



STATE LIBRARY®
NEW SOUTH WALES

Public Library Services

November 2023

Welcome to PLS eNews

Public Library Services eNews provides an up-to-date report on the work of our services to public libraries, and lets you know about upcoming opportunities for professional development and promotion.

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A message from departing State Librarian, Dr John Vallance...

Dear Public Library Colleagues across New South Wales,

After just over six years as State Librarian, I've decided to retire. My successor has now been announced by the Minister for the Arts.

Over the past years, working with all of you and with my public library colleagues at the State Library led by Cameron Morley, we have achieved a great deal. Government support for libraries now stands at historically high levels. We are well on course to developing what is arguably one of the strongest public library services in the world.

Thank you for the work you do; my visits to libraries have been highlights of my tenure. I'm looking forward to seeing you go from strength to strength.

With my warmest good wishes to you all for a strong and sustainable future. I will continue to support you from the sidelines.

John Vallance

... And a welcome to incoming State Librarian Dr Caroline Butler-Bowdon

Dr Butler-Bowdon, a published author in architectural and urban history, brings with her over 20 years of leadership experience in large public institutions. Her career ranges from the museum and heritage space to most recently the activations in our streets, centres and open spaces. Dr Butler-Bowdon is currently Acting Deputy Secretary, Cities and Active Transport at Transport for NSW and has previously held leadership roles at the Historic Houses Trust of NSW, overseeing programs and initiatives for some of Australia's most important museums and institutions including Hyde Park Barracks, Museum of Sydney, Rose Seidler House and Vacluse House. She was a curator in state cultural institutions for over a decade and has deep expertise in collections management.

In 2020 the PLS team worked with Dr Butler-Bowdon on the research project [Using behavioural insights to improve public library services](#). This jointly scoped project examined ways to optimise membership, visitation and satisfaction of selected NSW libraries.

Dr Butler-Bowdon will begin her term on Wednesday 15 November. You can learn more about our new State Librarian [here](#).



Wadgayawa Nhay Dhadjan Wari

The State Library of NSW has recently opened an extraordinary new exhibition, *Wadgayawa Nhay Dhadjan Wari (they made them a long time ago)*, on display until 28 January 2024 in the First Nations Gallery.

The exhibition features significant Aboriginal objects that were removed from Country around 200 years ago. The 30 belongings have been selected by members of the La Perouse Aboriginal community from five different cultural institutions across the United Kingdom. The exhibition provides a rare opportunity for visitors to see traditional objects from Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour) and Botany Bay, as well as a few from the Shoalhaven River and Port Stephens regions.

You can learn more and download the exhibition guide [here](#).

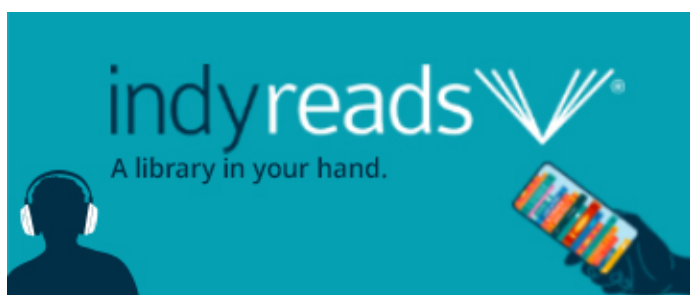


PL Portal: New online training course

The PL Portal is an online training platform available free of charge to all NSW public library staff. The portal includes short courses highlighting some of the specialist services, collections and resources the State Library provides to assist public libraries in meeting the information needs of their communities.

The PL Portal has been updated with a new course on indyreads. This course, which takes roughly an hour to complete, provides an overview of the indyreads collection and the value it offers to public library collections, some tips for using the app, where to find support, and ideas and resources for promoting indyreads to your library users.

The indyreads training module is available now on the PL Portal. Learn more about accessing the PL Portal and taking advantage of the courses on offer [here](#).



Adult fiction stock quality health check

Following the 2023 adult fiction stock quality health check project, four webinars were held to assist libraries with developing representative collections. These sessions were all well attended and enjoyed thanks to our four great presenters:

- Misha Stone (fantasy)
- Becky Spratford (horror)
- Allyson Rogers (science fiction)
- Robin Bradford (romance)

indyreads Summer Book Club 2023/24

We are excited to announce [Funny Ethnic](#) as this year's indyreads Summer Book Club selection. *Funny Ethnic* is the debut novel by 2023 *The Age* Book of the Year shortlisted author, Shirley Le. Shirley is [a member of Sweatshop](#), a literacy movement based in Western Sydney, and received the inaugural Sweatshop mentorship with Affirm Press in 2018. Her work has been published in *SBS Voices*, *Overland*, *The Guardian*, *Meanjin* and *Another Australia*.

If you missed these, you can watch the recordings and download the presentation slides [here](#).

In each session, the speaker suggested authors and titles for libraries to consider purchasing to ensure their collections are representative. Many of these titles have been purchased for indyreads to support the library network in providing this. You can view some of these recommended titles with our [indyreads book list](#).



Database in focus: Gale Books and Authors

A useful readers' advisory tool, *Books and Authors* promotes the discovery of literature, and where to find it in your library. It highlights a large selection of genres and sub-genres to help you find the next read for yourself or your library users. Also featured are reviews and book descriptions for a growing collection of over 200,000 books.

The database also includes large collection of curated book lists including lists of award winners in literary prizes around the world; plus carefully curated 'Expert Picks' and 'Librarian Favorites' lists.

Learn more about Gale Books and Authors and other resources included in the statewide databases suite at the NSW.net [Gale Support Hub](#).



Scams Awareness Week

Funny Ethnics is a wry coming-of age fiction book, set in the Western Sydney suburb of Yagoona. The book blends hilarity and heartbreak into a visceral story of life on the fringes.

The Summer Book Club begins on **1 December 2023** and concludes with an author talk on **15 February 2024**. *Funny Ethnics* will be available on an unlimited simultaneous user licence from 1 December.

Details for social media resources and other promotions will be announced soon.



Gale, in conversation with... Carolyn Young

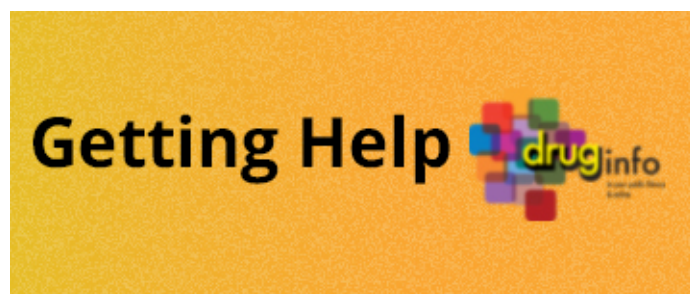
The next 'Gale, in conversation with...' webinar features Carolyn Young talking about her role as Blacktown City Library's Information Services librarian. Carolyn will discuss the delivery of Reference services at Blacktown, the study support services offered to students from Year 10 onwards and how the Community Learning team promotes services, programs and events to their library users.

Gale, in conversation with... Carolyn Young

Thursday 9 November, 1–1.30 pm.

Register [here](#).

You can catch up on previous sessions on Gale's [YouTube channel](#).



Help with alcohol and other drugs

Scams Awareness Week will run from Monday 27 November to Friday 1 December 2023. This year's theme is impersonation scams.

So far this year, Scamwatch has received over 230,000 reports about scams with over \$390 million lost. Approximately 80% of all scams reported to Scamwatch include some form of impersonation of a legitimate entity. Scammers can impersonate any organisation or brand and impersonation scams can be received through a variety of channels, so it's important to let your community know how to avoid this type of scam.

Check our [Scams Awareness Week](#) page to find social media assets, posters and suggested resources.

Drug Info's [Getting Help](#) page links to sources for help with alcohol and other drug issues. It includes support services and websites for specific drugs as well as services designed to help different sections of the community.

The [Alcohol and Drug Information Service \(ADIS\)](#) operates 24 hours a day providing confidential telephone counselling services as well as having a [web chat function](#).

[Family Drug Support](#) provides up to date information on all aspects of alcohol and drug use relative to the families of people who use substances. Family Drug Support also offers a telephone support service in addition to [Family Drug Support online](#), a free interactive resource to help families.



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