



MEDIA RELEASE

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*****List of recipients below*****

\$2.5m Funding Boost for NSW Libraries

Minister for the Arts, George Souris, has announced grants of \$2.5 million for public libraries across the state in the annual Library Development Grants and Country Libraries Fund programs.

Mr Souris said 34 local councils will receive grants for projects, providing significant public benefit and improving public library services for NSW citizens.

“Public libraries play a critical role in our communities by providing access to collections, information and technology that help people at all stages of their lives. The NSW Government is committed to working with councils to enhance library services and facilities across the State,” Mr Souris said.

“I am particularly delighted that \$2 million of the funding allocation will be directed to rural and regional libraries as part of the Country Libraries Fund Grants.

“It is essential that regional residents enjoy the same services, access to information and levels of connectivity that are offered by public libraries in metropolitan areas”.

Mr Souris said this latest funding allocation brings the total of State Government support for NSW libraries in 2012/13 to \$26.5 million and more than \$53 million since March 2011.

NSW State Librarian Alex Byrne said the funds would enable councils to develop new library buildings, upgrade IT infrastructure, undertake digitisation projects and purchase new resources and collections.

“These grants enable libraries to respond to the changing needs of their clients, through the creation of flexible public spaces, improving public IT services, and reaching out to communities both in the online environment and on-site through targeted events and programs.

“The State Library has supported local libraries for more than 70 years and we are most excited to see the results that flow on to communities across NSW as a result.”

The annual Library Development Grants program is administered by the State Library of NSW on behalf of the Library Council of NSW.

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Council	Project	Project Description	Grant
Bankstown	Chester Hill Library Extension and Refurbishment	The refurbishment of Chester Hill Library will improve the quality of library services through greater access to collections, additional public computers, four new meeting rooms, improved research spaces for group/private study, quiet reading areas with pleasant surroundings, a welcoming children's area, a youth area, larger area for displays and public exhibitions and car parking in a safe, convenient environment.	\$107,141
Burwood	New Burwood Library and Community Hub	The new library building will be twice the size of the existing library, and will enable dedicated spaces for technology, children's services, more space for collections, meeting rooms and an auditorium for events and programs.	\$200,000
Camden	Pop-up Library	The Pop-up Library will include outdoor marquee, promotional signage and lightweight furniture that will create a clearly branded library presence anywhere around the local government area, providing access to a Wifi hotspot, online services, ebooks, membership sign-up and a small collection.	\$22,791
Mosman	Interactive Learning Centre for Seniors	The Interactive Learning Centre within Mosman Library will help to develop older residents' digital literacy skills by providing state of the art facilities, equipment and programs to introduce older residents to a range of digital devices i.e. laptops, tablets and e-readers.	\$43,114
Randwick	Paper cuts – Randwick Press Clippings Digitisation	Paper cuts will preserve and provide online access to Randwick's pre-1955 press clippings, and digitally preserve the post 1955 clippings. The records are the most significant compilation of news articles relating to the Randwick area, and provide researchers, historians, planners and the local community with access to a unique repository of local historical information.	\$7,211
Strathfield	Implementation of Radio Frequency Identification Technology	RFID will allow faster and more reliable access to the library collections for the community, improve customer service and increase availability of staff to assist the public via additional service provision and programs, homework assistance and readers advisory.	\$68,989
The Hills	Touching History, taking yesterdays maps into tomorrow	This project to digitise and catalogue the Library's 270 local area maps (1890-2010) and 350 aerial photos (1970-1998) will make it easier for the public to view them online and at Hills Libraries on digital touch tables.	\$50,750
Woollahra	Paddington Library Rejuvenation	The rejuvenation will improve the Paddington Branch Library for the community with the inclusion of a children's area, youth area, study rooms, a technology pod and new furniture.	\$50,000

Country Libraries Fund

Council	Project	Project Description	Grant
Bogan	Bogan Shire Library refurbishment	This project will modernise the space at Nyngan Library, and provide new furniture, shelving, toilet facilities, carpet, as well as opening up the foyer area and creating youth and children's zones.	\$149,320
Cessnock	Radio Frequency Identification Implementation project	RFID will streamline routine library functions and divert staffing resources to enhance customer services within the library by further developing Reader Advisory and Reference skills and to develop and deliver an Outreach program for non-users, the under-served, and people with special needs within the community.	\$161,397
Clarence Valley	Radio Frequency Identification Implementation	RFID will allow Clarence Valley to reallocate staff time to assisting customers and facilitating an enhanced service through increased programming of activities.	\$97,550
Coffs Harbour	Radio Frequency Identification Implementation	RFID will improve customer services at Coffs Harbour City Library through the provision of self-service facilities, improved stock management/security and efficiencies in staff processes. Staffing will be reallocated to more proactive customer service activities and greater opportunities for public programs and outreach initiatives.	\$193,650
Coonamble	Library Connections: Services and Programs for the Indigenous Community	This project will build connections between the local Aboriginal community and Coonamble Library. A number of strategies will be employed to develop a sense of cultural place as well as ongoing Indigenous community development. The project aims include: place making, bridge building and cultural development. and develop sustainable, responsive, cultural library programs and activities.	\$82,170
Corowa	Establishment of a library for Howlong	The establishment of a library at Howlong will be of great benefit to this small community. A permanent public library will provide better access to library services and collections than the current mobile service. The community will have the opportunity to participate in library activities and events such as volunteering, reading groups, as well as educational, lifelong learning, literacy and youth programs. Historical and genealogical collections will be developed as well as outreach services for the isolated, frail and aged.	\$95,000

Dubbo	e-lending: establishment of an ebook collection (Dubbo, Warrumbungle, Wellington, Narromine)	The purpose of the project is to build a comprehensive E-Lending collection through the purchase of additional E-Audio resources and establishing an E-Book collection for the users of the Macquarie Regional Library. This will enable the library to deliver a service to new and existing users through technology and digital downloads. The digital lending collection will provide equitable access to current resources for library users, and in particular, to those in remote locations of the region. The collection is available on demand 24/7.	\$63,949
Gilgandra	Adult Literacy: a second chance	This project targets adult literacy needs with the help of community organisations such as Barnardos, schools, Indigenous groups and TAFE. Adult literacy is a widely acknowledged problem in Gilgandra. The project will: provide a collection of literacy resources designed for adults; reach out to adults in the community who want to improve reading skills; develop a volunteer-based adult literacy tutoring program at the Library.	\$30,467
Great Lakes	Digitise Great Lakes: establishing an online collection of local historical resources	<i>Digitise Great Lakes</i> will provide online access to important local historical photographs, including rare glassplate negatives. The project will digitise 2,500 historic photographs from the Great Lakes Local History Society. The project will include the purchase of a high resolution scanner, a server for data storage and two PCs. A software and hardware framework ensures sustainability.	\$85,688
Great Lakes	eRead: eresources for Great Taree and Great Lakes libraries	This project will deliver access to ebooks across two LGAs. The cooperative approach leads to cost savings and therefore a broader benefit than a single library application. Project includes a selection of e-readers for public use and is enhanced by a focus on local and self published content. The two library services will jointly acquire 2,000 eBooks, 500 eAudio titles, 30 eReaders for loan, 150 eBook titles for pre-loading on eReaders, 1000 popular Gutenberg titles, eResource platforms from selected suppliers, Smart access solution via mobile phone app and additional Library Management System licences.	\$73,061
Greater Hume	Henty Library Development	Henty Library will be transformed into a multi-use community hub with the establishment of a community space capable of fulfilling a range of functions including community meeting rooms, technology centre, hosting cultural exhibitions and a secure repository of valuable and historic community archives. This project will extend the Henty Library to include meeting rooms and a technology centre.	\$200,000

Greater Taree	Pop-up and portable Library	The pop-up library will be designed with high visual impact to attract attention and be sufficiently portable to be set up quickly and easily in a variety of indoor and outdoor venues. It will showcase an exciting mini-collection tailored for each occasion e.g. technology petting zoo, Playaways, eBooks online and mobile App demonstrations.	\$42,364
Griffith	Radio Frequency Identification Solution	RFID will free up staff allowing for more time devoted to client assistance across the library floor, resulting in increased customer satisfaction. This will lead to increased time for collaborative projects; expansion of online services, eResources and the library's website; increased programming, information sessions, tours and storytime as well as the introduction of 'roving help' for improved client services.	\$70,800
Gwydir	Warialda Library: Connecting the Community	<i>Connecting the Community</i> will provide internet PCs, network and cabling infrastructure, a digital copier and furniture for a technology space at Warialda Library. The new fit out of dedicated spaces provides a more flexible and practical area. The developed space will provide a platform to training and development for local users to develop skills in IT and digital technology which can be used to break down barriers of geographic and economic disadvantage and enabling all members of the community to connect locally and beyond.	\$47,000
Harden	Expansion of Harden Library	Expanding the Harden Library will create a more usable space for the community. The improved library will provide a larger library space and improvement in the quality of services provided. The expansion will significantly increase the size and capacity of the library to deliver better programs, enabling dedicated space for children and youth, and other activities.	\$34,373
Inverell	Ebooks for Inverell	This project establishes an e-book collection for the Inverell Library. The library recently piloted the lending of e-reader devices, pre-loaded with a small selection of e-books. This pilot was designed to both enable customers to experience e-readers and e-books, and to gauge potential demand for e-books. Response has been positive, with the devices constantly on loan since launching, and customers asking about the availability of e-books for loan.	\$25,750
Kempsey	A Sparkling Library for Kempsey (refurbishment)	This project will refurbish Kempsey Library with new shelving, furniture, carpet and painting. A new layout is to accompany the refurbishment that will open up the library space and improve service and amenity for the public.	\$147,310

Moree Plains	Bringing Books to Life for Pre-schoolers (Moree Plains, Brewarrina, Walgett)	This project will establish 30 storytime kits for use by library staff with children across the region. Kits will include big books, picture books, music CDs and DVDs, puppets, craft resources and instructions for presenters. Training will be provided for library staff. Storytime kits will be rotated on a quarterly basis across Moree Plains Shire, Brewarrina Shire and Walgett Shire in conjunction with the regional book exchange. High indigenous populations and low literacy are the drivers of need for this approach.	\$11,469
Murrumbidgee	Library Futures on Wheels (Mobile Library)	Replacement of the current mobile library truck with a custom fitted library van will enable an improved service for remote residents. A popular bookmobile service has been serving the needs of Murrumbidgee and Griffith LGAs for over 40 years. The new vehicle will be a modern fully fitted light commercial van with the capacity to carry 1500 library items, allow for on-board browsing, feature electronic tablet access to online resources, and operate as a Wi-Fi hotspot.	\$113,300
Nambucca	Large Print and Audio Collection Development	This project will improve the large print and audio collection in Nambucca Shire Council Libraries. The purchase of "Playaways" and a broader range of titles will increase the appeal of the collection. Library users including those with loss of vision and/or physical challenges often find audio books easier to enjoy than those in traditional print formats. Large Print titles are included to cater for those readers who are unable or unwilling to use the Playaway technology.	\$66,650
Narrandera	Microfilm Viewer/ Scanners for Narranderra, Hay and Carrathool Libraries	This project provides for scanner/reader/printers for Hay, Carrathool and Narrandera Libraries, which have obsolete equipment. The Libraries hold important microfilm and microfiche collections of local history, newspapers, Pastoral and Hospital records. The new equipment allows for access to these documents. The new machines will offer high speed scanning, desktop editing and will provide network connectivity and the capability for convenient image transmission via e-mail.	\$43,909
Parkes	Embracing ebooks	This project will enable Parkes Shire Library to significantly grow its fledgling eBook collection. The collection is aimed specifically at two target groups, youth and remote users. The eBook collection will provide 24/7 access to the all users. The addition of e-readers for loan will give the project a broader appeal and increase innovation by appealing to those who do not have their own e-reading devices.	\$33,750

Uralla	Local History and family Research Hub	The hub will provide a dedicated family history research area within the library, providing a repository for original documentation and digital information that originates from or is unique to the Uralla area. This includes: the Uralla Story Project collection of over 40 x 40 minute recordings of stories by older members of the community, the purchase of microfilms containing historical documents such as newspapers from Uralla and Bundarra and a ScanPro microfilm reader to allow users to be able to access this information. iPads with headphones to allow search and listening capabilities, connected to the library's new WiFi service.	\$30,024
Warren	Birth to Kindergarten collections and programs for Warren, Nyngan, Coonamble and Gilgandra	This project provides a wide range of resources and promotional materials to allow the branches of North Western Library to program and promote story time and rhyme time sessions to members of the community. Included is the aim of attracting additional clientele. The project will embrace new technologies introducing a new range of eBook and online facilities. The collection, programming and equipment will be shared across the Warren, Coonamble, Nyngan and Gilgandra libraries.	\$50,703
Wentworth	Microfilm Scanner for Historical research	This project provides a ST ViewScan microfilm scanner, a dedicated PC, training for users, and promotion of the enhanced services. Updating the library's current equipment is crucial to ensure reading, copying and digital access to microform collections.	\$17,490
Wollongong	Illawarra Remembers 1914-18 (for Wollongong, Kiama, Shellharbour Libraries)	This project marks the 100 year anniversary of the Great War by expanding Wollongong's digitised collection and making it available through the web. The Illawarra Family History Group will assist with the project which will involve scanning documents, photographs, diaries, letters and other relevant resources which will tell the story of the involvement of our local residents in the Great War. Kiama and Shellharbour libraries will contribute relevant local history resources to the collection and contributions will be sought from the community.	\$32,856