

Public Library News



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NSW GOVERNOR HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR MARIE BASHIR CVO AC WITH GRIFFITH LIBRARY MANAGERS PAM YOUNG AND CHRISTINE DEL GIGANTE AT GRIFFITH'S NATIONAL YEAR OF READING GALA DINNER LAUNCH (SEE STORY PAGE 4)

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our first issue for 2012. Hello, I'm standing in for PLN editor Victoria Anderson. Your enthusiasm and efforts for the National Year of Reading are a big focus in this issue of Public Library News. We also look at Waverley's summer programming and monastic matters at Port Macquarie, along with all the other great stories and images from the public library network. Thank you to our sterling contributors and public library staff.

ANNE DOHERTY
Guest editor

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Congratulations to Councillor Kerry Child, Bellingen Shire Council delegate to Public Libraries NSW and to Paul Brunton, Senior Curator at the Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, who were both awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in January's Australia Day Honours List.

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Front cover image:
National Year of Reading event at North Western Library, Warren.
The Manly Sea Eagles in their role as National Year of Reading Ambassadors visited the library for this event.

National Year of Reading round up

NSW LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

On Library Lovers Day, 14 February, the NSW launch of the National Year of Reading (NYR) was held at the State Library. The State Library hosted the launch on behalf of the three NSW founder partners of National Year of Reading: the NSW Metropolitan Public Libraries Association, Public Libraries NSW and State Library of NSW.

The event was launched by author and radio host Richard Glover, NSW Ambassador for the National Year of Reading, with a speech that reflected on the power and influence of reading, articulated the role of reading in developing empathy and the positive impact of empathy in building society.

Premier Barry O'Farrell and State Librarian Dr Alex Byrne spoke about their passion for books and the value of libraries. Children's author and National Year of Reading Ambassador for NSW Deborah Abela gave a heartfelt speech on the importance of reading to children.

Alex Byrne presented John Hughes with a certificate for winning the NSW category of the *Our Story* competition. John, a librarian and teacher at Sydney Grammar School, won with his book *The Idea of Home* which is about growing up in Cessnock as a child of a family who fled the Ukraine during the Second World War.

National Year of Reading Ambassadors the Manly Sea Eagles, together with author Ambassadors Susanne Gervay, Libby Hathorn and Libby Gleeson joined staff from public libraries, partners and stakeholders to celebrate the year to come.

KATE O'GRADY

Public Library Services, State Library of NSW



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NATIONAL YEAR OF READING LAUNCH @ WARRAWONG LIBRARY

Warrawong Library launched the National Year of Reading with a Mad Hatter's Tea Party. The guests feasted on fruit and cheese platters and petite cup cakes and drank tea from beautiful china tea cups with tea served from a teapot. Guests were surprised by the table setting and the platters and felt honored to be there.

A prize for the most creative hat showed the enormous creative talent of the group. Who would have thought that you could turn a biscuit, a marshmallow, half a life saver and a freckle into a cup and saucer?

Games followed the afternoon tea. Guests were able to indulge in a hat throwing competition and to test their skills at building towers from playing cards.

Trivia questions relating to the book *Alice in Wonderland* followed where tea guests were quizzed to discover whether they knew as much about the book as you would have guessed from their hats.

It was a really fun afternoon for staff and participants. We all had a good laugh, and everyone went away happy. We received lots of positive comments from the tea drinkers on what a wonderful time they had.

DIANE ALDRIDGE
Warrawong Library



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- 01 AT THE NSW LAUNCH: JENNIE ORCHARD, DEBORAH ABELA, LIBBY GLEESON, SUSANNE GERVAY AND LIBBY HATHORN WITH RICHARD GLOVER AND PREMIER BARRY O'FARRELL
- 02 MANLY SEA EAGLES MITCH JOWETT AND LIAM HIGGINS ARE NATIONAL YEAR OF READING AMBASSADORS
- 03 PREMIER BARRY O'FARRELL, AUTHOR JOHN HUGHES AND STATE LIBRARIAN ALEX BYRNE
- 04 CREATIVE HAT AT MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY



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- 01 NATIONAL YEAR OF READING LAUNCHES AT ALBURY
- 02 RANDWICK MAYOR COUNCILLOR SCOTT NASH, CUTS THE CAKE TO OFFICIALLY LAUNCH NATIONAL YEAR OF READING
- 03 BARBARA TODES, ANITA HEISS, CASSIE MERCER, BILL CONN AND COUNCILLOR SCOTT NASH WERE ON HAND TO LAUNCH NATIONAL YEAR OF READING
- 04 GREATEST AUSTRALIAN BOOKS OF ALL TIME DISPLAY AT GREAT LAKES

LAUNCHING NATIONAL YEAR OF READING IN ALBURY

As with many public libraries around Australia, Albury Libraries launched the National Year of Reading (NYR) on February 14 in celebratory style. At the Albury LibraryMuseum 60 year 3 and 4 Albury Public School students and many members of the public attended the launch of NYR and the launch of the children's picture book *Edge of the World*, by local writer Ian Trevaskis.

Albury City Councillor Patricia Gould, author Ian Trevaskis and Wiradjuri elder, Nancy Rooke all spoke about the importance of books and reading. For Nancy it had particular meaning as she had very basic literacy skills as a child and in her early adult years. For her the impetus to gain further literacy skills was having children of her own. She impressed on the students how learning to read more effectively changed her life and widened her horizons.

The school students and many library staff members entered into the spirit of the day, dressing as their favourite book characters. The National Year of Reading was officially launched with the cutting of the NYR cake – enjoyed by the children, special guests, library visitors and staff.

The launch received excellent media coverage from two local TV stations, a local newspaper and a radio station. It was an opportunity to promote a range of programs the libraries are running throughout the year, including two new after school clubs the Locker Room at the LibraryMuseum and the Book Worms Club at Lavington Library.

MICHELLE HEAD
Albury Libraries

REACHING OUT TO MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES IN NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

Over 70 people crowded into the Randwick City Library Service's Vonnie Young Auditorium at Bowen Library to launch the National Year of Reading. The Mayor, Councillor Scott Nash, who is also local ambassador for National Year of Reading, Anita Heiss a national ambassador, local actor Bill Conn and Cassie Mercer from *Inside History* magazine contributed to a very special and fun event.

This also saw the launch of Randwick Readers, an interactive reading community for all ages. Members of Randwick Readers have the opportunity to



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participate in special National Year of Reading events throughout the year and share their reading passions with other bibliophiles.

As Anita Heiss said, "My whole day is about reading!...The ability to read is one of the reasons I'm passionate about being an ambassador for the National Year of Reading, and also an ambassador for Indigenous Literacy Day."

Randwick Readers also has a more serious side, partnering with the Australian Literacy & Numeracy Foundation (ALNF) to raise money to promote literacy in the most marginalised communities. The Readers receive a 'passport' where they can record books read and the Council is donating \$1 for every five books read to the ALNF. To offset carbon emissions the Council is also giving Randwick Readers a seedling for each five books read.

Readers have to be a library member and books read, with the exception of school-age children who can read books from their school library, have to be borrowed from the library. Books can be in any format, print, electronic or audio.



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Barbara Todes, Manager Library Services summed up perfectly, “We all love books and reading and this project allows us to use our ability to read to bring literacy to remote indigenous communities and refugees through the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation.”

Three large hearts on the wall at Bowen Library will be filled with ‘helping hands’ (each hand represents a dollar) so that Randwick readers can follow their progress. The project aims to raise \$5,000.

CHRISTINE HOWARD
Supervisor Marketing and Events,
Randwick City Library Service

TEN GREATEST AUSTRALIAN BOOKS OF ALL TIME!

The Great Lakes Library Service is keen to let the world know we’re right behind the National Year of Reading (NYR). Of course, the visual medium always works the best and so our NYR team have put together a great display, including homemade mannequins, great books and a listing of all the NYR events we’ll be holding. This will tie in with the launch of our 10 Greatest Australian Books Competition.

In 2010 the Great Lakes Library Service asked its community to vote on the 10 greatest books of all time. This was one of the most successful activities we ever held and got strong community involvement.

In keeping with the National Year of Reading we thought we’d run another competition, but with a

local flavour. We’ll be inviting people to vote on the top 10 Australian books of all time - and we’ve added a special sub-section for children’s books. This time we’ve devised a list of 50 great Australian books, covering modern, classics, popular, significant, non-fiction and fictional works and people get to vote on 10 of them. For the children’s books the list is 20 titles long and they vote on three of them.

We will run this for a few months to get plenty of input and then we hold the big reveal, probably in September. We are particularly keen to get the book clubs on board but it will be open to all.

There’s even scope to cast your own vote - simply go to http://www.greatlakes.nsw.gov.au/library/Events/Greatest_Australian_Books and follow the link. Go on, have your say.

CHRIS JONES
Manager Library Services, Great Lakes Library Services

BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY LIBRARY: LIBRARY LOVERS AND NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

The Library Lovers Day 2012 and National Year of Reading Launch morning tea at Springwood Library was a great success, with special Steampunk guests, live music and lots of romance-themed food.

With Library Manager, Vicki Edmunds, as MC, the Mayor of the City of Blue Mountains, Councillor Daniel Myles, welcomed everyone and officially launched the National Year of Reading at Blue Mountains City Library. You can watch the launch on BookcasesintheMist on YouTube.



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Approximately 30 Library customers were in attendance, some a little startled by our amazing Steampunk guests – at least one of whom is just a little larger than life! They gave a talk about what they are about which can also be viewed on BookcasesintheMist on YouTube.

The morning was a great start to our LOVE2READ events for the year.

HEIDI COLQUHOUN

Lower Mountains Library Coordinator, Blue Mountains City Council



THE MAGIC READING TREE

NARRABRI LAUNCH OF NYR

Narrabri Library launched their National Year of Reading with a “Magic Reading Tree”. Narrabri residents will vote for their favorite book throughout the year. Each vote will be written on the National Year of Reading Logo and strung from the tree. By the end of November we will have determined Narrabri Shire’s favorite books.

JENNY CAMPBELL

Library Operations Manager, Narrabri Shire Libraries

GRIFFITH CITY LIBRARY AND BENDIGO BANK: A WINNING TEAM

What better way to launch the Griffith City Library National Year of Reading Program than hosting a dining extravaganza in the actual library. On Saturday 3 December, 2011 over 200 people mingled within the book shelves and enjoyed a fantastic meal surrounded by great works in literature what a back drop!

The idea to host a dinner in the library resulted from a National Year of Reading brainstorming session held early in 2011 to develop ideas for our big year. These ingenious ideas formed the basis of our Program of Events Booklet outlining a special event to be held every month throughout 2012. We have planned an amazing year!

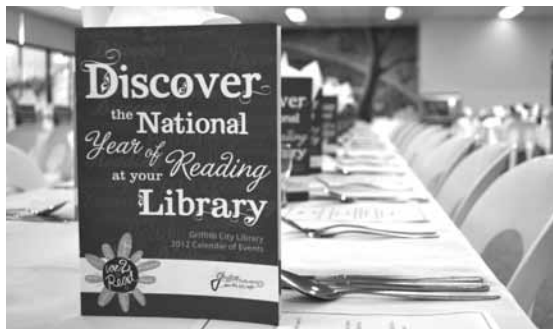
The dinner created huge interest as we were so fortunate to be honoured with two very special guests who added a whole new dimension to our function and captured the imagination of the whole community. These two high profile guests were Her Excellency Professor Marie R Bashir AV CVO the Governor of New South Wales and famous Australian author Melina Marchetta who wrote the acclaimed *Looking for Alibrandi*.

What a winning combination that only became more successful when our local Bendigo Bank committed to becoming our sponsor for the National Year of Reading Program. We were astonished at our good fortune and we knew that we were definitely on a winning streak.

As the 200 glamorous guests arrived they were serenaded by local musicians and offered a glass of bubbly from our local Casella wines who donated all the wine and champagne for the evening. We were also honoured with the presence of Michael McCormack MP for the Riverina, Adrian Piccoli MP for Murrumbidgee and Minister for Education along with regional Mayors and Councillors.

The stage was set....what a night, made so very special by the brilliant guest speakers and a divine four course meal.

Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO Governor of New South Wales delighted everyone with her presence and spoke at length of her passion and love for the Riverina. The audience was captivated with her repertoire of amusing stories relating to her time growing up in the region and she emphasised how important it is to promote



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- 01 NYR PROGRAM OF EVENTS
- 02 GUESTS ENJOYING THE GRIFFITH NATIONAL YEAR OF READING LAUNCH DINNER
- 03 LIBRARY STAFF WITH THE GOVERNOR AND MELINA
- 04 GOVERNOR WITH YOUNG GUESTS AT GRIFFITH NATIONAL YEAR OF READING LAUNCH



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extended family and the stories that can be gained from older members of the family. The publication of *Looking for Alibrandi* was life changing for Melina. As a result of its success she returned to study and embarked on a new dimension in writing.

We were overwhelmed by the amount of positive feedback given and delighted that the dinner was nominated for Event of the Year at Griffith's Australia Day ceremony.

The dinner was a great way to promote our library and give the Griffith community a taste of the inspirational events we have planned for the National Year of Reading 2012.

MONICA DISSEGNA

People and Programs Team, Griffith City Library

reading especially in small regional communities. Her Excellency was an absolute delight and was most giving of her time. Her knowledge of reading and literature combined with her great wit and charm endeared her to everyone.

Melina Marchetta was also a fantastic speaker telling us of her writing and her association with her

LIBRARY LOVERS DAY AND THE NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2012 LAUNCH AT CLARENCE REGIONAL

Once again Library Lovers Day was celebrated across Clarence Regional Library with our very popular *Blind Date with a Book* service and our *Most Borrowed Book* Guessing Competition.

The Day also saw the launch of our National Year of Reading *Caught Reading* Photo Competition with prizes of an eBook Reader for 3 different age categories; under 12 years, 12 – 25 years and 25+. The aim is to capture individuals and groups reading in interesting places. The competition closes on the 14 April.

For students, a new database called *Cambridge Companions Online* was launched which will enable students to delve deeper into the lives of individuals who have shaped our history and literature. *Cambridge Companions* are lively, accessible introductions to major writers, artists, philosophers, topics and periods.

KATHRYN BREWARD
Regional Librarian, Clarence Regional Library

TRAVELLING BOOKS!

The first event held at the Griffith City Library for the 2012 National Year of Reading was the release of our travelling books. The idea behind a travelling book is for people to be able to pick the book up, read it, then re release it anywhere. Once the book has been read we encourage the reader to plot the book's journey throughout Griffith, Australia, and even the world via the special website listed on the book. We placed an

article in the local newspaper requesting members of the community who were travelling in the Christmas-New Year break to drop past the library and pick up some books to take with them. A total of 100 donated books are currently circulating the world with books being reported in India, China, Paris, Scotland, Hawaii, Jamaica and various places throughout Australia including Perth, Dubbo, Broadbeach, Merimbula, Mildura, Young and Melbourne!

MONICA DISSEGNA
People and Programs Team Leader, Griffith City Library

CANTERBURY LAUNCHES THE NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

The National Year of Reading got off to a great start at the City of Canterbury Library with over 350 people enjoying different events and activities from the start of the year.

In January we launched our first Adult Summer Reading Club. Staff created a reading guide of popular titles and every time a registered participant read one of the listed titles, they went into the draw for a prize. Readers were also encouraged to write a review for our NYR blog and we had an overwhelming response. Our blog, launched late December 2011, has had over 1,200 hits since we began.

On 14 February, our Year was officially launched by Mayor Brian Robson, with our supporters Nadia Wheatley and Debra Adelaide and local award winning poet Andy Kissane. Each spoke of what reading means to them and shared personal stories about how reading changed their lives. We finished up with the unveiling of a piece of artwork specially

- 01 TRAVELLING BOOK IN HAWAII
- 02 LAUGHTER WORKSHOP AT CAMPSIE



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commissioned for the National Year of Reading, which will be on display for the year.

After the official launch we held a sausage sizzle, with the help of two volunteers, and staff hit the pavement with Maisy the Mouse, walking around Amy Street and the Campsie Centre promoting the Library. We also gave away free books, which were a real hit!

Each month of 2012 has been given a theme based on the themes found on the petals of the NYR flower logo. February was designated Laugh, and to celebrate Campsie Library held a laughter workshop with a laughter yoga instructor. This very successful workshop had participants laughing for no reason and much fun was had by all.

Upcoming NYR program highlights include a readers theatre *Death in the Library* (performed by staff), a panel talking about eBooks and creative writing workshops.

PAULA PFOEFFER

Library Coordinator, Client Services, City of Canterbury Library

HORNSBY LIBRARY CELEBRATES

Hornsby Library patrons had a fabulous morning on 14 February with 700 people through the doors between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm. They helped us celebrate Library Lovers Day, the launch of the Year of Reading and the launch of our new eLibrary page and downloadable eAudiobooks. Staff demonstrated the new downloadable audio books and the eLibrary webpage. The Mayor and invited guests joined patrons to enjoy a morning tea with a delicious book shaped cake.

The library fairy encouraged many people to have their photos taken to go on our picture wall. Our first photo wall was a themed display of one person reading the same magazine at a number of exotic locations. We plan to follow this with a wall of photos taken on the 14 February and continue to add photos throughout 2012 with prizes to be won each month.

The colourful book bug made a guest appearance at the two sessions of our children's storytime. She also entertained patrons young and old. The Hornsby Ukulele Group performed and inspired another patron to do a spirited, impromptu dance with her red fan.

Staff raided their cupboards and those of friends and family to provide items for our numerous displays on the theme of celebration. Patrons entered the library through the book arch, guided by models



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appropriately dressed in newspaper clothes. Wedding dresses from 70s onwards adorned the walls, and display cabinets held many items including a 1942 wedding dress, a 200 year old christening gown, Indian wedding finery and other items celebrating baptisms, graduations and engagements. There was also a display of dolls from other countries. Two mannequins dressed in a tail coat last worn in the 1930s and a 2007 wedding dress were joined by one dressed in a Pakistani/Indian sherwani, a beautiful brocade jacket.

In keeping with the Love2read theme we also had a display of exotic bookmarks, and illustrating February's 'laughter' theme many resources were on show for borrowing.

All the staff dressed up - some in their finery and others in sparkly hats and feather boas. We all wore our Love2read badges.

The morning finished with a talk by author Lyn Drummond.

CYNTHIA METHVEN AND MERILYN HILLS
Hornsby Shire Library and Information Service

03 BOOK SHAPED CAKE TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL YEAR OF READING AND LIBRARY LOVERS DAY

04 HORNSBY UKULELE GROUP IN FULL SWING

Waverley Library's summer of fun!

Our Children's Library team put together a fantastic summer holiday program for kids, teens and tweens again this summer.

To better promote the program, the Library took the lead in coordinating a 'one stop' school holiday program for the whole of Council which listed all events and workshops from across Council in one colourful easy-guide program.

This was a lot of work to coordinate, but it paid off with lots of positive feedback from our families and most people confirming, via hard copy and online surveys, that they preferred all Council's holiday programs, activities and workshops listed in one program.

This approach also made it easier for us to make sure we weren't doubling up on programming or workshop ideas with other parts of Council; we all shared resources (and budgets!) to make sure that we ended up with a really professional, accessible and appealing program.

To make bookings easier the Library used also MCA Ticketing for the first time to sell tickets. People loved the online option and some events sold out within half an hour of the bookings going live. What's more, people were able to give permission for us to use their email addresses to let them know about future Library events, giving us the opportunity to further grow our mailing list.

The Summer Holiday Program was widely promoted via hard copy programs, posters,

newspaper ads and direct mail. A QR code was added to the program, newspaper ads and posters to make the web page and program easier to access with smartphones.

Some of our most popular programs were:

Camp Kidpreneur @ Bondi

Our first ever Camp Kidpreneur program – a joint project with Kidpreneur creator Creel Price and his ready-set-go program – was really popular. Designed to give kids and tweens hands-on experience in starting a business, developing a product and selling it, the program culminated in the young entrepreneurs selling their business creations at Sydney's popular Saturday Paddington Markets.

The mother of one participant, fortuitously a local newspaper opinion writer, wrote in her column that the program was a "sensational conclusion to the school holidays" and said she was delighted to see her daughter "bursting at the seams to keep her business going".

The event even got a glowing write-up in February in the *Business Review Weekly*!

Waverley Library Game Jam

On 21 and 22 January 2012 Waverley Library held its inaugural 'Library Game Jam' in support of the Global Game Jam event, where hundreds of 'jammers' meet at venues across the globe to create new computer games in a 48-hour non-stop hothouse of talent.

01 YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS SELLING THEIR BUSINESS CREATIONS AT PADDINGTON MARKETS.

02 COMPOSITE OF GAME JAM ACTIVITIES AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS



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The Library's Game Jam was a slightly less feverish affair, with a two-day weekend workshop for 14-17-year-olds (and we let them go home at the end of each day!) with mentors from the University of NSW Computer Science & Engineering faculty familiarising them with computer software and techniques.

Waverley and Randwick libraries ran this pilot event and we were thrilled to be able to offer an event targeted at one of our harder to reach audiences – teenagers.

The 14 students who attended the workshop were expertly guided through the design process in a fun, interactive way by the UNSW mentors. Most participants did not want to leave and were keen to take part in another Library Game Jam next year.

As an added incentive the group was invited to attend a special prize giving ceremony with the Sydney Game Jam participants at the Powerhouse Museum on 4 February so they could show off their creations and be part of the Game Jam buzz.

The mum of Waverley Library's winning jammer commented, "Thank you for organising and hosting the event. I received really positive feedback from Jens and he learned a lot. He hasn't had much experience with developing software so it was a great opportunity for him."

This was a great event and one that the Library is hoping to repeat for next year's Global Game Jam at the end of January 2013. Thanks to the University of NSW and the State Library of NSW for setting up such an innovative event and to Randwick Council for being such a great partner!

KidzFlicks fun

Earlier this year, Waverley Library joined with Bardic Studio to organise the inaugural KidzFlicks Sydney Festival of Films by Children and Young People.

Library staff and Bardic worked together to develop a filmmaking competition for children aged 12 and younger which culminated in a day of games, fun and film screenings of all entries at Event Cinemas Bondi Junction at the end of January.

As part of the Library's summer holiday program, we also organised a three-day video workshop to help kids brainstorm, write, edit, film and act in a promotional clip for the competition.

By competition close there were over 130 entries and some beautiful films ranging from amazing claymation to serious dramas about issues such as bullying in schools.

The cinema was packed for the final screening and the winners were announced for Best Overall Film (a beautifully shot documentary about the importance of education), Best Independent Filmmaker (a film capturing the excitement of 'the first sleepover') and Best School Submission (to Camdenville Public School for a hilarious animation called *Murder on the Dance Floor*, following the adventures of three gingerbread girls before their untimely death at the jaws of a family dog).

This was a fantastic program and one that we're all keen to repeat.

Digital design workshop

One of the first events to sell out, this two-hour workshop showed kids how to turn everyday t-shirts into works of art with the wonders of digital design. Low cost and high impact, this workshop's a winner every time.

Fizzics education workshops

These two one-hour workshops for 7-12-year-olds delved into 'the human body' (well, not literally) and the slippery world of 'sherbert, slime and bubbles'. At a low \$6 per workshop, these sold out quickly and were very popular. And why not...what self-respecting kid *doesn't* like slime and bubbles?

SAM WEIR

Public Programs Coordinator, Waverley Library

From Tibet With Love

01 CONCERT IN THE
LIBRARY CELEBRATES
DIVERSITY

02 MONKS AND THE
MANDALA IN THE
LIBRARY

We are sure that you will agree that we have the best job in the world. 'Libraryland' gives us the opportunity to meet with the most amazing people and allows us to facilitate incredible happenings.

Via our local Wauchope Arts Council, we had the opportunity to host a visit from Tibetan musician, Tenzin Choegyal and a group of Monks from Tashi Lhunpo at Port Macquarie Library. They generously shared some of the most distinctive aspects of Tibetan culture. Visitors to the library saw the creation of a sand mandala and could attend workshops, meditation sessions and a concert.

The sand mandala was made of millions of grains of brightly coloured sand which the Monks placed with great skill and patience using a metal funnel called a chak phur to form the intricate and beautiful geometric designs.

The creation of the mandala is a reminder of the Buddhist concept of impermanence. Our Tibetan visitors encouraged visitors to watch, take photos and talk with them. It is believed that those who watch and participate accumulate benefits.

Storytime visitors enjoyed making their own sand mandalas and hearing tales from afar. Tenzin and two of the Monks went to a local primary school and shared their stories and music. For high school students it was a great way to hear a true story of 'belonging', 'adaptation' and 'journeys'.

The meditation sessions in the library were a great way for visitors (and staff) to start the day with a clear and alert mind. The Monks used mantra recitation with energy-based sounds. The whole library had a very special positive feeling.

Over two hundred people attended an unforgettable concert which presented chanting and monastic dance, traditional instruments and a performance by singer-song writer Tenzin Choegyal. An added highlight for all, was the combination of didgeridoo playing with the group. Local didge player, Steven Donovan kindly agreed to do this and enjoyed it as much as we did.

As mentioned, the sand mandala reminds us of the impermanence of life. On the last day, the Monks conducted the Dissolution Ceremony and took the sand back to the sea.

Our Tibetan encounter was a truly magical experience for all of us and a great honour to meet with these inspiring people.



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'Maybe we have different clothes, our skin is of a different colour, or we speak different languages. That is on the surface. But we are the same human beings. That is what binds us to each other. That is what makes it possible for us to understand each other and to develop friendship and closeness.' His Holiness the Dalai Lama

VIRGINIA COX

Children's/YA Librarian, Port Macquarie Hastings Library

In the Libraries

KINDLES AT ALBURY LIBRARIES

During Library Week 2011 Albury Libraries launched the Kindle project. Six DX Kindles were offered to the Libraries as surplus to Council's requirements and a decision was made to trial loaning the Kindles with pre-loaded titles. Titles were purchased in four categories: biography, murder-mystery, hot titles and a mixture of genres. Each Kindle was pre-loaded with 10 popular titles from Amazon. Each Kindle was individually catalogued with all title and author information.

Lessons learnt over this trial period were: purchase sturdy covers for your e-readers, ask to have e-readers returned at the desk rather than through the returns chute, have clear instructions for use, have a wall charger for loan and one at your returns desk to recharge between loans. Overall this project has been a success as all Kindles have been in high demand over the past 10 months with long reservation queues. One Kindle has gone missing and one was damaged and replaced by Amazon. Promotion of this project has been minimal as word of mouth and brochures at the desk have worked well and customers have found them on our online catalogue and reserved them out of interest. For some borrowers it was an opportunity to trial an e-reader before purchasing their own.

The next stage in our project will be selecting 10 new titles for each Kindle and investigating using a Kindle to meet Inter Library Loan requests.

MICHELLE HEAD
Albury Libraries

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ON SHOW AT AUBURN

Blind and partially sighted people or visually impaired people face a number of barriers that prevent them from fully enjoying the pleasure of reading books. As a result they go to the library less than sighted people.

Auburn City Library has acquired various assistive technology devices for people with vision impairment to assist their inclusiveness in the community, and

gain a higher level of independence. These devices make the library's collection more widely accessible.

Since most of our devices are particularly useful for Home Library Service clients, we don't keep them on library shelves and they become less visible. Only small percentage of our community is aware of this important and valuable service.

In order to reach a larger audience, we decided to put on display all three types of devices we currently have on offer.

Our lockable modular glass display cabinet located in a highly visible place in the library proved to be the ideal location for this special exhibit. We have displayed Audio Read Navigator, Plectalk and Maxilupe with a short description explaining their basic functions.

Each device has its own separate shelf. People are able to see the special features and dimensions of the displayed item. The idea behind this is that existing patrons may know someone who is visually impaired and then promote this service to the visually impaired person.

Our display so far has seized attention of number of people. We are hoping to increase utilization of the devices and better circulation of the audio collection.

Putting on show our assistive technology is a way to indicate our readiness to serve as facilitators to the visually impaired people in our community.

**ISABELLA ANDRUSZKIEWICZ +
GAYATRI KRISHNAMURTHY**
Auburn City Library

MAYORAL CHAIN FIND AT BEGA MUSEUM ADDS SPARKLE

Local Government Week in August produced another positive collaboration between Bega Valley Shire Library and the Bega Valley Historical Society. Local and Family History Librarian, Linda Albertson (pictured), was able to borrow a number of items from the Historical Society's museum for display during the week including this fantastic mayoral chain. The Mayoral Chain was first used in 1883 and has all the Bega Municipal Mayor's names and dates



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- 01 PLEXTALK DEVICE ON DISPLAY AT AUBURN
- 02 LINDA ALBERTSON AND THE MAYORAL CHAIN



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In the Libraries

of service engraved on the chain up until 1980. In 1981 the Bega Valley Shire Council was formed from the amalgamation of the Bega Municipality, the Imlay Shire and the Mumbulla Shire and the chain was no longer used.

Also on display were a number of old minute books from the previous Shires, showcasing some beautiful old-fashioned handwriting. Given that this year is the 30th anniversary of amalgamation, it was fitting to be able to display minute books from all three previous local government bodies.

WORKING SMART TO ACHIEVE RESULTS

With time and budget restraints, Local and Family History Librarian Linda Albertson believes it is essential to form strategic liaisons within the community. A few years ago the local Meals on Wheels organisation were interested in performing oral history interviews with some of their older and frailer clients. The Meals on Wheels group approached a local theatre group and together they were successful in obtaining a grant for oral history training and equipment. The Bega Valley Shire

Library has been involved since the beginning as an interested party and negotiated very early on in the process for copies of the oral history recordings to be lodged with the library as long as interviewees approved. Relying on volunteers for the project meant that at times there was little progress but recently the first lot of oral histories, complete with log files, were handed over to the local history collection at Bega Library.

SCIENCE WEEK SUCCESS AT BEGA

Science Week again proved to be a winner at the Bega Valley Shire Library thanks to a visit from Sydney Observatory staff, Geoff Wyatt and Dr. Andrew Jacob. Their visit was funded by Science Ignite and Science Exposed funding.

In 1874 Eden was one of the viewing sites for the transit of Venus. Eden was accessible via Twofold Bay and this was the main reason why it was chosen as a viewing spot by astronomers from Sydney, including the Government Astronomer. The transit will again be visible in June 2012 and as part of their outreach program connected with the transit next year, Mr. Wyatt and Dr. Jacob visited Bega and Eden, giving well attended presentations to the public and to local high school students.

LINDA ALBERTSON

Local and Family History Librarian, Bega Valley Shire Library

RFID LIVE AT THE BLAND SHIRE LIBRARY

The Bland Shire library's new Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) system was officially launched on Wednesday 30 November 2011 by Bland Shire Council Deputy Mayor, Dot Smith in front of community members and students from one of the

- 01 LEFT TO RIGHT: SELWYN RAMSAY (INTERVIEWEE), JAN ROBILIARD (MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEER) AND LINDA ALBERTSON.
- 02 DR ANDREW JACOB, SYDNEY OBSERVATORY EXPLAINS SOLAR VIEWING TO THE HOOKER FAMILY AT BEGA.
- 03 SHIRE MAYOR DOT SMITH LAUNCHES BLAND LIBRARY'S RFID SYSTEM



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local schools. It has been a big hit amongst the library members and most importantly it has freed up staff to spend more time with the customer and time to plan new and improved library programs.

Funding for this was provided through a development grant from the Library Council of NSW. A self loan station, security gates and a sort assist bin have all been installed. The self loan station allows library borrowers to check out their own library material.

BEYOND BLUE

The Bland Shire library now has a dedicated information stand containing free material from Beyond Blue on good mental health. Beyond Blue is a national, independent, not for profit organisation working to address issues associated with depression and anxiety. It works in partnerships with health services, workplaces and community groups.

The information stand contains information on depression, anxiety as well as post-natal depression. The Bland Shire Library is listed as an information provider on the Beyond Blue Rural Information Network.

FOOD FOR FINES

The Bland Shire Library again partnered with the Salvation Army and the St Vincent De Paul to provide food hampers to the needy in the community during the month of December. The food for fines campaign allows members of the community to bring in non perishable food items and goods, place them in the hampers and in return library staff will remove any outstanding library fees.

Food for fines seems to work well in this community. The patron has their fines waived and the donated food product goes to needy families in the community. This year we even received a Christmas tree! Food for fines was first introduced in 2003 and the contributions made by library clients have been highly valued and greatly appreciated. The library has also received a great deal of positive press and many other libraries have adopted the program.

JOANNE RUSSO
Bland Shire Library

CECILE YAZBEK TALK @ SPRINGWOOD

On Wednesday 22 February the Springwood Branch of Blue Mountains City Library hosted an author talk with Cecile Yazbek talking about her latest book *Mezze to Milk Tart*.

Not just a book full of yummy recipes, *Mezze to Milk Tart* is part memoir of Cecile's interesting life. Born into a Lebanese South African family, Cecile worked as a social activist in South Africa before coming to Australia. Here Cecile eventually set up a successful vegetarian cooking school but she is now retired.

Cecile gave a lively and really interesting talk to a small crowd and showed us how to deal with some tricky ingredients. She happily answered our questions about food and other things—including how her belly dancing led to one gentleman having a coronary!—and signed copies of her book which were on sale courtesy of Annie of our local book shop, The Turning Page.

A yummy morning tea was provided by Library staff from recipes from Cecile's book. They all turned out pretty well and got the author's approval. Afterwards Cecile was interviewed for Listeners in the Mist, the Library's podcast channel.

HEIDI COLQUHOUN
Lower Mountains Library Coordinator, Blue Mountains City Library

GIRLS AFTERNOON IN @ BELLINGEN LIBRARY

On Thursday 27 October 2011, Bellingen Library hosted a Girls Afternoon In to raise awareness and money for the Cancer Council.

With local authors Karly Lane, Bronwyn Parry, Kerri Williams, and Suzanne Brandyn as the romance writer's panel, lots of fun and laughter was had by all.

A lucky attendee won the lucky door prize kindly donated by Karly Lane and a total of \$50 was raised for Cancer Council.

CHRISTOPHER BEVAN A KINCHELA BOY BOOK LAUNCH @ CLARENCE REGIONAL LIBRARIES

An intimate crowd joined Christopher Bevan to hear him talk about his book *A Kinchela Boy* at Grafton Library on Wednesday 14 December and Bellingen Library on Friday 16 December 2011.

In the Libraries

The book was of particular interest to our community due to the setting's close proximity to Grafton and Bellingen. Tea, coffee and cake was enjoyed by all as Christopher read from his book and answered questions in relation to his research.

VAL AMOR LARSSON'S LEGEND BOOK LAUNCH @ DORRIGO LIBRARY

Local author, Val Amor joined members from the Dorrigo community to launch her book, *Larsson's Legend: a Seafaring Adventure into the Spirit of a Man*, on Saturday 3 December 2012.

Morning tea was consumed as Val read from her book, answered questions and signed copies of her book for the enthused crowd.

ABC OPEN SUMMER SCHOOL FREE DIGITAL MEDIA WORKSHOPS @ CLARENCE REGIONAL LIBRARY

Throughout January and February a series of ABC Open Summer School Media Workshops were run across the Clarence Regional Library.

Sessions involved understanding the latest in social media, what is it, how best to use it, and how to share online.

There were also sessions on taking better digital photos, looking at lighting and composition and how to manage your digital photos, saving, editing, and sharing them online.

All sessions were booked out and everyone enjoyed the experience, with requests for them to be run again in the future.

TIMOR LESTE EXHIBITION FOR LOCKE

During February, Bellingen branch library shared an exhibition of images showing life in Timor Leste during the lead-up to the annual Sgt Matthew Locke MG Memorial rugby league match held at Bellingen Park.

The photographs were taken by Wendy Ricardo and husband Mario who run the East Timor Children's Fund which looks after the interests of a number of orphanages in the nation.

Born in Bellingen, the late Matt 'Grub' Locke served in the ADF peacekeeping force in Timor Leste before being killed in action in Afghanistan's Uruzgan

Province on 25 October 2007. He is a recipient of the Medal for Gallantry.

CLARENCE REGIONAL LIBRARY STAFF

ABC OPEN WORKSHOPS AT COFFS HARBOUR

The library was approached by Liz Keen, the Coffs Harbour ABC Open producer, to host 6 workshops to teach people the basic skills of social media and digital photography. ABC Open is an initiative of the ABC to encourage people to add content to the Australian wide database.

The workshops were aimed at people new to the world of social media and covered the basics of Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and ABC Open. There was a basic photography workshop and a two part workshop on time-lapse photography.

Liz Keen handled all the bookings and promoted the workshops through the ABC while the library promoted them in house and through the library e-news.

The workshops were held in the central library after normal library hours so the 12 public access terminals could be utilized. At each session there was usually two or three people using their own laptop or tablet and the NSW.net wireless service as well as people using the library terminals. Liz limited the bookings to 15 people to ensure she would be able to give everyone individual attention. The library staff person was able to support Liz by providing some basic IT troubleshooting.

The majority of the attendees were seniors, many of whom had their own PC or laptop. Each workshop was of two hours duration. Liz used the data projector to show examples and then individuals had some



LOCAL AUTHOR VAL AMOR AT DORRIGO



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hands on time. There were notes for each workshop covering the skills that Liz had demonstrated.

For the library, the workshops were very successful, even though we had some horrendous weather during this time and one of the workshops had to be postponed while on other evenings it poured the whole time. We got great feedback from the attendees and Liz and we intend to host similar projects with ABC Open in the future. The web address for ABC Open is <http://open.abc.net.au> —there are ABC producers all over regional Australia, click on regions to see if there is one in your area.

JACK THOMPSON POETRY EVENING

We started this year on a high note by having a poetry evening with well known actor Jack Thompson reading some traditional Australian bush poetry. The library has been selling the Australian poetry recorded by Jack Thompson for approximately 18 months and this is the first time we've had Jack at the library. The evening was hugely successful and was booked out after only a small amount of advertising. We don't have a purpose built library and we operate in limited space, however we managed to get nearly 120 people in to hear Jack Thompson. At least half the audience said they seldom came to the library, proving that Jack was indeed a huge drawcard.

Jack talked about the National Year of Reading and the importance of reading poetry aloud to fully appreciate the poem. Jack's voice is so rich it really does the poetry justice and it was an absolute delight to hear him recite *The Man From Snowy River*. Jack held a Q & A session after the recitation followed by an opportunity to purchase one of his many recordings and have it signed by Jack.



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We're very grateful that Jack found time in his very busy schedule to come to the library—he is a delightful man and it was a pleasure having him at the library.

We make approximately 40% on the poetry recordings that we sell www.finepoets.com

AUTHOR TALK WITH CHRISTOPHER BEVAN

A morning tea with author Christopher Bevan, speaking about the inspiration for his book *A Kinchela Boy* was a nice hiatus amid the hectic lead up to Christmas. Christopher's talk was enlightening, and we were pleased to support his journey to share his knowledge, and inform us of the situation surrounding the stolen children and the conditions experienced by the boys at Kinchela. One of our guests was pleased to meet Christopher, as her brother had been a resident of Kinchela. Christopher had worked as a solicitor in the Kempsey region, and had gathered many stories of the plight of the families and their experiences. He chose to turn his knowledge into a story as a way to inform the public and describe the events of this period of our country's history.

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH AT COFFS

Late last year Coffs Harbour Library held a very successful talk about *Demystifying depression and anxiety*, which attracted an audience of around 100 people. This is the third year that we have held this type of event and it still amazes us the number of people in our community that are in need of mental health information.



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- 01 CHRISTOPHER BEVAN SPEAKING AT GRAFTON
- 02 JACK THOMPSON AND COFFS HARBOUR LIBRARY STAFF
- 03 CHRISTOPHER BEVAN SPEAKING AT COFFS

In the Libraries

From our previous years experience we knew that we were going to need more space than what was currently available in our rather compact library, so we approached the Regional Art Gallery, who were happy to let us use their beautiful space, with the added advantage that they only live across the foyer from us!

Coffs Harbour Library has built up a very positive relationship with the Mental Health Service at our hospital, as well as staff at the Division of General Practice, which makes it so much easier to plan and organise mental health events.

This year the three speakers organised included a General Practitioner, Psychologist and a Clinical Nurse consultant, with the information being shared including general information about depression and anxiety, how to access mental health services in the region as well as lifestyle changes that might be of benefit. A particular highlight of the evening was the practical exercises on mindfulness, which seemed to resonate with audience members.

As part of the night, people also had the opportunity to take home various mental health pamphlets, from organisations such as Beyond Blue, The Black Dog Institute and NSW Health. The library also set up a display of its mental health resources available for loan, with many people on the night taking the opportunity to reserve these items.

Overall it was a very positive experience with people already asking when we are going to be running the next one!

CAROLYN ELMES
Coffs Harbour City Library

NEW SERVICE LAUNCH: BEACH EXPRESS

Gosford City Library launched their new service, Beach Express, at Terrigal Beach on Wednesday 21 December. The service was launched by Gosford Councillor Vicki Scott, and included a fun beach storytime and special book giveaways for both adults and children.

Beach Express is designed to provide a library service to both residents and holiday makers visiting Terrigal Beach on the Central Coast. It is a wonderful marketing opportunity, promoting

- our library services to residents and visitors
- the importance of literacy
- recreational reading
- our local region to visitors.



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The Beach Express Service operates at Terrigal Beach in front of the Terrigal Surf Life Saving Club on Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays during the Christmas holiday period from the 21 December to 20 of January, 10am to 1pm.

This new service allows Terrigal beach visitors to borrow books from the Beach Express Stall. Beach Express offers paperback fiction, picture books, junior paperback fiction, and YA paperback fiction.

Beach Express can also be used to promote a range of information on the local area including tourist information, water usage and council brochures. It can also be used to provide information from the Cancer Council on sun-safe practices as well as safety information provided by the local lifeguards.

ALAN FLORES AND SHARON DRAYTON
Gosford City Library

BONDING WITH BUDDHISTS

Generally in Public Library News we tend to report on quite focused outcomes, like major events, special projects and new collections. This time, however, I thought I might raise a very interesting relationship developing in our community, and suggest that others may also find this a group worth chatting to, if they have a presence in your community.

A few years ago we were approached by our local Buddhist Centre to see if we could host an event. The long and the short of it is that the event was successful and since then we found ourselves hosting Buddhist events on a regular basis. These events have tended to draw audiences of 50 - 70 people.

I won't say it's been all smooth sailing - we've had challenges with people simply not booking, but we're steadily addressing this issue and it is great to see the library being so actively used as a public space.

I guess this relationship could be perceived as having a religious bias, which is fair enough, but it's really not like that at all. The Buddhists are just another community group using the library and the central topics of the evening are not about converting to Buddhism but rather about life issues from a Buddhist perspective. Nor does the library endorse the content.

It might just be worth thinking about.

CHRIS JONES
Manager Library Services, Great Lakes Library Services

NEW GUYRA LIBRARY

The new Guyra Shire Library has been officially opened by the Member for Northern Tableland, Richard Torbay. The new library which was partly funded through a \$200,000 Country Libraries Fund Grant, is located within the Council Administration building. This was achieved by redesigning the building and more efficient use of space. It is more than double the size of the old library, and is equipped with wifi access, upgraded computers and RFID gates and circulation. It is modern, bright and spacious.

The opening was attended by Public Library and Community Learning Director, Frances Sims, who spoke at the event. Also in attendance were community leaders and representatives from neighbouring Councils at Armidale, Glen Innes, Uralla and Inverell.

The new facility marks the end of an era for library services in Guyra. The previous building was a cottage purchased by the Council in 1956 and named after Thomas Leslie Starr and opened as a library in 1957.

BRONWEN CLARK
Librarian, Guyra



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FACEBOOK AND TWITTER WORKSHOP AT HENTY LIBRARY

Sonya Gee, *Open ABC* producer for the Riverina, presented a free workshop to take the mystery out of *Facebook* and *Twitter* for residents of Henty and surrounds. Twenty members of the local community, along with staff, headed to the library on *Library Lovers' Day* for the free social media workshop.

Attendees on the day included young parents, parents of teenage children and grandparents – all groups hoping to learn a little more about who uses social media and why; how to keep on top of privacy settings; and importantly, how to better understand social etiquette online.

The workshop was a complete success with many of the attendees taking away important skills and knowledge that will assist in keeping themselves, their children and grandchildren safer online by utilising the privacy settings within social media technologies. The day culminated with a morning tea for participants that provided further opportunity for discussion with Sonya Gee. Many thanks to Sonya Gee and ABC Riverina for facilitating such a valuable event for country people.

SUSAN KANE
Henty Library

SUBDIVISION PLANS DIGITISED AND VIEWED IN GOOGLE EARTH

The Hills Shire Library has digitised early subdivision plans for the local area, using images obtained from the State Library of NSW, and overlaid them on Google Earth <<http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Subdivision-Plans-1860s---1930s.html>> By applying the usual Google Earth controls to zoom, rotate, and

01 GOSFORD LIBRARY
STAFF ON THE BEACH

02 MEMBER FOR
NORTHERN
TABLELANDS
RICHARD TORBAY
MP WITH FRANCES
SIMS, GUYRA SHIRE
COUNCIL MAYOR
HANS HIETBRINK,
CASUAL LIBRARY
ASSISTANT CLARE
SWINTON, LIBRARY
MANAGER BRONWEN
CLARK AND GUYRA
SHIRE COUNCIL
GENERAL MANAGER
DAVID CUSHWAY.

03 SONIA GEE
PRESENTING AT
HENTY LIBRARY
ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA

In the Libraries

tilt the view, it can be seen how the plans follow the contours of the ground. When used in conjunction with newspapers on Trove, land title records, parish maps, aerial photos and Council Rate Books they enable a better understanding of the social history of the area.

This new development complements our Hills Voices Online project comprising oral histories, videos, photos and virtual tours that reveal the heritage and history of The Hills Shire.

NOELENE PULLEN

Development Officer, Local Studies, The Hills Shire Council

LIBRARY LOVERS AT LEETON

This year for Library Lovers Day, Friends of Leeton Library held a romance trivia afternoon. Questions and games were themed around St Valentine, romance and romance reading. About 30 ladies (and one brave man) came for the afternoon.

There was much hilarity particularly as one game had all the room making up their own ending to the poem *Roses are red, violets are blue* The chance to win a totally tacky silk rose that sang *Love me Tender* ensured fierce competition!

As someone had recently donated a box of as new Mills and Boon novels to the library we used these plus a rose scented candle as a wrapped take home gift for all participants. Library staff and friends were very happy with the afternoon.

LYN MIDDLETON

Manager, Leeton Library

CENTRELINK TALKS @ THE HILL

On Monday 17 October 2011 we had 30 people attend our free Centrelink seminar in Mandarin at Constitution Hill Branch Library. Ten of these people lived in our local area.

Di Hong from Centrelink gave a talk about understanding the age pension in Australia. The content of the talk included age and residency, income and assets tests, how payment is calculated and concession cards. Rights and obligations were also covered. The audience were very impressed with the talk and they all enjoyed morning tea afterwards.

JO BERTONCELJ, NADA ANTOUN, DINA KRSTINS & ZHORIK TERRAZZOLO

The Constitution Hill Branch Library Team



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VIRTUAL BRANCH LIBRARY @ PORT MACQUARIE

In response to a perceived lack of Wi-Fi access in the CBD, the library being about three blocks away, we decided to create a Wi-Fi hotspot in the Glasshouse. This is a centrally located performance arts theatre, gallery and visitors information centre operated by council. With the assistance of the wonderful staff of NSW.net we were able to set up an access point fairly cheaply and now offer library branded free Wi-Fi access both inside the building and out onto the forecourt. This "branch" is now recording higher wireless usage than our Laurieton Branch.

The long term strategy is for the Glasshouse to take up the maintenance costs and for the library to provide the line rental. As a logical extension to this service we now offer virtual membership to visitors. This membership allows temporary access to our ebook collection and online services. Anyone can join by phone or email as we require no proof of ID. All such memberships self destruct at the end of



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the allotted period. We have now achieved a branch library with no physical books and no physical people, something that many librarians have been desperately seeking for many a long year.

FROM PORT MACQUARIE NEWS, 28 NOVEMBER 1968: 'THE UGLY LIBRARIAN'

'A proposal that the next council librarian be an ugly one was submitted by Ald N Matesich at Tuesday night's works committee. He was commenting on the resignation of Miss Lyn Prince on her pending marriage.

Ald Matesich said that while it was very pleasing to have librarians who win beauty contests, an older and less attractive woman would be more stable. "You know, someone with who has big eyes and wears glasses," he said.

Applications are being called for a librarian to replace Miss Prince.'

JIM MAGUIRE

Library Manager, Port Macquarie-Hastings Library

FOOD FOR FINES ON THE GO!

Riverina Regional Library (RRL) Mobile Library had its most successful drive for the *Food for Fines* campaign in the lead up to Christmas 2011!

Rob Chapman is our enthusiastic Mobile Library Operator and he promoted this service with gusto. After staff from RRL Headquarters contacted all the schools for a chat about the importance of the Mobile Library to their small communities and keeping their students reading, following up with promotional material in the post, Rob was inundated with donations of non-perishable food items in lieu of fines from across all 28 Mobile Library service points, including our most remote.

Christmas spirit rose as library patrons took advantage of the *Food for Fines* campaign, eliminating their own library fines and giving an early Christmas gift to needy families in their community.

The enviable array of non-perishable food collected from the 28 small communities across the Riverina Regional Library Mobile's route was distributed by local charities who identified the families in their communities in need leading up to Christmas.

Congratulations to Rob and to the Outreach Services Division of RRL for all their hard work in promoting this initiative and a heartfelt thank you to



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our library members for participating and providing Christmas cheer to their fellow residents.

SHARON SMITH

Children's and Youth Services Librarian, Riverina Regional Library

SUMMER READING CLUB FOR ADULTS 2012

At the Nowra branch of the Shoalhaven Libraries we hosted our first ever summer reading club for the big kids--the grownups. As this was our first year running something like this, we wanted it to be easy for staff and easy for borrowers.

We ran the program over a three month period with prizes awarded at the end of each month. Borrowers were handed flyers as they visited the library. On one side of the flyer they wrote their contact details and on the other, the title of the library book they had read with a few lines on what they thought about the book. Each borrower could enter as many times as they liked. They were also told that there is no wrong answer so even if they didn't like the book, we wanted to hear about it.

The winners were selected by a draw so the more entries a borrower submitted increased in their odds of winning. We had a local bookstore supply us with book vouchers and this encouraged borrowers to enter.

All flyers also asked borrowers if they agreed to have their reviews posted on the library's social media sites. This meant an increase of content on the library's Facebook, twitter and library reader's advisory blog.

These reviews are something that we can post throughout the National Year of Reading so

- 01 TWO FRIENDS OF LEETON LIBRARY, MARG AND SYLVIA READY FOR TRIVIA
- 02 THE GLASSHOUSE ARTS, CONFERENCE AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE
- 03 RIVERINA'S ROB CHAPMAN IN SANTA ATTIRE
- 04 SHOALHAVEN LIBRARY ASSISTANTS KELLY WOODS AND CHER MURPHY DRAW THE WINNING ENTRY



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In the Libraries

borrowers will have recommended reading without it being staff generated. The set up of the program made the process as quick and easy.

We had 243 entries and three very happy winners and look forward to repeating the program soon.

CHER MURPHY
Library Assistant, Shoalhaven Libraries

FREEGAL LAUNCHED AT SUTHERLAND LIBRARY

A big cake, interested teens and the Deputy Mayor of the Sutherland Shire officially launched the Sutherland Shire library's newest resource—Freegal. With strong use in the first three months since the launch, this free music download service has certainly sparked the community's interest, and with regular promotion and word of mouth we hope it continues to be a success.

SUTHERLAND OPEN DAY

Sutherland Library had a huge day on 14 February, as staff opened the doors even wider to hold an Open Day to celebrate the launch of the National Year of Reading. The day was a great success with over 1700 people visiting the library to find out about the wonderful resources offered to members. A roving magician, free sausage sizzle, live music and library tours kept people busy and entertained as they waited for a free spot on one of the popular info booths manned by staff talking about the website, online databases, collection materials and local studies resources. Each attendee was given a booklet to get stamped at each booth, to then be entered in a draw for a JB Hi Fi Voucher.

The Open Day was a wonderful way to promote library resources to both current and new members. We are very excited about the rest of the activities to be held during the National Year of Reading at Shire Libraries.

LITERATURE IN THE LIBRARY – A LITL EVENT!

Monthly 'LITL' events will be held throughout Sutherland Shire Libraries during 2012, highlighting popular literary authors and characters over the years. The first LITL event, a talk on the life and works of Banjo Paterson was held on 17 February (Banjo's 148th birthday) and was fully booked. Speaker Cliff Crane got the crowd laughing and

singing along when he entered to a rowdy rendition of 'The Road to Gundagai' led by a plucky banjo player. The next LITL Event to be held at Cronulla Library will be on Robin Hood, presented by a local collector and researcher with a passion for Robin and his band of merry men!

SUMMER READING CLUB – CHILDREN, TEENS AND FOR THE FIRST TIME – ADULTS!

Another very successful Summer Reading club for kids and teens was held across the school holidays at all Sutherland Shire Libraries, with over 1000 children reading 13,000 books. Kids and teens had the chance to get their hands on some great prizes including an iPod Touch, a digital camera and a Sony eReader.

For the first time ever at Shire Libraries, an Adult Summer Reading Club was also held to encourage adults to develop a reading habit in preparation for the National Year of Reading 2012. Adults could enter as many library books as they had read for the chance to win a Sony eReader as well as weekly prizes. A total of 1225 entries were captured during the time, which was deemed a fantastic success – the goal being 500 entries! The Adult Summer Reading Club is sure to continue as a fixture at Shire libraries each year.

TAMING TECHNOLOGY

Sutherland Libraries are taming the next wild frontier – technology! Monthly information sessions aimed at seniors in the community will unravel and de-mystify a variety of technological topics including iPads, iPods & iPhones, eBooks and eReaders and digital cameras. Both expert speakers and library staff have been presenting to the audience and so far these sessions are extremely popular, booking out well in advance.

JESSICA SMALL
Community Programs Coordinator, Sutherland Shire Libraries

OUR FIRST QR CODE!

After the popularity of our Optimise Your iPhone event, we have started to include the use of QR codes for promotions and user education. Smart phones are everywhere! Our first QR code has been placed at the Quick Picks collection and links to a YouTube video showing patrons how simple it is to borrow a Quick Picks bag at the self loans stations. We are having



WAGGA'S FIRST QR CODE



MY CAREER MATCH LAUNCH AT WAGGA

such fun making the videos that highlight different parts of our collection and it is so simple to generate a QR code and place it next to the highlighted section.

MY CAREER MATCH

How do I choose a career that's right for me? What are my strengths? What is a winning resume template? These questions are answered by My Career Match.

In December Wagga City Library launched MyCareerMatch to local community service providers. MyCareerMatch is the ultimate career assessment that helps you determine your career path and success. It focuses on what you're good at and the careers that match your natural strengths, and then tells you how to write a winning resume that gets you the job. The online survey takes 15 minutes to complete and your career and resume reports are emailed to you as PDF documents. Professional quality brochures and computer screen savers for our public access computers assist in promotion of this great service to our library members.

CWA COUNTRY OF THE YEAR INFORMATION SESSION

In February 2012 Wagga Wagga City Library held its annual Country Women's Association (CWA) Country of the Year information session on Timor-Leste. The purpose of the session was to highlight the resources that are available to the ladies for their study both in the library and from their home computers. This year, as well as the more traditional sources, the focus of the session was finding information on social networking sites such as YouTube and Flickr. This really brought the country to life. It was a fabulous morning session with an amazing group of ladies.

WELCOME TO WAGGA WAGGA COMMUNITY EXPO

With RAAF Base Wagga and the Army Recruit Training Centre located in Wagga, Wagga City Council, in collaboration with the Defence Community Organisation, presented an evening of entertainment and fun to welcome new Defence families to Wagga. The event included stalls from local retailers and community social clubs promoting what was on offer in Wagga from sporting clubs to

In the Libraries

job network providers. There were also rides for the children, face painting and a petting zoo. The crowd was also entertained by the Kapooka Army Band. The library had a stall highlighting services such as book clubs, children's storytime sessions, baby bounce, the community service directory produced by library staff members and the timetable for the mobile library which stops near both bases. This was the first time the Defence Welcome was held outdoors and plans are already underway for the next one as it was such a great success. Facebook feedback: *"Well done to all involved, I'm sure there are lots of new families feeling very welcomed to Wagga"*.

SOCIAL NETWORKING

Since attending a Facebook for Business training session, Wagga City Library staff have really begun to embrace the various social networking opportunities. In an exciting partnership with ABC Open producer Sonya Gee, library staff are also developing their video editing skills, as are our library members. In January, Sonya ran two Summer School information sessions in the library: Technology Explained and Making Your Smart Phone Smarter, which covered recording and sharing audio, making sense of apps and tips on improving your videos. With Sonya's tuition our staff have also been involved in the ABC Open Projects *One Small Window* and *The Moment Behind the Photo*.

- *One Small Window* is a project which invites you to make a short video, recorded in one shot that details a moment in life. (Look for contributors Jeannie Nicholls and Margot)
- *The Moment Behind the Photo* is a project that invites you to share a photo from your collection and the story behind it using photo and audio or photo and text. (Look for contributors Amy Heap, Claire Campbell and Margot)

Check out *Wagga City Library* on Facebook and *Waggawiz* on YouTube.

MARGOT LUMLEY
Information Services Librarian, Wagga City Library

SUMMER READING CLUB FOR ALL AGES

Fantastic prizes, lots of books read, and three very happy library members sums up the Wagga Wagga City Library Summer Reading Club programs run this year.

Hundreds of people participated in the three Summer Reading Clubs run by over the Christmas school holiday period.

Great prizes were on offer for the three different age groups, with by far the most popular prize being the electric guitar provided by local music store Allans Music & Billy Hyde for the Reading Rocks youth section. The guitar drew plenty of attention while on display during the competition and was won by Charis Guilfoyle. The junior prize for the Amazing Read Competition was a book of ten movie tickets and was won by Emilia Kelly.

A lot of interest surrounded the adult prize for the Relaxing Summer Reads Competition which was a subscription pack to the local theatre, won by Mark Buchanan and donated by the Wagga Civic Theatre.

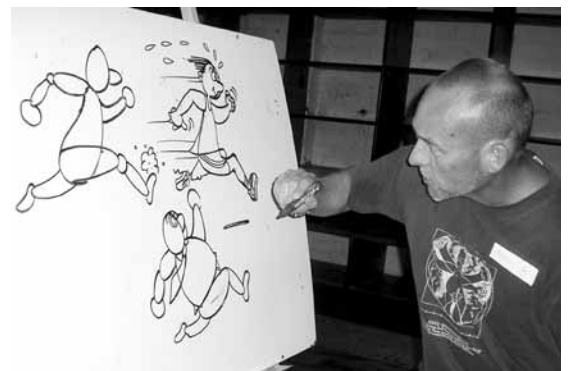
Wagga Wagga City Library congratulates its prize winners and looks forward to an even bigger and better Summer Reading Club next year!

CARTOONING WORKSHOP FOR KIDS AND PARENTS

Andrew Hore presented a cartooning workshop for parents and children at the Wagga Wagga City Library on Thursday 19 January. There was an impressive turn out of eager amateur cartoonists, with 65 people ready to learn!

Andrew presented basic skills of drawing caricatures of people, and talked about how he used his drawing skills when he worked as a youth mentor. He even drew a caricature of our esteemed Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, much to the delight to most of the parents in the audience!

It was a fantastic event, enjoyed by all, especially the sausage sizzle which capped off the night – the juice boxes especially being a hit on the hot day!



CARTOONIST ANDREW HORE AT WORK

RIVERINA REGIONAL LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

As always, we celebrated the end of another fabulous reading year with a big party. Two hundred book club members crowded in to the council meeting room as we have now outgrown our library's usual party area. We drank wine provided by the Friends of the Library, ate hors d'oeuvres and shared our most loved and loathed books of the year – seven titles made it on to both lists!

A highlight of the evening was giving the microphone to club members who wished to say something about their club. Member after member came forward to say how important their book club is to them, not only because of the reading, powerful as it is, but also because of the social connection. One member said that he did have one complaint, that it's a shame his club can't meet every week instead of once a month.

The clubs are all up and running again this year, with a new club formed at the Strays and Waifs meeting. In the National Year of Reading we can think of nothing better than having over 500 people in our region revelling in reading together.

CAITLIN ENEVER AND AMY HEAP
Wagga Wagga City Library

WALCHA BOOK GROUP ON THE MOVE

In December 2011 Walcha book group made a visit to Nundle, a small picturesque village on the Peel River at the foot of the Great Dividing Range some 438km north of Sydney near Tamworth. Nundle is a two hour drive from Walcha in the New England area of NSW.

Members enjoyed a leisurely stroll around the historic Nundle, visited the renowned Nundle Wool Mill and Nundle Library before joining the Nundle book group for a festive Xmas Lunch at the Peel Inn.

Around 20 book lovers hardly drew breath over lunch and a round table discussion on our favourite books for 2011 closed a wonderful visit.

Friendships formed, we will now meet as friends not strangers in 2012 when Nundle book group visit Walcha for Christmas in July.

A great day was had by all with the trip generously sponsored by Walcha Council.

DONNA GARRAD
Library Services Manager



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ART ACROSS THE AGES AT WALGETT

Walgett Library worked with the community to create an art piece depicting the Walgett Shire. Local seniors worked with children to pass on their many skills to complete a piece of embroidery of the whole shire. Learning skills from each other both children and adults had a great time working together. This proved to be a tremendous tool for closing the gap across the ages and community.

CHRISTINE DUGAN
Walgett Library

01 READING ROCKS
WINNER CHARIS
GUILFOYLE AND THE
GUITAR PRIZE

02 SOME OF THE
WALCHA BOOK
GROUP MEMBERS

03 WALGETT SENIORS
AND CHILDREN WITH
THE ART PIECE

In the Libraries

01 WARRINGAH FAMILY HISTORY GROUP ENJOYS A VISIT TO THE FEMALE FACTORY, PARRAMATTA

02 WINNING PHOTO IN WAVERLEY LIBRARY'S COMPETITION: CAFÉ TUTORIAL BY DONALD ROSS



/01

FAMILY HISTORY THRIVES AT WARRINGAH

Where can you learn something new, hear an interesting yarn, share a family story and have morning tea? With the Warringah Family History Group. Until relatively recently there was no organised way for genealogists to meet in our local area. The Warringah Family History Group was formed in response to this need. The group is facilitated by the Local Studies service of the Library with dedicated volunteer coordinator Kaye Vernon, from Teapot Genealogy. Group members join the Friends of the Library and this minimal joining fee covers insurance costs. The combination is proving a success.

Meetings held every second month regularly fill our Local Studies room to capacity. Cassie Mercer, editor of *Inside History*, presented to the group in October and in February women from the Central Coast Historical Society discussed Balmain Cemetery. As well as informative talks, the meetings are also a chance to chat to others about the joys and frustrations of genealogical research. Invariably someone has a helpful suggestion – we've even found unknown relatives among the group!

The group also goes on research trips and excursions to historical places. The library provides support by hiring a bus and the costs are shared

between those who attend. Researchers prepare for visits to State Records NSW by using the family history resources at our Dee Why branch. Late last year we took members to Maitland Family History Fair, the Justice and Police Museum and the Museum of Sydney. This February a pleasant day trip to Parramatta with 40 group members took in a tour of Government House, Elizabeth Farm and the Female Factory.

Volunteer coordinator, Kaye Vernon, does an invaluable job organising speakers for meetings, planning excursions, assisting researchers and sending out updates. We are also lucky to have one of the top Trove text correctors, Ann Manley, as another knowledgeable volunteer. She meets with researchers and guides them through how to use the library's resources to their full potential. As a relatively new recruit to the library, I have been impressed by the dedication of the group's volunteers and the enthusiastic community involvement. The Warringah Family History Group is certainly thriving.

ROSE CULLEN

Assistant Local Studies Librarian, Warringah Library Service



/02

WAVERLEY LIBRARY ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION

There were 33 entries to the Library's 2011 photographic competition in December, which had the theme of 'Waverley'. Entrants were encouraged to capture aspects of Waverley's architecture, people, places, parks or beaches.

Donald Ross won the \$500 first prize with his photo of a couple engrossed in their computer at a local café. The judge, award-winning Sydney photographer Steve Turner, also nominated five runners up who were awarded \$100 each.

The competition sparked the interest of the *Wentworth Courier* who ran a short piece promoting the exhibition of the entries in the Library's new foyer exhibition space. The exhibition continued until mid-January.

LIBRARY MANAGER 'TAKES THE LEAD' FOR WAVERLEY!

In March this year, Waverley Library's Manager of Operations Heather Davis was nominated by her manager, Linda Bathur, to participate in *Taking the Lead*, a new team-based leadership program designed specifically for NSW public libraries.

Devised and coordinated by the State Library of NSW, the program was designed to unlock the

creativity and leadership potential of participants and to cultivate fresh thinking, enhance self confidence, develop leadership skills and start a peer network of library workers from across the state.

After five months of workshops, presentations and team meetings, the program concluded in October with teams presenting the results of their 'action learning' projects to library managers and peers.

Heather's team – the 'Transformers' – explored the issue of change management and professional development opportunities in the changing world of public libraries in the 21st century.

"It was a fantastic opportunity for me to develop my skills. As a relatively new manager, I was excited at the prospect of working on a project for five months and thought it would be great to meet other managers in a similar situation to me.

"It really was a fantastic experience and the chance to present our team's findings at the annual SWITCH Library conference also helped develop my public presentation skills and was a real confidence booster," Heather said.

FUTURE BRIGHT FOR MUCH-LOVED 'NIB'

After 10 fantastic years, Waverley Councillors have agreed to further discussions about how to fund this prestigious local award in coming years.

In the Libraries

Library staff are delighted with Councillors' support for the Award. Staff will investigate future funding and sponsorship options and report back to Council in April with an update on negotiations.

Originally conceived by Friends of Waverley Library, the Award recently celebrated its 10th anniversary and is one of Australia's premier literary awards.

SAM WEIR

Public Programs Coordinator, Waverley Library

HUNKY HEROES AT WEST RYDE LIBRARY

To celebrate Library Lovers' Day 2012 West Ryde Library created a fun *Hunky Heroes* competition for our library patrons. This involved displaying images of stars that had played a leading male role in a book that had since been made into film. To enter customers were invited to vote for their favourite candidate and a winner would be drawn from the votes of whomever was deemed to be the 'hunkiest.'

The display, created by Rachelle Higgon, caught the eyes of an array of library patrons and proved to be an excellent conversation starter and a great way for our staff to connect with our customers.

From the many number of votes received Johnny Depp for his role as the 'Mad Hatter' in Alice in Wonderland was deemed to be West Ryde's hunkiest hero. Overall the competition was a great success and fostered fantastic opportunities for library staff to

interact with our customers. It also created a fun vibe within our library.

CHRISTINE MACAYAN

West Ryde Library

RAPID RETURNS AT CHATSWOOD LIBRARY WITH TECHLOGIC

Handling returns is fast and easy at Chatswood Library on The Concourse with the TechLogic Automated Materials Handling System. This system, which uses RFID technology, was designed and built in the USA specifically for the new Chatswood Library and it is the first system of its type to be installed in NSW.

The TechLogic Automated Materials Handling System has two returns chutes, and utilizes conveyor belts to carefully move the items from the chutes to the returns room. Once the items reach the returns room they are automatically checked in by the RFID reader, which reads the item's RFID tag and informs the Library Management System to return the item using the Standard Interchange Protocol 2.

Once the items are returned, they are automatically sorted into appropriate bins ready for library staff to prepare for shelving. The system uses Smart Bins, which are wheeled bins with an automatic floor controlled by a photoelectric eye. These bins are easy to load and unload because the floor of the bin rises or lowers depending on the amount of items inside, maintaining an ergonomically constant level. When a bin is full, an alarm sounds and the system informs the operator of which bin needs to be replaced by an empty bin.

Considering that Chatswood Library has experienced an average increase of 50.8% in loans and returns since opening on The Concourse (with 5402 items returned on our busiest day to date), the TechLogic Automated Materials Handling System has been greatly appreciated.

We would like to thank the State Library of NSW for their generous Library Development Grant which contributed significantly towards the purchase of this system.

CLARE EVANS

Community Information and Promotions Librarian,
Willoughby City Library



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FIND MY PAST

Tuggerah Library has had access to *ancestry.com* for some years and this has proven to be very popular. We introduced the *find my past* Australia database last year and this also proved to be successful. *Find my past* speaker Vicki Eldridge came to Tuggerah last November and took our family history patrons through searching this database. Vicki also covered their United Kingdom and Ireland databases. This was a remarkably well presented talk with lots of practical advice for searching and was very well received by our patrons who bombarded Vicki with questions. With the increase of family history queries we decided to subscribe to all versions of the *find my past* databases. Access to these are now available in all five branches, unlike *ancestry.com*, which is limited to the Tuggerah Branch. The initial feedback has been very positive.

FAMILY AND LOCAL HISTORY ROOM LAUNCH

Tuggerah Library celebrated the official launch of its dedicated Family and Local History Research Room by inviting Christine Yeats, Manager Public Access, NSW Records, to cut the ribbon and present a talk. Christine made a wonderful speech about the importance of public libraries to the community in general and in promoting and assisting family and local historians everywhere. She then presented a talk entitled *Finding State Records on ancestry.com*. This was a very informative talk that booked out very quickly and we had to turn many disappointed patrons away for lack of space! Let's just say there was not too much of the official sponge cake left by the end of the day.



- 01 AHUNKY HEROES
DISPLAY AT WEST
RYDE
- 02 TECHLOGIC AT WORK
AT CHATSWOOD
LIBRARY ON THE
CONCOURSE
- 03 CHRISTINE YEATS
TALK AT WYONG
- 04 CHRISTINE YEATS,
STATE RECORDS,
CUTTING THE RIBBON
FOR THE OPENING OF
WYONG'S DEDICATED
FAMILY & LOCAL
HISTORY ROOM



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SCAMS AND RIP OFFS

Department of Fair Trading held a talk on scams and rip-offs at Tuggerah. This was well attended and patrons learned about how to spot a rip off, protecting yourself and what to do if you discover you have been the victim of a scam. Fair Trading will return to Tuggerah later in the year to present a talk on consumer rights.

HELPING COMMUTERS READ TO WORK!

For several months Tuggerah Branch has been supplying commuters at Tuggerah Station with books donated by patrons. These items are distributed via the station shop and our initial donation of one bag of books a week has increased in popularity so much that it is now a minimum of four bags a week! Each book is labelled with some marketing material to raise the profile of the Library Service, including membership forms and details of upcoming events. We have also supplied our local Council holiday/



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In the Libraries

01 MAYOR BOB GRAHAM
AND AUTHOR ERYN
LOUISE

02 LIVING HISTORY WWI
DISPLAY



caravan parks with books and are pleased to say this will be an ongoing seasonal partnership.

LIBRARY LOVERS DAY

Lake Haven and Tuggerah Libraries added some spice to Library Lovers Day with a special author talk from erotic fiction writer, Eryn Louise. Eryn Louise lives on the Central Coast and is the author of the popular book, *Raging Desires*. Talks at both locations were well attended and patrons found her talk very stimulating. Many questions were asked about the writing process and where Erin finds her inspiration!

NYR LAUNCH - SCRAPBOOKING PROJECT

Bateau Bay, Toukley and The Entrance Libraries will be celebrating the National Year of Reading with special scrapbooking workshops. The end result, which will be displayed around the Library Service, will illustrate what reading and libraries mean to the residents of Wyong Shire. Bateau Bay Library was the first cab off the rank with its workshop coinciding with Library Lovers Day. What better time to tell the world why you love to read and visit your Library!

IT'S ALL IN THE CARDS AT THE ENTRANCE LIBRARY

The Entrance Library opened its doors to the mystery of tarot. Nisaba, a local tarot reader, held a discussion as to what the cards can tell us about our lives past, present and future. With a bit of time to spare at the end of the talk, Nisaba read a tarot or two of patrons, much to their delight. Morning tea was enjoyed after the event with patrons swapping stories about their tarot experiences.

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Reference Librarian, Wyong Library Service



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LAKE HAVEN LIBRARY LIVING HISTORY

The trenches of WWI were brought to life at Lake Haven Library, by a series of presentations by local historian Shane Blackman. Shane conducted very family-friendly talks and interactive display using the many WWI artefacts he has collected over the years. He was also available for any questions that were posed after the talk and remained to informally chat to people looking over the displays. The sessions were really well attended, despite the terrible weather, and the event has proved to be a massive success.

DARYL KANE
Supervisor, Lake Haven

Children's News

SUMMER READING CLUB AT AUBURN

The Summer Reading Club (SRC) was a big hit with kids at Auburn Library this year. The Library ran "Top Secret Activities" for SRC members and required the kids to follow the clues posted around the library, and in some instances, hide behind objects so as not to be seen by non-SRC members (adults!) to get to the top secret location. Four hundred and thirty five kids and teens registered this year with almost 7000 books borrowed between them all. The big drawcard this year was the promise of a water fight at the end of SRC party, with over 100 kids and teens showing up in their swimmers armed with super soakers!! Everyone, including the staff, got completely drenched and the kids had an awesome time. We are really looking forward to next year's water fight and will remember to wear our swimmers just in case!

JENNY ALLEN
Children's & Young Adult Services Librarian, Auburn Library

ANGRY BIRDS @ BATHURST LIBRARY

During the summer school holidays Bathurst Library held an *Angry Birds & Thai String Dolls* workshop for the kids. This activity was extremely popular and booked out straight away. Children enjoyed creating their version of Angry Birds, based on the popular I-Phone game characters.

However, our birds were made using woolen pompoms! Using red, yellow and black for the birds and green for the enemy pigs, some birds were super angry, while other children chose to make their birds 'happy' instead.

After finishing their pompom birds and pigs, the children constructed towers and obstacles using plastic cups and hurled the birds into the cups to crash them down onto the enemy pigs –replicating the objective of the game. The children found this most enjoyable and continued to crash and re-construct the cups.



ANGRY BIRDS ACTIVITY
AT BATHURST



As a side project to this activity the kids also made Thai string dolls using embroidery thread. The kids loved getting creative with the colours and shapes they could form with the heads. There were mummies, ninjas, princesses and one eyed monsters!

All in all a very successful program and a fun filled afternoon!

NATALIE CONN
Outreach Programs Officer, Bathurst Library

Children's News

01 ANNIE SHARKEY
OF TURNING
PAGE BOOKSHOP,
SPRINGWOOD
WITH CHRIS AMOS
AND HIS CHILDREN
MARSLAIDH, CALLAN
AND JESSIE AMOS.

BLAND CHILDREN'S UPDATE

Annual author visit

Children's author, Michael Wagner was Bland Shire Libraries 2012 author in residence. Michael visited every school in the shire during his week-long visit in October and was very well received. In total Michael visited 19 separate groups and spoke to a total of 699 school children across the Bland Shire.

It was a pleasure hosting Michael during the week and I would happily recommend him to other libraries wanting a fun and engaging children's author.

Summer Reading Club

A total of 93 children enrolled in this year's Summer Reading Club. The children who participated ranged in age from 3 to 15 years. This was the first time that preschool aged children had been included and it worked well. We adapted the reading log to reflect this age group and whole families were able to participate. We were able to offer great incentives along the way and were fortunate to have the support of the local pool, the local newsagent and Sound Text Media who provided us with generous prizes.

A finale party was held on 10 February at which winners were announced and prizes awarded to the children who participated in the reading club.

School holiday program

The library organised a range of holiday programs during January to complement the Summer Reading Club. These programs consisted of a games morning, fun night at the library, pet owner workshop and a back to school workshop. The games morning and fun night at the library were popular and attracted over 40 children. The pet owner talk was rescheduled until the April School holidays where it will be included in an education talk being presented by WIRES.

In partnership with Vacation Care an excursion was organised to the library during the first week of vacation care. This was a great opportunity for non library users to access the service and to also participate in planned activities. We organised a race around the library which was a fun way for the children to feel comfortable at the library. They also had free time to use computers and play on the play station and of course to read and lounge around. Future programs are planned for later in the year.

JOANNE RUSSO
Bland Library



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SUMMER READING IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

Blue Mountains City Libraries kicked off the National Year of Reading with our hugely successful "Summer Reading Challenge". When children registered for the challenge, they received a kit containing a logsheet, book marks, tattoos and wrist bands. The children were asked to read 20 Library books (suitable for their age) and on returning the completed log sheet, they would receive a \$5 gift voucher to purchase a book of their choice at our local book shops Turning Page at Springwood and Megalong Books at Leura. The enthusiasm between children, parents and staff has been exceptional with 514 children registered and nearly 8,800 Library books read in the two months of the challenge.

The challenge concluded with each child receiving a certificate for their participation and a Mayoral afternoon tea with awards presented to our Best Reader, Best Family Readers and Encouragement Award.

SUE REIN
Library Assistant, Children and Young Adults Services,
Blue Mountains

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AT CANADA BAY

Children in Canada Bay enjoyed the Introduction to Drama Workshop presented by Monkey Baa Theatre for Young People during the January holiday break. The children were encouraged to use their imagination while taking part in creative play.

The Are We There Yet? literacy and library based program was lots of fun for all ages. Narelle Adams used books, storytelling, original songs and rhymes to

take the children on an adventure to find an amazing read.

SUMMER READING CLUB

The City of Canada Bay libraries celebrated the end of the Summer Reading Club with a party for all children who completed their Reading Record over the January holiday break. Our Library Manager, Philip, presented certificates to the children and prizes to the winners of the lucky prize draws. To mark the National Year of Reading we invited families to take part in the Club with a special family prize draw. Overall we had 108 children read approximately 1350 books. Thank you to Taronga Zoo and Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre for donating prizes.

WENDY BANISTER
Children's Librarian, City of Canada Bay

SUMMER READING CLUB @ CLARENCE REGIONAL LIBRARY

Over 200 children from Bellingen, Clarence Valley and Nambucca Shires took part in the Summer Reading Club, with over 1000 books being read.

In Bellingen Shire, children participated in the colouring in and book review competition with some great prizes up for grabs.

End of Summer Reading Club parties were held to celebrate and announce prize winners at each branch.

KNITTING FOR KIDS @ YAMBA LIBRARY

The *Wraps for love* knitting group meets in Yamba Library once a month to knit squares for rugs for charity. The ladies from this group provided tuition for 8 children interested in learning to knit. The session was enjoyed by both the teachers and the students with requests for more lessons in the future.

D & D @ GRAFTON LIBRARY

Friday 20 January saw 20 people turn up for the D&D Delve at Grafton Library. Three games ran simultaneously with the final encounter involving all the survivors. We finished at 1am! Much pizza, chips and soft drink was consumed and the high level of talking and laughter indicated that people were enjoying themselves. Plans are already afoot for the next event...



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BAG MAKING @ ILUKA & MACLEAN LIBRARIES

The kids had an absolute ball and are already requesting another workshop next holidays! Some of the girls had never sewn a button on anything in their lives so they have learnt a new skill.

JACQUE DELANEY BOOK LAUNCH

Local children's author, Jacque Delaney launched her first novel, *Professor Yish Kabbible in the Curse of the Scruttles* at Bellingen, Dorrigo and Urunga branch libraries during February 2012. As the unwilling recruit of an ancient Scruttle Army Sergeant, Professor Yish Kabibble is thrust into a world where he is forced to fend off all manner of subterranean creatures and avoid life threatening hazards as he proceeds on his perilous journey to lift The Curse of the Scruttles.

Attendees were enthralled as Jacque read snippets from her book and shared how she created Professor Yish Kabibble and the Scruttles.

KATHRYN BREWARD
Regional Librarian, Clarence Regional Library

PICTURE BOOKS BY THEME @ COBAR LIBRARY

Cobar Shire & TAFE Library is one of the first small libraries in New South Wales to tackle shelving picture books by theme rather than author.

Yes, it was daunting, but we trust the result will be worth it.

All picture books are now sorted into categories: Growing Up, Rhymes & Songs, Friends & Family, Celebrate, Transport, Stories, Favourites, Folk & Fairytales, Nature, or Concepts.



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- 02 D & D DELVE AT GRAFTON
- 03 BAGS MAKING AT ILUKA
- 04 COBAR PICTURE BOOKS REARRANGED BY THEME



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Children's News

Parents have reacted positively to the change, and circulation figures for the picture books are already showing a boost.

JANE FLORANCE
Library Manager, Cobar Shire & TAFE Library

CITY CENTRE STORYTIME

What a great way to start National Year of Reading, with Storytime in Coffs Harbour City Centre, held during the January school holidays. With nice sunny weather on our side, we had a good role up of 300 people attend the two sessions. We were joined by 'Splash' from the Pet Porpoise Pool, and 'Max' from the Big Banana, giving a unique local component to the event. With show bags, balloons, National Year of Reading stickers and gift vouchers to give away, it was a truly festive event. Our Storytime team read about 20 books each session, interspersed with songs, rhymes & finger plays. The library's puppet collection kept the little ones happy as well. It was great to be a part of a collaborative venture such as this, with the support of Council's City Centre Marketing Team to help spread the word and provide logistic support on the day. We look forward to bringing Storytime to the City Centre next school holidays to keep our fans happy.

SUMMER READING CLUB AT COFFS

It hardly seems like eight years that this fantastic initiative has been encouraging young readers in our libraries. One of the great pleasures this year was to hear a young child proclaim, to the entire library "I'm big enough to join the Summer Reading Club". With over 200 children registering to participate, it is good to see that numbers have remained at this level over the past five years. The fun inclusion in their

membership pack of an 'Amazing Book Race Track' for children to race around as they borrowed books, helped boost our loan stats during the Summer Reading Club.

Our celebration and presentation night this year took the shape of a Movie Night with 80 kids enjoying *The Zookeeper*. With strong support from the local businesses, we were able to provide gift vouchers or book prizes for all the voracious readers, and for children who wrote book reviews either to display in the library or to add to our catalogue. With the 'Amazing' theme, we had some amazing dress-ups at the party – including the staff!

CAROLYN ELMES
Coffs Harbour City Library

CHRISTMAS CREATIONS AND CARTOONING @ THE COOLAMON LIBRARY

A Gingerbread House Workshop was held for Coolamon children in the lead up to Christmas 2011. Held over two sessions, local children were able to assemble their very own Gingerbread House and decorate the tasty dwellings with festive icing and sweets. The Gingerbread House "pieces" or eatable building blocks, were donated by the wonderful Kristen from *Heavenly Baked* who made all the pieces prior to the event. The children had a wonderful day creating their yummy Christmas treats and I am happy to announce that all Gingerbread Houses made it home safely in one piece!

Other school holiday programs held for children in the Coolamon Shire included a Recycled Plant Workshop, Pizza Making and a Cartooning Workshop. Andrew Hore, who specialises in cartooning and illustrations, presented a Cartooning

- 01 SPLASH, MAX AND THE KIDS
- 02 CAKE CUTTING IN COSTUME AT COFFS



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Workshop at the Coolamon Library during the holidays. Children attending the workshop were shown the knack of building a cartoon from scratch and went away with lots of original artworks to show their friends and family. A great day for all involved!

HELEN MCLOUGHLIN
Coolamon Library

SUE SURFS THE SHELVES AT GOSFORD

Fabulous Australian author, and publisher Sue Whiting carved up the Central Coast with her visit to Gosford Library to launch the summer reading program *Surf the Shelves*. Umina High School junior campus was the first stop in the day with two enthusiastic English classes sharing stories and some great writing tips. After an overview of character development in her latest novel *Get a grip Cooper Jones*, Sue then reviewed the original theme and how novels develop.

A YouTube animation of the novel's trailer provided further discussion points before a interesting creative writing exercise. Building "images of place" using all of our sensory perceptions Sue lead the students into their favourite place. After the initial exercise the students shared their draft short stories, many were very good with taste and tactile experiences incorporated into the narrative.

After a quick library tour and lunch we cruised to Star of the Sea Terrigal where 70 excited year five students were primed for the launch by Council Lifeguard Ben with an overview of beach safety. Sue then wiped out the crowd with funny, freaky and furry tales from her repertoire.

Students were pumped as the time came to officially launch *Surf the Shelves*. Riding the high



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tide of excitement Sue lead the students into a mass surfing pose then promptly dropped headlong into the wave of arms.

Surf the Shelves has successfully operated for six sizzling summers with each branch displaying children's book reviews. Concluding at the end of January prizes are drawn and presented at a special event. Excited children and parent celebrate with us the joy of reading enjoyment and all our junior programs.

In 2012 we look forward to the National Year of Reading with lots more author visits, and official launch of the Jean Genies national program.

CLAIRE STUCKEY
Children's Librarian, Gosford City Council

AUTHOR REVEALS MAGIC FOREST

If you have ever been to the Dubbo area than you would know what a beautiful place it is. Author Pat Clarke has discovered the beauty of the flora and fauna around her Dubbo home and is now sharing this beauty with Australia through her book *The Magic Forest of Goonoo*.

The Magic Forest of Goonoo is a children's book beautifully illustrated by Lynne Wilson from Gympie Queensland, depicting some of the endangered species of the Goonoo Forest such as the Barking Owl, Mallee Fowl and Glossy Black Cockatoo.

Pat Clarke visited the Gunnedah Library in February and introduced to our junior audience the quirky Aussie characters of the Goonoo Forest; who set out to protect themselves and their home from trappers.

Our junior audience was in awe and captivated by the story which came to life with the help of hand



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03 BUILDING
GINGERBREAD
HOUSES

04 CARTOONIST
ANDREW HORE
CONDUCTING A
WORKSHOP

05 SUE WHITING AT
GOSFORD



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Children's News

- 01 AUTHOR PAT CLARKE WITH AN APPRECIATIVE AUDIENCE AT GUNNEDAH
- 02 CHILDREN AT BELLBROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE
- 03 KIRSTY MURRAY AT CRESCENT HEAD SCHOOL
- 04 MYRON LYSENKO AT ALDAVILLA SCHOOL



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puppets. The children were also shown beautiful large drawings by Lynne Wilson of the animals throughout the Magic Forest story. Pat explained to her audience that she made up stories about the animals that lived around her home to entertain her grandchildren but the book started from a poem she had written.

The book is imaginative and enriched with information about endangered species and has been a hit at the Gunnedah Library. We had a very enjoyable visit from author Pat Clarke and we look forward to many stories from the Goonoo Forest.

ANNE WOOLASTON
Library Assistant Trainee, Gunnedah Shire Library

AUTHORS IN KEMPSEY SHIRE

Thanks to a couple of grants, the Kempsey Shire Library has been hosting a number of visiting speakers. They have included children's authors, a performance poet, a story-teller and a specialist in early childhood reading. The purpose of the project has been to expose children of the shire to good literature and the joys of reading. As the central library in Kempsey has a program of children's activities, there is a special effort being made to visit small schools in the villages and rural areas as those are the children least likely to be exposed to literary events.

The reception of our visiting speakers at these small school could not have been more different



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from that of the usually blasé town schools. A couple of the really little schools have combined, with parents driving students to the central school's hall. Schedules have been re-organised to fit us in and enthusiasm from teachers and children is palpable. The authors of course have blossomed at this warm welcome and enthusiastic participation and have given great performances.

Most satisfying for those of us organising these events is that two of the children participating in two different workshops – Kirsty Murray's story writing workshop and Myron Lysenko's poetry writing workshop – have subsequently done very well with their work. One child has won a nation-wide story writing competition and the other one a regional poetry slam. Both children claim that they would not have dreamt of entering these competitions had it not been for the stimulation provided by the visitors to their schools. How good is that!

GABI BRIE
Librarian, Kempsey Shire

JOHN LARKIN AT KURRI KURRI

In 2011, Kurri Kurri Branch Library was happy to receive grant funding from the Country Arts Support Program (CASP) which is funded by the NSW Government through Arts NSW. This allowed us to bring an author to our small library for a series of talks and workshops in an effort wow the local schools and community.

We had already chosen author and funny-man extraordinaire John Larkin, for our visiting author, due to our knowledge of his exciting and entertaining performances, and we were not disappointed.

Local schools were excited to be offered the opportunity to interact with a published author, as such opportunities are rare in a country town. Sessions were held for five local schools, including writing workshops at both a primary and secondary school. The grand finale was a family morning on Saturday with adults and children alike treated to a fabulous and funny talk, as well as an insight into the background of John's new book *Shadow Girl*. I can honestly say that this is the first time at one of our events that I have had to pass around a box of tissues to wipe away the tears of laughter, and the atmosphere was amazing. After lunch, we finished off with a writing workshop for adults that went well into

the afternoon. John was very generous with his time and advice, and our participants were very grateful.

This event was such a success that we are planning similar events for 2012. We now have an extra Book Club, a Creative Writing Group—The Kurri Quills—and plans for a junior writing group this year. From little things, big things grow! Looking forward to the next big thing at Kurri Library!

KAREN BRUCE
Team Leader, Kurri Library



/05

FILLING THE CRACKS- OPTUS GRANT

Narrabri Library was the happy recipient of an Optus grant of \$9893. This money will be used to start a youth book group both at Narrabri Library and the Narrabri Primary schools.

JENNY CAMPBELL
Library Operations Manager, Narrabri Shire Libraries

ZOOLOGICAL METAMORPHOSIS @ ERMINGTON

On Wednesday, 11 January 2012, Ermington Library was brought to life when Taronga Zoo delivered a fun and interactive presentation to 50 children and their parents. The morning was a wonderful success for all involved.

Cate Browne, Education Officer from Taronga Zoo, brought seven animals with her:

- Lucy the stick insect
- Tree frog Mags
- Wallace the Shingleback,
- Spotted Python Anna and Zippy,
- an Ornate Box Turtle,

05 LIBRARY MANAGER
JENNY CAMPBELL,
NARRABRI SHIRE
COUNCIL GRANTS
OFFICER KRISTY
KARIS, LIBRARY
ASSISTANT JANELLE
VAN BOMMEL AND
NARRABRI SHIRE
MAYOR ROBYN
FABER.

Children's News

- Croonar, a Salt water Crocodile
- and an Australian comrade Winky, the Ring Tail Possum.

Cate displayed the animal's physical characteristics and provided individual animal encounters for each person in the group.

While Winky the Ring Tail Possum suffered stage fright, Zippy, the Ornate Box Turtle attempted to escape to the great outdoors. He was thwarted, however, and returned to his keeper in good spirits. Meanwhile, several other animals successfully entertained the crowds with clever tricks, while others won admirers for their gorgeous appeal.

The day's events attracted people of all age groups and positions in life, with even the youngest getting involved for a cuddle with the little possum.

The reptiles got their share of accolades by being suitably slithery, and by the end of it all, the creatures had won a place in the children's hearts.

We thank Taronga Zoo for their cooperation with this local initiative. Early exposure to animals is an important part of growing up into a responsible and environmentally conscious adult, especially in today's urban world where Australian wildlife are more distant than ever.

We hope to continue to host such events in the future, for the enjoyment and enrichment of our community.

GARGI MALLIK, MARGO ALLEY, JOLANTA FABIK AND ROSE DOUGLAS
Ermington Branch Library, Parramatta City Library

ERMINGTON CELEBRATES NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK 2011

Ermington Branch library was transformed into a research laboratory when two young scientists from 'Questacon Science Squad' – Australia's leading science centre, presented an interactive science show. This show was organised to celebrate National Science Week and to boost the engagement in science for students in our local area.

Seventy three students from Rydalmere East Public School attended this show. The fun and interactive hour long show included two 30 minute show themes: liquid nitrogen and climate change.

Both presenters covered a broad range of topics within an hour that were linked to school curriculum. During this show all children experienced the

fascinating world of chemistry through simple and hands-on experiments.

The show kept the school students entertained through music, reflections, vibration and ripples. It was amazing to see that all the students were so enthusiastic and quick to interact with the presenters.

This presentation received an outstanding response from students, teachers and parents.

Participant feedback was very positive:

'This show kept the school students not only entertained but they were excited to learn. It kept them engaged the whole hour and I'm sure they will want to learn more science because of the experience. I would love all school students to have to have this opportunity. Amazing!'

'Students were engaged, excited, interested, and curious. They loved the show. The presenters were both fantastic'.

'Thank you for the experience and the show. It is a great opportunity to spread science work and great chance to promote Questacon'.

GARGI MALLIK
Branch Librarian, Ermington Branch Library

PARRAMATTA- CHILDREN'S E-RESOURCES SUCCESS

Children's Story Time at Parramatta City Library has had an exciting new addition recently: e-resource demonstrations for children and parents. Fifteen-minute sessions after selected Story Times have each focused on a single e-resource, including *Busythings*, *Intrepica* and *in2Era*.

The live demonstrations, using a laptop and data projector in the library's public spaces, have the 2-5 year-olds taking part in playing online games and activities aimed at early childhood comprehension, literacy and numeracy. Both children and parents have been excited by the demonstrations, with many parents joining the library to allow their families to access the e-resources from home.

More e-resources are being launched at the library in coming weeks, and the Story Time demonstrations are being rolled out across all the Parramatta City Library branches. As a result of the new promotion, usage of the early childhood e-resources has doubled from the months immediately prior.

NATHAN TURNER
e-Resources Librarian, Parramatta City Library



/01

PAINT THE HILL REaD

On Wednesday 19 October 2011, Constitution Hill Branch Library held Paint Parra REaD.

It was a huge success. We had over 180 children come to the Library from Darcy Road Public, Karabi, Bountiful Early Learning Centre and Toongabbie East PS. Children from our regular Storytime session also attended.

Councillor Scott Lloyd and Redsee started off the day and told a story to the children. Pirate Arrgh A Bella took over and entertained the children and popular children's author Ursula Dubosarsky concluded the storytelling.

The children were then broken up into four groups, according to their sticker colour and were escorted from group to group by their guides, Zhorik, Snejzana, Cassandra and Jack Elliott (from the Historical Society) who all read books and sang with the children.

The Winston Hills Rotary Club donated 160 hotdogs for children on the day and the children also enjoyed fruit and water to drink.

The children also got their faces painted by Pirate Arrgh A Bella and were entered in draw for a lucky door prize. All the children left with a gift pack and a balloon-sword from Pirate Arrgh A Bella.

There were plenty of staff who helped on the day - Nada, Zhorik, Snejzana, Hiba, Dean and Minh. Thanks to all of you for your hard work on the day.

A BIG thankyou goes to Seide Ramadani from the CCB Team. Without her help, advice, effort and knowledge this day would not have been as successful. A fantastic day and a great team effort!

JO BERTONCELJ, NADA ANTOUN, DINA KRASINS & ZHORIK TERRAZZOLO,
The Constitution Hill Branch Library Team



/02

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT GUILDFORD

Guildford Branch Library kicked off our summer school holiday activities with a visit from Cate Browne of the Taronga Zoo. Over 50 children and adults crammed into the library and were amazed by a variety of insects, reptiles and mammals. All of the children were very brave and patted the animals, though a few were a bit tentative when a snake and baby salt water crocodile were paraded around the room. Cate was fantastic in regards to educating the children about wildlife conservation and how important it is to safeguard our native animals from household pets.

Theresa Troup from Cleanaway also visited the library and brought some friendly worms to show off to the kids. She talked about the amount of rubbish that fills up in our landfills and how fantastic worms are in breaking down a lot of our household waste. The children then completed a worm farm craft that put their newly acquired knowledge to good use.

We wrapped up our holiday activities with an animal mask craft activity. By the end of the day we had a multitude of lions, tigers and monkeys walking and roaring their way around the library.

DEAN MCDOWELL, ANN HOBDA, JOHN MCBEATTY, ROSEMARY KOSIAK AND LIOUDMILA KONONOVA
Guildford Branch Library Team

PENRITH TOY LIBRARY—MORE THAN FUN AND GAMES

Colyton toddler Charlotte McKay loves Dora the Explorer, dinosaurs and her big brother Dane. She also loves playing with toys, just like any other three-year-old, but getting them to work is not always easy

- 01 PAINTING PARRAMATTA READ AT CONSTITUTION HILL BRANCH
- 02 TARONGA EDUCATION OFFICER WITH THE CHILDREN (AND THE ANIMALS) AT ERMINGTON

Children's News

as Charlotte has a severe genetic disorder that affects her nervous system, muscles and fine motor skills.

Charlotte developed normally but at 2½ she was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, before later being re-diagnosed with Rett Syndrome, last year.

For Charlotte and her mum, Tobi, Council's Toy Library service not only provides new and exciting toys but also support and advice.

"Not all toys are suitable for Charlotte as she doesn't have the muscular strength or fine motor skills to be able to manipulate or hold them," Tobi said.

"That's why the toy library has been such a valuable resource for us, as there are a range of toys for Charlotte to borrow including switch-adapted toys which she can use to make the toy light up or play sounds or move."

Toy Library Coordinator Michelle Pearman makes home visits to many of the member families and as a qualified Early Childhood Teacher, can advise on the benefits and suitability of the library's collection.

"Having Michelle visit us is great. She gets to see Charlotte in her own environment and having the chance to try so many toys keeps down the cost of buying a whole bunch of toys that Charlotte may or may not like," Tobi said.

"We've used the library for almost a year. We've borrowed sensory/tactile books, bead frames, puzzles, switch-adapted toys like Bruin Bear, Chicken Elmo and vibrating animals. We know Charlotte enjoys the toys when she smiles as well as her facial expressions and the noises she makes."

For Tobi, one of the best things about having new and exciting toys on hand is the way other children interact with Charlotte.

"They'll hold her hand and help guide her arm to encourage her to press the switch or move her hands a long a bead maze or complete a puzzle and use her fingers and muscles, which is great," Tobi said.

The Toy Library is run by Penrith City Library and staffed by Michelle and a team of dedicated volunteers. Sessions are held at Penrith, St Clair and St Marys library branches with a catalogue of more than 1000 toys available to borrow, most suitable for all children.

RACHEL PAGITZ

Communications Officer, Corporate Communications and Marketing, Penrith City Council, NSW



/01

BABIES BABIES BABIES

We all know that 75% of brain development occurs during the first two years of life. How do we get this message out into the community as well as information on all the local support networks and suggested simple strategies for parents? Port Macquarie Library recently had the opportunity to co-host a Parents Day with the local Child and Family Health Nurses.

The day attracted 70 babies with parents eager to find out information and to participate in workshops. The workshops focussed on speech, play, counselling and assessment, infant massage, nutrition and childhood diseases. We were given the chance to speak about library resources and programmes at the beginning of the day. All speakers set up information stands in the library where food was also served during breaks.

Local volunteer Pink Ladies helped calm babies and a crib area with music, books and toys was set up in a quiet corner of the library.

The day gave parents and service providers a chance to gather in a friendly relaxed and fun way. It gave us a chance to promote the library services and resources and to build on our relationship with the wonderful support services.

The only issue was the popularity of the workshops. Next time we will take bookings and hopefully we will be able to offer these workshops to parents at a variety of times—and at other branches—so all can take time to attend.

PS: The babies gave us the 'thumbs up' too!

VIRGINIA COX

Children's/YA Librarian, Port Macquarie Hastings Library



/02

LITTLE BANG DISCOVERY CLUB LAUNCHES AT RANDWICK CITY LIBRARY SERVICE.

In late 2011 Randwick City Library Service joined forces with the Children's Discovery Museum to deliver an innovative new science discovery program especially for two to five year olds.

The Museum received a grant to develop a program which would introduce early science concepts to children and their carers in a fun and interactive series of exploratory workshops. They chose Randwick City Library Service as their partner for the initial series of workshops.

The Little Bang Discovery Club was launched in November and ran over a period of four weeks. Club members received a passport and a special 'discovery box' filled with equipment to explore and experiment with. Children's Discovery Museum presenter and experienced science educator, Adam Selinger, used toys, games, demonstrations and group activities to introduce the art of discovering and scientific enquiry.

The emphasis of the club was on carer/child interaction and showing how science discovery happens using everyday objects. Each week children could complete an activity at home using items from the 'discovery box' and then present it to the club. The parents and carers had just as much fun as the kids and had plenty of questions for Adam.

The four weeks concluded with a mini science fair and a graduation ceremony for our little discoverers. Feedback from the sessions was overwhelmingly positive.

The success of the Little Bang Discovery Club was no surprise to the Coordinator Service Development,



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Regina Chan, "When Adam approached us to partner the Museum in this program, I didn't even have to think about it. After the success of our Big Bang Science Club for primary aged children, I knew how popular science based hands-on workshops were and was sure that they would appeal to this younger age group as well."

Both the Big Bang Science Club and the Little Bang Discovery Club are continuing in 2012.

MALA SCORSE

Acting Children's and Youth Services Librarian, Randwick City Library Service

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP AT SINGLETON

Singleton Public Library's school holiday photography workshop was a great success. The capacity booking of 10 children attended all armed with digital cameras to learn about the different methods and types of shots that can be taken. Staff from the local Fujifilm Image Plus volunteered their time to run this workshop.

- 01 TOBI FIELD AND HER DAUGHTER CHARLOTTE MCKAY CHECK OUT ONE OF THE TOYS DELIVERED BY TOY LIBRARY COORDINATOR MICHELLE PEARMAN
- 02 BABIES AND PARENTS AT PORT MACQUARIE'S PARENTS DAY
- 03 PRESENTER ADAM SELINGER HAD THE COMPLETE ATTENTION OF OUR RANDWICK LITTLE DISCOVERERS

Children's News

The event began in the library's computer training room where the children learnt how to use the menu on a camera, the flash function, night vision, motion picture, the close up function as well as the best way to hold a camera.

They then travelled outside to put the learning into practice, finding interesting things to capture with the cameras such as the local clock tower, plants and flowers. A local tree was a big hit with its attendant array of ants, insects, leaves and gnarled trunk. It was a bright sunny day so the children gathered advice on how best to take a photo without glare.

They then came back inside to download the photos on the computer. The captured images were projected onto on a bigger screen to facilitate the Fujifilm staff giving feedback such as 'try to position the shot of the field without having a pole in the middle of the picture!'

They all enjoyed the workshop and got lots of ideas on how to take the perfect photo, ideas such as move closer to an object rather than use zoom. Even though there were 10 different cameras in operation during the event, everyone learnt something, everyone enjoyed it and the event was a great success.

LAURA BUSH
Reader Advisory Officer, Singleton Public Library

END OF SUMMER READING CLUB PARTY 2012

Children had lots of fun at our End of Summer Reading Club party this year. The president of the Friends of Wingecarribee Libraries assisted me in presenting the children their participation certificates. We got an excellent group shot of all forty children attending and then drew the major prize of an iPod Nano and made one child very happy. We also drew some lucky door prizes which were book vouchers from one of our local bookstores but the highlight of the party for most of the children was the party food that was provided. The children couldn't get enough of the chips, lollies and cordial and it was all eaten in record time. I topped up the food a couple of times but it was pretty much demolished by 5pm. The fact that we had the party at 4pm could have been the reason many of the children seemed to be starving and I'm sure most were not going to eat their dinner when they got home! Oh well sorry mum and dad, they don't do it all the time.



SUMMER READING CLUB PARTICIPANTS

All in all this year's Summer Reading Club went well with the End of Summer Reading Club Party on 8 February wrapping it up for another year.

JULIANA GLUMAC
Children's & Youth Services Librarian, Wingecarribee Public Library

WYONG KIDS

Holiday activities were the go at Wyong during summer with Joel Howlett the Magician holding special balloon twisting workshops. These were well attended with poodles, flowers, dinosaurs and more floating around the Library.

We also held Dr Seuss parties across the Branches. These involved sharing a couple of stories - Cat in the hat and Green eggs and ham, playing a rhyming game, making our own Dr Seuss style hats - some very crazy combinations were assembled. And of course, party food including brightly coloured cupcakes, apple juice/water, grapes and sour worm style lollies were the gobbled down after the event.

Lake Haven and Toukley Libraries also held 'disco at the Library' complete with a laser light show, professional DJ, funky modern music with some 70s classics such as YMCA and Nutbush thrown in for good measure. Much fun was had by patrons and staff alike.

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Reference Librarian, Wyong Library Service

Young Adults Update

SONIC VIBRATIONS: WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG ADULTS

This extremely popular workshop was run during the summer school holidays at the Albury LibraryMuseum, aiming at the 12 plus age group. Participants were able to create and take home their own quirky musical instrument and amplifier that blended every-day objects such as tins and wood blocks, with the power of basic technology and walk away with a fully functioning sonic manipulator. The kids performed an impromptu "jam session" at the conclusion of the afternoon. The workshop was presented by Experimenta Media Arts.

CARINA CLEMENT
Albury Libraries

YOUTH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS @ CAMDEN COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE

During 2011, Camden Council Libraries reinforced networks created with Macarthur Workplace Learning Program (MWLP) - a community partnership brokerage. The presentation of informative talks included three topics of interest to parents of local young people.

In 2012, this partnership is set to expand as the Library and MWLP combine strengths with our local branch of the National Disability Coordination Officer Program (NDCO). The NDCO Program provides services to help young people with a disability move from school to post school education and training and then to employment. Their activities



SONIC VIBRATIONS WORKSHOP AT ALBURY

include providing information and transition planning assistance to parents and young people, referral and coordination, resource development and training, awareness raising and promotion. The local program staff, based at the University of Western Sydney, were preparing to launch their latest Parent Resource and with MWLP's assistance, a new partnership was forged with Camden Council Library Service.

The new resource created by NDCO; *Getting young people with disabilities ready for study and work: A guide for parents* aims to provide parents, carers, and families with information, advice and resources to help their young person prepare well for their life after school. Promotion of the launch and the resource was just one way that our library could be involved. As a trial for partnerships, the library was able to provide a suitable venue for a guest speaker event and official launch of the resource on 20 February 2012.

A speaker from The Resilience Doughnut was engaged to provide an informative talk about "Parents Promoting Resilience" with a specific focus on facing the challenges of times of transition, building self esteem and confidence. The evening was widely promoted via the three organisations involved in the partnership and was well attended by families from the greater Macarthur region.

This partnership highlighted the role that the public library can play in promoting a range of services to our communities. Various library resources were on display for borrowing at the launch and the library iPad was available to showcase our online resources and the link to the NDCO website. The NDCO program was able to present in a central location and reach a wide audience via this launch.

For other libraries keen to link in with their local branch of the NDCO program, more information can be found at <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Skills/Programs/Support/NDCO/Pages/default.aspx>

If anyone would like a copy of the recently launched resource, it can be found online at www.uws.edu.au/ndco/getreadytoptips

For libraries who would like to investigate what is possible with the assistance of a local partnership brokerage, visit the DEEWR website: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/youth/youthattainmentandtransitions/pages/sbcpb.aspx>

To find out more about your local provider of partnership brokerage, visit : http://www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/YouthAttainmentandTransitions/Documents/Partnership_Brokers_Provider_Details.pdf

KIM WHITE

Acting Youth Services Librarian, Camden Council Library Service

HORROR MOVIE NIGHT

The Bland Shire has a wonderful youth officer and this time around we partnered to organise a horror night with a twist. The library participated in a Friday the thirteenth horror movie night during the January school holiday and ghost tour of the town. The groups started off with a BBQ and then embarked on a ghost tour of the town which ended at the library where they finished off the night with the horror movie. The library was decorated and suitably dark to fit in the mood. The night was a success and more events are being planned for the year.

JOANNE RUSSO

Bland

Seniors News



MATUREDART EXHIBITION

VISITORS IMPRESSED WITH SENIORS SHOW

A steady stream of visitors enjoyed the MaturedArt Exhibition at Auburn City library which celebrated both International Day of Older Persons and International Day of People with Disability. Contributions came from 16 artists who live, work or are actively engaged in our local area, and included 37 paintings, six photographs and 25 craft pieces such as crochet, bead work and stone carvings.

Among the artists included in the exhibition were long time Auburn residents and gifted artists Tom Stewart, Fae Heness and Barbara Curtin.

The standard of artworks submitted for the two week exhibition was very high. For the first time our display featured some well established artists, like floral designer and teacher of botanical

illustration, Rosemary Dunham and painter, artist and photographer Ximena del-Campo Tapia, who migrated to Australia from Chile with her husband and four children in 1986.

In addition many beautiful and interesting artworks were contributed by lots of other enthusiastic and talented people who are fulfilling their artistic aspiration in their senior years.

The MaturedArt visitor's book was filled with encouraging comments and praise for the artists and their artwork.

Now in its eighth year, MaturedArt proved again to be a colourful exhibition of art and craft created by seniors and people with a disability who are creatively interconnecting our community.

ISABELLA ANDRUSZKIEWICZ

Home Library Service Officer, Auburn City Library

Seniors News

REMEMBER WHEN/SENIORS MORNING TEAS FOR 2012

On Thursday 22 March as part of Seniors Week, Waverley Library launched two new monthly events.

Books, movies and more is a special interest discussion group where participants will gather to share their enjoyment of books, movies and other media. Each session will have a general topic to help encourage discussion, but participants don't have to read the same book or watch the same DVD, it's more about generating discussion and seeing where that leads.

Our second program is a continuation of our popular *Remember When...* storytelling group. Back by popular demand, we'll be broadening the program to include seniors with a close connection to Waverley, whether they are current residents or not. Sessions will run monthly throughout most of the year and the last few sessions will be creative workshops to help participants permanently record and share their experiences.

Want to hear more about our 'Remember When...' program? Podcasts of the themed discussion groups will be uploaded to the Waverley Library website soon. So if you're interested in hearing about what Waverley was like 'back when', check www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/library for the podcasts.

SAM WEIR

Public Programs Coordinator, Waverley

ADULT STORIES

Singleton Public Library is excited about a new venture: Stories for Adults. We invited senior members of our community to come along for a bikkie and a cuppa to hear stories by Roald Dahl, Jackie French and Mike Hayes. More than 35 people attended. Walking frames and wheelchairs were easily accommodated in our large meeting room. We used a microphone, and when I asked, "can everyone hear me?" I was delighted with the response from one wag who called out with a big grin "yes even I can hear you and I am deaf".

The stories were a mix of adventure and humour, read by talented staff members who brought the words alive. The audience laughed at the right places and listened with real interest – there were no conversations on the side, not even a whisper!

This was a low budget way to bring our seniors together; to promote services, display new items and encourage new memberships. The session ended with a brief tour of the Library and time for borrowing items which had our circulation desk staff rushed off their feet.

JOAN INGRAM

Singleton Public Library

In touch with the State Library

SUBDIVISION PLANS

Subdivision plans advertise land to be subdivided and sold. At the State Library of New South Wales, we group different kinds of documents together as subdivision plans, ranging from hand-drawn surveyors' plans to brightly coloured printed posters. We have over 40,000 items in our main subdivision plans collection, dating from 1860 to about 1940.

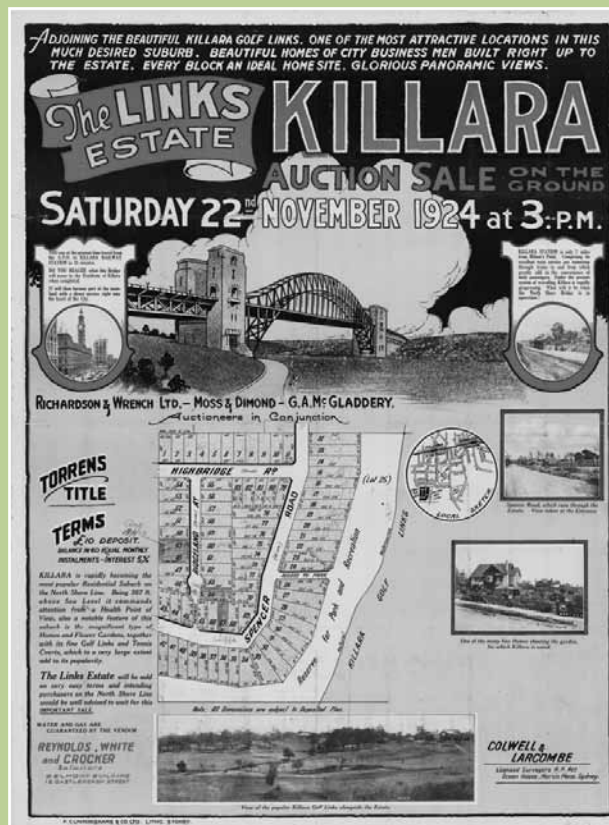
They are of great use to family and local historians.

Rather than being catalogued separately, our subdivision plans are catalogued as sets for individual towns, suburbs and counties. To find out whether we have subdivision plans for your town, suburb or county, try a keyword search on our Computer Catalogue for your placename and the phrase 'land subdivision'. We will soon add contents lists for each set to the catalogue records.

Our collection of subdivision plans was microfilmed in the 1980s, and many public libraries purchased copies of relevant subdivision plans on aperture cards or on reels of microfilm. We can now offer copies of subdivision plans as PDFs or jpeg files from microfilm on disk. Please note that these are only black and white copies. We can also produce high quality scans (tiff files) from the original subdivision plans, some of which are in colour, at a cost of \$45 per image. If you wish to purchase digital files of subdivision plans for the suburbs in your LGA, please contact the Maps Section via the Ask-A-Librarian form online (<http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/services/ask/publib.html>). We will respond with a quote for the cost of obtaining digital files via W. & F. Pascoe.

ANDY CARR

Acting Head, Maps Section
State Library of New South Wales.



THE LINKS ESTATE, KILLARA, 1924

Multicultural Update

WILLOUGHBY LIBRARY WINS

Willoughby City Library Services is proud to announce that we have been awarded the Community Relations Commission 2011 National Multicultural Marketing Award, Technical category for iBIMS.

iBIMS is a Chinese English bilingual online catalogue, available 24/7, that allows library users to search the library's Chinese collection in 3 different ways – in English, Pinyin or using Chinese characters.

We were thrilled as in this category we were up against SBS Television!

The National Multicultural Marketing Award is the third award that Willoughby City Library has received for iBIMS, having previously been awarded the VALA Award and the Local Government Cultural Award.

MICHELE BURTON

Manager, Library & Community Learning Services, Willoughby City Library Services

WHAT'S NEW IN MULTICULTURAL SERVICES AT THE STATE LIBRARY?

Abby Dawson is the new Coordinator for the Multicultural Bulk Loans team at the State Library. She asks that you please get in touch if you have any problems or issues to discuss about the service, by email adawson@sl.nsw.gov.au, or telephone 02 9273 1541. Abby advises that the current turn-around time is approximately 24–48 hours for requests and hopes to continue in this way! Abby looks forward to meeting you at upcoming events and functions.

ORIANA ACEVEDO

SEARCHING FOR MULTICULTURAL MATERIAL

Searching for material in community languages just got even easier! Using the advanced search on the State Library online catalogue, you can now limit the search location to 'Multicultural' to make sure you only find items in the Multicultural Collection!

You can now also search for LOTE material by language or format using our excellent new web tool.


You can search for 'all material' by language, or large print and spoken word by language and it will take you straight to the catalogue to show you everything we have. However not all languages have material available in these large print and spoken word so if the language you are looking for is not in the list, we don't have it. Find the tool here: http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/services/multicultural/language_search.html

Please note the multicultural services page will be undergoing redevelopment shortly to make it easier for you to find our community language resources.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

The Library has an excellent collection of material to support the independent learning of people with English as their Second Language. By specifying your client's primary language, we may be able to provide you with an ESL loan tailored to their language needs, with tools such as bilingual dictionaries and interactive DVDs in order to make the learning process easier!

FINDING THE LATEST COMMUNITY LANGUAGES BY RSS FEED

Finding the most recently acquired material for the multicultural collection has never been so quick! Using the RSS Feeds on the State Library's home page, you can immediately see the most recently purchased items by language and with a link to the library's catalogue so you can see the details straight away. Just look for this symbol  in the bottom right corner of the State Library's homepage, or subscribe directly to the feeds.

DURING THE NATIONAL YEAR OF READING, DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE MULTILINGUAL GLOSSARY

The Multilingual Glossary database is a professionally generated signage tool designed for libraries. The glossary contains common library phrases in 49 languages. This tool facilitates

communication between library staff and patrons from diverse linguistic backgrounds.

FOR EXAMPLE: YOU CAN HAVE THE WORD READ IN 49 LANGUAGES!

- Arabic - أرقأ
- Bulgarian - Чета
- Dutch - Lezen
- Maltese - Aqra
- Serbian - Читajte
- Swedish - Läsa
- Thai -
- Urdu - پڑھیں

MYLANGUAGE CONFERENCE 2012

www.MyLanguage.gov.au

The 2012 MyLanguage Conference will be held at the State Library of Queensland from 6 – 9 August. The conference will feature international, national and local speakers of note, an optional bus tour of selected Queensland public libraries and The Edge, and optional workshops.

The conference theme will focus on reading, literacy and learning for Australian multicultural communities. The conference will support the National Year of Reading and what it could mean for culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Please keep an eye on the MyLanguage website for a call for papers and presenters.

TIPS TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MULTICULTURAL BULK LOAN

PUT THEM ON DISPLAY

Rather than storing them in the back room, your bulk loans should be out on display in the library for everyone to share. By doing this you create equal access to the material and more readers will have the opportunity to discover the collections!

MY LOANS

Your MyLoans account should be treated like your bank account. Checking it regularly will allow you to keep on top of your loans, keep up to date with when

items are due for return to the State Library and help you to avoid fines and invoices for lost items!

ABBY DAWSON

Coordinator, Multicultural Bulk Loans

MULTICULTURAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2011

The Multicultural Excellence Awards are awarded annually by the Working Group on Multicultural Library Services (WGMLS), a working group of the Public Libraries NSW – Metropolitan Inc. The awards recognise a public library service and an individual practitioner for demonstrated excellence in the delivery of multicultural library services. This year the awards were presented at presented at the SWITCH 2011 Conference Dinner

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

Multicultural library services are an important aspect of public library services. This prestigious award has been established to recognise and promote this importance.

There are two award categories. The Organisation Award honours a NSW public library which has demonstrated excellence in the provision of multicultural library services. This award of \$1100 is funded by the Public Libraries NSW – Metropolitan Inc.

The Individual Award honours a practitioner working in a NSW public library, who has demonstrated innovative, dedicated and outstanding service to the multicultural community. The individual receives a plaque honouring their contribution.

This year the organisation receiving the Multicultural Excellence Award is Randwick City Library. Their project is called *Tales from Many Cities: Myths, Legends and Fairy Stories* from around the world.

The *Tales from Many Cities* project targeted the local CALD community, both native English speakers

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born overseas as well Australian born requesting them to submit folk stories, fairy tales, myths and legends that their parents used to tell or read to them when they were young. Many of the stories submitted had never been written down before and the sense of belonging, pride and achievement was a key outcome. This intergenerational project spanning three living generations, combining children's illustrations with the timeless stories provided by the adult contributors created a sense of continuity and belonging for all involved.

Through the *Tales from Many Cities* project Randwick City Library Service established close contact with the local CALD communities and motivated them to share their cultural heritage with a wider community. The publication of the stories contributed ensured the participants' cultural heritage was adequately represented in the Library's collection and activities. This project was submitted by Katherine Zhu, Randwick Multicultural Librarian.

The Individual Award winner is Kathy Yang from Marrickville Library and History Services. Kathy Yang has transformed multicultural services offered at Marrickville Library from a single focus on the older Greek community members to a broader one that includes and celebrates all CALD communities in the LGA. As a migrant to Australia herself, she empathises with and understands the variety of challenges faced by people whose first language is not English

Kathy has built on the library's existing strengths such as the LOTE collections, which includes Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Portuguese, Spanish and Vietnamese. Kathy established an annual calendar of cultural events to open community participation across all CALD groups.

Kathy has consulted extensively with community groups, individuals and service providers and the result has been unprecedented level of support which has often resulted in ongoing partnership which have benefited the community, the council and the library.

This year for the first time a highly commended certificate has been awarded. Rockdale City Library received this award for their project *Bangladesh: emerging community new services*. The library has demonstrated responsiveness to changes in the local community and community needs and has a holistic approach that includes collections, programs, promotion and great community engagement.

ORIANA ACEVEDO
Multicultural Consultant, State Library

In the State Library Galleries



STIGMATA NO. 2 2006

RECYCLED LIBRARY, ALTERED BOOKS

In the Galleries until 2 June 2012 - 24 June 2012

This National Year of Reading, 'the book' takes on a whole new meaning when *Recycled Library, Altered books* opens at the State Library of NSW on 2 June 2012.

This unique exhibition plays with our fascination with the book and gives it iconic status in artworks including sculptures, collages, artists' books and photographs.

It traces the history of altered books in Australia through the work of 17 artists, with many using existing/found books to question our presumed knowledge of history, philosophy, science, literature and art.

Recycled Library: Altered books is a national travelling exhibition from Artspace Mackay, toured by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland.

LEWIN: WILD ART

In the Galleries until 27 May 2012

John William Lewin (1770–1819) carved out a career from humble insect collector to become Australia's first professional artist. Yet, his remarkable achievements have mostly gone unrecognised until now!

Lewin: Wild Art brings together for the first time over 150 of John Lewin's beautiful and distinctly Australian works, selected from the Mitchell Library's renowned collection as well as other major national and international collections.

The exhibition is supported by a dynamic events program, featuring drawing and printmaking workshops, talks and a symposium. Kids can create their own artworks, and visitors can see talented botanical artists at work in the exhibition weekdays from 10am to 2pm.

Lewin: Wild Art is on show at the State Library of NSW until 27 May 2012, before travelling to the National Library of Australia for display from 28 July to 28 October 2012.

WORLD PRESS PHOTO AND PHOTOS 1440

In the Galleries 30 June – 22 July 2012

The State Library of NSW will present a blockbuster month of photography when two must-see shows, *World Press Photo 12* and *Sydney Morning Herald Photos 1440*, open in the Library's Galleries on Saturday 30 June.

Presented as part of the Canon EOS Festival of Photography, *World Press Photo 12* showcases the world's best photojournalism from 2011, while *Photos 1440* offers the best published and unpublished work by *Sydney Morning Herald* photographers from the same year.

Coming soon

UPCOMING EVENTS

Reference@the Metcalfe

State Library of NSW
8 May 2012

Games and libraries

State Library of NSW
12 June 2012
http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/services/public_libraries/professional_development_events/prof_development.html

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Imagine the world

Public Libraries NSW 2012 Conference
24-26 July 2012
Port Stephens
<http://www.plnsw.org.au/conference.htm>

Discovery

ALIA 2012 Conference
10 – 13 July 2012
Sydney
<http://conferences.alia.org.au/alia2012/>



SUMMER READING AT COBAR

Three hundred and sixty three books were read by the 24 Cobar children participating in the 2011/12 Amazing Read program — an average of 15 books each over the summer break. The Amazing Read is a national summer reading program run by public libraries with support from state libraries.

STATE LIBRARY OF NSW DISABILITY INFORMATION

Wheelchair access via Macquarie Street, toilets and courtesy wheelchair, hearing loop, parking on the corner of Shakespeare Place and Macquarie Street.

Companion card provides fair ticketing at events and venues for people with a disability who require a companion to accompany them.

www.companioncard.org.au

DEADLINES FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

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