.

We have been providing everyday family fun in the children's area in the school holidays for three years now, and our city really appreciates and supports it. Seeing our children's area packed with families enjoying themselves, time together and time with books is a brilliant sign for library involvement and

literacy in our area. If we can make the library a fun place, books become fun too.

This is not all we provide over the holidays. In Summer we participated in the *Summer Reading Club*, giving prizes to the biggest borrowers. We also screened two movies, *Honey I Shrunk the Kids* and *Small Soldiers*. In addition, we had a brilliant demonstration for 100 children from *Scientwists*, with all sorts of crazy experiments. My favourite was the optical illusion making the presenters heads appear to expand and shrink! Last but not least was a day of *Library Legoland*, where we place all of our Lego collection into our Community Learning Space, open the doors and let the kids go wild. As far as school holidays go, we are smashing it!

JEANNIE HAZELL
Wagga Wagga City Library

WOOLLAHRA

A total of 130 children, from preschoolers to older ages, enrolled in this year's *Summer Reading Club* and collectively 1,300 books were read over the summer holidays. At the end of January a celebration party was held where reading achievement awards were presented, followed by afternoon tea - popcorn, fruit platters and punch - enjoyed outdoors on the terrace. After the refreshments, best-selling author and entertainer Andy Jones performed his fast-paced *What's the joke* show, using electric guitar, drums, and numerous props to explore humour, and music from various cultures. Andy had the crowd - children and adults alike - up and moving with his fast-paced presentation that prompted much laughter and enthusiastic participation, along with many compliments.

JOAN RUTHVEN
Woollahra

WOOLLAHRA

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paced presentation that prompted much laughter and enthusiastic participation, along with many compliments.

JOAN RUTHVEN
Woollahra

CANTERBURY

At the City of Canterbury Library this year, a staggering 4,366 books were read over the summer holidays by 392 participants aged between 2 and 18 years of age. Participants read an average of 11 books each.

This exceeded our previous year's total. Participants in the *Summer Reading Club* were encouraged to read books at their level. Each time they finished a book, they could go into the draw to win prizes which included Dr Seuss and Tom Gates Box Sets. There were 20 winners overall in the following age groups: Preschool, Years K-2, Years 3-6 and High School.

Investigate themed activities were held across our branches as part of the SRC; including *Paul's Magic Show* performing his *I Love to Read* show and a craft activity whereby young people could create their own Spydentity.

PAULA PFOEFFER
Canterbury Library



PAUL'S MAGIC SHOW

Children's News

YEAR ONE FROG CLUB
AND HILLS SHIRE MAYOR



THE HILLS

The 2013/14 *Summer Reading Club* was a resounding success in The Hills. Our theme of Investigation followed the State Library of Queensland's club and the children loved becoming secret agents and completing their *Top Secret Mission* which resulted in some amazing entries into the book prize draw. The club had the most children participate in over 4 years with 1461 members. That's 1461 children who have enjoyed coming into our libraries to borrow and read! Between them they visited a total of 10,735 times and borrowed a total of 20,355 items.

Leading on from this success *The Year One Frog Club* for 2014 was launched in February at the Baulkham Hills branch library. The children had a great time meeting the Mayor of the Hills Shire, singing with club mascot Fribbit and laughing at *Paul's Magic Show*, which focused on the love of books and reading. The club uses a system of a sticker per visit on a log, these stickers then lead to a reward after 3 visits. The goal of the club is to provide children with positive experiences in their early years and encourages the habit of library use.

ERICA WORT
The Hills Shire Library

BANKSTOWN

Bankstown Council's popular *Summer Reading Club* program recently culminated in the grand

finale presentation night at Bankstown Sports Club attended by hundreds of participants and their families, receiving their certificates and prizes as part of the awards evening. This year Bankstown, Panania, Chester Hill, Greenacre and Padstow libraries ran the program during which time 530 registered Club Members read 12,000 books between November 2013 and the end of January 2014. To celebrate all this reading, the library held an end-of-*Summer Reading Club* presentation night for participants and their parents at the Bankstown Sports Club. Avid readers collected their prizes, everyone was entertained by a brilliant magic show and Club members received their certificates of achievement after another great summer of reading. This year a separate youth section was promoted with particularly age appropriate prizes on offer. This year we also held a special Youth Only reading club open to Bankstown Youth 12-18 years. This included youth only activities, competitions and prizes. And for those Youth members that enjoy a lot of reading we introduced the *250 Club*. Any book read with 250+ pages to be acknowledged on our wall of fame and go into the draw for a fantastic grand prize.

Bankstown City Library and Information Service hosted the *Summer Reading Club Have Book Will Travel* campaign to encourage children to discover the wonderful books available at their local library, and to enjoy reading throughout the summer holidays. Parents were also encouraged to join up their younger children up to four years of age, who cannot yet read and record the books read to them. This was the *Read to Me* club which enjoyed close to 100 members.

ROBYN OWENS
Bankstown City Library and Information Service

DUNDAS

Tony's magic show, an award winning performer, gave an entertaining performance to children and parents at Dundas Library on 24 Jan 2014. He entertained, he interacted and he was great fun too. The successful participants of *Summer Reading Club* were invited to this event. Snakes and bunnies popped out generating immense fun and laughter all around. After the afternoon of fun and trickery, the *Summer Reading Club* children stayed back for more fun and games. The excitement carried on with musical chairs and passing the hot potato. The pizza party for the children followed the games. A *Summer Reading Club* cake was also cut and shared by the children and their parents. And before the day's activities came to an end two lucky door prizes were drawn with the

winners winning vouchers to the Sydney Sea Life and Sydney Wild Life. The proudest moment came when they received their *Summer Reading Club* participation certificates. All of them promised to come back and join the fun and excitement of reading and participating in the next *Summer Reading Program* come December.

AMBAR, DINA & LOU
Dundas Library

NEWCASTLE

Over 1100 children enjoyed summer holiday activities at Newcastle Region Library this January, with a large variety of low cost programs. Using the SRC theme *Investigate* we trained as secret agents, helped Arkie Sparkle decode secret messages in the library and investigated science. The theme also stretched to include the always popular *Discover the world of fairies and elves* storytime. Using the delightful book *How to make a fairy house* as inspiration children and parents loved creating their own magical house, complete with garden. We even offered the option of troll houses for those *less pink*. Central Coast storyteller Catrina Hylton provided a wonderful interactive storytime for our younger children. I would highly recommend her *Top hats and other tales* to other libraries. The last year we have developed a number of drop-in activities during the holidays. These again proved very popular.

JULIE SWANE
Newcastle Library

SUMMER READING PROGRAMME/ SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME, JANUARY 2014

At Gunnedah during January, 2014 we combined the summer reading programme theme of Investigation with our school holiday programme of Toddler Time in the morning, and storytelling for older children in the afternoon each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We also used these themes for the school holiday programme at Curlewis library.

We decided to take the Investigation theme and apply it to different things, using them as the theme for that particular week. We had to get enough books and activities for two different groups – Toddler time for children aged to 6 years, and Storytelling for children aged 6 to 12. Reading, storytimes and activities were related to the themes of:

- Investigating paper
- Investigating food
- Investigating touch
- Investigating sound



FAIRY HOUSE AT NEWCASTLE

We decorated the library with giant magnifying glasses, footprints, finger prints, hand prints, Summer reading programme posters. Children were also marked 'present' for each session each week with a different coloured star on a certificate, which was laminated at the end of the sessions. There was a presentation ceremony – attended by Gunny the Gunnedah Koala and our department head in February – when Summer Reading Programme prizes were presented and certificates were handed out.

We will be recycling all the ideas, books and activities for programmes and sessions during the year, so the effort was not wasted!

CHRIS BIRKETT
Gunnedah Library

SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES @ ERMINGTON LIBRARY: ANOTHER YEAR ANOTHER BIG HIT!

This year's Summer Holiday activities proved to be even bigger than previous years, drawing lots of interested children to our library. Swarms of children thoroughly enjoyed all the activities which included Papier Mache Hot Air Balloons, Aquarium craft, Face Painting Workshop and last but not the least our *Summer Reading Club* Party. Highlight of the Holiday activities was our *Face Painting Workshop*. Helen Beazley, a fast experienced tattoo artist and a face painter created a great rapport with children and offered a full selection of creative and beautiful face designs, transforming Ermington Library into a vibrant art studio.

GARGI MALLIK
Ermington Library

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- 02 HALLOWEEN COSTUME AT BROKEN HILL
- 03 HALLOWEEN AT BROKEN HILL

BLISTERING SUMMER READING IN COBAR

Plenty of Cobar kids *beat the heat* with concerted participation in *Summer Reading Club*. Cobar Shire & TAFE Library encouraged the kids (as part of the national reading program) to keep reading over the summer break with fun rewards and prizes. 28 young readers signed up for the program, and 17 kids (aged 4-14 years old) recorded their reading for the summer break. One young reader (with English as her second language) topped the running with a reading record of 100 books. In a new record for Cobar, a total of 800 reading hours and/or books were read. An intriguing trail of mysterious footprints stretched more than half-way round the library as testament to the outstanding reading achievement.

JANE SIERMANS
Cobar Shire & TAFE Library

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Young people of Wollondilly Shire made a beeline for their library to register for the Summer Reading Program. This year's program proved to be another success with 235 registrations, and a whopping 1,896 books being read in total. The program wrapped in early February with 30 prize winners receiving books, toys, movie tickets and store vouchers at the prize presentation held in the library.

GEORGINA KONSTANTA
Wollondilly Library Service

HALLOWEEN FRIGHT NIGHT AT BROKEN HILL CITY LIBRARY

On Friday, 1 November, Broken Hill Library held a Halloween Fright Night, aimed at young people aged 8-15 years. This was a lock-in event from 7-11pm, with people asked to come in costume.

Early in the evening, while it was still light, we played guessing games, then got the group to use their research skills to source information about zombies and what to do in the event of a zombie attack. Following that we did apple-bobbing and potato-bowling (it was meant to be pumpkins, but the shops had sold out!). These activities were a huge success.

As darkness fell, we turned off the lights in the library, leaving it lit only by glow lanterns and played murder in the dark, before telling ghost stories by

torch-light. As there are many accounts of strange sights and happenings in our own (very old) building, we set the mood by reading these.

When the children were highly alert and listening closely for strange noises, there was a heavy thumping on the back door, just behind us. The children all jumped with fright before we opened the door a group of moaning zombies, who came in menacingly.

We urged the children to fight them off with pillows and the kids were certainly equal to the task. In the end we had to defend the zombies from their onslaught!

After that it was time to settle, with supper and movie. While we waited for caregivers to arrive, we heard feedback from the participants, who had had a great time.

JACQUI SMITH
Broken Hill City Library

GOSFORD CITY LIBRARY JANUARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

237 children attend the Gosford City Library Summer Surprises School Holiday Programs in January. Programs were held over 3 weeks from Tuesday 7th January through to Friday 24th January. The programs focused on summer themed books and crafts in addition to a number of speciality themed events.

At Gosford Library children were invited to a *Doctor Who* afternoon, celebrating the recent 50th birthday of the Doctor. Children aged 8 to 14 years were encouraged to dress up and have their photo taken with a life sized Tardis or a Dalek. Children also were able to make a number of Doctor Who themed crafts including a Sonic Screwdriver, the multifunctional tool from the show.

Woy Woy Library was visited by Sarah Davis, illustrator of the well-known children's picture book series *Fearless*. Sarah introduced herself and how she came to be an illustrator. Sarah then created some wonderful drawings based on characters the children helped create, including a fabulous fainting squid. Sarah gave drawing tips on how to give the characters different expressions, and some enthusiastic children created stories and plots to go with their characters.

A Seuss themed morning was held at Laycock Street theatre, tying in with *Seussical the Musical* which ran in January. Children were able to watch a dress rehearsal of the performance hear *Horton Hears a Who* read and create a Horton craft. Other holiday programs included *Water Stories* at the East Gosford Regional Gallery, *Fun in the Sun* at Erina Library and *Pets at Kincumber* Library and Umina Library.

ALEXANDRA BRINTON
Gosford City Library

BROKEN HILL

During the Christmas school holiday period children were invited to get crafty at the Broken Hill City Library where we used recycled materials to make pipe critter creatures, bird feeders, peg creations and bottle top critters just to name a few. The children had fun exploring their creativity and if they got bored the adults were more than happy to take over!

For our end of year event we hosted an *Angry birds* themed games day, staff had a great time making the pigs out of papier mache and used painted shoe boxes for the bricks, which turned out to be great fun, though it would have been great if the game restarted as quickly as the digital version! We also had board games and the Wii out for the kids to play, which is always a hit!

More details and pictures are on our facebook page which has become increasingly popular with the local community able to keep up to date on all the library's activities.

And the staff are looking to make 2014 extra busy and are already keenly planning the upcoming year's events, so watch out Broken Hill!

FALLON LAWN
Broken Hill City Library

CONTINUOUS STORYTIME

Leeton Library have been developing kits for the *Saturday Book Chair Program*, which follows the traditional Storytime, but in a *one-presenter show* format. Each Saturday a different theme is run. We have been running this program for several years and now have more than 80 kits. The staff decided to utilise these almost pick-up and go kits by running *Continuous Storytime* over the school holidays. This Summer we ran it over three weeks. Each day we ran a different themed program. We had approximately

300 attendees, including many who were not regulars. A significant group of *newbies* were grandparents who were looking after grandchildren during the holidays, who were not from the area. We had a number of *frequent flyers*, people who attended most days. We had a lot of positive feedback and will continue to run the program in the future.

JO PIANCA
Leeton Shire Council

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE BRINGS ROYAL VISITORS TO CANADA BAY

I was very lucky to meet HRH Crown Princess Mary of Denmark during the royal visit to Australia. I was invited to a presentation for the Premier's Reading Challenge at Five Dock Public School. Her Excellency Marianne Bruus Jelled, Minister for Culture of Denmark was interested to find out more about the PRC and how it operates. The Minister was especially



GETTING CRAFTY AT BROKEN HILL

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- 01 WENDY BANISTER,
HRH CROWN
PRINCESS MARY
OF DENMARK AND
PREMIER BARRY
O'FARRELL
- 02 WE CARE DAY-
LISTENING TO
STORIES
- 03 GINA NEWTON
ENTERTAINING THE
CHILDREN WITH THE
ANTICS OF BLOSSUM
POSSUM

interested in how public libraries support the PRC. During the afternoon all students across the state who achieved an award were represented by students from Five Dock Public School and Fort Street High School who were presented with their PRC awards. This was followed by the launch of the new PRC app and demonstrations of the buddy reading system used in some schools. During the afternoon tea that followed guests were able to chat with the royal couple and other VIPs. It was a very interesting day and a once in a lifetime experience for me!

—
WENDY BANISTER
City of Canada Bay

WE CARE DAY OUTREACH STORYTELLING

Coffs Harbour Library Staff are well known for participating in local outdoor events, and throughout the year, we can be found reading stories in our local Botanical Gardens or in the City Centre. When Community Care Options asked us to attend their *We Care Day* celebrations we jumped at the chance, pitching out storytelling tent at the picturesque Jetty Foreshores.

The family fun day, as part of *We Care Week* was the opportunity to connect with community members, who either provide or are recipients of much needed care and support. Over 3,000 people attended throughout the day, with many children attending our stories, craft & music. As we were located right next to the *Petting Zoo*, the children enjoyed watching the animal antics as we read.

It was rewarding to be able to entertain the children throughout the day, as part of a connected and caring community.

—
CAROLYN ELMES
Coffs Harbour Library

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS STORYTIME AT THE LIBRARY

Over 100 excited children attended Goulburn Mulwaree Library last December to listen to children's author Gina Newton read from her latest book.

Ms Newton read from new book *Blossum Possum and the Christmas Quacker* as well as Blossum Possum's first adventure - *Blossum Possum - The Sky is Falling Down Under*.

The children were enthralled by both books, which are beautifully illustrated by Christina Booth and tell of Blossum Possum's adventures and her mission to save Koala Claws.

The event also included fun Christmas craft activities for children aged between 2 – 6 years of age.

The children's room was full of fun and laughter as Gina read her story out to over one hundred children visiting from the local preschools and childcare centres as well as an open storytime session.

It was great for the children to meet Gina and ask her questions about her books. Gina also talked about what it is like to be an author and how she got her inspiration for her stories.

—
MICHELLE STUART
Goulburn Mulwaree Library

IT'S A YEAR FULL OF FUN!

In a first for Maitland City Library, the Programmes Team have produced an annual *Holiday Fun* programme, locking in a wonderful range of exciting activities, workshops and performances for the whole year. The availability of an annual programme greatly assists with event marketing and promotion and increases the strength of the Maitland City Library brand.

The *Holiday Fun* programme is jam-packed with a mix of free and low cost events for children ranging from 4 -14 years of age. Activities are provided at all

four branches by talented library staff and external performers.

January was *Celebration Time* and each branch had strong numbers at their various activities, which included discovering interesting New Year traditions, making festival decorations and New Year totems, celebrating great movies with a library scavenger hunt and creating a journal to mark all the special days in 2014.

Andy Jones performed his interactive *What's the Joke?* show to a large audience of appreciative kids and parents, and Julie Zommers ran her popular puppet workshops which resulted in some wild and wacky sock puppet creations!

We are looking forward to the next Holiday Fun programme in April, *Legomania*, and have plans to expand on the programme in 2015.

KERYL COLLARD
Maitland Library

CHILDREN'S AUTHOR IN RESIDENCE: GLENDA MILLARD

Glenda Millard was the 2013 children's author in residence at the Bland Shire Library. The author in residence programming has been running for over 10 years and it is a wonderful way for country kids to meet and be inspired by well known Australian authors. Glenda was a particularly warm author and was able to draw upon her own experience of growing up in a small country town to make her writing relevant to the children. Glenda was taken out to many of the small village schools in the Bland Shire as well as having the schools closer to West Wyalong visit her at the library. In total Glenda visited 9 schools and conducted 16 sessions. It was a pleasure to host Glenda's visit and to get to know a wonderfully talented author.

JOANNE RUSSO
Bland Shire Library

GINGERBREAD HOUSE WORKSHOPS

The Coolamon Library held a Gingerbread House workshop for children during the December/January school holiday period. Kristie from *Heavenly Baked*, a local business owner, conducted the workshop with a huge number of children attending. The workshop was very successful and proved so popular that an extra one was held on the same day.



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The children took home their very own hand-crafted gingerbread houses which were covered with icing and decorated with assorted confectionary including smarties, pine leaves, freckles, raspberries, jelly beans, choc buds and even teeth!

The children had lots of creative fun and the positive feedback from parents was great which is always lovely to hear.

HELEN MCLOUGHLIN
Coolamon Library

WALGETT LIBRARY SUMMER NEWS

Walgett Library held several fun events partnershiping with *Goonimoo Play Group* bringing the children and their parent/carers into a cool environment during the summer. We have recently undergone extensions to our library and are happy to share our new large space with community groups

01 MAITLAND HOLIDAY FUN
02 GLENDA MILLARD AT BLAND

Children's News



GOONIMOO PLAYGROUP VISIT

such as these. Membership has increased with parents taking advantage of these sessions to borrow from our collection. Each day finished with a reading session from popular books in the library.

CHRISTINE DUGAN
Walgett Library

READING ALOUD WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Willoughby City Library hosted two reading aloud workshops for parents and carers during January. These were presented by Rowena Lee, long-time educator and former Headmaster of Sydney Grammar School St Ives Preparatory School.

Over 80 parents and carers of babies and children were given information on how reading aloud supports their children's intellectual, social and emotional needs, as well as tips on how to make this experience a wonderfully enjoyable and rewarding time for children and parents/carers. This included suggestions of the types of books to choose, ways to make reading together fun, and suggestions for how to use books to develop conversations and further discussions with children.

These very practical, supportive and interactive sessions were extremely well-received by parents, with lots of questions from the floor, and very positive feedback after the event.

This activity was prompted by direct feedback from our recent focus group sessions for parents held late last year.

LIZ PARKER
Willoughby City Library

SCHOOL KIDS VISIT THE LIBRARY

In November, fifty one year 5 students from Gorokan Public School walked to Lake Haven Library, armed with their school iPads. Permission slips and library membership forms were collated by the school before the event. After a tour of the library, Branch staff demonstrated how our ebooks and databases worked and students were presented with their own library card and received a gift bag full of exciting library promos. This was such a successful event that we plan to make it an annual event with Gorokan Public School and extend the invitation to other nearby schools.

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Wyong Shire Libraries

SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

If you thought summer was not hot enough then you should have come to our disco! DJ Chrissy came to Tuggerah Library after hours and played current as well as retro music to a large group of groovers. We had bright coloured lights but unfortunately the smoke detectors meant we could not use the smoke machine. The juice, chips and other nibblies were demolished as fast as the CYAS staff could perform the Nutbush!

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Wyong Shire Libraries

Gunnedah

1,000 BOOKS BEFORE SCHOOL PROGRAMME

This initiative was begun as a result of a request by one of our new library members, who said 'a library down the coast' was running it. We started the programme in January 2014 and it now has over 32 participants.

The *1,000 Books before School* programme encourages early-childhood literacy and introduces young children to the world of reading.

If the child attends Toddler Time at the library, the books read will count towards the 1,000 total. Children will receive certificates as they reach the milestones of 50, 100, 250, 500, 750 and then 1,000 books to mark their achievement, so when the child starts school or preschool they will not only have a handful of awards to show their teachers and



GUNNY THE KOALA AT SRC PRESENTATION



AUSTRALIA DAY AT WINGECARRIBEE

classmates, they will also have a head start in learning to read and write.

After the children have joined the library and the programme, it takes very little staff time to administer. Children receive a book bag for their books, and in the bag is a booklist for adults on Early Childhood Literacy and Activities material the library holds, a bookmark with the Toddler Time days and times on it, and a page on which they record the book titles enjoyed.

Every six weeks we will hold a milestone certificate presentation to which all 1,000 books before school participants will be invited. We have several children who have reached their first 50 books.

It's really a win/win/win situation as we get more children joining the library, more children and parents participating in Toddler Time and there are many more loans of the picture books! And an extra plus is that the parents network, share news and make new friends.

The programme is advertised through posters in the library, in the weekly newspaper column 'Library Lines' and over the radio in the weekly community news.

CHRIS BIRKETT
Gunnedah Library

AUSTRALIA DAY IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

What a way to celebrate Australia Day! Wingecarribee ROADS (Mobile Library) held an Australia Day

Treasure Hunt at Bundanoon Oval for borrowers of our Mobile Library Service, along with other patrons of the Wingecarribee Public Library Service.

The children began with an Australian Sand Art craft where they were able to use their artistic creativity to complete the Australiana pictures using vibrant colours. They then headed onto the oval where they all participated in an *Egg and spoon race* and *Throw the Aussie Thong* competition. Just to get their little legs moving even more a Treasure Hunt had been set up around the perimeter of the oval. The children had to collect 5 Australian tokens to receive their bag of goodies. To finish off the Australia Day Treasure Hunt, lamingtons and poppers were devoured. A great time was had by all.

TRUDY ECCLESTON
Wingecarribee Public Library

BIBS & BOOKS - CHRISTMAS EVENT

The last *Bibs & Books* for 2013 was held on Tuesday 12 Dec 2013. A large gathering of 24 kids with 24 parents joined in for this event. We had singing, rhyming and dancing all with a festive Christmas touch. The staff put on their Santa hats and antlers and sang *Jingle Bells* followed by *We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*. Everyone joined in, the parents and some customers too, happily singing Christmas carols with us while entertaining the little ones. The event ended with the children and parents enjoying a bit of Christmas treat.

Children's News



CIRCUS RINGMASTER FIONA

STORY TIME - CHRISTMAS EVENT

We followed up the *Bibs & Books* event with our Christmas story time event the very next day which was even bigger with sixty children and parents! Christmas stories were read followed by popular rhymes. And then with music in the background all staff, children and parents joined in singing Christmas carols wearing Christmas hats and antlers. The children made lovely Christmas baskets which were filled with lollies on their way out. The event ended with a Christmas treat for the children and a morning tea for their parents.

AMBAR BANERJI
Dundas Library

CIRCUS STORYTIME

Cue loud applause, raucous cheers, and roll out the red carpet for the wonderful stars of our Circus Storytime. Orange City Library hosted circus animals, acrobats, a bearded lady, magicians, clowns, circus dancers, ringmasters, lion tamers, even a circus

mouse and many more circus characters at our final week of Storytime sessions for the year featuring the energetic performances of the Orange High School Circus Troupe. They wowed the crowds with their tumbling, acrobatic, juggling and balancing skills. The students also took time out to show the young Storytimers special circus skills.

FIONA HAWKE
Orange City Library

ANIMAL MASKS & PLASTER WORKSHOP

On 15 Jan 2014 Dundas Library organised a children's workshop comprising colourful mask painting and decorating plaster moulds of sea animals. Samples of animal masks were put up on the walls. There was a lot of excitement as the children went about painting their animal masks including elephants, rams and lions. Having painted the masks they compared each other's by trying them on. In the second part of the workshop the children chose a sea

animal plaster mould of their choice, painted it with acrylic water colours and took the moulds with them for displaying at home. In all twenty eight attended the event including sixteen children.

AMBAR, DINA & LOU
Dundas Library

CHRISTMAS CRAFTERNOON FOR KIDS

Our annual Christmas Crafternoon for Kids is always popular and this year was no exception. Participants were as busy as bees making cards, door hangers, reindeer bracelets and Xmas bags, fuelling their excitement for Santa's impending arrival.

JANUARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Participants enjoyed a day of fun at our 'All about me' face painting and craft session. Children picked their favourite design, had their faces painted and then were photographed. Children also made and decorated a picture frame to have their photo mounted on to take home.

Kids' talents sparkled and shone at our Jewellery Making activity, creating a necklace, bracelet and earrings and a jewellery 'tree' to hang them on.

Thirty young people also enjoyed a workshop 'Digging Dinosaurs' becoming amateur archaeologists for the morning.

We also held a pyjama storytime where the children came dressed in their pyjamas, bringing their teddies with them to listen to stories, sing songs, play games, win prizes and eat a supper of cookies and milk.

GEORGINA KONSTANTA
Wollondilly Library Service

Young Adults Update



MINECRAFT AT KIAMA

KIAMA

Kiama Library held its first Minecraft event on 20th January: forty kids between the ages of 8 and 18 were given the challenge to create *the building they think Kiama needs*. Ideas included a more elaborate lighthouse, a magic shop, a new motel, a new public garden and a giant treehouse. We hosted a PC and a Pocket Edition Server (for iPads), limited the game to *vanilla* Minecraft (no mods) and used Creative mode. We received enthusiastic feedback from the kids and parents and already have our next Minecraft event planned for during Youth Week. We'll experiment with mods, and attempt to curtail those trying to break our prime rules of *no trolling, no griefing* which, like our proposed new lighthouse, failed to withstand the power of dynamite blocks.

MICHAEL DALITZ
Kiama Library

MINUTE TO WIN IT GAMES ARE A HIT

Between 9 and 17 January 2014, boys and girls from Blacktown, Mount Druitt and Stanhope Gardens

participated in *Minute to Win It* Games for Tweens held as part of Blacktown City Libraries Summer School Holiday Program. Proving the old adage *time flies when you are having fun*, these hour and half long sessions passed too quickly for participants. They were swept up in a whirl of challenges and games that required elements such as speed, balance, agility and hand /eye coordination. Each session saw participants compete in two teams where they and their parents noisily cheered on team mates attempting challenges. Lots of fun was had by all. Amidst the positive feedback, there were repeated requests from parents for *Minute to Win It* Games for adults!

DHARSHINI PERERA
Blacktown City Libraries

YOUTH SURVEY

The results of the Youth Survey are now published on our website (www.crl.nsw.gov.au). In a move to determine how to better develop services, collections and facilities for youth in the Clarence Valley and the Bellingen Shire the Clarence Regional Libraries asked 12-25 year old to participate in a survey, that was made available online using surveymonkey and in print form. The survey was promoted through radio, newspapers and advertisements in all local secondary school newsletters. There was an excellent response, possibly due to the offering of ipad prizes as an incentive. Questions were asked relating to collections, facilities, resources, programs and events and the information received will be analysed to form a strategy for future planning.

Key Findings from the survey are:

- The main Library used was Grafton (65.64%), then Maclean (24.10%), Bellingen (8.72%), Iluka (6.15%), Yamba (5.64%), Dorrigo (4.62%), Mobile Library (4.10%) and Urunga (2.56%).
- 10.77% of respondents also noted their use of the Library website
- A larger proportion of responses were from females (62.56%), than from males (37.44%)
- 77.34% of the respondents were aged between 12 and 18 years



CANDY SUSHI MAKING AT MOSMAN LIBRARY

- 22.66% were aged 19-24
- 66.01% were at school, while 20.69% were at TAFE or University
- Only 36.45% were working in any capacity – casual, part or fulltime

ANGELA CLARKE
Clarence Regional Library

A MERRY SUMMER FOR TEENS @ MOSMAN LIBRARY

Mosman Library for teenagers isn't all about reading, there was a lot of fun to be had this Summer for those teens who took part in Mosman Library's annual summer reading program, *Reading Rave*. Teens were kept busy this summer with reading and some exciting library activities. The teens kicked off *Reading Rave* in December with a candy sushi making workshop. Thirteen sweet toothed teens turned up to make this delightful dish! Instead of rice we used marshmallows, liquorice replaced sea weed and fish lollies were a sweet substitution for raw fish, clearly a teenager's sweetest dream. Everyone left with a plateful of colourful candy sushi to take home and share with family and friends.

In January we put on an ink-dyed coaster workshop. Eleven local teens spent a beautiful sunny afternoon outdoors decorating bland white tiles and turning them into bright colourful coasters. The teens showed a lot of creativity and enjoyed making the coasters, which were soooooo

easy and enjoyable to make, and a lovely gift for someone special.

The teens thoroughly enjoyed the activities, they learnt something new, made some nice friends, created beautiful and yummy things to take home, and earned 300 points towards the *Reading Rave* points board!

READING RAVE WRAP UP

Reading Rave 2013 saw a new format this year. We went from print to electronic, plastic to silicone and a grand prize to many prizes. This new format was embraced by the teens of Mosman, we achieved a record of participants this year. Fifty teens signed up for that custom made *Reading Rave* USB wristband and eagerly started plotting their way up the points board by deciding what activities they would attend, how many hours they would read for, how many books they would review and whether they would initiate conversation on the *wired4teens* blog. Every activity earned points and the race to achieving 1000 points was on!

The much anticipated prize presentation (because teens love prizes) was held on the 12 February where, special guest, Councillor Corrigan was there to congratulate the teens for their efforts and present them with their well-deserved prizes.

AMANDA HUDSON
Mosman Library

D&D GOES DOCTOR WHO

In 2012, two of Rockdale City Library's staff members attended the State Library's *Are you game?* workshops with a view of offering a *Dungeons and Dragons* games session for teenagers during Youth Week. Luckily for us, staff got to know a couple of experienced Dungeon Masters (DMs) who were more than happy to assist in the running of the event. The inaugural five-hour D&D session attracted five players who enthusiastically filled in their survey forms, informing us that we should run these sessions every week. We couldn't quite accommodate that request but, with the generous support of our DM volunteers, we were able to offer monthly five-hour Saturday sessions. Since then, the group has grown to 18 regulars with a number of drop-ins and try-outs along the way. We currently have four volunteer DMs and four apprentice DMs. The apprentice DMs are participants who are mad about the game and are being taught the ropes by the volunteers. As a large number of participants are also avid fans of the *Doctor Who* series, the DMs

- 01 D&D GOES DOCTOR WHO
- 02 WOLLONGONG'S DAY OF THE DOCTOR



/01

suggested a D&D *Doctor Who* Special where the rules of the games were incorporated into a *Doctor Who* setting and players could choose to be a well-known *Doctor Who* character or make up their own. A month prior to the extravaganza a sub-group met for a script-writing workshop to come up with storylines, characters etc. On the *Doctor Who* special day, the Council Chambers were turned into the TARDIS with a central techno junk console. Most players came dressed up as their character and snacks for the day included jellybeans, fish fingers and custard and other *Doctor Who* delights. The participants actually ate the fish fingers dipped in custard so there was no waste. All participants of the *Doctor Who* Special loved it although a couple of regulars gave it a miss and came back when the game had firmly returned to the intrigue and gore territory of the original setting. The 2014 D&D campaign is now well under way.

HEIKE OHRMANN
Rockdale City Library

THE DAY OF THE DOCTOR, "BETTER THAN YOU THINK"

"When you're a kid, they tell you it's all... Grow up, get a job, get married, get a house, have a kid, and that's it. But the truth is, the world is so much stranger than that. It's so much darker. And so much madder. And so much better."

— Elton Pope, Season 2, Episode 10.

Wollongong City Libraries joined in the 2013 celebrations for the 50th Anniversary of *Doctor Who*, by hosting a special *Doctor Who* Trivia Day.

Wollongong City Library has now hosted a number of special-themed youth events that have been great successes and this was no exception! The event was open for ages 13-30 years and catered for all types of *Doctor Who* Fans. Starting at 12 noon our special guests arrived dressed up as their favourite characters and were treated to lunch and some unique photo opportunities before settling down into the day's trivia rounds.

Over 65 library-whovians attended the event, in teams of 6 they battled it out through 10 trivia rounds, 4 bonus rounds and best dressed competitions for the chance to win *Doctor Who* themed prizes. Prizes included *Doctor Who* monopoly, TARDIS mugs, towels and *Doctor Who* key chains.

The local television station came to capture the day, running a segment on the evening news including interviews with our Whovians and an impromptu a 'Capella version of the theme song which then went viral among Wollongong City Libraries Facebook friends; providing great promotion for the library.

We received great feedback and enthusiasm from the youth who attended, to see what they thought checkout the *Doctor Who* event on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/wollongongcitylibraries

"You want weapons? We're in a library! Books! The best weapons in the world!"

— The Doctor, Season 2, Episode 2

LAURA GOMES AND STEPH DALY
Wollongong City Libraries



/02



STAR WARS AFTER PARTY

TEEN SUMMER READING CHALLENGE WITH GUESTS FROM FAR, FAR AWAY ...

Randwick City Library Services has long participated in the *Summer Reading Club* (SRC). In order to combat the lack of uptake by those over 12, a teen specific version was introduced three years ago, branded as the *Teen Summer Reading Challenge* (TSRC). The project has proved popular with numbers swelling each year; the 2013/2014 challenge saw 97 participants read over 472 books.

The event is deliberately branded differently to the SRC and utilises different imagery, distinguishable branding and vastly different prizes. The project has continued to be improved across its three year history, with changes in administration undertaken to simplify the process for staff at service points.

The 2013/2014 challenge had a prize pool of over 30 individual prizes (of varying value). Prizes ranged from an iPad mini to books and games (very little cost to the library). Additional prizes for book reviews of \$30 and \$50 gift vouchers were awarded across Fiction, Non-Fiction and Graphic Novels / Manga.

An *After Party* is held at the close of the competition not only to draw the prize raffle and announce review winners but also to acknowledge the efforts of the participants. This year there was a twist, with special guests in full Star Wars character

costumes to assist with the reading challenge and happily posed for photos. Everyone definitely had a great time though it was hard to tell who enjoyed it more; the teens, or staff.

SAM SBISA
Randwick City Council

STUDENT VISIT

Erina High School is not in our Shire, but *Personal Development, Health and Physical Education* students travel to Tuggerah Library annually to view our collection of *Personal Interest Projects*. Whilst most students are not members of our Library service it is great that we are able to provide some assistance –viewing past winners is a real eye opener for them! And of course, we don't let any opportunity to promote our services go by. Loads of information concerning our services is also made readily available to encourage the students who may live in our Shire to join up!

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Tuggerah Library

TEEN LIBRARY LOVERS

This year, for the first time, Randwick City Library Service ran a teen specific event for Library Lovers Day; a simple competition that had great uptake and

Young Adults Update

required very little time or effort from staff. Teen members of the library were encouraged to borrow an item on their *Young Adult* Library Card and write their name, age and contact number on the back of their loan receipt. Two \$50 iTunes vouchers were offered as prizes for the competition. An impressive 277 submissions were received during the competition period (8 -14 February) and at least 20 teens signed up as members during the week in order to enter the competition. Over all this was a very cost effective strategy to increase interaction from teens with the library service and acknowledge Library Lovers Day.

SAM SBISA
Randwick City Council

GAMERS' WEEK

Over the last two years Randwick City Library Service has been focusing more on gaming and the benefits it can bring to the library. Over the past 12 months, *two Dungeons & Dragons* events (*The Intro* and *The Epic*) have been run during school holidays and proved incredibly popular, with the 26-34 places booking out well in advance and attracting people from as far away as the Blue Mountains.

To cater to this demand, a monthly session on a Saturday afternoon is being trailed across February and March and a week of activities across the January school holidays, *Gamers' Week*, was implemented. *Gamers' Week* events included popular activities based around *The Hobbit* (Games Workshop figurines), *Dungeons & Dragons* and *Super Smash Bros* (on the Nintendo Wii). Additionally *Not Boring Board Games* was offered, providing an opportunity to relaunch the Bowen Library's collection of In-house board games for teens. All events proved popular, with many booking out and having a waiting list. Attendance was evenly spread across gender and ages 12 - 18.

Since *Gamers' Week* there has been an increase in teens playing games in the library and making use of it as a meeting venue for gaming and study. Additionally, loans of gaming books (both fiction and non-fiction) has risen. Best of all however may possibly be the friendships across the age groups and different schools that appear to be moving along nicely.

SAM SBISA
Randwick City Council



THE HOBBIT FIGURINES

ENGAGING WITH YOUTH AT CITY OF CANADA BAY THROUGH PORTABLE MULTIMEDIA STUDIOS

City of Canada Bay received 2011/12 Library Development Grant through Library Council of NSW to create a multimedia studio to enhance the digital literacy and creativity of young people.

City of Canada Bay Libraries in Concord and Five Dock are working with local community organisations and high schools to build stronger relationships and assist youth in building digital skills using the state of the art resources of the portable multimedia studio.

The portable multimedia studios are a great tool to help engage, consult and involve young people in designing, planning and creating spaces in our growing community. They enable youth to create local content which the Library then organises, stores and shares, creating a greater sense of community.

The students of Concord High Art Club utilised the digital studios during term four in 2013 to produce images for the library youth spaces and a short animated video entitled *Face Off* depicting the students' animal painted faces, as well as an original soundtrack to match.

The project provided students with hands-on skills development in an informal manner and helps students build confidence, take risks, and be bold and experimental.

The students' short film can be seen on our Council's Youth Facebook page *Project Y Canada Bay* <http://on.fb.me/1jvl6iR> and website <http://bit.ly/MpSWtj>.

Images of their work have also been used as print designs for light boxes and cushions in our re-vamped youth space at Five Dock Library.

City of Canada Bay Libraries will be offering many future programs and the multimedia studios will play a large part in this, so keep watching this space!

TARA KLEIN
City of Canada Bay Libraries

SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

A diverse range of activities and workshops for children and young people was presented during the summer school holidays at the various library locations. Sydney School of Protocol presented a *Posture, poise and style* social etiquette class for young people 12-15 years, focused on encouraging interpersonal skills and confidence. Art and craft activities included a popular Japanese wind chimes workshop using recycled materials, decorating mini boxes led by a presenter from East is East Boutique Markets, and free expression art sessions using paint and glitter.

As part of the *Writers & Readers for Young People* program, authors Aleesah Darlison and Wendy Milton presented workshops for primary school aged children during the holidays. Aleesah presented two creative writing sessions. At the first she shared how she developed her characters and built the world of Avamay in her fantasy series *Unicorn Riders*. Aleesah then showed attendees how to create and draw mythical creatures, build new worlds, and start their own stories. At her second session, Aleesah provided

an introduction to picture books, and led children through exercises to create their own books. Wendy Milton's workshop explored writing and short story skills, explaining how to write an opening paragraph and how to invent a story character. From the feedback, all the sessions really engaged and inspired the budding young writers.

JOAN RUTHVEN
Woollahra Library

SHELLHARBOUR

Last year our Manga Anime Group, known as MAG, created our first art exhibition titled MACE: Manga Anime Comics Exhibition. Young people aged 12-17 years created photos, pencil and ink drawings, and digital manipulations inspired by their love of anime, manga and comics. Because MAG is group-driven, this exhibition, recent anime screenings, and a cosplay tea party, was the idea of group members. The exhibition was hung in a local exhibition space and had an official opening where family and friends came to celebrate the talent. It was wonderful to see the pride the young people felt as they walked into a gallery with their art on the walls. As their Youth Librarian, I too was proud of their hard work, and I thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience (which gained local ABC media coverage). I was also proud of how our library service promoted the creativity and self-expression of local young people - while also promoting the library - in a new setting.

DAVID GREEN
Shellharbour City Libraries



FACE OFF

In touch with the State Library

BRINGING THE LIBRARY'S COLLECTIONS TO YOU - COMMENCING AUGUST 2014

Register your interest in the Library's three part program to bring items from our WWI collections to you. From August 2014, this program will bring specialist curators, educators and conservators to your community through the following activities:

- *Preserving your family history and papers* A practical workshop run by a Library preservation expert where members of local historical, genealogical and other interested organisations learn how to preserve their personal history collections, including letters, journals and photographs
- *Curator talks with original items* Collection experts will bring original items relevant to your town, district, event or local WWI history or hero
- *Professional learning workshop for teachers* Learning Services staff will highlight WWI resource material in this hands-on workshop

Your Commitment To get the most from our visit, we recommend local libraries collaborate with historical and genealogical societies, RSLs, museums and galleries, and schools to promote and host all three program activities.

The Library assumes it is the responsibility of the host organisations to

- Advertise and promote this event to your networks and through local media
- Book a minimum audience of 20 people per activity
- Provide a venue
- Provide a secure location for original items

Our visit might coincide with events you're already planning to commemorate a significant event, or remember a local family.

For more information on the State Library's WWI program, or to register your interest in the

regional program contact Brooke Hutchison, Coordinator WWI Program, 02 9273 1499, brooke.hutchison@sl.nsw.gov.au or visit <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/ww1>

More information about the program, and EOJ forms, will be sent out soon.

WORLD WAR I

In 2014 we commemorate 100 years since the beginning of World War One. The State Library of NSW has a number of projects underway to remember those who served in the Great War.

A new research guide to access our World War One collections has been developed. This guide provides links to WWI diaries, photographs, artworks, posters and print collections from the men and women who served overseas, as well as to collections from the home front in Australia. The guide also provides a background on how the Library came to have such a significant collection of WWI diary and letter collections.

Many of our recently digitised collections of diaries and related material can be accessed from this guide.

In November 2013 the Library launched its WWI website with the names of all its diarists, selected readings from the diaries and further information about how the Library will be commemorating the centenary. One of the aims of this initial website was to try and connect with descendants of our WWI diarists. In fact several descendants have been in contact with the Library, one heard about our project via their public library's newsletter! A great success.

In June 2014 an expanded World War One website will be launched which will include curated stories from our WWI collections, links to curriculum resources and a space for community created content.

An exhibition on the Library's WWI collections will open on 5 July in the Library's exhibition galleries. Titled, *Life interrupted: the personal diaries from WWI*

the exhibition will focus on the experiences of those who left Australia and served in the various theatres of war. The exhibition will run until 21 September.

Link to the Library's World War One research guide: <http://guides.sl.nsw.gov.au/content.php?pid=489033&sid=4381673>

Link to the Library's WWI website: <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/about/projects/wwi/index.html>

Exhibition blurb:

<http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events/exhibitions/future.html>

ELISE EDMONDS
Curator WWI

OVER 2 MILLION PAGES OF HISTORIC NEWSPAPERS ONLINE - FREE TO THE PUBLIC

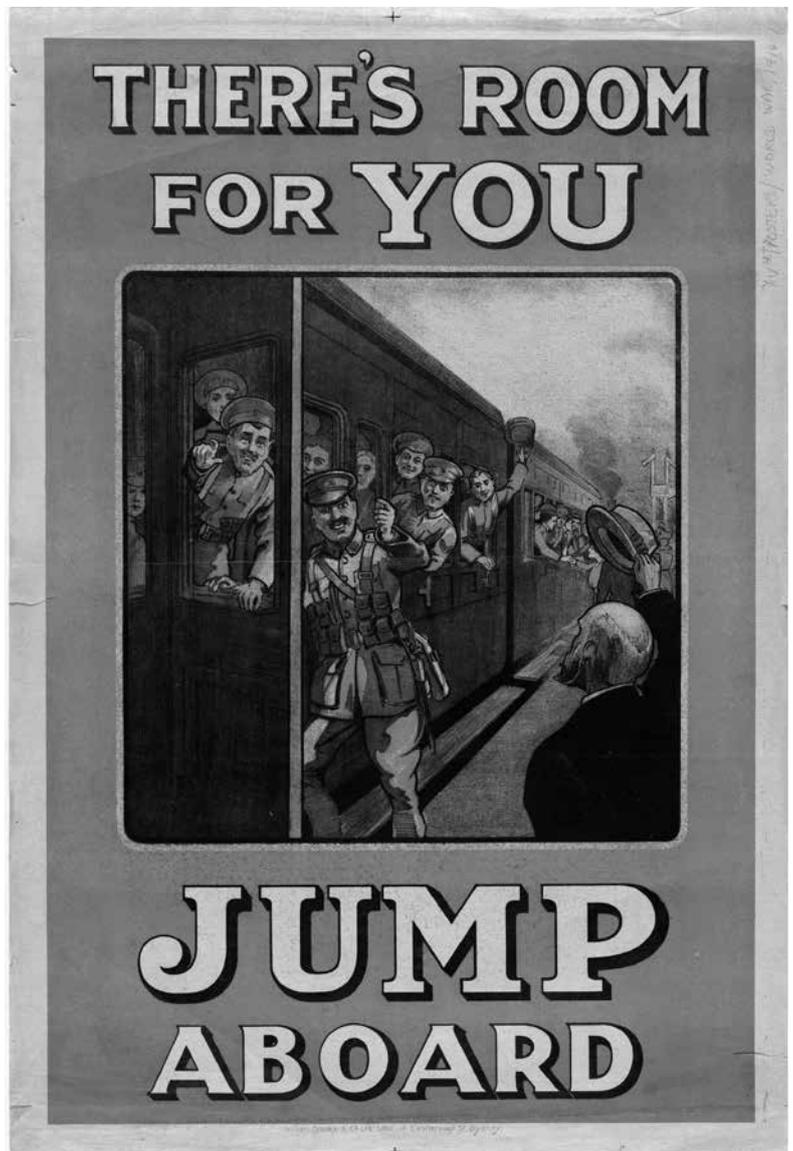
The State Library of New South Wales has reached a major milestone in the State Government funded digitisation of its New South Wales newspaper collection, with over 2 million pages now available and searchable online for free.

"This is a significant achievement in the Library's Digital Excellence program which started a little over a year ago. Newspapers are one of our most popular resources and now students, historians, researchers and indeed anyone can readily access information about local news, key moments and historically significant events that collectively tell our unique Australian story from their computer, mobile or tablet," says Alex Byrne, State Librarian and Chief Executive.

The newly digitised pages represent over a hundred New South Wales newspaper titles, with new editions being added all the time. The newspapers are being digitised by the Digital Excellence program through the National Library of Australia. The digitised newspapers are freely available via Trove and through the State Library's website.

A State Library team of in-house experts has identified the most in-demand, fragile and valuable items from the collection for digitisation, starting with regional NSW newspapers published over the years before, during and after World War I.

The State Library's collection currently includes more than 2,000 newspapers have been published in



JUMP ABOARD

NSW. Those digitised through the Digital Excellence program can be accessed via Trove at www.trove.nla.gov.au. In addition, the Library makes major overseas newspaper databases available online, 24/7, free of charge to all registered users of the State Library of NSW.

In touch with the State Library

THE MULTICULTURAL UNIT

For over 30 years the State Library of New South Wales has provided access to collections in Languages Other than English (LOTE). Over time these services have evolved in response to demographic changes in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities (CALD), the availability of material, budget, storage, methodology of delivery of services and new technologies.

Knowing what our CALD clients need is fundamental to improving our collections and services. This information comes to us regularly through feedback from public library staff and directly from the community, as well as through reports from government organisations.

The Multicultural Unit at the State Library was created in 2011 to support better communication with the public library network and create an environment for stronger cooperation. The Unit manages bulk loans to NSW Public libraries, the State Library's LOTE collection and the Multicultural Purchasing Cooperative. The Unit also supports public libraries in the delivery of other services to their local communities, for example, disability access, managing the circulation of State Library travelling exhibitions and the coordination of the Sydney metropolitan interlibrary loans courier.

THE BULK LOAN SERVICE

The provision of language collections in NSW has existed since the early 1970s. Over the years, the languages supported have changed to reflect changing migration to Australia. In early years, collections such as Estonian and Norwegian were provided, yet no Indian languages, and only Chinese and Japanese from Asia. By the early 90s, languages supported had shifted from primarily of European origin to include those such as Hindi, Indonesian, Persian, Thai and Vietnamese. These shifts are still in evidence today, the State Library has recently launched the new Nepalese collection to support a community of 16,000 people across NSW, as well as receiving an increasing number of enquiries about African languages.

In 2013, the most requested languages were French, Spanish, Italian and German, a trend consistent each year. Sharp increases in use last year were seen in the Tamil and Japanese collections, as well as a resurgence in the Greek collection. Use of the service by country libraries has risen in recent years, due to the resettlement of refugees and recruitment of skilled migrants for particular types of industry.

The number of items issued has increased 12.7%, from 90,831 in 2011 to 102,388 in 2013. The turnaround time of libraries receiving requests has improved from a number of weeks to a matter of days. Bulk loans can be tailored to a clients' needs where material is available.

In August 2013, the Unit took on the management of the English Large Print and Talking Book bulk loans which make up the State Library's Disability Access Collection. Since then, the Unit has promoted these heavily, particularly to libraries with limited collections. Response to this has been excellent and we have seen a significant increase in awareness and use of these collections. This change has highlighted the need to find resources to support disability access for clients from non-English speaking backgrounds.



We are currently testing new software that will support literacy and provide opportunities for the wider community to learn a foreign language.

MULTICULTURAL COOPERATIVE

The role of the Multicultural Cooperative is to assist NSW public libraries, including the State Library of NSW, to purchase material for their Languages Other Than English (LOTE) collections in a range of formats. This includes the organisation of cataloguing and end-processing for libraries. In 2012-13, the Cooperative purchased books and non-book material in 35 languages for 36 libraries and

facilitated the cataloguing and end-processing of this material to the combined value of \$743,591.

The Cooperative has also assisted libraries with the consortia purchase of other items. In January 2014, in conjunction with the NSW Literacy Working Group, the Cooperative facilitated the purchase of 53 books for public libraries to add to their Literacy collections, with 26 libraries purchasing from the list of Core Adult Literacy Collection titles. In 2013, the NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation, an agency for NSW Health, approached the State Library to assist with rolling out a collection of books on pain management. In January 2014, the Cooperative took

MULTICULTURAL UNIT
TEAM

on the role of organising the purchase of these books.
81 libraries accepted the offer and will receive the
books free of charge for their collection.

For any queries about multicultural services,
please contact:

Oriana Acevedo, Consultant

oriana.acevedo@sl.nsw.gov.au

Abby Dawson, Coordinator, Bulk Loans

abby.dawson@sl.nsw.gov.au

Shauna Miller, Coordinator, Purchasing

Cooperative shauna.miller@sl.nsw.gov.au

Seniors News

NEWCASTLE REGION LIBRARY

As part of our goal to foster networks with community organisations and within council, the library's Information and Research Centre (IRC) partnered with the Strategic Planning Services department to provide a *Seniors Tablet Training* course to members of a local Senior Citizens Centre. The course was the brain child of Belinda McDaid, The City of Newcastle's Community Development Officer. Belinda worked closely with *Mayfield Senior Citizens Centre* to set up the technological infrastructure and course requirements, before enlisting IRC staff Natasha Ayaz & Angie Weston to develop and present the ten week program.

The first session was one of trepidation on both sides, however the trainers and trainees quickly settled into a happy routine learning all about tablets, setting up email accounts, online security, Skyping, downloading eBooks and of course apps. It was wonderful to see the participants building confidence each week, trying new things and all the while having fun.

This was an extremely positive project that taught both sides many things. Library staff discovered that the course filled a much needed gap in the community for this type of training. Natasha and Angie also quickly learned that the participants had varied skill levels, devices and interests so future courses would need to be tailored to participants with like devices and skill levels to ensure more efficient use of time (and less trouble shooting for the trainers!). The Mayfield Seniors' students learned that a wide world of information and interaction is now available to them, and that they can communicate with family and friends around the globe in ways that they hadn't known were possible. Participants also learned that while there are lots of rules, hiccups and frustrations in learning to use this technology, practice is the key!

Overall it was a very rewarding experience for Natasha and Angie to see the progress their students made over the ten week course as well as witnessing the difference the skills and knowledge



NEWCASTLE SENIORS
WITH CERTIFICATES

gained was making in the students' daily lives. The value of digital literacy and the public library's role in educating the community in this way cannot be underestimated. The fast pace of technological change underscores the need for library staff to stay informed and maintain competence in the use of these technologies so that we can assist our local communities in becoming capable and confident also.

ANGIE WESTON AND NATASHA AYAZ
Newcastle Region Library

MID NORTH COAST LIBRARY CO-OPERATIVE

In 2010 our *Bookshare Program* was launched to encourage local book clubs to register with the library while also reaching out to library members interested in joining or forming their own groups.

Now in our fourth year we have 44 registered clubs from Port Macquarie, Laurieton, Wauchope, Kempsey, South West Rocks, Stuarts Point, Comboyne, Long Flat, Lake Cathie and even Lord Howe Island. The available sets (10 books in each) have also increased significantly, via donations and library contribution, to an incredible 100 titles.

Many of our inquiries regarding the *Bookshare Program* come from people new to the area wishing to meet people who share their love of reading.

Seniors News

NEW HOME DELIVERY SERVICE AT WAGGA



Late last year however we were approached by one of our library members who, as a carer for her husband ill with Alzheimer's, was interested in starting a book club for other carers from the local branch of the Australian Alzheimer's support group. Several conversations later and the group has now formed, nominated a leader, registered, and borrowed their first set.

A book club offers an alternative common ground, combining reading with interesting discussions, while also providing a supportive and relaxed break from the role of carer. I look forward to seeing this group grow and am now investigating other ways in which the library can reach out to other support groups in the area via the book club medium.

LEANNE WRIGHT
Mid North Coast Library Service

GRANDPARENTS AS CARERS PARTNERSHIP

Wagga Wagga City Library has partnered with Centacare to deliver *Grandparents as Carers* Support Group. The program provides an opportunity for the library to work collaboratively with grandparents who are performing the valiant task of raising their grandchildren and the non for profit sector. The group meets fortnightly on a Friday morning in our Community Learning Space with Centacare facilitator Lyn Reilly. Grandparents from right around our region participate, some traveling over 100 kilometres to attend.

The *Grandparents as Carers* is working towards being self-sustaining, with the library continuing to provide a safe welcoming environment for these grandparents to meet on a regular basis. The group has already made collection purchase

recommendations and assisted with an interagency event to celebrate *Grandparents Day*.

Our partnership with Centacare was recently expanded with a *Young Parents Support Program* set to start in March 2014. Our partnerships provide us with the opportunity to reach new audiences and assist to connect people and agencies in the community.

CHRISTINE BOLTON
Wagga Wagga City Library

HOME LIBRARY WAGGA WAGGA INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE

Wagga Wagga's newest library member has joined the library for the first time, at the age of 96. This has been made possible by an innovative project partnering health and libraries.

Across two financial years, the partnership brought together two service providers, Wagga Wagga City Library and Home and Community Care (HACC). With overlapping clients and a shared vision to address social isolation, the Home Library project has proven to be winning combination. While funding for the paid position will cease in May this year, considerable work has been undertaken to make it sustainable into the future. To date, the Training and Police Checks for volunteers have been handled in-house by staff in the library, council and HACC. In future, all library staff will be able to follow up on calls from clients and volunteers, while specific staff will take on the Police Checks, training and site visits.

This Home Library Service utilises volunteers as the primary contributor of selecting and delivering resources to our housebound patrons. The Home Library Officer registers interested volunteers and matches them to library patrons who are unable to access the library. The Home Library Officer functions as a support to the volunteer, assesses patrons prior to starting with the service and implements a framework for sustainability.

Part of this framework includes training and police checks. In November the third session of training was held for our newest home library volunteers. Topics covered included Work, Health and Safety, Privacy and Confidentiality, Reporting and Incidents and Police checks. Our volunteers are kept up-to-date with a quarterly newsletter and a designated work area. We feel very lucky to have over 30 volunteers.

When people come together over a common passion in this case 'the love of books', and a flexible framework in which to operate it adds to the value of all involved. Warburton & Onyx (2003) cite in

their research that “it is equally plausible health determines volunteering or that volunteering determines health”. I think it is safe to say that not only does volunteering have benefits for individuals and society as a whole, but it also adds to the lives of its recipients. The future of the Home Library project in Wagga Wagga will rely on streamlined processes and the important synergy between library staff and trained volunteers.

“I wasn’t a reader I always did sewing or crocheting; I liked to keep busy with my hands. I am ever so grateful to my daughter for introducing me to this service it has given me another world to go to while I sit in my lounge room.” New member aged 96 years.

ANDREA KURTA
Wagga Wagga City Library

SENIORS INSPIRED BY SHORT FILM

The delight and laughter was loud in the Theatre at Waverley Library for this year’s featured screening of *Fabulous Fashionistas*. This quirky short film by director Sue Bourne hit just the right spot for the audience. This short documentary explores the art of ageing with six women who all defy the usual expectations. It was a great finale to our Seniors’ Week Morning Tea, a morning where we take the opportunity to showcase our services and events. The guests had freely participated in short *taster* sessions of our regular seniors programs, tried their hand at Wii-fit games or joined in a *Behind the Scenes* tour. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive with many saying the film was *inspirational* and requesting more of the same. Looks like we’ll be busy meeting those expectations!

FRANCES MAHONY
Waverley Library

TECH SAVVY

Due to the overwhelming success of the Tech Savvy Seniors sessions in 2013, Wollondilly Library Service is again running the program in 2014. The free six week program provides technology training to seniors, at various locations, including an outreach venue. The sessions are facilitated in small groups to accommodate for their level of knowledge. Topics covered include navigating the internet, sharing photos and attachments, social media (including Facebook), YouTube and online shopping.

GEORGINA KONSTANTA
Wollondilly Library Service



HOME LIBRARY SERVICE FESTIVE MORNING TEA

SENIORS

At the end of November a festive season morning tea was hosted at Council Chambers for Home Library Service members, family and carers. Buses from Holdsworth Community Centre and three care centres transported members and some additional care centre residents to the venue. Several of the Home Library Service volunteers helped to provide hospitality service and mingle with the guests. The Scots College Year 9 Ensemble provided musical entertainment with a *selection of greatly appreciated songs* that a number of the guests joined in with singing. Much positive feedback was voiced by both Home Library Service members and carers, and further events for Woollahra Library’s special clients will be hosted in 2014.

JOAN RUTHVEN
Woollahra Library

Multicultural News



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01 ALEC SISSAGUIAN, COMMUNITY LANGUAGE LIBRARIAN AND JESSICA ALLEN, BUSINESS INNOVATION FACILITATOR, HURSTVILLE CITY LIBRARY MUSEUM & GALLERY

02 STEPHANIE LEE, CALD SERVICES SPECIALIST, ROCKDALE CITY LIBRARY

THE MULTICULTURAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Multicultural Excellence Awards are awarded biannually by the Working Group on Multicultural Library Services (WGMLS), a working group of the Public Libraries in NSW - Metropolitan Inc. The awards recognise a public library service and an individual practitioner for demonstrated excellence in the delivery of multicultural library services.

Multicultural library services encompass a range of services provided to a culturally and linguistically diverse community (CALD) and acknowledge and celebrate Australia's rich cultural diversity.

The awards were presented at the SWITCH 2013 Public Libraries Conference and Exhibition Gala Awards Dinner on Monday, 25 November 2013

The winner of the 2013 Individual Award was Mrs Stephanie Lee from Rockdale City library.

Stephanie has demonstrated innovative, dedicated and outstanding service to the multicultural community.

Stephanie has been working in the field of Multicultural services since 1999, she is a dedicated



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professional who has developed and implemented many programs and collections for the Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Greek and Macedonian community groups and the wider migrant communities of Rockdale. In her speech Stephanie say "I am very fortunate that my managers, past and present, have been always very supportive of multicultural services and the work I do with the community" I acknowledge that working with Culturally and linguistically diverse communities can be challenging due to language and cultural barriers but the end results are always very fulfilling.

The winner of the 2013 Organisation Award went to Hurstville City Library, Museum & Gallery.

The organisation award honours a NSW public library which has demonstrated excellence in the provision of multicultural library services. This award of \$1100 is funded by the Public Libraries NSW - Metropolitan Inc.

PROJECT TITLE: Educate, Inspire, Engage: Programming with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities (CALD)

In the past Hurstville Library staff programmed events for multicultural communities without strategic direction or consultation with other council teams. Little thought was given to event objectives, outcomes or their placement in a wider programming context.

During the last two years Hurstville City Library, Museum & Gallery (LMG) has made a concerted effort to create a strategic calendar of events and establish and maintain ongoing relationships with local communities. CALD communities have been a particular focus group of this initiative. Programming now has a clear focus on the LMG vision to *Educate, Inspire and Engage*.

This strategy has introduced annual objectives, assesses emergent community requirements, promotes continuous evaluation and is driven by CALD community outcomes from Hurstville City Council's *Community Strategic Plan 2021*.

As a result the LMG has seen an increase in visitation, circulation figures, event attendance, and overall satisfaction from the CALD community.

CHINESE READING GROUP - CHRISTMAS MEETING

The last meeting of the year was held on 12 Dec 2013 attended by all our eleven members of the group. They discussed books read on the topic *End Read*. Before bringing the curtains down on the year's final meeting the group put on a festive mood in the library for all our customers singing *The twelve days of Christmas* in English which they had painstakingly practised for over a month. For the coming year the group is looking forward to continue with English conversation classes and also plan to read in English, books of simplified versions.

AMBAR BANERJI
Dina & Lou, Dundas Library

HARMONY DAY COLOURFEST SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

Waverley Library partnered with the Waverley Council Recreation and Community Planning and the Multicultural Advisory Committee to host the *Colourfest Short Film Festival for Harmony Day*. Six shorts were screened that presented migrant stories about identity, feeling accepted and dealing with the memories of conflict and war. The films were touching insights into the personal reality of many migrants' experiences. After the film many attendees stayed to discuss the themes in the context of their lives and our community.

FRANCES MAHONY
Waverley Library

IN THE STATE LIBRARY GALLERIES

Life Interrupted: Personal Diaries of WWI Galleries, 5 July to 21 September

They were teachers, farmers, clerks, architects. Some were still at school. They came from cities, regional towns and the bush. From August 1914, Australian men and women kissed their loved ones goodbye and enlisted in a war they knew little about. Some wouldn't return home. Those that did would never be the same again.

For many, their personal diaries held the only link back to life dramatically interrupted by the war. From 1918 the State Library of NSW began collecting these stories so that future generations would know their experiences.

Life interrupted remembers those who served, through their own accounts.

Portraits of War: The Crown Studio Project Galleries, 28 June to 21 September

In May 1918 the Mitchell Library Trustees embarked upon an ambitious project to photograph NSW soldiers heading overseas to serve in World War I. Officers were invited to the Crown Studio, in George Street Sydney to be photographed in person, or their families sent photographs to be copied. However, due to a fire at Crown Studio in December 1918 the project was never completed.

From this project, the Library holds over 1600 touching portraits and 230 of these will feature in this exhibition.

Home: Photographs of Ethnic Communities **By Louise Whelan** Level 1, Macquarie, Until 17 August

Australia is one of the world's great multicultural countries with one in four Australians being born overseas. Sydney based photographer Louise Whelan has spent the last few years photographing ethnic communities throughout NSW. The photos take the viewer into homes and urban environments around the state.

WORLD PRESS PHOTO 2014

Galleries, 24 May to 22 June 2014

The world's best photojournalism from 2013, selected from the 57th annual World Press Photo contest.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBRARY ACT

This year we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the passage of the *NSW Library Act 1939*. The NSW Library Act is landmark legislation – the first of the Library Acts in Australia and the basis for the NSW public library network. The eleventh Australian Library History Forum will celebrate this anniversary. The forum is titled *Libraries for the People*, and will be held at the State Library of NSW, 18 to 19 November 2014.

A detailed program of events and registration information will be available soon.

STATE LIBRARY OF NSW DISABILITY INFORMATION

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

DEADLINES FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

August 2014 issue	20 June 2014
December 2014 issue	17 October 2014
April 2015 issue	27 February 2015