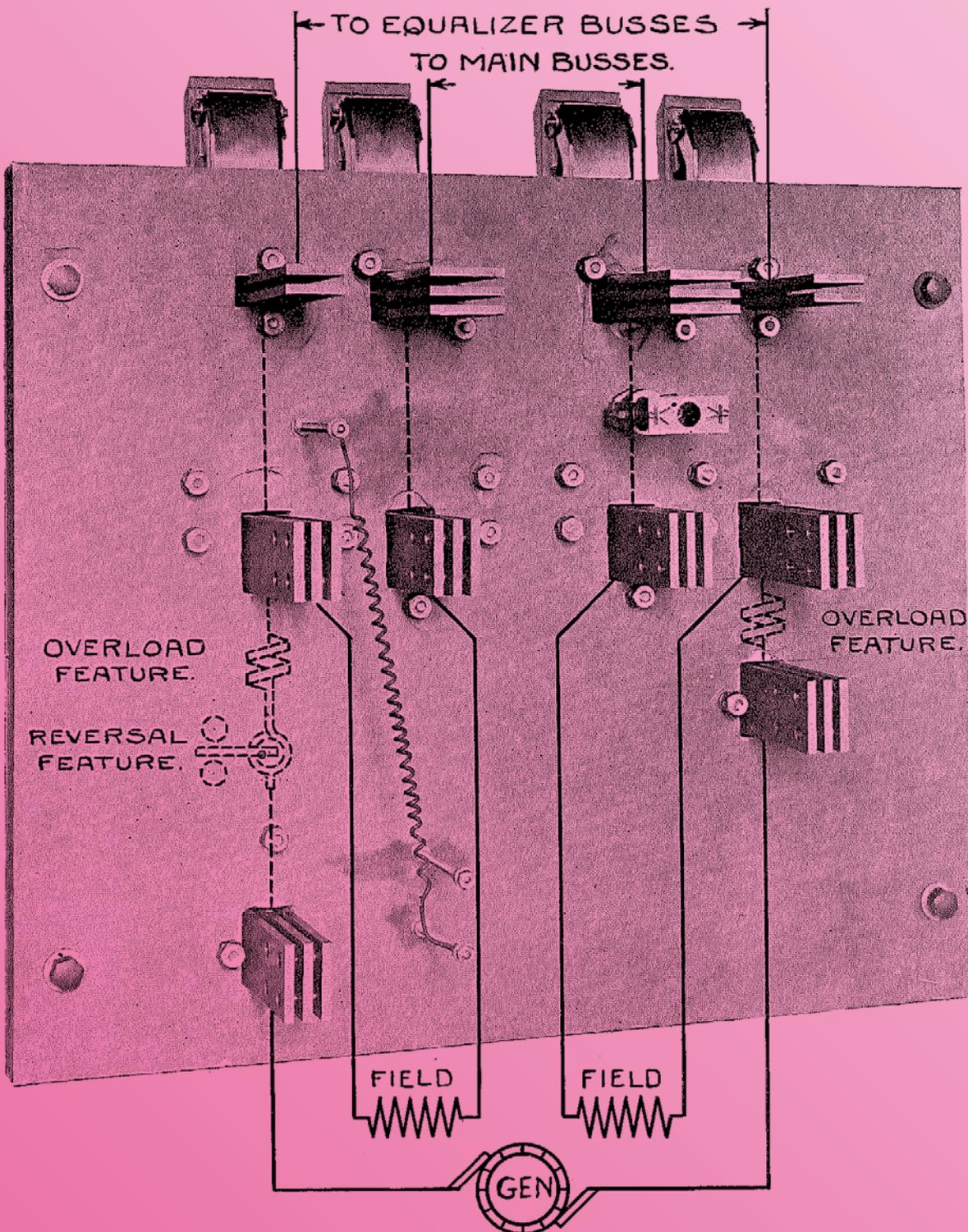


Public Library News



STATE LIBRARY®
NEW SOUTH WALES

Volume 21 No 2
August 2015



Public Library News

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Library collection (see Steampunk
making and the State Library's
collection, page 2)

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the August 2015 issue of *Public Library News*.

This issue we feature makers and makerspaces, showcasing some of the great making, creating, crafting, learning and sharing taking place in NSW public libraries.

There's also lots to celebrate, including anniversaries, new library spaces, new partnerships and innovative programs. This a great reflection of the diverse planning and programming in library services across the state, and the recent Public Library Statistics showing that the number of people using public libraries in NSW is at an all-time high.

Thank you to all our contributors, we had an overwhelming number of articles and images submitted for this edition. You can see all your photos on the *Public Library News* Pinterest board at www.pinterest.com/slnewspubs/public-library-news.

EDWINA DUFFY
Editor

PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS REVIEW

It has been a few years since we reviewed the format of *Public Library News*. In 2013 we introduced the *Public Library News* Pinterest board as a way to share your photos and stories in full colour, and now we're reviewing the printed publication. We would like to see *Public Library News* feature more articles on public library planning, management and strategy; we would love to feature more case studies of innovative projects, programs and partnerships. Some ideas that we have include a theme for each issue, reviewing the current columns, inviting guest authors to write feature articles and exploring online newsletter formats to share event updates and photos.

As we review *Public Library News* over the next few months, we will be asking for your feedback via an online survey. The December issue will follow the current format, and we will launch the new-look publication in 2016.



Makers and makerspaces

Makerspaces are spaces where people come together to make or create things. Makerspaces might have technology available, and may involve things such as 3D printers, electronics and robotics, but also include art, craft and traditional tools and materials such as wood, paper, metal and recycled materials.

Makerspaces are more about the process of making than the finished product: they are about people coming together, sharing knowledge and ideas, learning new skills and working on a creative project together.

Public libraries are community facilities where people can meet, access information and technology and share and learn; libraries have amazing collections relating to art, craft, technical manuals and how to make and build things. Libraries are ideal facilitators for making and makerspaces.

In the last few years an increasing number of libraries have been offering makerspaces or maker activities. Most libraries are already embracing maker culture, by offering a range of creative- and community-focussed activities, and often without consciously using the “maker” tag.

Makerspaces can be innovative, educational, inspiring and fun. This issue of *Public Library News* showcases some of the great making taking place in NSW libraries. We hope this might inspire you or help you to get that great maker idea off the ground.

If you'd like to find out more about makerspaces, here are a few places to start:

- Library as Incubator Project <http://www.libraryasincubatorproject.org/>
- Make <http://makezine.com/>
- Young Adult Library Services Association's Making in the Library Toolkit <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/YALSA%20Making%20Toolkit.pdf>
- Public Library Services blog <http://blog.sl.nsw.gov.au/pls/>
- Public Library Services Pinterest board, Makerspaces: collections and connections <https://www.pinterest.com/slswpls/makerspaces--collections-and-connections/>
- PLN email list



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/02

- 01 A SLIDE FROM MEL FULLER'S PRESENTATION AT THE STATE LIBRARY'S MAKERS CRAFTIVISTS, AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES SEMINAR
- 02 3D PRINTING DEMONSTRATION AT THE STATE LIBRARY'S MAKERS CRAFTIVISTS, AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES SEMINAR

Makers, craftivists and public libraries

You might have come across the term “craftivism” in the recent seminar for public library staff hosted by the State Library; Makers, Craftivists and Public Libraries. The word craftivism was created by Betsy Greer, who defines it as “a way of looking at life where voicing opinions through creativity makes your voice stronger, your compassion deeper and your quest for justice more infinite”.¹

Greer has edited a book called *Craftivism* (Vancouver Arsenal Pulp Press, 2014) which contains many examples of craftivism from around the world.

¹ CRAFTIVISM DEFINITION, SHORT VERSION, [HTTP://CRAFTIVISM.COM/CRAFTIVISM-DEFINITION/](http://craftivism.com/craftivism-definition/) ACCESSED 26 MAY 2015

Many public libraries are active in the craftivism space, without using that term. The April 2015 issue of *Public Library News* featured several examples of this, including the Central West Libraries' coordination of joey pouches and fabric mittens for koalas with burned paws. First World War poppy- and sock-making commemoration projects, which many libraries across the state have participated in (and including the work at Ryde and City of Sydney which was featured in the seminar) can also be seen as craftivism. The many Wrap with Love knitting programs which libraries facilitate are also a great example of craftivism - see examples from Bland, Northern Rivers and Ryde Libraries in this issue.

We ran the Makers, Craftivists and Public Libraries seminar as we have been following these developments for a while, and thought it was timely to present a seminar looking at these areas. We took a very broad interpretation of "makers" to be inclusive of the act of making rather than focus on the format of making. Even research can be interpreted as making, as each researcher makes something with the results of their research.

An element we wanted to focus on was using library collections as a catalyst for making. Jessica Pigza, Assistant Curator in the Rare Book Division at the New York Public Library and author of *Bibliocraft*, connected making things to inspiring library content. This theme was continued by Cameron Morley, who explored how the State Library's collection has the potential to help people learn old skills for new projects (see the following article).

Canadian artist and writer Leanne Prain looked at the 'subversive DIY movement' and connected local stories and creativity. Her work has much inspiration for local studies work.

Joy Suliman (Irresistible Learning, ElectroCraft) and Melissa Fuller (Three Farm, Makers Place) both focus on helping people learn about electronics, experience makerspaces and explore sustainability, and can provide training for library staff and their communities. Some libraries – City of Canada Bay and Marrickville – have already worked with Three Farm.

Anj Barnett from Lake Macquarie and Marian Bennett from Central Northern Regional Library shared how their libraries were using 3D printers to raise awareness of the potential of these tools, and for people to try them out to see what they can do. To reinforce these ideas there was a demonstration of 3D printing during lunch from 3D Printing Design.

Two potential partners for libraries to work with are Indigenous Digital Excellence and dLab, a national program for science and art in regional/remote communities. Both of these groups are very keen to work with public libraries. Find out how Wagga Wagga City Library worked with dLux/dLab on page 52.

To see presentations from the Makers, Craftivists, and Public Libraries seminar, go to the Public Library Services blog <http://blog.sl.nsw.gov.au/pls/> This includes videos of the presentations by Jessica Pigza and Leanne Prain.

ELLEN FORSYTH AND KATE O'GRADY
Consultants, Public Library Services
State Library of NSW

Steampunk making and the State Library's collection

My paper at the recent Makers, Craftivists and Public Libraries event at the State Library highlighted many of the technical and "how to" resources available at the State Library of NSW - knowledge of which will help you help your customers. But first, the term steampunk. Have you noticed that moustaches are popular, both on men's faces and in design? A certain style of old fashioned moustache...

It's on wrapping paper, post it notes etc., and kids are using them in craft. This is a manifestation of the steampunk aesthetic, defined here:

Steampunk is an inspired movement of creativity and imagination. With a backdrop of either Victorian England or America's Wild West at hand, modern technologies are re-imagined and realized as elaborate works of art, fashion, and mechanics. If Jules Verne or H.G. Wells were writing their science fiction today, it would be considered "steampunk."

www.ministryofpeculiaroccurrences.com

Our Bookends Scenarios project from 2009, which looked at alternative futures to 2030 for the public library network in NSW, identified a possible developing scenario where people will want to connect locally with such entities as communal market gardens, craft guilds and men's sheds, while at the same time embracing the cyber world. This prediction appears to be being borne out – as our society bounds ahead with mass production, convenient products and ICT, we also yearn for the one-off, hand-made or bespoke product, and tangible connections.

How can libraries tap into this yearning and help our communities in these pursuits?

The State Library, and by extension public libraries, are extremely well placed to help.

Our collection here, especially the State Reference Library collection, is a staggeringly good resource for makers, restorers and anyone who is just interested in old stuff, how it looked, how it worked and how it was made.

Up until very recently everything that the State Library had acquired prior to 1980 was only available via the card catalogue, so many people (particularly offsite clients) relied on us to search for references on their behalf. Happily today, due to our e-records project of the past few years, these items are accessible via our online catalogue.

The published book collection is extensive in such areas as steam engines (from 1700s on), metalwork and blacksmithing, food production (including how to dry your own fruit), personal grooming techniques (including a Paris barber's manual from 1851, full of wax and brilliantine recipes), coach and buggy design (including the Squatter's Express from 1902), boatbuilding, stained glass, beer brewing, to name a few eclectic topics.

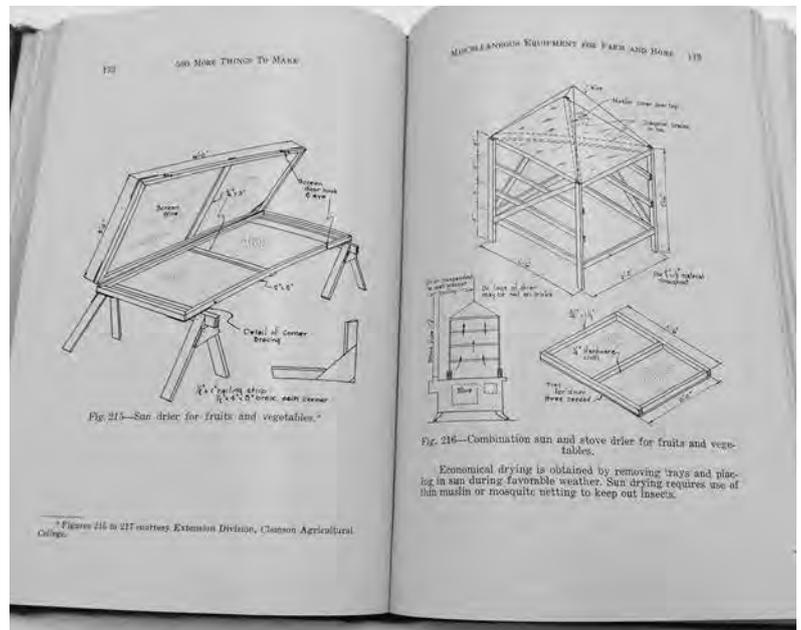
Occasionally doing a catalogue search for an arcane topic will pull up a record that says "Research Cards" or "Trade Catalogues". These are little known – but a great resource.

Prior to the 1990s we had a research team here at the Library, which compiled a card index to books, chapters, articles and information on diverse topics, in response to information requests from the public. The card index survives, and apart from being a great resource, the cards are a significant record of the reference and information needs of the NSW public in the 20th century.

The headings on the front of the Research Card drawers give some idea of the diversity and eclectic nature of what has been indexed:

Coronations – Corrosion / Cotton Fabrics – Crankshafts / Diesel Fuel – Discounted Cash / Sulphuric Acid – Supermarket Surveys / Super Phosphate – Sweetening Agents / Topaz – Toys

The Trade Catalogues collection includes brochures, instruction manuals and catalogues of goods covering a huge range of items and subjects, including washing machines, tractors, venetian blinds, house interiors, lighting and lamps, play equipment, clothing and office equipment.



The collection used to be housed near one of the lift corridors in our stacks, and one box heading – “Boring Machines” – caught my eye each time I walked past it. Could there possibly be a less inviting name for a collection of equipment catalogues? On closer inspection this box is of course full of materials pertaining to drilling equipment!

Most of the catalogues have excellent graphics including specifications, and mainly cover the period between 1918 and 1960.

Of course there is a whole other series of collections of original or unpublished materials here at the Library, notably pictures, manuscripts, maps and realia. These items are increasingly being made available online, made possible through our Digital Excellence Program. These items are invaluable for first hand representations of how things looked, what people wore, personal documentary histories, fashion and design, and where things were.

There is a wide audience for the materials mentioned here, including:

- makers
- restorers
- tinkers, hoarders, collectors
- handypeople
- guilds
- Men's Sheds
- creative anachronists, rockabilly, hot rod enthusiasts, hipsters
- historians, antique enthusiasts
- cosplayers, LARPs (live action role players)
- designers, craftspeople, manufacturers.

Our job is to connect them with the collections. I hope you think of our collection and how it may be helpful, next time you help one of these makers in your library.

CAMERON MORLEY
 Manager, Public Library Services
 State Library of NSW

MISCELLANEOUS
 EQUIPMENT FOR
 FARM AND HOME 1944:
 DIAGRAMS SHOWING
 HOW TO MAKE TRAYS
 FOR SUN-DRYING
 YOUR OWN FRUIT AND
 VEGETABLES

Leichhardt craft power

Taking inspiration from the worldwide “Library as Incubator” movement, Leichhardt Library Service has harnessed the craft power of staff and community to make and create. Library as Incubator states that the space, materials and connections public libraries possess are the perfect ingredients for activating creativity and this has proved very true at Leichhardt Library Service.

Staff members were encouraged to deliver craft programs that inspire them personally and this approach resulted in a wide range of staff members becoming makerspace facilitators. Administration staff taught arm knitting, the Local History Librarian held jewellery and card making workshops and Information Services and Acquisitions staff started a very successful bibliocraft group where old stock was turned into beautiful book sculptures that hang permanently in the library.

Currently Leichhardt Library Service is undertaking a yarn bomb project in partnership with the Australian Actors Centre who are library neighbours in the Italian Forum. Over the next few months yarn bomb workshops will be held at both Balmain and Leichhardt libraries along with string art projects at local schools. This project will culminate in a gala Decoration Day on Saturday 5 September where yarn creations will be installed on lamp posts, bike rails, benches and hopefully even on the poet Dante who resides in a fountain outside the library!

JUDY HARDY AND ANNETTE WEBB
Leichhardt Library Service

Really Remarkable Robots at Gunnedah

Gunnedah Shire Library dipped its toe into makerspaces for the first time last year, for children aged 7 to 12 years as part of the May school holiday program. For this first effort, which we titled Really Remarkable Robots (3Rs), children were given a ‘robot making kit’ (cartons, tubes, plastic lids and containers of various shapes and sizes) as they came in, and had three days to assemble a robot using the materials in their kit. The library staff made available tape, scissors, staplers, texta pens, items for decorating their robots such as stickers, coloured contact paper, crepe paper, etc., and scrap paper for designing.



BOOK SCULPTURES IN LEICHHARDT LIBRARY

The manager of Community Development arrived on the third day each week to issue prize certificates, and some of the creations were outstanding. All the children enjoyed it thoroughly, and using this model, our school holiday programs for older children now feature ‘Crafty Creations’.

For several weeks before the holidays, staff collect such items as tissue paper boxes, lids of jars and bottles, plastic containers, etc. These are all piled into two big plastic bins which the children – limit of 10 – can delve into and make whatever they choose. Again, library staff have available tape, scissors, staplers, glue and decorating materials, and leave the children to it. We’ve found that this is a good way to get rid of a lot of ‘stuff’ that accumulates, and the children love the unstructured time in which they can create as they choose without a set program. It also takes relatively little staff supervision and time, which is a big plus in a small library.

CHRISTIANE BIRKETT
Gunnedah Shire Library

Craft makerspace at Cowra

Creating makerspaces in libraries is a hot topic right now, and with school holidays coming up, I wanted to bring the whole “make/learn/create stuff” concept into a craft program for the children of Cowra, NSW. Money for a 3D printer was out, but innovative craft was totally in!

With the support and encouragement of the Library team, I looked for craft activities that were cost effective, not too involved, yet flexible enough for children to learn some new skills and also use their imaginations. I wanted to create an atmosphere that supported peer-to-peer learning and collaboration, and it totally worked! With four different activity stations set up, I used QR codes and a (shared) iPad for links to instruction videos for sock puppets, Origami ninja stars, Minion monster book marks and how to crochet a granny square.

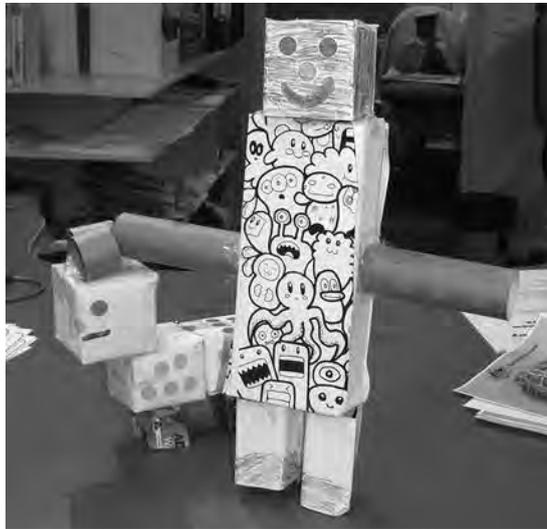
The 44 participants (aged 7+) spread over two hours on two days watched the YouTube videos for inspiration and branched out to make their own versions of things. A number of them learned the art of crochet for the very first time. Older participants were helping younger ones; more experienced crafters shared their skills with those who were less experienced.

One of the highlights was 9 year old Josie, who, on the second day, came with a detailed poster about different designs for loom-bands, and took it upon herself to teach whoever wanted to learn to make them! With just a little tweaking and a very small budget, a regular school holiday craft activity became a makerspace success. It was an easy way to demonstrate that the library is a place to learn, create, invent and collaborate.

CHRISTINE VANDOR
Cowra Library, Central West Libraries

3D printing for social good

Like many other libraries, Marrickville has embraced advancing technologies and the capacity we have in encouraging making, creating and tinkering amongst the community. After all, the area contains one of the highest percentages of artists, cultural workers and arts industries of any local government area in Australia. After holding successful 3D printing workshop for children, the Library held a class



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01 A ROBOT AND ROBOT DOG MADE AT GUNNEDAH'S REALLY REMARKABLE ROBOTS PROGRAM

02 YOUNG MAKER JOSIE SHARES HER DESIGN CONCEPTS AT COWRA LIBRARY

for adults in May, facilitated by Three Farm. The workshop focused on how 3D printing technology is set to revolutionise the way we make ‘things’ – ushering in a new era of innovation and creativity in manufacturing and inspiring projects that could benefit different creative industries and even the developing world.

RUTH KOTEVICH
Marrickville Library

BLAND SHIRE LIBRARY'S
KNIT AND KNATTER
GROUP PRESENTS
SHAWLS AND RUGS TO
LOCAL HOSPITAL



3D printing workshops at City of Canada Bay

City of Canada Bay Libraries recently hosted booked out workshops for both youth and adults to unlock the mystery of 3D printing and design with interactive sessions, presented by social design enterprise Three Farm.

Due to its popularity, we have decided to run a special Tinkerclass for children aged 8-12 years old during the July School Holidays. Children will learn hands-on skills in CAD design and 3D printing in this interactive workshop by creating signs for display in Concord Library.

YEN HUYNH
City of Canada Bay Libraries

Knitting for the community

When the staff at Bland Shire Library initially decided to start a knitting group, little did they realise the impact this small group of local knitters would have on the community. The group which meets every second Tuesday in the library have knitted their way into the heart of not only library staff but also a multitude of charitable and life-saving organisations.

Since its introduction three years ago, the group known as Knit and Natter have undertaken a number of ongoing projects. Projects include knitted blankets for Wrap with Love, teddy (or “trauma”) bears for the local NSW Ambulance Service, beanies for Can Assist, beanies for the Riverina Cancer Care Centre Wagga, baby bonnets and other baby apparel for Wagga Base Hospital – Maternity (Special Care Unit), knee rugs and shawls for the elderly and palliative care patients at Wyalong District Hospital, jumpers for rescued

penguins and poppies for this year’s 5000 Poppies project to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing. Currently the group is knitting fingerless gloves for Arthritis and Osteoporosis NSW. The majority of wool for projects is donated and the group coordinated by library assistant, Liz Ford.

New members, young and old, are welcome to join Knit and Natter. For many, Knit and Natter is simply a social afternoon – an excuse to get out of the house and meet new people while doing something they enjoy for the good of the community.

CATHY LANGE
Bland Shire Library

Northern Rivers Libraries get crafty to benefit the community

Northern Rivers Libraries offers a wide range of opportunities for makers and crafters. The Byron Bay Library Creative Textiles Group is a crafty, social group for anyone who has a textile-related hobby - it has been running now for nearly a year, has over 20 members and meets once a month. Textile interests covered include (but are not limited to) knitting, crochet, weaving, dress-making, embroidery, patchwork and felting. There have been many occasions when members have taught other members a new skill, which has been great to see. A major focus of activity recently has been the creation of stunning rainbow-themed knitting, crochet and pom poms to yarn-bomb the traffic island outside the Byron Bay Library on International Yarn bombing day (13 June).

Brunswick Heads Branch ARTSPACE is open to school age children throughout the term. Weekly sessions explore art, technique and history and encourage creative play in an informal, fun environment, which invites young people into the library.

A core group of 15 ladies at Lismore City Library hone their skills in a fabulous craft group. Run by staff member Pam Crummy, the main focus of the sessions is patchwork and quilting, however crochet and knitting are also on offer. They work on projects both for themselves and for charities and organisations within the community, such as the ‘Quilts for Kids’ project, at the Lismore Base Hospital. A few of the

ladies come from within Lismore's deaf community. Others in the group have endeavoured to learn some basic sign language there is also a lot writing and passing of notes.

The quilts that are made are sometimes displayed in the library.

The Knit'nChat group meet weekly at the Tweed Heads Library. As well as the group sharing their skills and enjoying each other's company they also knit for a number of local charities or for themselves. Following on from the success of the Tweed Heads Knit'nChat group Murwillumbah Library has recently started their own weekly stitches and craft group.

JO CARMODY
Richmond Tweed Regional Library

Ryde contributes wraps to Nepal

Local knitters meet regularly at West Ryde, Eastwood, North Ryde and Gladesville libraries to knit over 400 warm blankets annually for those in need, which are collected and distributed by charity *Wrap With Love*. Over the past 20 years, people in over 75 countries have received a blanket made by volunteers Australia wide.

Following the recent natural disaster in Nepal, the charity stepped up efforts to quickly collect and send 1,000 wraps as a contribution towards global relief efforts.

Our community was able to add 28 wraps to the 240 we had already delivered to *Wrap With Love* since November 2014. The wraps were picked up by Janette Dive, a *Wrap With Love* volunteer and Gladesville Library knitting group regular, from librarian Angela Phippen, who coordinates our community's library-based efforts and sent to Nepal on Friday, 1 May 2015, one day after collection.

We passed on *Wrap With Love's* thanks to library knitting groups for their continuing efforts which help the charity group quickly respond to those in need during a time of crisis.

ANGELA PHIPPEN
Ryde Library Service



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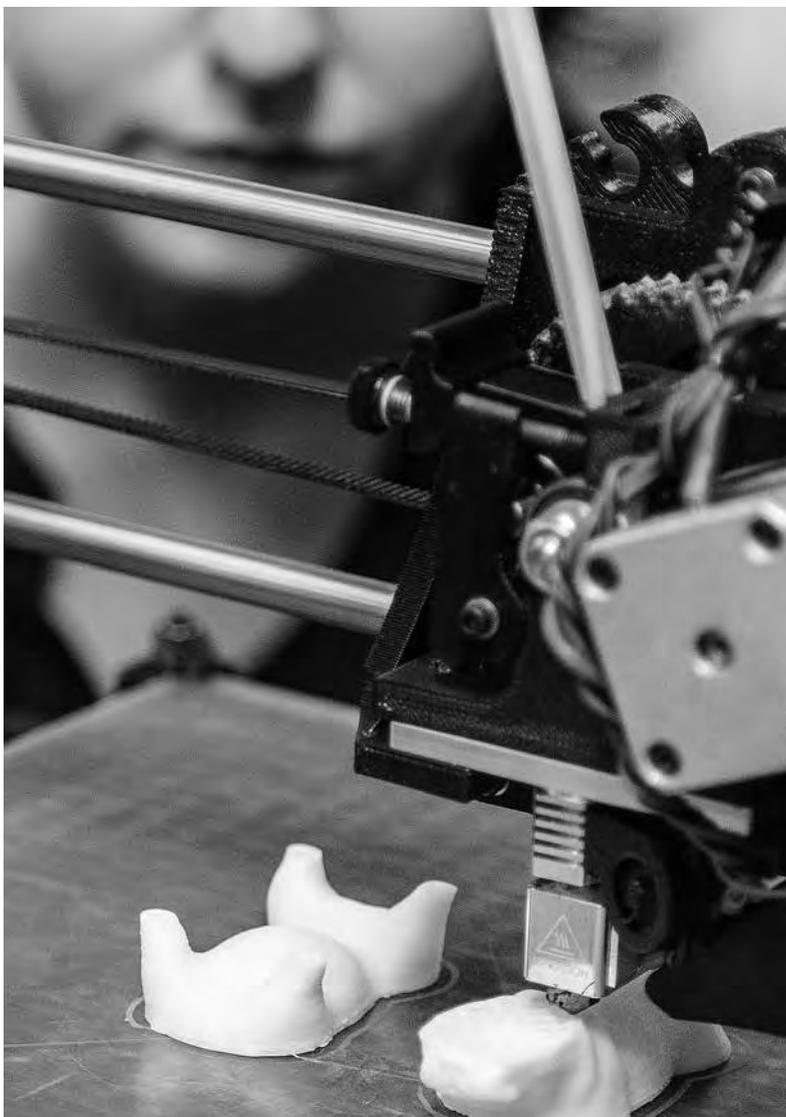
/02

- 01 BRUNSWICK HEADS ARTSPACE KIDS SHOWING OFF SOME OF THEIR RECYCLED ARTWORK
- 02 BYRON LIBRARY CREATIVE TEXTILES GROUP YARN BOMB A TRAFFIC ISLAND OUTSIDE BYRON LIBRARY FOR INTERNATIONAL YARN BOMBING DAY

Moree makerspace links to library collections

Since its relatively recent inception, the makerspace at Moree Community Library has always aspired to include Library and literature discovery for its young participants. Possibly as a result, participants are designing crafts that interact with items in Library collections (such as hover marks). For Refugee Week 2015, participants constructed paper chain people to symbolize the theme - *with courage let us all combine*. The chains link with related literature from the Library in an eye-catching display. Even the simplest of concepts necessitate skill sharing and an opportunity to learn.

The makerspace has been a world of opportunity for the regional Library, attracting engagement from



SUTHERLAND LIBRARY'S
NEW 3D PRINTER AT
WORK

other members of the community. Bringing a more technical aspect to our makerspace, a community member is currently collaborating with Library staff to hold a workshop in the upcoming school holidays. This new and important aspect has still allowed us to stay aligned to our initial aspirations with the makerspace. Indeed, the workshop is based on the CBCA Children's Book Week theme Books light up our world. The idea is to share skills in simple circuit-building and then apply this to some picture books to create book covers that light up.

KRISTY MOODY
Moree Community Library

Sutherland MakerSpace program

There is something incredible about the moment when connecting pieces of copper tape makes an LED light glow in the middle of an origami lotus flower, or witnessing the layer-by-layer construction of a PLA pug, printed seemingly from nowhere, right before your eyes. Paper circuits and 3D printing are just some of the activities that will form part of Sutherland Library's upcoming MakerSpace program.

The vision for the program is one of fusion: between generations, levels of ability, and traditional crafts and emerging technologies. By harnessing the popularity of DIY and bespoke objects, Sutherland Library's MakerSpace will give participants the opportunity to experience and experiment with technology that may otherwise be inaccessible to them, in a way that is tangible and relevant to their lives. The semi-structured program is currently in its design and planning phase, and we are very excited about the upcoming opportunities the pop-up program entails for collaborative learning and skill-sharing. Watch this space!

DASHA MAIOROVA
Sutherland Shire Libraries

Reflecting on five years: The Australian Public Library Alliance

This time six years ago we were on a countdown to the ALIA Public Libraries Summit in Canberra, the first time in Australia that major stakeholders from across the country came together to discuss the future of the sector. We were excited, and more than a little nervous as to how this would pan out.

At the Summit, library leaders called for, Australia's public libraries to become 'united behind common goals and ambitions, sharing best practice, contributing to strong communities, valued by people and government, continuing to provide universal free access to information, knowledge and ideas, and confirming the importance of their role for future generations.' The first concrete outcome of this event was the formation of the Australian Public Library Alliance (APLA – previously PLAC) the peak body for public libraries in Australia.

The Alliance is truly representative of the country's 1500 public libraries. Our members comprise the leaders of the state associations, each elected by their peers, or respected senior library staff in the case of Tasmania, ACT and Northern Territory. Collectively this group represents 94% of Australia's 1500 public libraries. This is complemented by the inclusion of several expert members, colleagues who have a strong history of engagement in the sector.

In developing APLA we have recognised the importance and individuality of the states and territories and the pivotal role that local and state governments have in the provision of public library services. Indeed the strength of the Alliance is the bringing together of these partners, each with their own expertise and willingness to contribute. We also work closely with National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) who are key players in the public library arena.

The model we have developed is recognised as world's best practice and over the past 12 months it has been my great privilege to be able to share this with colleagues at international conferences. The feedback has been universally positive with many comments made about how we can move forward when territorial jealousies are left behind.

On that cold July day in Canberra 2009 we dreamt large. Fast forward to 2015 and the goals we set ourselves at the Summit to speak with one voice and to develop and deliver initiatives with a national focus have been realised.



In the past five years, APLA has many achievements to celebrate:

- Development of national standards and guidelines for public libraries, providing essential benchmarks for library managers, councils and state and territory government.
- Confirmed public libraries' position as the 'active connectors' for early literacy and run highly successful campaigns encouraging readers of all ages. Every year the Alliance has delivered the Summer Reading Club and National Simultaneous Storytime. The biggest single activity has been the National Year of Reading in 2012, and from this The Reading Hour has emerged as an annual event.
- Provided submissions to 10 federal government consultations and engaged in discussions with the Ministry for the Arts, Department of Communications and Department of Industry.
- Supported the book industry by promoting Australian authors and their works, and tracked libraries' expansion into ebooks, collaborating on a national level to address the issues around e-lending with publishers and platform providers.
- Developed a vision for the future for public libraries at a national level, through the ALIA Futures initiative, and shared this with colleagues internationally through our involvement with IFLA.
- Run high profile media campaigns around Library Lovers' Day and Library and Information Week.
- Highlighted the role of public libraries in ensuring online safety for children and all members of the community, partnering with the Alannah and Madeline and Telstra Foundations to create eSmart Libraries and with the Department of Communications to promote Stay Smart Online Week.
- Published the Little Book of Public Libraries for a broad range of stakeholders and produced

regular monthly newsletters for public library subscribers.

- Developed a public library specialisation as part of the ALIA PD Scheme for library and information professionals, and we have created a proficiency program for non-library qualified staff working in public libraries.
- Offered public library streams at ALIA conferences and provided further opportunities for professional development.
- Measured the return on investment of public libraries, providing further evidence of their important role and value to their communities.

Many of these activities are ongoing and further initiatives are under discussion, for example an Early Literacy Summit in March 2016 and the updating of the national standards and guidelines.

Not that we've stopped there! Last month the Alliance released a report detailing its Achievements 2010 – 2015. A quick look at the report (available on the ALIA web site <https://www.alia.org.au>) shows that our shared vision has led to an ongoing series of targeted programs.

Since the Alliance's inception in 2010, ALIA has provided strong support in administration, project management, research, report writing, design, finance management and communications infrastructure. This has enabled us to function as the peak body for public libraries within ALIA.

What we have created and achieved is due to the dedication and commitment of all concerned who share a common goal to deliver the best possible services to our communities, wherever in Australia they may be. The Australian Public Library Alliance isn't just those of us who gather for bi-monthly teleconferences or our annual 'face to face' meeting. It is representative of all Australian public libraries. You are the Alliance, and together we are amazing.

JAN RICHARDS
Chair, Australian Public Libraries Alliance
and Manager, Central West Libraries

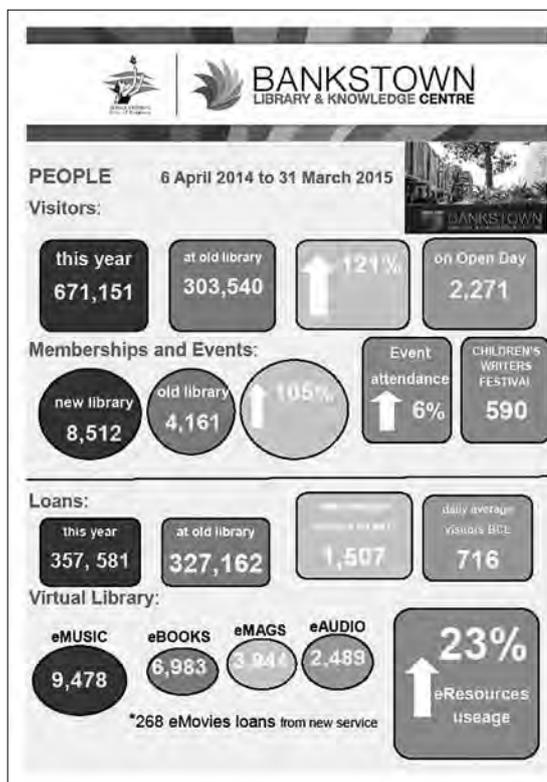
Bankstown residents vote with their feet

Library industry literature suggests that when a new library opens it will generally experience an increase in patronage of between 40%-90%. Local residents have come to the new Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre (BLaKC), which opened in April 2014, to enjoy the public space whether to just read any of the newspapers or magazines, or somewhere to bring the family, or for study purposes or attend a computer class or any of the children's programs.

The Roving Reference service on each floor of the new library ensures patrons are greeted and their needs met quickly and knowledgeably and staff have time to explain programs and booking arrangements and help with reservations and readers' advisory services. Our objective is to improve the user experience in the new and refurbished libraries at Chester Hill and Bankstown and provide increased value to visitors and to ensure return visits to the Council libraries. The introduction of patron self-service has provided staff the time to assist patrons more completely as well as to expand programs on offer.

The new Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre has seen an increase of 121% in visitor numbers from 303,540 to 671,151 and a 105% increase in new members from 4,161 to 8,512 over the 12 month period from April 2013 to March 2014. For that same period the usage of our virtual library has increased by 23% following many workshops conducted by staff in the new technology training room at BLaKC.

We have seen a 9% increase in loans at the central library from 327,162 to 357,581 after our first year of operation. We have also seen a 6% increase in participation rates for events held at BLaKC where we have been able to increase available places in some of our children's programs as well as increase the frequency of activities such as Baby Rhymetime to four weekly sessions. The whole library service saw a 15% increase in frequency of library activities. We also held the first Children's Writers' Festival as a partner with the Sydney Writers' Festival, conducting workshops for over 590 students, and hosted the Travelling Storytime Bus.



VISITOR NUMBERS AND USAGE HAVE INCREASED AT THE NEW BANKSTOWN LIBRARY SINCE OPENING ONE YEAR AGO

Both the new Chester Hill and Bankstown libraries were successful in Library Development Grants that assisted in the improved buildings service provision to our local residents who appear to continue to enjoy the facilities in increasing numbers.

ROBYN OWENS
Bankstown City Council

Dads Read initiative launched at Waverley Library



DADS READ PROGRAM LAUNCHED AT WAVERLEY LIBRARY WITH LOCAL DAD AND FORMER ROOSTERS CAPTAIN ANTHONY MINICHIELLO

After a successful trial run in late 2014, Waverley Library is excited to be the first library in NSW to be participating in Queensland State Library's *Dads Read* initiative in 2015. Research confirms reading to children just ten minutes each day strengthens literacy, models positive reading behaviours, and builds children's self-esteem about reading (especially for boys). Dads Read encourages fathers to invest in their child's future by choosing to read to them each day.

Waverley launched our monthly program in February with much support and interest from the local community and media. The launch event featured appearances from our three local Waverley Library Dads Read Ambassadors, Waverley Life Guards and TV personalities, Anthony 'Harries' Carrol and Dean 'Deano' Gladstone, and former Sydney Roosters NRL team captain Anthony Minichiello.

These three 'Reading Legends' graciously donated their time to support and promote the project and have already featured in articles about Dads Read at Waverley in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, local newspapers, on radio and throughout our program advertising. Each Ambassador was selected for their personal commitment to the initiative, as well as their upstanding positions in the local community.

Adding to the success of the launch, was musician and Waverley Council Early Childhood Educator, Jack R. Reily who acted as Master of Ceremonies

and led the audience through music and movement, playing on his guitar and singing in between stories from our Ambassadors. The event culminated with a morning tea for all and free face painting as provided by local sponsor Greenwood Child Care Centres.

This State Library of Queensland initiative was taken up by Waverley to complement our extremely popular, existing early literacy program which already includes over 10 classes a week for children aged 0 to 5 years of age. Unlike Waverley's other weekly programs, Dads Read is held on a Saturday morning to encourage male caregivers who traditionally work during the week, to take part. Despite the name 'Dads Read,' all male caregivers are encouraged to come along with their young charges. By especially targeting male caregivers, the Saturday sessions have a beneficial side effect of creating a new and different opportunity for male participants to bond and learn with others in their situation.

Dads Read fun continues at Waverley at 10am, on the third Saturday of every month until November. All sessions are free but bookings are essential. Each session includes the reading of stories, music, movement and special guests.

IONA UZELL
Waverley Library

Inverell Library celebrates 75 years of service

The Inverell Shire Public Library is celebrating 75 years of service to the community in 2015. The Inverell Municipal Council commenced the provision of a free public library service on 1 January 1940, making Inverell Library the third oldest in the state. The library came into existence after the School of the Arts, which operated Inverell's only lending library, began to have financial difficulty in 1937. The Municipal Council was interested in purchasing the School of the Arts property, but a condition of sale was that the Council provide a reading room and a library service to the community. After some debate, and a visit from William Ifould (Principal Librarian at the Public Library of NSW, now the State Library) and David Drummond (Education Minister), an agreement was reached, with the Council to purchase the property in 1939, and to commence a free library service on 1 January 1940. At the time of this agreement, the financial provisions of the Library Act had not yet been effected, and there was no guarantee of when financial support would be provided by the Government.

The Library commenced operations in a section of the Town Hall, and later moved to a purpose built site in 1965. The building was substantially extended and renovated in 1991 and again in 2007 and is now home to a collection of around 55,000 items, and receives over 75,000 visitors per year.

An early member of staff, Barbara Vernon, went on to become a well-known playwright and script writer, best known for the TV series *Bellbird*. Many Inverell residents harboured suspicions that much of Barbara's inspiration for *Bellbird* came from the characters and events she remembered from her time here.

For the first 75 days of 2015, Inverell Library utilised a range of social and print media to focus on different ways to use the Library. The "75 Days & 75 Ways" campaign proved popular, and was a great way of letting people know all the different things that go on in the library. The campaign culminated in a special afternoon tea to celebrate the anniversary, on the 75th day of the year, 16 March. Guests included library patrons, former staff, neighbouring librarians and local dignitaries. Cr Graham Smith, President of the NSW Public Libraries Association, addressed an audience of 80 guests and spoke of the value of libraries to their communities.



The anniversary cake was greatly admired, with many mistaking it for a stack of real books, and featured in many photographs on the day. A photograph display, newspaper clippings and a range of memorabilia gave guests the opportunity to explore our past, and reminisce about changes in library practice. Thanks to the generous support of several library suppliers, a number of gift bags were presented on the day, to the winners of a poetry competition, the longest serving member, and to the lucky finder of a golden library card. The local bookstore The Dust Jacket has created a perpetual prize in honour of the library, and this year it was presented to our youngest cardholder, who was 3 months old at the time.

The anniversary celebrations have provided a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness of library services with the wider community, and to share a special event with our patrons. We look forward to continuing to serve the community, and to explore the changing ways that libraries can continue to fulfil the myriad information needs of our patrons. Who knows what the next 75 years might bring?

SONYA LANGE
Inverell Shire Public Library

INVERELL'S 75TH
ANNIVERSARY CAKE

Dapto celebrates anniversary in 50s style

DAPTO DISTRICT
LIBRARY'S 50S THEMED
REMEMBER WHEN...

Celebrating the anniversary of the Dapto District Library took on a 50s feel this year when our Remember When... Open Day rocked to the beat of Johnny O'Keefe, Bill Hayley and Elvis!

Dapto Library first opened its own doors in 1959 after serving the community for eight years from the School of Arts Building. To mark the occasion, on Wednesday 3 June, Dapto Library staff shifted decades to the 1950s, donning swing skirts or leather jackets and side burns in an attempt to send their visitors back in time.

Bringing recognition to the history of our library service can be a challenge. Many of today's customers simply believe their library has always been there. So to make our anniversary something special, Dapto staff decided they needed to actually live in the 50s for the day. Our first task was to send invitations to prominent community members and regular users. These, along with 50s style posters and flyers, raised public interest early and created quite a buzz around the Open Day well before it arrived.

Our resident seamstress, Sandra Rock, also got busy early. She had seven skirts and petticoats complete with poodles, in a variety of colours to create. The result surpassed all expectations and they were the talk of the day. Along with the 50s music playing through our sound system, and the dance group Westside Rockers kicking up a storm, anyone could be forgiven for thinking they were on a Happy Days set!

It was an easy exercise to research other 50s paraphernalia. Movies, books and songs of the era were all on display and for loan. We also had an On This Day display for the year 1959 with all the top news stories of the time.

'Milk bar' themed morning and afternoon teas kept everyone fuelled and a huge book sale table was rarely without browsers. The whole day was planned in a way that had something happening nonstop and the constant stream of visitors meant the library was certainly the place to be.

For the kids there was a special Storytime presented by an amusing Elvis lookalike (wannabe rocker, Ross Smith) who even parents found entertaining. That was followed by a talented balloon clown twisting balloons into shapes and characters for a mesmerised young audience. Proof that, as in the 1950s, children can be entertained without technology!



And then of course there was the extremely popular local history display, which always creates great interest. Our local history department has an awesome collection of historical photos that never fails to attract attention. That was then complemented with a talk and presentation from Dapto history buff Scott Fleming, with 58 people attending.

Winding up the day was the screening of the family movie, *The Silver Brumby* starring Russell Crowe, based on the 1958 Australian classic.

Overall we had more than 100 people booked into the various events and our daily attendance was close to double that of an average Wednesday. These statistics along with 100% positive feedback confirmed the day's success and encouraged us to further explore the local history theme later in the year. We discovered that many of our locals have long memories and are keen to share what they remember.

In putting together this Open Day, we unknowingly unleashed a strong local pride that our library will encourage and nurture. Something all public libraries everywhere could happily add to their manifesto.

—
JOANNE DAVID
Wollongong City Libraries

Storm week at Gosford City Library

The week beginning 20 April 2015 saw the worst weather event the Central Coast had experienced in almost a decade. Many residents were left without power and internet or worse yet, badly damaged homes. A number of the Gosford City Library branches were also affected by the weather with power outages forcing them to remain closed.

Acting as storm shelters, all open branches provided refuge for people by giving them a safe, warm place to ride out the weather. People were able to charge their equipment, conduct their business, study or just relax. It would prove to be one of the busiest weeks in the history of the library service, with one customer even coming to the library to plug in their medical breathing apparatus.

Library infrastructure was put to the test, with WiFi and power networks seeing unprecedented use as people desperately worked to keep their lives running under extreme circumstances. It became quickly evident during the week that being willing to adapt quickly to change was a key requirement in order to look after people adequately.

After scrambling to purchase additional electrical equipment to meet demand, large areas of our branches were hastily rearranged to make additional seating space and create communal charging areas. Power boards were strung from every available outlet. People sat and worked or read in every seat or available piece of floor space. It was amazing to see strangers sit down together and discuss their lives, sharing with one another the hardships and experiences of the week.

Our library staff were heavily tested during this week as they grappled with overcrowded buildings, assisting people with individual needs and managing conflict. Power outlet and furniture usage often required staff to negotiate between people to ensure equity of access to the facilities. Flexibility, diplomacy and empathy were skills put to good use when engaging with those people seeking refuge. As is typical in this type of event, people were often quite stressed when coming through the library doors. Staff were able to be technical support, information provider, sympathetic ear or in some instances all three at once. This was done in many cases without regard for their own personal circumstances at home, personifying the best ideals of public service.

By the end of the week, as people began returning home to count the cost of the storm on their lives,



it was evident that libraries have an integral role in maintaining community wellbeing. It was also great to see so many non-library users turning to the library when they were in need. The sense of shared experience that many who came to the library displayed was a testament to the power of libraries to bring people together, reminding each other they are not alone.

—
BEN HARTLEY
Erina Library

GOSFORD CITY LIBRARY
BRANCHES PROVIDE
SHELTER TO STORM-
AFFECTED RESIDENTS

Warringah Council's Your Librarian service

To celebrate Library and Information Week 2015, Warringah Council Library launched a new service called 'Your Librarian'. We took our vintage caravan 'Marilyn' down to Dee Why Beach to create some buzz around the launch, giving away free books, demonstrating our eServices and promoting Your Librarian, our new tailor-made reading list service.

Any member of our library can request a custom-made list of reading suggestions by completing an online survey about their reading preferences. We get back to them within five working days with a list of items we think they will enjoy, making suggestions from across our entire collection of print, audio, DVD and eCollections. Ideas are sourced from Novelist, trusted reviews, Readers' Advisory resources held at our library and from our own library brains trust!

Our library purpose is 'bringing people, information and ideas together'. We see this online service as an opportunity to reach out to a broader section of our community – people who are time poor, who don't visit the library building or are borrowing material for someone else.

To complement the Your Librarian service, we have also created a new webpage featuring profiles of our staff. It describes the types of things each of us enjoys reading and features themed lists of our favourite books and DVDs. The feedback from our customers has been that these profiles and reading lists are a great discovery tool.

We have had a popular display of 'Staff Picks' in the library for a number of years which are our favourite items from the collection. The success of this promotion is shown by its turnover of 9.3 loans per year, as opposed to the average of 6.41 across the general collection. We saw the development of the Your Librarian service as the next logical progression of this. The project was inspired by overseas libraries like Multnomah County Library and Pickerington Public Library and by the concept of form-based (or asynchronous) Readers' Advisory.

Staff are our library's biggest asset and we see this as an opportunity to show some personality, and to make us more approachable. We encourage a non-judgemental approach to Readers' Advisory and have created lists of items we genuinely enjoy, rather than the books people think we 'should like', or feel expected to have read.



WARRINGAH COUNCIL LIBRARY LAUNCHES YOUR LIBRARIAN SERVICE WITH HELP FROM VINTAGE CARAVAN MARILYN

Having participated in the Rewarding Reading training provided by the State Library of NSW, we are always looking to improve in this area and to discover new ways to initiate a conversation about the value and enjoyment of reading. Your Librarian has helped to develop staff skills and confidence, as there is less pressure to come up with a quick response and allows time to become more familiar with the library's tools and resources.

The project has been a real team effort, with staff volunteering to be involved, a member of our leadership team taking the profile photos and Council's web team building the page for us.

To see Your Librarian for yourself, visit our website <http://www.warringah.nsw.gov.au/library/read/your-librarian>

MELANIE MUTCH
Warringah Council Library

Hawkesbury turns 10



CELEBRATIONS FOR HAWKESBURY LIBRARY'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The Deerubbin Centre in Windsor – home to Hawkesbury Central Library as well as the Regional Gallery, community meeting rooms, and community service providers – celebrated its 10th anniversary on Saturday, 20 June 2015 with an estimated 1500 people attending. The landmark building was constructed on the site of the old Hawkesbury Hospital, and was part of the biggest investment in cultural infrastructure the district had ever seen. To mark this milestone a 10th birthday party event was held for the community.

For the official proceedings, Windsor Public School percussion band performed and Councillor Mike Creed, Deputy Mayor cut the giant birthday cake, which was devoured by the crowd. Awards were presented to volunteers who have been with the service for 10 years.

Throughout the day there were lots activities, prizes and freebies as well as a jumping castle, monster book sale, roving entertainers, badge making, face-painting, balloon blowing, music and author talks, bringing the Centre to life and highlighting its many services and user groups. Community groups along with art groups set up stalls throughout the centre showcasing works and promoting their organisations.

Library staff improvised an outdoor lounge room as part of the eLibrary tent, complete with a couple of

iPads to showcase the many library services available from the comfort of your own home. Staff had fun demonstrating ebooks via Overdrive, eMagazines through Zinio, and live music through our newest eService – Freegal. Staff gave presentations on ‘Top 10 family history hints’ and ‘10 things about the Hawkesbury’ throughout the day.

The children’s storytelling sessions were very popular with dancing and singing at Rhymetime, Indigenous Storytelling with Uncle Wes Marne, an Aboriginal Elder who kept both children and adults enthralled with his dreamtime stories. Puddles the Reading Dragon and mascot for Paint Hawkesbury REaD, came to visit the storytime tent, filled with lots of little readers who were very excited by her presence.

The Library partnered with the Gallery, who share our premises, and the feedback from the community is, the day was great success.

JOANNE RUSSO
Hawkesbury Library Service

In touch with SL



SOME OF THE ADVENTUROUS AND QUIRKY PROGRAMMING AT NSW PUBLIC LIBRARIES - PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS LIBRARY LOANS UKULELES

FREE WIFI AND QUIRKY SERVICES BEHIND STAGGERING GROWTH FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The number of people using public libraries in NSW is at an all-time high with internet and online usage going through the roof, according to the latest Public Library Statistics released by the State Library of NSW.

“Public library visits and loans continue to rise at an impressive rate, but it is free WiFi usage, virtual visits and, surprisingly, non-traditional library services that are delivering the most staggering results,” says NSW State Librarian & Chief Executive, Alex Byrne.

Physical visits to over 360 public libraries across NSW have increased by 30% since 2000, with 35 million visits recorded for 2013/14. Loans are up 5% with 45 million loans recorded last year. “Public libraries are to be congratulated on introducing more adventurous and quirky programming to their diverse offering of existing library services, with a 40% increase in attendance recorded since 2008 – 1,538,019 people participated in over 67,000 programs in 2013/14,” said Dr Byrne. “In Port Macquarie-Hastings there’s a seed library and ukulele kit and exercise equipment for loan; in Wyong-Tuggerah there’s meditation workshops led by a local Buddhist monk; Ryde Library clients can practise on the grand piano; Blue Mountains still offers a Book Express Service for commuters at Springwood and Katoomba; and Camden is in the process of setting up a telescope collection for loan.”

Internet use and online services have experienced extremely high growth over a short period. Virtual

visits to public library websites grew by 10% to 10.2 million between 2012/13 and 2013/14. And onsite internet usage has doubled between 2009/10 and 2013/14 to 7.8 million sessions, largely due to free WiFi offered by libraries where people can use their own devices. “Over the past four years WiFi hotspots were delivered to public libraries in 126 rural and regional areas thanks to the NSW Government’s \$2million Revitalising Regional Libraries program, giving local residents access to free WiFi for the first time,” says Dr Byrne. “It’s vital that country residents enjoy the same level of connectivity offered by public libraries in metropolitan areas, and they are now able to take full advantage of the many electronic resources offered by the State Library such as local and international newspapers, full-text journals and databases.”

NSW public library statistics have been gathered, collated and published by the State Library of NSW since 1973.

CAMERON MORLEY
 Manager, Public Library Services
 State Library of NSW

Editor’s note: If you have a quirky or innovative program at your library please tell us about it by writing an article for *Public Library News*.

BUILDING ON THE BOOKENDS SCENARIOS: EXPLORING FUTURES FOR NSW PUBLIC LIBRARIES

In 2009 the State Library led an innovative research project called the Bookends Scenarios, commissioning the Neville Freeman Agency to assist in developing a set of scenarios for the future of NSW public libraries.

The project explored how the future of NSW public libraries might unfold over the next twenty years by developing a framework of four possible scenarios - *Silent Spring*, *How Buildings Learn*, *Neuromancer* and *Fahrenheit 451*. The key influences shaping these scenarios were the impact of ICT on the environment and the way the public values libraries.

The project developed a set of Early Warning Indicators which may signal that a particular scenario was emerging. It was recommended that trends be monitored at regular intervals so that libraries could consider appropriate strategic responses to the emerging opportunities or threats presented by a particular scenario.

In 2014 the State Library and NSW public libraries celebrated the 75th anniversary of the NSW Library Act. As well as focussing on past achievements and the growth of public libraries in NSW, this was an opportunity to consider the future. The framework developed as part of the Bookends Scenarios provided a perfect vehicle for this analysis.

The State Library again engaged the Neville Freeman Agency to assist, and the Building on the Bookends Scenarios project was conceived.

The project involved carrying out research, interviews and workshops with over 50 representatives from NSW public libraries, the State Library and library stakeholders to answer the question: what do we need to do in order for public libraries to be successful in 2030?

The culmination of the project is the *Building on the Bookends Scenarios* report. The report tracks how we have been travelling along the scenario pathways developed in 2009 and presents a series of strategic options that libraries could implement in order to be innovative, sustainable and resilient in the future.

Some of the key findings presented in the report are:

- Our research and “environmental scanning” revealed that no single scenario is emerging significantly more than the others.
- Some Early Warning Indicators, have happened – and at much faster rates than expected. Some examples include:
 - the number of internet sessions in libraries has doubled since 2009, a significant increase on the predicted 59.5% (WiFi accounts for much of this growth)
 - a swing from the global to the “local”
 - work has become more mobile and flexible
 - a continual rise in virtual leisure and online living
 - a proliferation of e-formats
 - libraries as physical spaces are highly valued by the public
 - the co-location of council and community facilities
 - the possible merger of local councils via the NSW Government’s Fit for the Future plan
- The Early Warning Indicators that have happened can be grouped into common themes: rapid advances in technology, the resurgence of local communities, and the increased value of

libraries as public and community spaces. These themes, or trends, are also supported by the latest NSW public library statistics.

- Libraries will play an important role in whatever future we face. Libraries might be the place to access the latest technology or the place to find refuge and unplug from technology chaos, or both.
- Representatives from the public library network generated a list of 75 strategic options that libraries can implement in order to be successful in the future. The top ten strategic options include:

- Create a branding development resource for statewide logo and signage for public libraries
- Develop one library card across all NSW services
- Provide the staff and technology needed for 24/7 access online and increase the opening hours of physical spaces
- Increase our partnerships at the local, regional, statewide and national level
- Manage the convergence/co-location of the GLAM sector and streamline efficiencies and audiences
- Develop current library qualifications so that they include subjects such as outreach, communications and social media skills
- Promote digital engagement
- Engage with crowd sourcing and crowd funding
- Reposition library roles to support community engagement and partnerships
- Develop the library as a platform for creative partnerships with individuals and groups, such as local authors and artists, writers/readers in residence

The strategic options put forward in the report are suggestions, they are not compulsory; many of them are already being planned or happening in libraries. The report is a starting point for conversations about strategic planning and what the future might look like for public libraries.

One of the recommendations made in the report is the formation of a group to monitor progress of the implementation of the suggested strategies. The State Library is addressing this with the NSW Public

01 READERS' ADVISORY TRAINING AT DENILIQVIN

02 ANNE NEVINS WITH A STANDARD DRINK RESIN KIT AT BERRIGAN LIBRARY

Libraries Association as part of the Learning and Development Framework.

The Bookends Scenarios and Building on the Bookends Scenarios reports are available on the State Library website.

EDWINA DUFFY
State Library of NSW

HOW THE WEST WAS ONE: READERS' ADVISORY TRAINING IN WESTERN NSW

For more than 10 years the State Library has offered NSW public libraries training courses in improving readers' advisory services. Called *Rewarding Reading*, the course is designed to help library staff answer readers' frequently asked question: "What's a good book to read next?"

Courses have been offered at the State Library in Sydney and at regional centres, and whilst these are convenient locations for metropolitan and many country library staff, it's a long way away for library staff in Western NSW. So Public Library Services staff at the State Library decided that there should be the same access to training for one and all, and that the course should travel to the country.

Training facilitators Sherrey Quinn and Ian McCallum from Libraries Alive! Pty Ltd were up for a road trip, and so between 5 and 17 March, *Rewarding Reading* took to the regions. Beginning in Deniliquin, training sessions were also conducted in Moree, Bourke and Dubbo. The course is based on discussion and mutual learning and covers the reasons for improving RA performance, talking with readers, print and digital information sources, the benefits of reading, and includes an exercise which involves participants 'standing in the readers' shoes'.

Library staff attending had very different backgrounds and experience, but they did have one important goal in common: a strong desire to improve the quality of their advice to readers. For most participants, especially those working in small libraries where staff relief to attend training is very difficult to arrange, having the trainers come to the



/01



/02

trainees was much appreciated. Here is a comment from one participant:

"I wish I had done this training years ago. This training has opened up new ideas and resources available which will assist me to do my job a lot more confidently."

Now, in 2015, virtually all library staff across the State have had the same access to RA training. Now the West is one with the East.

IAN MCCALLUM
Libraries Alive!

DRUG INFO UPDATE: KNOW YOUR STANDARDS WEEK 2015

Did you know that a glass of wine or beer served in a pub or club is often larger than a standard drink? Or that your favourite cocktail can contain as many as five standard drinks? These were some of the questions that were being addressed during Know Your Standards week in public libraries in June.

In preparation for Know Your Standards Week this year we distributed 102 standard drink resin kits to each library service in NSW. Libraries were encouraged to use the new kits, either in library displays or in pouring activities. The kits allow staff to visually demonstrate what constitutes a standard drink for commonly used alcoholic drinks such as beer, wine and spirits. It also provides an opportunity to engage with interactive activities regarding alcohol consumption. Used with existing print resources such as the pocket cards this helps people to better understand the concepts around standard drinks.

The resin kits are also visually appealing and life-like – so much so that **Wingecarribee Library** reported that there were comments from the public as it appeared that the library staff were ‘having a bit of a party’ during work time until they realised that the ‘drinks’ were not real and joined in the activities.

The Know Your Standards program provides people with discussion points around alcohol issues and several libraries took on this challenge with enthusiasm. At **Bankstown** and **Waverley** the kit was displayed on the reference counter which both drew attention to the kit and also allowed staff to interact with clients.

Port Stephens Library in Raymond Terrace used the kit to test people’s knowledge of standard drinks by asking people to guess the size of a standard drink and offering them information and resources. Staff at **Liverpool** promoted the kit and resources to groups who meet at the library.

A number of libraries held events in partnership with community organisations. This included a drop-in youth event around alcohol awareness in partnership with Anglicare at **City of Canada Bay Libraries**, a police talk on alcohol and the consequences of drinking to Indigenous youth at **Dubbo** and Geoff Munro, Head of Policy & Research at the Australian Drug Foundation, presented ‘The Other Talk’ program as part of the Clarence Valley Parenting Festival at **Clarence Regional Library in Grafton**.

Know Your Standards Week is an opportunity to present the Drug Info service and collections in public libraries and a variety of creative library displays showcased the resin kits and resources.

Cooma, Windsor, Waverley and **Wyong Shire** showed the impact of placing their displays near their library entrance and attracting attention as clients entered the library. **Wollongong City Library** incorporated the kit into a large ‘Party Smart’ wall display in the Central Library which featured targeted youth information.

A number of other libraries including **Picton, Cobar, Wagga Wagga, Ryde, Singleton, Leeton, Berrigan, Campbelltown, Kempsey** and **Burwood** featured the kit in library displays. **Wingecarribee Library** sent their resin kit on a mini tour around their branch libraries for the week and this proved to be popular, not only with library staff and clients but also with council staff, who have enquired about using the kit in their educational programs. Branch Officer Susan Jewell reports that “It will not sit hidden in a cupboard waiting the next display but will be travelling around for some time yet”.

The resin kit is accompanied by a guide to implementing the Know Your Standards program in your community and provides ideas for how to use your kit in your library for times outside of Know Your Standards Week. The toolkit is available to download from the drug info @ your library website.

ANDREA CURR
Drug Info Librarian

LIAC UPDATE: LAW WEEK 2015

Congratulations to everyone for a fantastic Law Week 2015! This year, I counted 110 events in NSW public libraries, reaching over 2100 people in the community.

Displays and legal talks were popular this year. Many libraries organised talks on legal subjects of interest to the community, with local solicitors from the Law Society’s Speakers Bureau as guest speakers. A wide range of topics were chosen, including:

- wills and planning ahead
- buying and selling real estate
- small business law
- strata living
- neighbours and the law
- retirement village living
- older people and the law
- domestic violence



GUNNEDAH LIBRARY'S VERY HUNGARY CATERPILLAR DRESSED UP AS A POLICEMAN TO CELEBRATE LAW WEEK

- traffic offences
- immigration law
- environmental law

Many of these talks were given in community languages. Presentations aimed at students were also popular.

Five libraries received Law Week grants of up to \$1000, to help with the costs of presenting and advertising events.

Albury, Broken Hill and Tamworth have written about their events in this issue of *Public Library News*, here's a small sample of the wonderful events held at other libraries:

Auburn Library participated in a Law Week Expo, organised by the NSW Department of Justice in co-operation with the Auburn Council Community Development Team and the library. The Expo included a series of workshop sessions on the law and sources of information and advice, with services such as Fair Trading NSW, the NSW Ombudsman, and the Refugee Advice and Casework Service also taking part. Interpreters speaking Dari, Hazaragi, Arabic, Farsi and Mandarin facilitated most of the workshops. It was a very successful and popular event attracting over 400 participants.

Gunnedah Library distributed 200 Law Week bags via many of their services including their housebound services, pensioners' club, and the Aboriginal Liaison Officer. The NSW Police Department Youth Liaison Officer in Tamworth

also sent 100 cardboard cars to be assembled, five different colouring in templates, stickers, wrist bands, and temporary tattoos 'Cops are Tops' to be used during Toddler Time and preschool visits during Law Week. The library also sent information about Find Legal Answers for inclusion in 1,000 crime prevention kits sent out by Council's Community Development section.

Monaro Regional Libraries held a cyberbullying in relationships roundtable discussion at Cooma Library, and also produced a short video of the event.

Port Stephens – Tomaree Library and Community Centre held a talk on *Domestic violence: what can we do?* The talks by the two guest speakers were powerful, confronting but positive, and a robust discussion followed.

Singleton Library celebrated Law Week with the seventh consecutive performance of a Law Week play. Students from a local high school partnered once again with the library, with generous donations of time by the local police, Local Court Registrar, and a local solicitor. The play was written, produced and directed by year 11 drama students. Titled *Say No to Nude*, it portrayed a lovesick schoolgirl who sent a nude photo of herself to her boyfriend on her phone – the boyfriend however placed no value on this 'gift' and sent the photo on to his mates. Finally the 'class spiteful' received a copy and thought it would be fun to send it to the whole class and then sit back to watch the drama unfold. The message is a powerful reminder to everyone that a photo on the internet is there forever, and that sending and receiving nude photos over the internet is classified as pornography – even worse for under age victims - and gaol sentences can be the end result for those who break these laws.

Sutherland Library hosted a Find Legal Answers stall at a free breakfast held at the neighbourhood community centre, with a Legal Aid NSW solicitor available for appointment at the centre at the same time.

Wollongong Library had a Stall in the Mall, an information stall in the weekly farmers market held in the Wollongong CBD.

This year for the first time LIAC ran a social media campaign for Law Week, with a week of scheduled tweets and posts. Libraries let us know what events they were planning and we promoted them using Twitter, Tumblr and Facebook. Libraries were encouraged to use the hashtags #nswpubliclibraries

and #LawWeek so we could follow the conversations. The campaign proved very successful, particularly on Twitter which had a dramatic increase in audience reach.

CATHERINE BRYANT
LIAC

NSW.NET UPDATE: END OF THE ELK

After 18 months of visiting libraries across NSW, NSW.net's four eLending Kits – known as the eLKs – are retiring.

The eLK program was piloted in Lithgow and Mudgee Libraries in 2013. After the pilot, the program was opened to NSW public libraries on an expression of interest basis.

The program was developed to increase NSW public library staff knowledge and experience of eLending devices and the eLending environment. The four kits contained tablets, phones and dedicated eReaders with a mix of Apple and Android devices. The program was also supported by the eLending portal on the NSW.net website.

In 2013/14, 159 staff attended 31 eLending sessions and in 2014/15 119 staff attended 19 sessions.

The eLKs have been made very welcome wherever they visited and feedback has been positive:

“Having a go with the devices is definitely the way to learn.”

“It was good to learn how to use these devices and I am now able to help customers with their enquiries about eBooks.”

And now with the program completed it's time to catch up on our reading!

KATHLEEN ALEXANDER
NSW.net

HARVESTING GARDENING EPHEMERA

In late 2016 the State Library will be hosting a major gardens exhibition. The Library has a rich collection of material documenting gardening across a range of periods and formats, including books, journals, ephemera, paintings and manuscripts, and is committed to maintaining and developing this collection.

In anticipation of the exhibition, and to keep the collection fresh with contemporary additions,



THE STATE LIBRARY IS COLLECTING GARDEN-THEMED EPHEMERA, THIS IS A SEED CATALOGUE FROM MILNER & CO FROM 1900, STATE LIBRARY COLLECTION

the Library is holding a collecting drive to boost its collection of gardening and garden-themed ephemera. Through this drive the Library is aiming to harvest a representative selection of contemporary material including catalogues, brochures, flyers, postcards, posters and point of sale advertising. Preferred items are printed, NSW-related material with an emphasis on topicality, graphic design and items featuring gardening and botanical imagery. We are particularly keen to collect material originating across the state.

Please support the Library and join in the harvest between now and 31 December.

You can send items to:

Kathryn Barwick
Collection Strategy & Development
State Library of NSW
Macquarie St
Sydney 2000

JERELYNN BROWN
Manager Collection Strategy and Development,
State Library of NSW

In the Libraries

01 ALBURY LIBRARY GOES BACK IN TIME WITH A 1940S MURDER MYSTERY EVENT FOR LAW WEEK

02 ONE OF THE IMAGES FEATURED IN A BATHURST WAY BACK WHEN WEDNESDAY FACEBOOK POST



/01



/02

Albury Libraries

LAW WEEK AT ALBURY LIBRARIES

Albury Libraries celebrated Law Week this year by holding an interactive murder mystery event for families and a more sophisticated *Murder on the Spirit of Progress* dinner for adults.

The family event built on the success of the 2014 evening with the team purchasing the *Once upon a time* package, which was based in Fairyland, with all the community called together to help solve the mysterious accidents that had been occurring. Children worked together with the audience to discover who was responsible. This was a fun night with participants dressed in creative costumes from loved fairytales and story books.

The *Murder on the Spirit of Progress* dinner linked to local historical events. Attendees boarded the “train” and were taken back in time over the evening to 1940s with a shocking murder unfolding. Two local actors facilitated the evening with attendees garbed in dress of the period, becoming local characters from the area.

The aim of both events was to link historical and make-believe events to every day law, provide a

vehicle to promote Law Week through the media and to the community and develop fun public programs. Law Week bags with brochures and other LIAC freebies were put out for collection at both events.

CARINA CLEMENT
Albury Libraries

Bathurst Library

WAY BACK WHEN WEDNESDAYS

Being an ‘older’ person (of the younger variety), the workings and results of social media still amaze me. Yes, Bathurst Library joined the Facebook crowd back in October 2011, but it wasn’t until March 2014 that I began to post an historic component on the site. Since then the “Way Back When Wednesday” posts have gained a strong following all over the world... and increasing.

Each week on Wednesday, an historic photo from Bathurst’s past (from the Gregory Photographic Collection) is uploaded so that others can enjoy the history of Bathurst and see how our town has matured over 200 years – we celebrate our bicentenary in 2015. In addition, a link is sent to all Council staff and Councillors on the group email list

so that they too, can increase their local knowledge and awareness. Since doing this, I have had a huge response from staff who have phoned and emailed me to express their appreciation.

The library's photographic collection also includes a number of images of our servicemen and women from WWI. In commemorating 100 years of ANZAC, we are also posting an image of one of 'our boys' each week. These photos will also be on display in the library 'down the avenue' for the year.

Why not jump on to Facebook and 'Like' our page.....??

BETH HALL
Bathurst Library

BORROW A BOOK OR IT WILL BE THRONE OUT...

Books have a tendency to become Wildings and be exiled beyond the wall where they are left in the cold dark shelves, with the fear of joining the army of the dead... Apart from leaving them to their ultimate doom what else can we do?

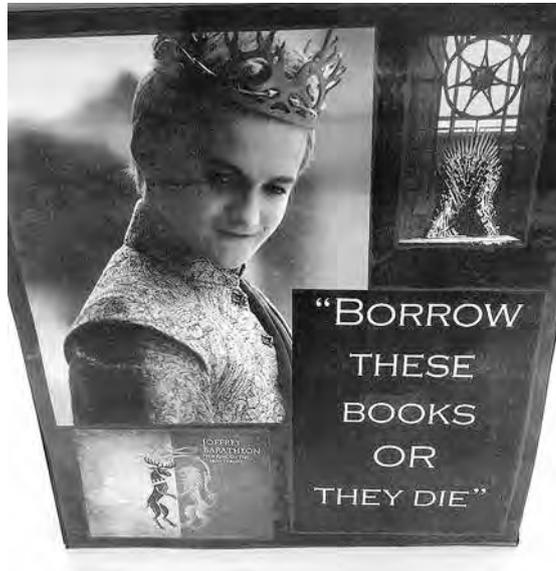
Well, with the popularity of *Game of Thrones* and with winter coming we thought why not create a display that will hopefully encourage people to borrow these books and save them from an early demise. Using a play on words and altering some of the *Game of Thrones* sayings we have created a display that, so far, seems to be working. Our borrowers are following the plight of the Stark and Targaryen houses, and don't want to see these books in the clutches of the White Walkers, or Joffrey, and have been taking a book home with them, thus playing their part in the Bathurst Library's Game of Books.

SARAH FLEMING
Bathurst Library

Blacktown City Libraries

TEDXSydney SATELLITE EVENT AT BLACKTOWN

In May the Max Webber Library Function Centre was converted into a temporary theatre when we hosted our first TEDxSydney satellite event. We offered a live stream of the event at the Sydney Opera House and attendees were encouraged to come and go as they pleased throughout the day. The event gained a lot of interest and attendance was strong, with some



SAVE THESE BOOKS FROM JOFFREY, GOT DISPLAY AT BATHURST LIBRARY

local businesses allowing their staff to attend for their professional development. Light refreshments were available for attendees between breaks, which provided an opportunity for people to network and for library staff to share our other great programs and services. Overall it was a successful day and we expect to hold a similar event again in 2016.

TIM UNGARO
Blacktown City Libraries

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

Blacktown City Libraries held a very successful event for Free Comic Book Day in May 2015. Over 600 free comics, generously donated by Phantom Zone Parramatta, were given away at the Max Webber Library and Our Library @ Mount Druitt Hub. People of all ages enjoyed making badges and creating their own superhero mask. Children were then invited to go on a secret mission with Batman and Spiderman to help save the library. Pieces of Batman's logo had been scattered all around the library by evil baddies and excited children helped our superheroes to collect them all and put the puzzle together again. Batman's powers were restored and the library was saved!

JILLIAN BARRETT
Blacktown City Libraries

01 ZOHAB ZEE KHAN, TEZ MCQUILLAN AND IVAN RADIX AT THE BLUE MOUNTAINS HEATS OF AUSTRALIAN POETRY SLAM



/01

02 FREE COMIC BOOK DAY AT KATOOMBA LIBRARY



/02

Blue Mountains

KAT SLAM!

The funky surroundings of Katoomba Library and the offbeat vibe of the Australian Poetry Slam continue to be a perfect partnership. This year's event on 18 June attracted over 80 people and was hosted by the charismatic 2014 Slam Champ, Zohab Zee Khan, didgeridoo player, harmonica beat-boxer and hip-hop artist.

This year's audience was won over by Katoomba poet, Tez McQuillan, whose sung-poem about his love of mowing had the audience rolling in the aisles. In contrast, second place went to Ivan Radix whose moving poem inspired by his travels to Japan and entitled *Nomadic Dwellers*, focused on the plight of people living in poverty on the streets. Tez and Ivan will now go on to participate in the State round of the SLAM.

The Australian Slam is now the largest writing and performance competition in the southern hemisphere and Katoomba Library has hosted the annual Blue Mountains heats since 2007. Poetry Slams began in Chicago in 1984 and were introduced to Australia in 1996 by two Chicago born spoken word artists, Miles Merrill and Phil Norton. Poets don't need to be booked in, famous or even qualified to battle it out with words. They simply rock up on the night, sign up and are given a microphone and two minutes to sing, recite, shout, rap, whisper or even scream their original poem, story or lyric. Judges are selected from the audience which is also encouraged to participate vocally throughout the evening.

THERESA LOCK
Blue Mountains City Library

MAKING SPACE FOR FUN AND GAMES AT THE LIBRARY

Blue Mountains City Library has dedicated its meeting spaces to games and group activities over the last two months revealing that Library users are just as keen to join in with activities about play and community as they are passionate about books and learning.

On 11 April over 50 people came to hang out, eat pizza, listen to live music and play games at Springwood Library as part of International TableTop Games Day, an event for Youth Week 2015. The Library provided a range of board games but some customers brought in their own to share just for the experience of hanging out in the library with other like-minded people.

On Free Comic Book Day (2 May) at Katoomba Library customers surpassed themselves by turning up as their comic alter-egos including The Queen of Hearts, Spiderman, Sylvester the Cat and Batgirl. Cartoon artist, Glenn Myszal, took requests for sketch drawings for a gold coin donation towards the Red Cross Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund.

Meanwhile at Katoomba every Saturday is Chess at the Library, which last month alone saw nearly 80 people of all ages drop in for a game of chess. There is no doubt that, with the popularity of all these events, they will continue to be part of our busy events calendar.

THERESA LOCK
Blue Mountains City Library

Broken Hill City Library

LAW WEEK MURDER MYSTERY

For Law Week this year the Broken Hill City Library invited local police detectives to be involved in a murder mystery at the library. From Monday to Thursday at 11am, detectives would give an explanation for the procedure when a crime of this nature occurs; this ranged from finger prints, foot prints, blood analysis and interview techniques.

The staff served as potential suspects and short biographies were written up for them, which allowed the public and detectives to ponder over who the suspect in the case was! The staff were all questioned by the detectives on their whereabouts at the time of the crime and their relationship with the deceased 'Arnold' who had been impaled with one of the knitting needles from our popular Friday morning knit n yarn group. Justice was served in the end with the guilty staff member eventually confessing!

FALLON LAWN
Broken Hill City Library

Central West Libraries

MAKING A SPACE ONLINE FOR RESEARCHERS

Orange Family History Group, partner volunteers with Central West Libraries main branch, Orange City Library, has reached an incredible milestone of 80,000 entries from the local newspapers, births, deaths and marriages listings, funeral and probate notices and obituaries.

Since 2009 the indexing team has been using hardcopy and microfilm editions of the *Central Western Daily*. Initially, the indexing concentrated on the notices section of the paper to create an invaluable resource for family history researchers. This approach was used primarily to make this enormous, retrospective task achievable for enthusiastic volunteers who were inexperienced with using library management systems.

The benefit from this basic information was realised early. The indexing team, in collaboration with the CWL staff, decided to broaden their recordkeeping to include reports of news and the social pages provided they contained local information and people.



The newspaper "milestones" index has made its own space online and complements the information available from the range of digitised local newspapers. 80,000 entries is a huge achievement made possible by a successful mix of volunteers and specialist staff.

All the entries can be searched on Central West Libraries catalogue link at www.cwl.nsw.gov.au

ROS DORSMAN
Central West Libraries

Cobar Shire & TAFE Library

EREADERS AND IPADS AT COBAR

A new eReader and iPad loan service has been launched at Cobar Shire & TAFE Library. The library's collection of ebooks can now be accessed on Kobo eReaders that can be borrowed and taken home. Readers of large print are expected to benefit from this new service, but the devices are available to all library users. TAFE have supplied iPads which may be used in the library. The iPads can be used to access the internet or play games.

JANE SIERMANS
Cobar Shire & TAFE Library

MEMBERS OF ORANGE
FAMILY HISTORY GROUP
MARIE COUSINS, LYNNE
IRVINE, JENNY GILLARD
AND JULIE MILNE

In the Libraries

Clarence Regional Library

MARKETING AWARD 2015

Clarence Valley Libraries were recognised for outstanding design and branding implementation at the Government Communications Australia Conference in May 2015. The Clarence Valley Council's libraries won the Best Marketing/Public Relations Campaign – Shire/Rural Council for their Clarence Valley Libraries branding against councils from across Australia.

The branding featured the logo and tag line “your library – your place”, the design captured the fun, vibrancy and strength of the library brand and the use of colour is inclusive and welcoming. This award gives national recognition for the work of Clarence Valley Libraries in their implementation of branding concepts across all areas of their collateral.

This is the second award received by the libraries for their branding efforts. At the November 2014 NSW Public Libraries Conference in Mudgee, Clarence Valley Libraries also won the services category in the NSW Public Library Marketing.

KATHRYN BREWARD
Clarence Regional Library

Great Lakes Library Service

NEW LIBRARY FOR FORSTER

A new central library for Forster is on the way! The idea was first raised over 15 years ago and now Council has decided that the library is a priority. In fact, they're hoping to see it completed in 18 months, which means life is getting very interesting around here.

Council has committed up to \$6 million to the project and early estimates indicate that could get up to 1500 m² of library space. This is for Stage 1. Council recognises that the library should be 2000 m², which is why they're planning a Stage 2.

The library will be going on a greenfield site, which is great news. There is scope for other facilities on the site such as a performance space, gallery and tourist information centre. Council also intends to realise some commercial return from the site and is looking

at residential developments. The intention is to create a Civic Precinct with the library very much as the centrepiece.

Right now we're throwing ourselves into the planning and trying to source as many design ideas as possible. We're diving into publications like *People Places*, checking out design principles from all over the internet and going on road trips to see what other libraries look like. Don't be surprised if Great Lakes Library staff turn up on your doorstep, though hopefully you'll have had some warning.

We're also seeing this as a great opportunity to develop a new collection design and layout, using non-fiction genres. There's something to keep you busy.

If that isn't exciting and challenging enough for you, ask yourself this. Considering how much public libraries have changed in the past twenty years what will they be like in the next twenty years? Now come up with a design for that.

CHRIS JONES
Great Lakes Library Service



/01

Gunnedah Shire Library

SPECIAL PROJECTS AT GUNNEDAH

At the end of April, in conjunction with our last 1,000 Books Before School presentation, the Mayor launched our Life Events picture book collection. This is a collection of picture books dealing with such topics as Grief, Starting School, New Siblings, Families, Potty Training, Feelings and Friendship. The books are shelved separately from the rest of the picture book collection and have a little label on the front telling parents or carers what the book is about. The section is very popular with mothers and carers.

During Library and Information Week, the Mayor also launched the library's Autism Spectrum Resource collection, which was acquired using a grant of \$6,000 obtained from The New England Early Childhood Inclusion Bright Access organisation. As well as nonfiction materials for parents and carers, picture books, junior fiction, junior talking books, and easy nonfiction material was also purchased. Invited to the opening were the special needs school, parents, teachers and other interested people.

The children loved all the nice new books, especially the easy nonfiction, and the adults pounced on the nonfiction, congratulating the library on the scope of the collection.

CHRISTIANE BIRKETT
Gunnedah Shire Library

Ku-ring-gai Library

WINTER WARMERS WEEK

From 1 to 5 June Ku-ring-gai Library ran its inaugural Winter Warmers Week, a week-long festival of events designed to appeal to all ages and tastes.



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Between the four library branches, we organised four author encounters, two author forums, a film viewing, various technology sessions, a school choir performance and more. We even had soup from one of the author's vegan cookbooks served in the library! The Children's & Young Adult Services Librarian also used this opportunity to trial two new toddlers programs with Itsy Bitsy Babies and The Young and the Restless.

With the help of the Council's design team, we had a modern and stylish booklet for the week's events as well as posters, flyers and jpg images for digital promotion. Events were placed on the Council's and Library's events and Facebook pages. We also placed corporate advertisements and a message from the Mayor in the local newspaper as well as sending out press releases. There were prominent displays in each library branch and two huge roadside banners moved around the local area. A member of staff was even interviewed on local radio!

After all the work it was great to finally run the events. The ebook and My Favourite Apps events were very popular and filled up fast. Our workshops on Life Story and Creative writing were also very popular, and it was very fulfilling to run these sessions that we are often unable to organise due to the time and budget involved.

At the conclusion of Winter Warmers Week, both staff and attendees were surveyed for their comments and a full evaluation report prepared to help us identify areas for improvement in future function.

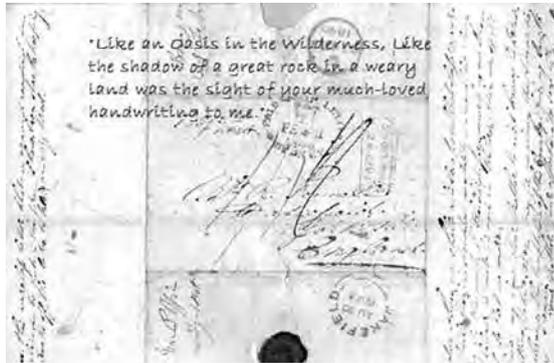
JULIE JUST AND LEXI MORRALL
Ku-ring-gai Library

01 AUTISM SPECTRUM RESOURCE COLLECTION DISPLAY AT GUNNEDAH SHIRE LIBRARY

02 WINTER WARMERS WEEK AT KU-RING-GAI LIBRARY

In the Libraries

- 01 ONE OF THE FENNELL FAMILY LETTERS ON DISPLAY AT LAKE MAC LIBRARIES
- 02 LANE COVE DEPUTY MAYOR DEBORAH HUTCHENS, MAYOR DAVID BROOKS-HORN AND COUNCILLOR SCOTT BENNISON AT THE LAUNCH OF *LANE COVE LITERARY AWARD 2014: AN ANTHOLOGY*



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Lake Mac Libraries

UNPUBLISHED LETTERS SHED LIGHT ON LAKE MACQUARIE'S EARLY HISTORY

Lake Mac Libraries had the pleasure of making a valuable, and previously unpublished, historical resource available to the public - a series of 25 letters written between 1846 and 1874 by the Fennell family.

The Fennells were early settlers of Lake Macquarie and gave their name to the suburb of Fennell Bay. The brothers Richard and Tom, who pen the vast majority of the letters, were from Yorkshire, England and lived a relatively comfortable life, working in a family business, before making the journey to Australia for reasons unknown. They were both excellent writers and wrote many letters back home detailing life on the land.

From the early isolation of the lake, to the severe flooding that decimated NSW in 1867 and the gold fever gripping the country in the late 1850s,

the letters give voice to the struggles of the early pioneers.

By great fortune, the letters were kept by the family back in Yorkshire for over 125 years and only came to light in 1976 when a descendent of Richard Fennell made contact with one of his UK relatives. After the letters were gifted to this family member, the descendants worked on transcribing the letters, many of which were written in cross-hatched handwriting, a technique where two separate sets of writing are included on the same page - one written over the other at right-angles.

A chance encounter brought the letters to the attention of Lake Mac Libraries' Community History staff, who were able to gain permission from the family to digitise and transcribe the correspondence and make it available to the public for the first time via the website at history.lakemac.com.au

The language of the letters is very poetic and the sentiments expressed very heartfelt, making them an interesting read. The resource will be of wide interest to researchers, as the Fennell's lived in a number of Hunter Valley locations and the letters describe the landscape and conditions, giving an insight into the life of early settlers in Lake Macquarie, as well as further afield.

JUDY MESSITER
Lake Mac Libraries

Lane Cove Library

LAUNCH OF LANE COVE LITERARY AWARD ANTHOLOGY

On Wednesday 10 June 2015 *Lane Cove Literary Award 2014: An Anthology* was launched by Councillor David Brooks-Horn, Mayor of Lane Cove. The anthology is the culmination of the successful inaugural Lane Cove Literary Award 2014.

The Award included Short Story, Memoir and Poetry categories and additional prizes for a Lane Cove Resident and Youth (16-24 years). Council was pleased to receive 560 entries from all Australian states and territories. The judges were two local published authors, Jeni Mawter and Simon Kennedy who were very supportive of the process. The anthology contains both the winning and short-listed entries from the 2014 Award.



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Lane Cove Library has published a number of books since the 1980s – the Anthology is number 24 in the Local Studies Monograph Series. While Library staff have built up some expertise in book publishing, formatting and editing remains a time-consuming task.

The eye catching photo on the cover was chosen from entries in the Lane Cove Council’s annual *Captured Photography* competition.

The Lane Cove Literary Awards 2015 have opened with categories including Short Story, Theatre Script and Poetry. This year’s additional prizes are Lane Cove Resident, Youth (16-24 years) and Senior (65+ years).

JILLIAN YAU
Lane Cove Library

Liverpool City Library

AUTHOR SHAMANI FLINT VISITS LIVERPOOL

On 25 May, Liverpool City Library hosted several talks by Shamini Flint. Over 180 listeners, year 5 and 6 students and adults attended her talks. She was hugely popular with children and adults alike.

Shamini Flint writes fiction for children and adults, as well as non-fiction. She grew up in Malaysia, studied in England and now lives in Singapore. She travels the world in search of an identity or at least a good curry!

Among her most popular books is the series ‘The Diary of ...’, a series for children. The ‘Diary of ...’ is a series about ‘having a go’, self-acceptance and love of sport. Her adult crime novels feature Inspector Singh of the Singapore Police, who takes readers through the back streets of Asia.



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She kept audiences spell bound with her stories about growing up in Malaysia, being a corporate lawyer, teacher, university lecturer and coffee seller, motherhood and her love of football (soccer).

The evening session for adults was followed by cold drinks and sandwiches and was also attended by students who came back for a second time to hear more of Shamini’s stories – they couldn’t get enough.

JADWIGA KREJZA
Liverpool City Library

Marrickville Library

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS LIBRARY WITH TRIVIA EVENING

Over 60 people supported Marrickville Library in June at a hybrid trivia night and author talk. It was quite a departure from a traditional library event, but, optimistically, a step in the right direction in showing what public libraries offer the community beyond the written word. The evening included a talk by Deborah O’Brien, author of the newly released novel, *The Trivia Man*, which captures the thriving pub quiz subculture. Deborah’s talk was followed by a trivia night presented by popular host, Nick Nolan. The evening was a great success, with the 12 competing teams requesting similar library events in the future. The winning trivia team took home a curated selection of books we dubbed a ‘lit tray’ – a fitting bookish alternative to the local pub’s meat tray.

RUTH KOTEVICH
Marrickville Library

01 AUTHOR SHAMANI FLINT VISITS LIVERPOOL CITY LIBRARY

02 MARRICKVILLE HOSTS A HYBRID TRIVIA NIGHT AND AUTHOR TALK

In the Libraries

Monaro Regional Libraries

COOMA LOVES COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

At Monaro Regional Libraries (MRL) Cooma branch we've been delighted to make some connections within the wider community beyond our usual networks in the last quarter.

Regular library activities have rolled on, including Preschool Storytime, Law Week, school class visits, National Simultaneous Storytime and our staff-homemade Biggest Morning Tea Soup for the NSW Cancer Council. These events continue to be a fantastic way for us to connect with patrons and visitors alike.

In addition to these, MRL had a very positive experience and excellent feedback from the local community through our promotion of the 5000 Poppies Project. Cooma Library collected nearly 800 poppies and the displays of knitted and crocheted flowers around the library before shipping them to Melbourne for Anzac Day looked glorious.

Also this year a community arts project, coordinated by BigHart, held meetings and workshops with local people at Cooma Library. BigHart were able to unearth and record the region's rich immigration history in relation to the lives of those who came to work for the Snowy Mountains Authority post World War Two.

Cooma Library was awash on several occasions with BigHart members singing and playing guitars during their meetings with Cooma Monaro Historical Society. The stories collected and songs created during this period have been developed into a theatre production by BigHart called *Ghosts in the Scheme*. It is a compelling drama, infused with music and dark comedy, featuring musicians Mikangelo and the Black Sea Gentlemen and actors Lex Marinos, Annie Grigg and Bruce Myles, and premieres at the Canberra Theatre Centre in September 2015.

Locals were lucky enough to be treated to a preview with a free show in Cooma in April, which meant that MRL were lucky too, as we welcomed special guest Lex Marinos to Cooma Library to speak about his life, work and recent biography *Blood and Circuses*, to a highly entertained and captivated audience.

KATH FREIHAUT
Monaro Regional Libraries



MONARO REGIONAL LIBRARY STAFF MEMBER HELEN AT COOMA LIBRARY'S BIGGEST MORNING SOUP

Newcastle Region Library

OUTING DISABILITY EXHIBITION

Newcastle Region Library recently hosted a new photographic exhibition, *Outing Disability*, developed by internationally acclaimed photographer, Belinda Mason.

Outing Disability was developed in collaboration with Family Planning NSW and included an intimate portrait series which takes the viewer on a journey into the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) people with a disability.

Rob Hardy of Family Planning NSW, said "The exhibition of this series was a great triumph for the participants involved. There is a social taboo around the fact that people with disability have diverse sex, sexuality and gender, like anyone else – so there's a great satisfaction in being able to tell the world "This is me!."

The exhibition showcased photographic portraits with individuals' stories of coming out, transitioning, dating, and finding acceptance in a world that often makes the sexuality of people with disability invisible.

We were delighted to host this exhibition at the Library to help foster and develop an inclusive community. The exhibition provided the beginning of conversations and new partnerships that will enable increased inclusion and support for LGBTIQ people with disability.

We would like to thank The City of Sydney for funding the original exhibition at the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras last year and The Aurora Group who funded the exhibition to tour to Newcastle.

CAROL EDMONDS
Newcastle Region Library

TEN MINUTES A DAY TO INSTIL A LOVE OF READING

National children's charity The Smith Family has announced a partnership with the Newcastle Region Library which will see the expansion this year of popular early literacy program *Ten Minutes a Day*.

Through funding made available by the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation, The Smith Family will assist the Newcastle Region Library to facilitate the program, which equips parents and carers with ideas for using stories, rhymes, songs and music to help children under two years develop early literacy skills.

Program founder and Newcastle Region Library Public Programs Coordinator Carol Edmonds said *Ten Minutes a Day* had been embraced by local parents who have enjoyed the opportunity to share and experience the love of reading with their babies.

"We are excited to have secured funding and the support of reputable charity The Smith Family to ensure the continued success of *Ten Minutes a Day*, as well as its expansion later in the year into the Central West communities," Ms Edmonds said.

As part of the partnership, The Smith Family will coordinate training opportunities for staff at participating libraries.

The Smith Family has proven success in working with children in the early years through its *Let's Read* early literacy and *Let's Count* early numeracy programs.

To find out more about The Smith Family's programs visit www.thesmithfamily.com.au. For information about *Ten Minutes a Day* visit <http://www.tenminutesaday.com.au/>

LYNDELL COUTTS
The Smith Family

Parramatta City Library

HEAD ON PHOTO EXHIBITION

Parramatta Library took part in one of Australia's largest photographic festivals, *Head On*. The library hosted three exhibitions during the month of May in



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celebration of Library and Information Week. The first exhibition featured travel photos from around the world taken by our amazingly talented library staff. Visitors nominated their favourite photo for People's Choice to win a \$50 Coles Myer gift card.

The second exhibition, *Fictitious Feasts*, by French artist Charles Roux (charlesroux.com) showcased incredibly detailed recreations of meals from famous books, a particular favourite was the Mad Hatter's tea party from *Alice in Wonderland*. The third exhibition consisted of *A Selection of Works* by Blue Mountains artist Ivy Jean (ivyjeanart.com) with many photos being taken with a pinhole camera leading to some beautifully unusual images. Ivy Jean presented a workshop and talk on alternative approaches to photography and attendees created their own pinhole matchbox camera with great enthusiasm.

All exhibitions were hosted both in print and on digital rotation on display boards and widescreen TV. The comments regarding the exhibitions were overwhelmingly positive and the quality of the photographs were outstanding. We are eagerly looking forward to *Head On 2016*.

SUZANNE MICALLEF
Parramatta City Library

- 01 NEWCASTLE REGION LIBRARY AND THE SMITH FAMILY ARE WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP FOR THE TEN MINUTES A DAY PROGRAM
- 02 EXHIBITION OF STAFF TRAVEL PHOTOS AT PARRAMATTA LIBRARY AS PART OF HEAD ON

In the Libraries



AUTHOR LIANE MORIARTY AT PENRITH CITY LIBRARY AS PART OF SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL

SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL: LIVE AND LOCAL

This year key Sydney Writers' Festival events were live-streamed at Parramatta City Library as part of the new Live and Local program, bringing the best of the Festival direct to our community. This was a new joint project between SWF and a range of key regional partners and the first for Australian writers' festivals.

Live and Local events were live-streamed on Friday 22 and Saturday 23 May 2015 on a big screen and audience members were able to participate in Q&A sessions with their literary heroes as they happened directly from the Roslyn Packer Theatre, Sydney.

Highlights include *Growing Up and Other Disasters*: Alan Cumming and Damian Barr; *Night of the Nerds*: Adam Spencer, Dr Karl and Caitlin Doughty; and *Writing Family*: Kate Grenville, Ramona Koval and Barrie Cassidy.

Sydney Writers' Festival Parramatta program is supported by the University of Western Sydney and Parramatta City Council.

ANNE POOLE
Parramatta City Library

Penrith City Library

SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL AT PENRITH

Sydney Writers' Festival author talks have been a highlight of Penrith City Library's calendar of events for 12 years now and 2015 saw two more successful events: Liane Moriarty, the first Australian author

to debut at number one on the New York Times bestseller list, and Walkley Award winner Ross Coulthart.

Liane Moriarty has written six international bestsellers, including *The Husband's Secret*, which is being made into a major feature movie starring Nicole Kidman. Liane mainly focused on her latest novel, *Big Little Lies*, shared anecdotes such as having coffee with Nicole Kidman, and discussed the upcoming movie, the challenges of being a writer and bringing up children and her background as a journalist.

Ross Coulthart is a journalist and historian and his new biography, *Charles Bean*, explores the work of this iconic wartime reporter, whose despatches from the front gave birth to the ANZAC myth and legend of Gallipoli.

Ross joined audience and staff for supper afterwards and both authors joined in for the obligatory group photo. We now have an impressive collection of photos of Penrith City Library staff with author celebrities like Jana Wendt, Dr Karl, Peter Fitzsimons, Bob Carr, Judy Nunn, Tim Ferguson, William McInnes and many others.

RICHARD HAWKINS
Penrith City Library

Port Macquarie-Hastings Library Service

CELEBRATING 40 YEAR PARTNERSHIP

The Lions Club of Port Macquarie recently celebrated 40 years of delivering books on behalf of the library service. We knew that we had a long and fruitful partnership, but were somewhat surprised to find that it went all the way back to 1975. At a rough estimate that is over 30,000 home visits on our behalf. To celebrate the event the club presented the library with a plaque and we provided them with a morning tea, which is, after all, what we do best.

ONE BOOK ONE COMMUNITY

During the month of March the whole community was encouraged to read *The Iron Rose* by Peter Temple. Almost 300 copies of the book were made available including a specially extended ebook licence. In addition to the usual channels, the

program was promoted through a YouTube clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42Ec0d7jjD0> and by placing copies of the book at strategic locations throughout the shire including the General Manager's office. It culminated in a book discussion event with some excellent wine and cheese.

JIM MAGUIRE
Port Macquarie-Hastings Library Service

Rockdale City Library

SANS SOUCI LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT

A \$605,000 refurbishment of Rockdale City Library's Sans Souci branch was completed in December 2014. The original library was built in 1973 and no longer complied with current codes for accessibility. The building had external toilets, limited internal space and was outdated. The refurbished library provides accessible facilities to the community such as an automatic entry door, multi-purpose activity space, internal accessible toilet and baby changing facilities. There is now also an external landscaped courtyard and all new carpet, paint and furniture in blues and greens to complement the sea-side location.

The work took three months to complete and the refurbished library was reopened with a morning tea for the community and an official plaque unveiling on 23 December, just in time for the summer holidays.

KAREN THURNER
Rockdale City Library

Ryde Library Service

NEW FURNITURE AND LAYOUT FOR GLADESVILLE LIBRARY

Customers have responded with positive comments about Gladesville Library's recent layout changes and new furniture. The library service recently revamped the front half of Gladesville Library to create a larger, more inviting children's area containing colourful new furniture and a feature storyteller chair.

In addition, an open plan study space was formed in front of the library's large street facing windows. This new, light-filled area contains additional study seating as well as chairs for relaxing and reading the paper, providing space for customers to read, meet or



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use the library's WiFi service on their tablets or laptop computers.

The next stage in Gladesville's refurbishment will be in 2016/17, when the library will receive new paint, carpet and further layout changes, creating a more vibrant and welcoming space for our community.

JOHN MAUNDER
Gladesville Library, Ryde Library Service

SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL AT RYDE LIBRARY

The evening of Tuesday 19 May saw Ryde Library transformed into a Sydney Writers' Festival event venue. Rather than holding events in a separate facility, the library's clever design features allow staff to move shelves and reconfigure spaces to suit a variety of occasions, with an audience capacity of up to 180.

Our community enjoyed a talk by David Hill on various topics from his recent book *The Making of Australia*, including the process leading to Federation, the gold rush and fascinating anecdotes regarding the development of mismatched rail gauges in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.

This is the fifth year in a row the library has hosted a Writers' Festival event and it proved as popular as in previous years. Locals responded with many positive comments, thanking us and SWF for providing them with the opportunity to attend high quality talks close to home.

KIM O'GRADY
Ryde Library Service

- 01 PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS LIBRARY AND LIONS CLUB CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP IN DELIVERING THE HOME LIBRARY SERVICE
- 02 FEATURE STORYTELLER CHAIR AT THE REFURBISHED GLADESVILLE LIBRARY

In the Libraries



EVERYTHING IS AWESOME AT SINGLETON LIBRARY LEGO CLUB

Singleton Public Library

SINGLETON LEGO CLUB

Everything is awesome at Singleton Public Library since we began our Lego Club!

A Lego Club is something that we have had on our wish list for quite a while at Singleton, though, due to the expense, it remained on the back burner. Late last year however, a grant of \$2015 was secured through FundAbility and our Lego Club became a reality.

The FundAbility grant program is a two-year disability inclusion initiative run by Northcott and funded by the Department of Family and Community Services. The program is designed to support projects that help include young people with a disability aged 9-15 in their communities.

Bulk boxes of bricks and bits, stacks of baseboards and an army of minifigures were purchased with the funding. Both Lego and the larger sized Duplo blocks were bought to cater for different ranges of skills and abilities. The grant money also paid for storage tubs and some advertising.

Lego Club is held once a week for one hour in our group study room. Participants must be five years and over. Bookings are essential and we have a regular participation level of around 17 children. A Lego Leader greets the children on arrival and announces the day's theme. Children are free to build whatever they want, the theme is just for inspiration if they don't have anything else in mind.

An important part of Lego Club is the presentation of creations. The children are invited to present their work to group and do so with great pride. The

amazing creations are placed in one of our display cabinets out in the Library where they are a constant source of entertainment for junior Library members.

The Lego kit is proving to be a worthy asset for other programs. We conduct outreach to villages further out of town and take a tub or two with us when we go. Communal Builds and Stop Motion Animation Workshops are planned for school holiday activities. There has been much interest from parents with toddlers who would like us to implement a Duplo Build session for younger library members.

A Lego Club can be simple and inexpensive to get up and running if no funding is available. Some Libraries have put the call out to the community for donations of used Lego and have been quite successful.

The kids have a fantastic time. It is a noisy, loud, animated session and we all have fun. Lego Club has become a great talking point around our community resulting in a regular stream of enquiries. The single and most curiously common question regarding the program that we had not been prepared for has been "so, what day is the Lego Club on for adults?"

NATALIE DIMMOCK
Singleton Public Library

Stanton Library

CELEBRATING CREATIVE WOMEN IN THE ARTS

Creative Women in Conversation was an event to celebrate International Women's Day. Our creative panel was hosted by children's author Yvette Poshoglian, who was in conversation with local artist Karen Atkins, crime writer PM Newton and Director of the Ensemble Theatre, Sandra Bates. It was a wonderful evening held at the historic Don Bank Museum, a perfect setting for a conversation on creativity. The artists were generous with their time and their stories were inspiring and interesting. There was champagne on arrival and a light supper after the conversation, giving our guests an opportunity to mingle and chat with the artists.

AMANDA HUDSON
Stanton Library



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Tamworth Library

LAW WEEK AT TAMWORTH LIBRARY

Tamworth Library celebrated National Law Week with a law-themed murder mystery party. The Library applied for and received a \$1000 Law Week Grant from the New South Wales Law Society to host the event. Fifteen participants were assigned characters to play throughout the evening and were given certain clues to investigate and bring the ‘murderer’ and ‘thief’ to justice. Participants were also encouraged to dress as their assigned characters. A \$50 gift voucher from our local bookshop was given to the crime solver and best dressed character of the night.

In addition a temporary stand was erected at the Library’s entrance and the Library’s Find Legal Answers Toolkit was displayed. For two hours each day a representative from The Department of Fair Trading, The Family Relationship Centre and Tamworth Legal Aid manned the stand and answered questions from the community.

AMANDA BURKE
Tamworth Library

Tumut Library

FIND MY PAST

For a weekend in May Tumut Library was transformed into a historical hub for archivists or hobby historians to learn, enjoy and swap research stories. Over 30 people enjoyed the weekend’s two-day “Find My Past” event to learn a wealth of techniques to find and present information.



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On Saturday the library hosted Jennifer Milward, an online research manager from the Australian War Memorial. Jennifer gave an in-depth review of the War Memorial research collections and highlighted the best places to source war related material, even highlighting collections outside the War Memorial which were better equipped to deal with more research conflict research.

Hazel Edwards, history writer, biographer and much loved children’s author, presented her dynamic writing workshop “How to Write a Non Boring Family History”. The workshop focused on a variety of writing techniques and the best methods to showcase valuable family history research into something that everyone would be interested in reading, not just an avid researcher.

To conclude the weekend the Tumut Family History Group provided a review of The Tumut Library Family/Local History collection which they use as the focus of their research. This was a wonderful opportunity to highlight the wealth of material at locals’ fingertips and gave attendees the opportunity to access and asks questions of local researchers.

The weekend was a resounding success and something that we would again consider hosting.

KRISTIN TWOMEY
Tumut Library

01 CREATIVE WOMEN IN CONVERSATION AT STANTON LIBRARY

02 LAW WEEK MURDER MYSTERY PARTY AT TAMWORTH LIBRARY

In the Libraries

01 BUSH FOOTY FORUM AT WAGGA CITY LIBRARY WITH GUESTS ANDREW RYAN, GREG BRENTNALL AND DAVID BARNHILL

02 SKETCH OF STAIRCASE IN WAVERLEY LIBRARY ENTRANCE FOYER



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Wagga Wagga City Library

BUSH FOOTY EXHIBITION

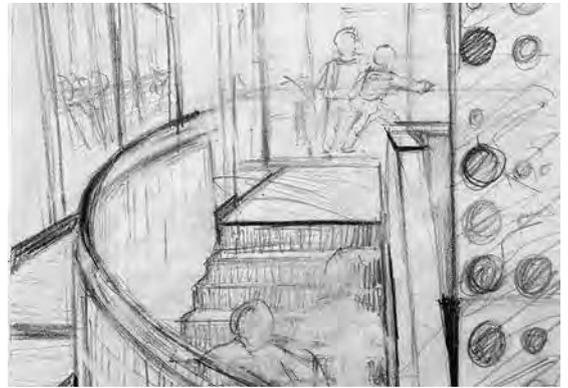
To coincide with the 2015 City vs Country clash played in Wagga Wagga on Sunday 3 May, Wagga Wagga City Library hosted *Bush Footy*, an exhibition from the Heroes and Legends Rugby League Museum.

The exhibit was the first external exhibition for the Heroes and Legends Rugby Museum and was on show at the library from 15 April until 22 May. The exhibition was launched on Monday 20 April by Mayor Cr Rod Kendall and footy legends Paul Sironen and Steve Roach.

The exhibition celebrates the unique story of how regional rugby league helped shape the code. Highlights included Greg Brentnall's Country First jersey 1975 and Ron Crowe's Australian Jersey 1961. The exhibition featured an interactive screen highlighting the 100 Greatest Players and the CRL Team of the Century. It also showcased local objects and ephemera.

A Heroes and Legends Forum was held at the library on 29 April featuring Andrew Ryan (former Bulldogs captain, NSW and Australian representative), Greg Brentnall and David Barnhill.

Bush Footy was sourced by Riverina Regional Library and it was so exciting to host an exhibition with great local content and one that attracted new audiences to the library.



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COMMUNITY LEARNING SPACE

Our Community Learning Space continues to expand its capacity as a place to undertake lifelong learning and community connection.

Current partnerships range from the education of learner drivers through the RMS Safer Drivers Courses, facilitated by NRMA Safer Driving School, to service delivery to children and their families by the Wagga Wagga Community Health Speech Pathology Service.

The library also supports the Shakespeare Club, Centacare's Grandparents Doing it Tough - Grandparents as Carers Support Group, the Yu-Gi-Oh Club, ABC OPEN writing workshops and the Knittin' Club.

Our newest community group is Babywearers Wagga Wagga, who meet at the library to conduct peer education in the art of Babywearing. Yes I had to Google it too! Attending parents receive assistance to make their own carriers fit better or try on a range of available carriers to help them determine what would be the right carrier for them and their baby.

Our philosophy is "we are all experts and we demonstrate this by sharing our expertise."

CHRISTINE BOLTON
Wagga Wagga City Library

Waverley Library

SKETCHFLASH

From July to September this year, community members will be joining forces and collaborating with the Library to create a unique collection of digitised sketchbooks reflecting the people, culture and physical spaces of Waverley Library. This will become a searchable, discoverable electronic collection. A living archive.

The brief is to draw people in the library and its environs into a regular paper sketchbook A5 size, provided free by the library. Two of the ten sessions will have guest models. Participants will get to keep their physical sketchbook while the library will be able to show it to the wider world via its electronic existence.

No need to be a brilliant artist, it's all part of the fun. The process and the experience is what matters. We are helping our patrons to be part of the digital shift where they make something with their hands, extend it with technology and simultaneously create content for the local library.

INGRID GRACE
Waverley Library

Western Riverina Libraries

NEW MOBILE LIBRARY

A vibrant new state of the art mobile library is servicing Griffith City Council and Murrumbidgee Shire Council. It was officially launched by State Librarian Dr Alex Byrne on 31 March and it replaces the old version which has served us well since 1999. This mobile library service has been operating since 1974 so it's a generational icon in our area. The new vehicle is a Mercedes Sprinter and the purpose built body was constructed by Suncamper Pty Ltd in Thornleigh.

The mobile library features an extendable pod which gives much more public space when it's parked, LED lighting and feature strip lights, a television, a massive sunshade, public wifi, room for heaps of resources, on-board computer access and lots more. There's even a spot for a microwave for the operator.

The new mobile will be able to host story telling sessions in the shade, and it enhances our clients' experience as it now provides a place to congregate



STATE LIBRARIAN DR ALEX BYRNE AND JOINT LIBRARY MANAGER CHRISTINE DEL GIGANTE AT THE LAUNCH OF WESTERN RIVERINA'S NEW MOBILE LIBRARY

in the shade and even use the WiFi. The two Councils are incredibly grateful for a State Government Library Development Grant which helped them to fund this wonderful new vehicle.

PAM YOUNG
Griffith City Library

Willoughby City Library

REBRANDING THE HOME LIBRARY SERVICE

A recent revamp and rebrand of the Home Library Service (HLS) at Willoughby has resulted in a more streamlined and efficient service to the housebound and their carers.

Previously, delivery to HLS customers was via cardboard boxes and a selection of carry bags without any branding. Selection and service was very paper-based, with frequency ranging from fortnightly to monthly.

In some ways, it was very sustainable – those old cardboard boxes had been used again and again. But it was time for a change and to strengthen the Library brand with our HLS customers.

So, we have recycled the old cardboard boxes and replaced them with very tough, smart, branded bags. HLS staff now wear photo ID to reinforce the link between the staff member delivering and the Library. Deliveries have been re-scheduled to ensure consistency and to consolidate short delivery trips. Our LMS (Aurora) is being used more effectively to help select for bulk loans and to maintain patron

In the Libraries

- 01 MEMBERS OF WILLOUGHBY LIBRARY'S SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP WITH THE LIBRARY'S WORM FARM
- 02 CHEESE-MAKING WORKSHOP AT WOLLONDILLY LIBRARY



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landfill and satisfies the fertilising needs of the keen gardeners on staff.

Staff are monitoring and improving recycling rates – such as investigating how the cleaners are contracted to remove waste; making sure DVD cases are recycled; and finding out whether the foam nubbins that protect new books can be re-used.

All of these endeavours are helping Library staff contribute in their professional lives to improving sustainability.

REBECCA BROWNING
Willoughby City Library

Wollondilly Library Service

SELF-SUFFICIENCY WORKSHOPS AT WOLLONDILLY

Wollondilly Library Service ran a series of self-sufficiency workshops during April. These included repurposing your old tank tops or t-shirts into tote or shopping bags; creating your very own green cleaning products for general household cleaning; and learning how to make ricotta cheese. For this workshop participants were inspired by a local fromagier, and then enjoyed a lunch of the cheeses they had made.

CARMELINA NUNNARI
Wollondilly Library Service

records. We are surveying our patrons to find out what they want and how we are doing.

These measures go towards continuing improvement for our HLS, and reaffirm our Library brand within the community. The revised delivery schedule has freed HLS staff time to allow them to carry out value-added services: working more closely with aged-care facilities and working hard to reach the ageing CALD communities of Willoughby.

SUSTAINABILITY AT WILLOUGHBY

Staff at Willoughby City Library Service have decided to ramp up efforts to contribute to Council's sustainability goals. We've been talking to Council's Sustainability Unit, forming a library working group to build stronger connections across departments and share knowledge and information.

We are advocating and promoting sustainability within our workplace with initiatives such as a worm farm tended by our in-house worm farm expert (true!) which allows us to reduce food going to



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Wollongong City Libraries

COMIC GONG 2015

Superheroes were abound on 16 May 2015 when Wollongong City Libraries hosted the third year of Comic Gong. Comic Gong is Wollongong's number one festival of popular culture. It brings together people from across our diverse and vibrant community to celebrate comics, graphic novels, fandom, cosplay, lifelong learning and literacy! Comic Gong 2015 was held across four locations: Wollongong Central Library, Wollongong Town Hall, Wollongong Art Gallery and the Wollongong Arts Precinct.

The Festival included artists, workshops, trade displays, merchandise, cosplay competitions, stilt walkers, buskers, roving entertainers, caricature artists, celebrities such as John Jarratt and Rae Johnston, Batman and his 1989 Batmobile, Rock and Roll Wrestling, major prize draws, eateries, face painting, the Phantom Exhibition, anime and manga trivia and screenings, 3D printing demonstrations, Freya Jobbins Exhibition, and video games.

In all there were more than 50 exhibitors and nine workshops across the venues and free activities were ongoing in the library for families. The Festival was a great success with around 5,800 people coming along to enjoy some truly awesome superhero fun in the Illawarra.

LEE BURGOYNE

Wollongong City Libraries



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FOOTBALL PLAYERS + BOOKS = GOLD!

Wollongong City Libraries was fortunate to partner with the St George Illawarra Dragons and Paint the Gong Read for Simultaneous Storytime on 27 May. Wollongong Primary Kindy students were treated to a visit by Paint the Gong Reads' reading ambassador 'Bright Spark' - an electrified mascot that electrifies kids' imaginations!

The Brother's Quibble was read by library staff to an enthusiastic 75 students. Further stories and songs were read and sung by the Lord Mayor Gordon Bradbury and Dragons Dan Hunt and Dylan Farrell.

The addition of the NRL players and the Lord Mayor to the program provided some wonderful male community role models and highlighted to students that reading is important. The NRL players were engaging, articulate and fun! Goody bags of merchandise were handed out to the students on their way back to school and feedback from the local community has been overwhelmingly positive after strong media attention from local newspapers and television.

Staff from the remaining six Wollongong libraries presented to a total of 315 students making this a wonderfully successful program for our community.

STACEY WALES

Wollongong City Libraries

01 SUPERHEROES ABOUND AT COMIC GONG

02 NSS AT WOLLONGONG WITH ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS AND BRIGHT SPARK

Woollahra Libraries

NEW VOLUNTEER POSITION

From May, we have introduced a new Library Volunteer Coordinator position, focussing on encouraging community volunteers to share their skills with Woollahra Libraries – especially within the new Double Bay Library opening at the end of this year. To date volunteers have actively provided support at adult and children’s programs and events, and the local history centre. The Home Library Service has benefitted from volunteer contributions in selection and delivery of resources, visits, reading to clients, technology assistance, and hospitality support at special clients’ social events. A possible future volunteer role includes library ‘concierge’ to welcome visitors and provide directions at the new three storey library. Basic technology and printing assistance for library users, and support for particular youth programs such as gaming, are also being considered. We look forward to this extended involvement with volunteers, and sharing ideas with colleagues with similar volunteer coordinator roles at other libraries.

PAT MOORE
Woollahra Libraries

LOCAL STUDIES ON SHOW AT WOOLLAHRA

Woollahra Local History Centre held an Open Day in Library and Information Week to showcase the local history collection and highlight some of the more interesting and rarely-seen items. The Open Day was a chance to engage the community and reveal what local history has to offer – from discovering the age and history of the family home through council archives to creating a picture of the area through images, maps and local memories. Being able to view and handle the original materials was one of the biggest thrills for visitors, with aerial photographs, old postcards, subdivision plans, ephemera, and early council registers and scrapbooks of particular interest.

LIBBY WATTERS
Woollahra Libraries

Wyong Library Service

WYONG STORMS

The storms in April hit our Shire very hard but the libraries came shining through. Quite literally, in fact as most of the community was without power for at least a week (longer in some locations)! We became the home away from home to recharge mobile devices, have a hot cuppa and use the computers and free WiFi. This was appreciated by the community who sent in many complimentary letters of thanks.

FAMILY HISTORY TALKS

The April storms also claimed another victim - we had to cancel a fully booked scheduled State Records talk! Thankfully Gail Davis, Senior Archivist, State Records, was able to visit us in June to tell us about the amazing records that are not online but still available for family historians. Everyone was amazed at just what information is ready to be explored – you just have to be prepared to go to Kingswood and research ‘the old fashioned way’!

We were also happy to invite Donna Newton, Librarian, Royal Australian Historical Society, to Tuggerah Library in May. Donna took us through the Society’s collections and their new web page. We received great feedback with customers advising they discovered a world of information they did not know existed!

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Wyong Library Service

Children's News

BLAKC PCYC OUTREACH VISITS

Reaching children and their parents who don't visit their local library is a real challenge in communities where there is some disadvantage or lack of cultural exposure to public libraries. Staff at Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre (BLaKC) are trying to engage locals through our community group work with Paint Bankstown REaD and also in our outreach program to the Bankstown Police Citizen Youth Club (PCYC).

The goal of our children's and youth team is to provide meaningful experiences for at-risk children and engagement opportunities for their families. The PCYC provides support for at-risk families through workshops and support groups. While the parents and families gain life skills and links with important services and community support, the children are engaged for a storytime session presented by library staff. The objective for our program was that it should be literacy based, knowing the language skills of newly arrived families and also that the service not be a child-minding exercise.

"The goal was to harness these kids' attention so they could learn some literacy skills," said Dorothy Marsden, who regularly takes the groups through interactive stories and word-based games that form the basis of the library program.

Every week staff are confronted with a similar scene: disengaged children who with a little attention and good adult role models become interested and engaged members of the group. It is for this reason, BLaKC will continue this valuable outreach program. Even though the PCYC is only a block away from the library it can seem to be an unachievable chasm for families until they engage with library staff and a personal connection is made that is meaningful to each person.

TARA CORDINA

Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre

CAMDEN BRINGS HISTORY TO LIFE

In addition to events for adults, as part of this year's National Trust Heritage Festival Camden Library Service engaged with children and youth. At Mini-discoverers, pre-schoolers were able to get their hands on old toys including trains, quoits, dolls, trucks, puzzles, tea sets and tops. The children had



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lots of fun and were also able to visit the Camden Museum, which shares an entrance with the library. Mini-discoverers is a bi-annual event and the library has put together four kits for these sessions on the themes of Clothing, Cooking, Communication and Toys.

At Narellan Library the Meet the Elders Audio Cave, an interactive sound installation, was set up for a month within the library. The cave was a 4 x 4 x 2 metre covered gazebo with a red velvet entrance. When people entered the cave their movement triggered voices and sounds from the oral history collection. Surround sound was activated as the audience moved within the space.

The oral history extracts were chosen from the collection for their ability to elicit responses and imagery. As one voice talked about how a horse was used to drive the butcher's grinding machine horse hoofs steps could be heard. Train sounds accompanied memories of the local light rail which ran through the area. 1940s music played as a local lady recalled a wedding dress which was worn by five different brides during the Depression due to clothing shortages.

Local schools were invited to bring their students to experience the audio cave and many children, youth and adults entered and with the use of new technologies, 'met the elders' of their community in a unique and engaging way.

JO OLIVER

Camden Council Library Service

01 BLAKC AND BANKSTOWN PCYC ARE WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO PROVIDE STORYTIME SESSIONS FOR AT-RISK FAMILIES

02 MEET THE ELDERS AUDIO CAVE AT NARELLAN LIBRARY

Children's News

01 ORANGE LIBRARY HOSTS MISS ROGERS AND STUDENTS FROM THE NATIONAL SCHOOL FOR TRAVELLING SHOW CHILDREN

02 AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR STEPHEN MICHAEL KING INSPIRES STUDENTS AT HALLIDAYS POINT SCHOOL



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A NEW SLANT ON TRAVELLERS AT CENTRAL WEST LIBRARIES

When we talk about the use of public libraries by travellers our thoughts usually turn to grey nomads and backpackers. Here at Central West Libraries we have a steady stream of visitors of this market segment keen to use our services (and particularly our WiFi!). In April our perception of 'travellers' shifted slightly when the team at Orange City Library played host to the National School for Travelling Show Children as part of the annual Orange Show.

While the school had used our meeting rooms in the past there had been little opportunity for interaction. However this year the only space available was a glassed meeting area adjacent to the staff work area and for a week we were able to observe first-hand the student's passion for learning and the dedication of the teachers. They took advantage of being in the Library and immersed themselves in our collections.

Children of show families spend most of the year on the road and are rarely in one place more than a week. Teacher Mandy Rogers told us the children handle the travel better than the adults and really enjoy their new surroundings each week.

While we went home to a well-deserved break on the Friday afternoon school was in for the students on Saturday – they had missed a day of school the previous week as they were on the road and they had to make it up! On the Monday morning we were met with a huge card full of touching messages from Miss Rogers and all the children promising to see us next year. We're all looking forward to it.

JAN RICHARDS
Central West Libraries

15TH GREAT BOOKS FESTIVAL

Author Duncan Ball and author/illustrator Stephen Michael King inspired children across the Great Lakes and Greater Taree schools by sharing their success stories with local students. Opportunities to receive this kind of inspiration are really appreciated by the children and schools and we are thrilled to be able to offer a subsidised program for local students.

The Great Lakes Library Service offers the Great Books Festival to all schools in the region every May to celebrate Library and Information Week. The objective is to inspire the love of reading or better still stimulate young minds to write and illustrate their own work.

MEREDITH CAMPBELL
Great Lakes Library Service

COLOURFUL STORYTIME AT LEETON LIBRARY

Here at Leeton Library we run storytime on the first Tues, Wed and Thurs of the month and every Saturday morning. For many years we have run with monthly themes. These have included dinosaurs, mothers, the Olympics, gardens and nursery rhymes. This year we have broken with tradition and are running a different colour for every month.

Five months in and we have had rainbow (where we introduced the concept to the parents and carers), blue, green, black and white, and purple. Children and adults have been encouraged to come dressed in appropriate colours and we decorate the children's area of the library in the correct colour for the month.

It has been very successful so far as it has increased the number of books we have to choose from when we aren't tied to a theme. Children are keen to tell us the name of this month's colour and come dressed accordingly. It also means that if a special event comes up during the year that we haven't thought of or remembered it is relatively simple to work it in with the colour of the month.

SANDRA WATSON
Leeton Shire Library

A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY: COURAGE TO CARE TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

Imagine 2000 students from primary and junior secondary schools visiting your library over a four to six week period...

Now before you start to fret, you should know that this will not be a solo initiative; you will not be doing all the work. The highly professional team from *Courage to Care* will be guiding you and making arrangements for the exhibition and corresponding education program. It's what *Courage to Care* do, and they do it well.

Courage to Care works with you to contact the schools, arrange the bookings and when circumstances require it, arrange bus subsidies for schools that would otherwise miss out. It is well planned and well managed. The on-site team who man the exhibition and run the education program are experienced volunteers and among them, are survivors from the Holocaust.

Schools are booked in groups of 60 and then rotated in groups of twenty around an exhibition,



LIVERPOOL LIBRARY HOSTS COURAGE TO CARE EXHIBITIONS AND TALKS

survivor talk and *Living in Harmony* workshop. The program accommodates students from year 5 to 12, and also runs adult and staff sessions. Library patrons can also partake in the additional programming initiatives on offer.

The volunteers come with stories of hope and survival and leave the students empowered to enact positive difference in their communities. This is more than an anti-bullying message; this program addresses issues of social tolerance and positive action.

Our library has hosted exhibitions for the last six years from major national, cultural institutions; and yet, all of the staff here felt the *Courage to Care* exhibition and program was a transformative experience for adults and children alike. The exhibition also drew in children and their families would never have otherwise visited our library before but have been introduced through this experience and will be coming back.

Our Guest Speaker at the Exhibition Launch was the Hon Mr Chris Hayes MP Chief Whip for the Federal ALP and he was so impressed by the program that he spoke of it in Parliament.

I can recommend this experience to your library as it has a highly valuable means of engaging the community, students and staff. *Courage to Care* have left our library a better place.

JO MORRIS
Liverpool City Library



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- 01 OPTOMETRISTS IN ACTION AT PARKES LIBRARY'S FAMILY STORYTIME
- 02 RECYCLING WORKSHOP AT CONSTITUTION HILL LIBRARY

CREATE, PLAY, MAKE A MESS!

We had two goals when we commenced Parkes Library's Saturday morning Family Storytime - to provide creative play activities and to have more dads come to our children's sessions. Three months in we are very happy with how the sessions are going.

Tick - kids love the play based activities (mums are happy they are making the mess at the Library and not at home).

Tick - more dads are coming (increase from 0.7 dads per session to 1.2 dads).

Each Saturday has stories, music, dress up and a play theme. Play themes so far have included We are Optometrists, Pizza Making, Cars (including a car wash), Playdough Chefs, Engineers and Hairdressers.

Library staff create simple, cheap props for the sessions. A cardboard box became a pizza oven and another a washing machine. Glasses created by the "optometrists" were pipe cleaners, the engineers built with paper cups and foam.

SHELLIE BUCKLE
Parkes Shire Library

RECYCLING WORKSHOP AT CONSTITUTION HILL

Twenty five children came to Constitution Hill Library on Wednesday 15 April to meet hungry worms that help us to recycle and reduce our organic waste. The program made use of fun activities and hands-on learning experiences such as close encounters with compost worms. This practical workshop showed the kids and their parents how to set up their own compost bins and worm farms at home.

JOSEPHINE BERTONCELJ
Constitution Hill Library, Parramatta City Library Service



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LITTLE SPARK! SCIENCE DISCOVERY BOXES AT RANDWICK CITY LIBRARY

Randwick City Library launched a brand new suite of children's science discovery resources on 3 June at Bowen Library.

This was a project many months in the making and was made possible by a generous bequest from Regina Chan. Regina was a well-loved library staff member who sadly passed away in 2013. As the Coordinator of Service Development, she was instrumental in forging the partnership with the Children's Discovery Museum to develop and introduce the innovative Spark! Science program at Bowen Library. She was passionate about early childhood education and in particular learning about science through play-based activities.

The Little Spark! Science Discovery Boxes are specifically designed for children aged three to five years. Each box focuses on a particular theme, such as Magnetism, Sound, Light & Colour, Coordination & Balance and contains toys, games and activity sheets to extend the science discovery experience. The resources were selected painstakingly by the project team to ensure the educational outcomes for the target age group were met. The activity sheets have been designed by a science educator to extend the learning experience for these young scientists-in-the-making. Toy Library members can borrow these boxes for two weeks. 22 kits are currently available for loan and every single box was borrowed on the day of the launch.

Regular science programs for pre-schoolers in partnership with the Children's Discovery Museum are held at all branches throughout the year, and these kits will allow pre-schoolers and their families to continue their scientific exploration at home. They complement

our existing science discovery boxes for school-aged children, demonstrating that science exploration and creativity can be a whole family activity!

CODE CLUB FOR KIDS

A call received from a customer some nine months ago, asking if we offered programming workshops for six year olds, got us thinking. We already offered Web Development 101 opportunities for adults; why not for kids? After further investigation, we registered with Code Club Australia (www.codeclubau.org) as a venue for teaching children how to code. Code Club Australia is a nationwide network of free, volunteered, after-school coding clubs for children aged 9-11. Its mission is to give every child in Australia the chance to learn to code by providing project materials and a volunteering framework that supports the running of after-school coding clubs.

We had the demand, we had the venue, now we just needed a volunteer tutor. We struck gold when we advertised for a volunteer with the necessary skills on our website. Chau Au, a third year B.Ed student at UTS, offered his services and he has thrown himself into the project with gusto. The children have been making rockets launch, creating musical instruments, playing World Cup football and putting on a fireworks display, all via MIT's Scratch program! Next week, our first batch of Scratch students will graduate with coding skills that will set them up for life in this digital age. Such is the demand for these free workshops that a second Beginner's group will be commencing in Term 3.

AGGIE PARTRIDGE
Randwick City Library

STARTING SCHOOL INFORMATION EVENING

Rockdale City Library's inaugural Starting School Information Evening took place in 2007. The original evening had two components: an exhibition of local schools and a lecture about the results of the groundbreaking "Transition to School" Research by the University of Western Sydney. Free childcare was also offered to participants for the duration of the event.

Feedback from visitors and exhibitors led to a change of format in 2010. The successful lecture component was re-developed to feature two speakers and a Q&A segment. Ms Ana Levar, then lecturer with the University of Western Sydney and involved



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- 01 NEW LITTLE SPARK! SCIENCE DISCOVERY BOXES AT RANDWICK CITY LIBRARY
- 02 CODE CLUB VOLUNTEER CHAU AU AND CODER AT RANDWICK CITY LIBRARY

in the original research project, remained part of the program. The second speaker, Ms Kathy Northwood from Bardwell Park Infants School, a local primary school, came on board to speak about the more practical and curriculum-based aspects of starting school. Both speakers spoke for 20 minutes each and then the audience was invited to ask questions. The crèche for a limited number of 3-5 year-olds was retained as part of the program

Now in its ninth year, Rockdale City Library offered the Starting School Information Evening again in May 2015. Every year the event books out and 2015 was no exception. Transition to school is a stressful and emotional time for parents. Apart from the information offered, the event provides support and makes the community aware of the council/library resources available to them.

HEIKE OHRMANN
Rockdale City Library

Young Adults Update

NEW YOUTH SPACE AT ALBURY LIBRARYMUSEUM

Albury LibraryMuseum and AlburyCity's Youth Services team are in the process of developing great partnerships and programs which will culminate in the development of a Youth Space and Cafe at the rear of the LibraryMuseum. The existing workshop space will be renovated and expanded to provide kitchen, cafe, workshop, chill-out, technology, youth collection areas and performance space.

The co-location of the youth space with the LibraryMuseum will enable the Libraries and Youth teams to collaborate and offer a diverse range of youth programs for young people in the LibraryMuseum. Youth involvement in design and programming is essential to success and this will be extended to selection of relevant library and technology resources. In the meantime a wide range of youth events are being staged in the LibraryMuseum, including regular Friday Night gigs, (attracting over 250 young people), arts workshops, Youth Week events and holiday programs.

CARINA CLEMENT
Albury LibraryMuseum

AUBURN CITY LIBRARY RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD 2015

The way to unlock an online chamber of knowledge took a new turn for students in the Auburn LGA when the Auburn City Library Research Excellence Award was established three years ago. The award is presented each year to Auburn LGA high school students in the area of information research for years 10 and 11.

The award was conducted in partnership with Lidcombe TAFE and proved so popular that over the years all high schools located within the Auburn area nominated their students. Most of the preparatory work was done by teacher-librarians who nominated two winning students from each participating school,



A DEDICATED YOUTH SPACE AND CAFÉ ARE IN DEVELOPMENT AT ALBURY LIBRARYMUSEUM

based on the use of citations in their assignments, or their observed research skills.

The winning students were awarded a day's training at Lidcombe TAFE which included advanced research skill training as well as database design and development training showing students how to create their own databases. The students will also receive a certificate from TAFE for the day's training and a diploma from Auburn City Council which can be presented at a school awards night.

As a result of these events Auburn Library databases have been widely promoted and frequently used, high school students come to the library more often and in larger groups, encouraging their colleagues to join up.

Local TAFE also benefitted as the interest in the courses they offer increased as students became more aware of their local TAFE and its excellent facilities.

ANNETTA KUCHARSKA
Auburn City Library

THE AMAZING RACE THROUGH BLAKC

Youth Week in Bankstown in 2015 was massive with Council and community groups working together to produce the biggest bang for their efforts. Along with a colour festival, writing and video competitions, 2015 saw the Amazing Race return to Bankstown and outlying suburbs.

Teams of teenagers worked their way through ten challenges located all over Bankstown. The library's treasure hunt of trivia gave the groups information about their next location, how they would get there and what they would be doing when they got there, as well as a self-guided tour of the new library building.

Staff at service points were impressed with the enthusiasm the teams showed to working out the clues and winning the challenge. Just within the space on only an hour all ten groups swept through the library, discovered the clues and won their way to the next challenge.

Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre is keen to be part of next year's Youth Week Amazing Race... maybe next time it will include a shelf tidy or book trolley tidy challenge.

THERESE BALDWIN
Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre

BLACKTOWN SHORT FILM SPREADS LITTER AWARENESS

Blacktown City Libraries recently held a screening of the youth short film project *#Skatepark@LPK* on 12 June at the newly refurbished Lalor Park Community HUB.

#Skatepark@LPK is a short film project that focuses on the litter behaviour of young people in locations such as skate parks and local shops, which raises the environmental message of litter awareness in our local communities.

The short film was created by a group of local young people who attended a series of free film workshops, hosted by Blacktown City Libraries during National Youth Week 2015.

The screening event garnered the support from the local community of Lalor Park, with the Mayor of Blacktown City, Councillor Stephen Bali, also in attendance to support and present our young creative film crew with a certificate of appreciation and gifts.



The *#Skatepark@LPK* can be viewed on Blacktown City Council's YouTube channel. The project was a NSW Environmental Protection Authority *Waste Less, Recycle More* initiative funded by the waste levy and is proudly supported by Blacktown City Council and Blacktown City Libraries.

BLACKTOWN'S
#SKATEPARK@LPK FILM
LAUNCH NIGHT

RUSCEL ESCANDOR
Blacktown City Libraries

STUDENT WRITING WORKSHOP

Author Felicity Castagna recently conducted a writing workshop for senior students, held in conjunction with the Bellingen Readers & Writers Festival. Felicity's latest book, *The Incredible Here and Now* recently won the Prime Minister's Literary Award for young adult fiction.

The interactive workshop was dynamic and stimulating. The students used story stones, stimulus images, and a series of team activities to brainstorm ideas and develop their writing skills. As one student said "We worked on different techniques then implemented them straight away".

JUDY ATKINSON
Coffs Harbour Library

Young Adults Update



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- 01 ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA STUDENTS PERFORM *THE BROTHERS QUIBBLE* FOR NSS AT ORANGE CITY LIBRARY
- 02 TRYING OUT THE DRUNK-VISION GOGGLES AT CITY OF CANADA BAY LIBRARIES FOR KNOW YOUR STANDARDS WEEK

STUDENTS PERFORM *THE BROTHERS QUIBBLE*

Groups of Orange High School Year 11 Drama students transformed a children's storybook into a play and enjoyed lots of smiles and laughter from their young audiences as part of National Simultaneous Storytime. The students translated *The Brothers Quibble* by Aaron Blabey into a script and took charge of costuming, set production, direction and actions.

The performance was part of the students' major assessment. They had to direct, costume, do props and staging themselves. It was a fun and different way to present the story and the children were very engaged with many identifying with Spalding (main character) as many had siblings themselves.

JASMINE VIDLER
Central West Libraries

YEEHAW! YOUTH WEEK AT CONCORD LIBRARY

Yeehaw! On Saturday evening of 18 April, a record number of over 130 enthusiastic youth poured into Concord Library to let loose on all the entertainment on offer, including a ride on a mechanical bull!

Youth also participated in photo booth shenanigans, spray-on tattoos, pizza, slushies, fairy floss and hilarious karaoke singing. Mini giveaway prizes throughout the night kept youth on their toes and major prizes included a \$100 JB Hifi voucher. Also big thanks to local sponsors, Abbotsford Anime, Outback Steak House and Pancakes on the Rocks, for their generous support.

It was a great night with many firsts for youth as some had never seen fairy floss made and for many it was liberating to experience their first night out without parents.

This Concord Library event is a creative example of a lively social hub for youth, allowing them to laugh and be noisy, advance their experiences and socialise in a safe place.

KNOW YOUR STANDARDS WEEK AT CITY OF CANADA BAY LIBRARIES

Ever wondered what it feels like to drink too much alcohol or its affects?

City of Canada Bay Libraries held three events for youth during 2015 Know Your Standards Week, allowing youth to try on drunk-vision goggles and experience just how well they would perform should their vision be impaired by alcohol or drugs. Around 90 young people learned how various levels of alcohol affect your ability to perform everyday tasks such as walking in a straight line, giving a friend a hi-five or playing pool. Show bags were given away to those who attended filled with goodies and further information on health.

A display to raise awareness about alcohol and standard drinks was available for the wider public at both our libraries in Concord and Five Dock.

Special thanks to Anglicare, State Library of NSW and their partnership with NSW Health for the support.

YEN HUYNH
City of Canada Bay Libraries

HSC LOCK IN AT CULCAIRN LIBRARY

Library staff from the Culcairn Library gave a shout out to local HSC students to attend an after-hours study session at the library in May and June 2015. HSC students were encouraged to make the library their third space - an extension of their living room - and to use the library as a space for them to study in the lead up to the HSC trial exams. Many students used the Wrap with Love rugs on display in the library as blankets to snuggle and cushions to lie on whilst they studied.

The students were provided with the use of the meeting rooms, study desks, internet connected public access computers and the wide selection of HSC resources available from the Riverina Regional Library. Teachers from the local high school also made time to attend the library and assist students with any questions they had.

After a couple of hours of extreme concentration, students were provided with lots of pizza, lollies and drinks to re-energise them for the next study session. The HSC Lock-In was such a popular event that discussions are now underway with library and teaching staff to hold two HSC Lock-In events at the Culcairn Library next year.

SUSAN KANE
Culcairn Library

MAKE YOUR MARK BOOKMARK COMPETITION

Make Your Mark is an art competition with a difference, making a difference. It's an opportunity for young people to design their own bookmarks and increase awareness of the issues and challenges of homophobia to support equality. The bookmarks express the participants' feelings, thoughts and experiences of equality which they want to share with others. The project is producing some outstanding examples of graphic art with strong, positive messages which will be shared with the wider community. Their artwork will be printed as limited-edition bookmarks and distributed to schools and youth organisations within the Hurstville City Council local government area. Make your mark is a platform that shares ideas and promotes the creative talents of young people. Entries will be judged by a panel of LGBTQI young people, youth workers and



KIAMA LIBRARY
TRANSFORMED INTO
A MINIGOLF COURSE

artists. For more information about the competition, please go to www.hurstville.nsw.gov.au/lmg.

IRIS SHEN
Hurstville Library Museum & Gallery

MINIGOLF AT KIAMA

In partnership with the Kiama Youth Centre for Youth Week, Kiama Library was transformed into a nine hole minigolf course on Saturday 11 April. More than 40 kids and adults putted their way around our course that weaved past the computers, around the children's area and through the shelves, with books, toys, furniture and ramps as obstacles. Pizza and snacks kept the kids fuelled up. Everyone had a great time and we are looking at partnering up again and improving the event next Youth Week.

MICHAEL DALITZ
Kiama Library

YOUTH WEEK AT DUNDAS LIBRARY

Several activities were planned to celebrate Youth Week at Dundas Library this year. The program started with participants potting a plant, painting terracotta pots and then decorating them. A team from Bunnings helped the kids with the potting activity. The two best of the lot in potting and decorating won Dymocks book vouchers.

This was followed by Cleanaway showing the children how to set up a worm farm. Participants got a chance to touch and feel insects used for worm farms. Finally the Police Youth Liaison Officer had a chat with the young group about safety and other

youth issues. Sixty three children and adults attended the day's event.

On day 2 participants gathered in the open foyer outside the library. Painting boards were set up on tables along with paints and brushes. The youth got down to putting their ideas of nature and garden on their painting boards. The end result was a collection of bright and spectacular artwork. A judging panel which also included a local art tutor decided on the three winners who were very happy to win book vouchers from Dymocks. The artworks of the participants are now on display in the library and subsequently they will move to the community garden.

AMBAR BANERJI
Dundas Library, Parramatta City Library Service

ART AND SCIENCE COLLIDE AT WAGGA WAGGA

With the Wagga Wagga City Library taking on the lead role in the Riverina Science Hub, we thought it would be a great opportunity to get some young adults in our community involved in a sweet new science project called *Closer: Art and Science Collide*.

Led by digital media expert Yenny Huber from dLux Media, and with library staff assisting while learning about new technologies, *Closer* trained a group of young adults in how to take microscopic images, manipulate them using various software, and present the images in novel and exciting ways.

The group ventured around the cultural precinct of Wagga Wagga while using detachable microscopes to take hundreds of pictures of whatever took their interest, including ants, webs, crystals, leaves, soft drink cans and plenty more. Back in the workshop, the group toiled diligently to re-fashion the images using the software provided, out of which a video presentation was made.

The highlight will come in August when each of the presentations will be combined into a microscopic digital exhibition that will be projected two stories high on the side of the Wagga Wagga Civic Centre to celebrate National Science Week.

MICHAEL SCUTTI
Wagga Wagga City Library

HSC AND EDUCATION FORUM

Reaching its tenth year, the annual HSC and Education Forum was hosted at the State Library of NSW on Tuesday 3 March. Organised by the Eastern



YOUNG PEOPLE LEARN HOW TO TAKE MICROSCOPIC IMAGES AT WAGGA WAGGA CITY LIBRARY

Sydney Libraries' Co-operative, comprising staff from Botany Bay, Randwick City, Waverley and Woollahra Libraries, the event aims to provide up-to-date information about the senior school curricula, pinpointing any changes to courses and providing all important tools and advice in regard to collection development. In addition, the Forum offers a valuable chance for public library staff to network and share knowledge about their HSC and student programs.

This year's event involved five presentations on key subject areas and a talk on published resources by representatives from Pascal Press. Speakers presenting on their area of expertise included Rosemary Gorman, Inspector of Creative Arts at the NSW Board of Studies, Louise Zavone, President of the Association of Studies of Religion, Laura Manen and Pauline Fitzgerald from Learning Services at the State Library, Karen Ingram, Inspector of PDHPE at the NSW Board of Studies, and Larry Grumley, Head of English at Catherine McAuley High, Westmead.

Ninety three people were in attendance from metropolitan, regional and country areas. The numbers reflect the ongoing need for public libraries to provide the best support possible for young students facing a crucial and often stressful period of transition, both academically and in terms of future life choices. A special thanks to the State Library for its support and to Kate O'Grady, Public Library Services, who acted as MC on the day. Most of the presentations have been placed on the State Library's Slideshare account, www.slideshare.net/PublicLibraryServices

SUE ROBERTSON
Randwick City Library

Seniors News

BOOK BINGO AT PANANIA LIBRARY

Seniors Week 2015 was celebrated at Panania Library with a game of Book Bingo! Twenty eager local residents participated in the Book Bingo event playing for many great prizes as part of Council's week of activities celebrating Seniors Week. A toy bingo machine was used to select the numbers, enthusiastically and imaginatively called out by library staff. Loud laughter was heard throughout the library and the players thoroughly enjoyed themselves, especially the winners. Prizes were gift baskets made up of a combination of donated books and gift items arranged according to theme. The event was such a great success that those who attended requested regular bingo sessions at the Library! Definitely no money passed hands in this very lively and interactive seniors gaming session at the library.

SHARON PAINE

Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre

LIBRARY IN YOUR LAPTOP

A special workshop was held at Orange Library during Seniors Week to encourage seniors to use their mobile devices to access library services. They learnt to download audiobooks and magazines, and look up databases and the Library Catalogue from their own device – laptop, tablet, iPad or iPhone. The project was funded by the Department of Family and Community Services for NSW Seniors Week.

The workshop covered most aspects of the Library's online services. We wanted to help seniors feel comfortable finding their way around our website and making the most of all our online resources. They can now reserve books, listen to audio books and learn a new language, all online using their library membership card.

PETER DOUGLASS

Central West Libraries

BRAIN TRAINING AT GUNNEDAH

In May the library, in collaboration with the Home and Community Care (HACC) staff, became a venue for the Brain Training for Seniors program. The program ran for eight weeks, and included mind stretching activities such as memory games, cutting out or drawing with the non-dominant hand, mazes, word scrambles, find the words, paper folding, spot the differences, etc. (www.Bigactivities.com). Three



FELT-ABULOUS SENIORS WEEK CRAFT WORKSHOP AT WOLLONDILLY LIBRARY

library public access computers were also made available, with Speed Scrabble (www.memory-improvement-tips.com) and Puzzle of the Day (www.jigzone.com) available for participants to try.

Each activity is timed, and participants have a little booklet in which they enter the activities for that session, and their score, so they can see how they are improving week by week. Participants also get some factual information about brain health at each session.

Library and HACC staff take it in turns to host the sessions, and the library also supplies morning tea for participants. There's a limit of 15 participants, and they absolutely love it!

CHRISTIANE BIRKETT

Gunnedah Shire Library

SENIORS WEEK AT WOLLONDILLY

During Seniors Week Wollondilly Library Service screened the *Fabulous Fashionistas* documentary exploring the art of ageing through the eyes of six extraordinary women. Participants were inspired by the documentary and then had fabulous fun making a range of funky, unique felt accessories and wearable jewellery.

As part of Wollondilly Library Services outreach program, a mobile library attended the Tahmoor Seniors Week Expo. Visitors explored the library services on offer and participated in creating a Scraper-foil Art Bookmark.

CARMELINA NUNNARI

Wollondilly Library Service

Multicultural News

40 YEARS ON: READINGS FROM VIETNAMESE-AUSTRALIAN WRITERS

30 April 2015 marked the 40th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon. This anniversary did not get nearly as much media attention because the Vietnam War has a mixed legacy, but it was a war that changed the face of our nation. As a direct consequence of it, for example, Australia accepted thousands of refugees fleeing from Indochina. For many, the Fall of Saigon on 30 April is a day of mourning; but forty years on, perhaps it could also be a day of reflection of where we are now, especially as a diverse community in Australia. How has the Vietnamese-Australian community fared? What are the lives of the post-war generation like?

Over 175 people gathered in the Ashfield Town Hall in the heart of multicultural Ashfield and listened to stories both funny, warm and touching from some fabulous emerging Vietnamese-Australian writers, like Kim Huynh, Katherine Le, Shirley Le, Pauline Nguyen, Sheila Pham, Stephen Pham and Tuong-Vi Phan. Sheila Pham did a brilliant job organising both the content and the group and Ashfield Library were more than happy to support this event. All of the evaluation forms rated it 5/5, with people commenting how great it was to hear young writers and that they enjoyed the multicultural feel of the night.

THERESE SCOTT
Ashfield Library

BLACKTOWN LAUNCHES NEW TAMIL COLLECTION

Over the past few years, Blacktown has welcomed Tamil speaking settlers who have arrived from both India and Sri Lanka. According to the 2011 census, Blacktown has become the home to a Tamil community of 3,199 people. This is a 64% increase from the 2006 census. Tamil ranks 8th place in terms of language spoken at home in the Blacktown area.

As a result, Blacktown City Libraries has experienced an increasing demand for resources from borrowers of this community. In response to



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their growing library needs, the library initiated a project in early 2014 and successfully received a grant of \$50,000 to establish the Tamil collection. This collection includes in excess of 500 books, 120 DVDs, 3 magazine titles and 50 music CDs.

Extensive liaison and consultation has been undertaken and the new collection is a result of the close relationship formed between Council and key Tamil community leaders.

The Tamil collection was officially launched by Blacktown City Mayor, Councillor Stephen Bali, on Tuesday 25 November 2014. The night celebrated the Tamil culture and showcased these new resources in their language. Over 170 people celebrated this event which included Tamil community leaders and Council officials. It was a delightful evening of

01 40 YEARS ON: AN EVENING OF READINGS FROM EMERGING VIETNAMESE-AUSTRALIAN WRITERS AT ASHFIELD TOWN HALL

02 BLACKTOWN LAUNCHES ITS NEW TAMIL COLLECTION

community outreach, engagement and interaction which has again demonstrated Blacktown City Council's strong commitment to multiculturalism.

HELEN MACRI
Blacktown City Libraries

REFUGEE WEEK AT CAMPSIE

Campsie Library celebrated Refugee Week 2015 on 11 June by continuing the annual tradition of highlighting the contributions refugees have made to the City of Canterbury. This year, there was a festival of short films on the life narratives of refugees coming to Australia and displaced internal Australian refugees. The program included poetry recitation, and Western African musical drumming, dance, and song performance. There was a vibrant response and participation by the audience and there was a profound appreciation of the poignancy induced by the life stories. The festival concluded with the presentation of awards to film makers and producers. To quote from feedback, "It's really lovely to see so many people from the community coming together for such a great cause, thanks". People asked for more similar events in the future.

WENDY GINDI
City of Canterbury Library

TECH SAVVY SENIORS GRADUATE

Congratulations! The first CALD Tech Savvy Seniors classes of 2015 graduated on Thursday 2 July at Cabramatta Library. Forty Fairfield culturally and linguistically diverse seniors are now better equipped to use new technologies after graduating from the Tech Savvy Seniors program, which encourages more seniors to embrace technology. For some of the participants it was the first time they experienced using a computer, mouse and keyboard. However, after participating in the program, the seniors have developed the confidence and skills necessary to participate in the digital community. Tech Savvy Seniors is a NSW Government initiative in partnership with Telstra, and was extended to public libraries through the State Library of NSW.

Tech Savvy graduate Kwok Hing Cheung said the course had enabled him to accomplish a major achievement in learning how to create an email and Facebook account. "I have now bought myself an iPad and have been inspired to enrol myself into another computer course."



The graduates were very fortunate to receive their certificates from the Minister for Ageing, the Hon John Ajaka, Fairfield Mayor Frank Carbone and Telstra National Manager William Von Armfeld. All graduates were very gracious of their achievements.

MANJIT UPPAL
Fairfield City Library Service

PARTICIPANTS FROM FAIRFIELD CITY LIBRARY'S CALD TECH SAVVY SENIORS PROGRAM AND MINISTER FOR AGEING JOHN AJAKA ATTEND A SPECIAL GRADUATION CEREMONY

GOSFORD LAUNCHES WORLD THROUGH PICTURE BOOKS EXHIBITION

Gosford City Library was thrilled to launch the *World through Picture Books* exhibition at Erina Library on 5 March 2015. Author and illustrator Bruce Whatley launched the exhibition, presenting a very thought-provoking, and at times emotional speech to a large audience of librarians, educators, children's literature professionals and community members. Two of the top ten Australian books featured in the exhibition, Anh Do's *the Little Refugee* and Jackie French's *Pete the Sheep*, were illustrated by Bruce.

Gosford City Library was very proud to be the first public library in Australia to host this wonderful exhibition, featuring favourite picture books from 36 nations, as voted by librarians. The exhibition provided the library with a wonderful opportunity to offer a wide range of programs to pre-schools, schools, and multicultural community groups. A special event *A World of Stories* was also held in Kibble Park, Gosford, with local community members and language students sharing books with school and preschool groups in Russian, French and Colombian. Library staff created a map of the world, bringing the exhibition outdoors to the wider community.



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01 GOSFORD CITY LIBRARY'S WORLD THROUGH PICTURE BOOKS EXHIBITION

02 PROFESSOR MUNJED AL MUDERIS AT HORNSBY LIBRARY FOR REFUGEE WEEK

03 AN IMAGE FROM THE LOST GENERATION EXHIBITION AT KU-RING-GAI LIBRARY

The exhibition was supported by resources, banners and promotional materials from the State Library's fantastic multicultural service. These resources were borrowed and used extensively in-house by library members and visitors to the exhibition.

For library staff it was sad to say farewell to this wonderful exhibition but our professional knowledge and passion for quality children's literature has been enhanced incredibly.

The new edition of the catalogue of 40 countries is available at <http://www.ifla.org/node/9494?og=51>

CLAIRE STUCKEY
Gosford City Library

MUNJED AL MUDERIS AT HORNSBY LIBRARY

In 2013 he met the queen, in 2015 he met Prince Harry, and now he has come to Hornsby Library.

In the lead up to Refugee week, Hornsby Library was delighted to host internationally renowned surgeon and former Asylum Seeker, Professor Munjed Al Muderis.

A man who began his life in a privileged family in a war torn nation, forced to escape his own country because he believed in his Hippocratic oath, had his identity taken away and reduced to only a number, through his persistent and tenacious attitude he has returned to surgery as a world leader in osseointegration surgery.

Over 130 people were present to hear Munjed's extraordinary story, including several former and prospective patients and we were all engaged by his modest and occasionally self-deprecating humour as well as his matter of fact tales of the human rights

violations he has seen, many perpetuated by the Australian government.

Professor Al Muderis can be contacted care of Allen & Unwin for further talks.

KRISTY NIGHTINGALE
Hornsby Library

REFUGEE WEEK AT KU-RING-GAI LIBRARY

To mark Refugee Week 2015, Ku-ring-gai Library presented a photography exhibition entitled *Lost Generation*, by Italian documentary photographer Alessandro Penso.

This exhibition was presented in May at the Italian Cultural Institute in Sydney as part of the *Head On* Photography Festival. With the help of the Italian Cultural Institute and with the kind permission of the photographer, the exhibition was presented in digital format on TV screens at all branches of Ku-ring-gai Library.

Alessandro Penso is an award-winning photographer who is deeply committed to social issues, and in recent years he has been focusing on documenting the lives of migrants arriving on Europe's Mediterranean coastline. *Lost Generation* presented a selection of images from Greece and Bulgaria, which also reflect the theme of Refugee Week 2015: *With courage let us all combine*.

The photography exhibition was supported by other display material and selections from the Library's collection about the refugee experience and situation.

MIRJANA DJUKIC
Ku-ring-gai Library

MIGRANT STORIES FROM LAKE MACQUARIE

Lake Mac Libraries Community History team filmed interviews with local migrants and released the footage via our website at history.lakemac.com.au on Harmony Day. The short films put a human face to the stories of migrants living in the Lake Macquarie community and helped counter the often-negative portrayal of migrants in the media. The poignant and moving stories recounted the migrants' journey to Lake Macquarie and showed how our City has benefited from the diversity and strong sense of community that migrants have contributed. We achieved a high level of community engagement through media coverage, website hits and strong attendance at the launch.

ANN CRUMP
Lake Mac Libraries

NEWCASTLE HOSTS REFUGEE WEEK SPEAKERS PANEL

Newcastle City Council recently passed a motion recognising cultural and religious diversity, and registered with the Refugee Council of Australia as a Welcome City for Refugees, this was perfect timing for Newcastle Region Library to host a Refugee Week Speakers Panel.

This discussion was held in partnership with the Ethnic Communities Council, Catholic Care Refugee Service and Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS) with the aim of the promoting Refugee Week, multiculturalism and social cohesion in our community.

The evening was moderated by Jo McGregor from STARTTS. Other featured speakers were Margaret Piper (AM), who was made a Member of the Order of Australia for 30 years of outstanding work with refugees and Scott Higgins who is making a notable difference with his work for Baptist World Aid.

All who attended were greatly moved and inspired by refugees Farida Barengayabo (Hunter African Communities Council) and John Sandy (Catholic Care Refugee Service) who shared their own personal



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- 01 LAKE MAC LIBRARIES RECORD LOCAL MIGRANT STORIES
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stories of adversity and triumph. John spoke of his desire to have the community see him as 'just like everyone else' and to view himself and other refugees as success stories.

The night was a resounding success with positive feedback from customers moved by personal accounts and motivated by the need to be involved.

SHARON WITT
Newcastle Region Library

IN THE STATE LIBRARY GALLERIES

Inspiration by Design: Word and Image from the Victoria and Albert Museum

Until 27 September

This exhibition, drawn entirely from the rich collections of the National Art Library at London's V&A Museum, explores the role of the book in art and design. Positioning the book as both an educational tool and an object of aesthetic beauty, sections focus on illustration, photography, graphic design, fashion and artists' publications. See over 100 treasures including original hand-drawn illustrations from Beatrix Potter, a Pablo Picasso artist book, fashion sketches from Dior and Comme des Garçons, rare medieval manuscripts and much more.

Australian Inspiration

Until 27 September

Drawing on the Library's rich collections, this exhibition focuses on how the waratah, the koala and Australia's most recognisable building, the Sydney Opera House, have become invaluable sources of inspiration and design.

Physie: Photographs by Lyndal Irons

Until 4 October

The Bjelke-Petersen School of Physical Culture (BJP) was founded in 1892 by Hans Christian Bjelke-Petersen as a medical gymnasium in Tasmania concerned with correcting health and posture in men and children. Today physical culture or 'physie' is the domain of Australian females of all ages and it has modernised to include elements of dance. Photographer Sam Hood documented physie in the 1930s and Sydney photographer Lyndal Irons photographed the lead-up to the national finals at the Opera House in 2012.

Satire in the Time of War: Cartoons of Hal Eyre 1914 – 1918

Until 28 February

Hal Eyre began working as a cartoonist for *The Daily Telegraph* newspaper in 1908. The 357 original drawings he produced for the paper during the First World War were purchased by the State Library in 1920. This collection depicts the war from a cartoonist's perspective. Eyre satirised themes of national identity and political power plays and the disintegration of the great European powers as the world erupted in war.

Freedom Ride '65: Unpublished photos from the Tribune archive

5 September to 29 November

Take a fresh look at this iconic moment in Australian history, when a busload of students from the University of Sydney set off around country NSW to expose discrimination and racism against Aboriginal people. Travelling with them was a reporter/photographer from the *Tribune*, the weekly newspaper of the Communist Party of Australia. Of more than 100 photographs taken at the time, only a handful were ever published.

The State Library is the custodian of the *Tribune* newspaper negative collection. Recently digitised to mark the 50th anniversary of the '65 Freedom Ride, these images provide a compelling alternative view of an event that captured the headlines nationally and internationally and is widely considered a turning point in Australian race relations.

What a Life! Rock photography by Tony Mott

17 October to 7 February 2016

Australia's premiere rock photographer, Tony Mott has seen all sides of the celebrity and rock and roll lifestyle through his camera lens. He honed his skill by taking photos of bands at pub gigs in Sydney and eventually he became a fixture of the 70s and 80s Australian rock scene. His photographs reveal something of the mystery, the revved up power and the adrenaline of rock n' roll.

Mott's portfolio features some of the biggest and greatest names in music: the photographs are remarkable but it's the fact he's able to capture such candid shots, and the rapport he establishes with these guarded stars, that's truly impressive.

DEADLINES FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

December 2015

16 October 2015

April 2016

26 February 2016

August 2016

17 June 2016

Send all submissions to: pl.news@sl.nsw.gov.au