

Public Library News

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STATE LIBRARY®
NEW SOUTH WALES

Volume 20 No 2
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Front cover image: Historic photographs
of NSW public libraries from the
1940s-1980s, from the State Library
of NSW (see opposite page article).

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the August issue for 2014.

As we approach the 75th anniversary of the NSW Library Act 1939 on 3 November, we highlight the history and significance of the Library Act 1939 and how NSW public libraries can get involved in the celebrations.

We feature articles on new library buildings for Bankstown, Grafton and Rockdale, and celebrate 50 years with Coffs Harbour. We hear about planning for the future at Ryde and a large-scale local studies joint project in Western Sydney. We provide a round-up of your Library and Information Week 2014 activities.

Thank you to all our wonderful contributors and public library staff. We received so many submissions that unfortunately we cannot fit them all in the printed magazine, but you can view all photos in full colour on our *Public Library News* Pinterest board at www.pinterest.com/slswpl



Celebrating 75 years NSW public libraries

2014 marks the 75th anniversary of the NSW Library Act 1939.

The NSW Library Act was passed by State Parliament on 3 November 1939. This landmark legislation led to the provision of free public library services for the people of NSW.

Seventy five years later, public libraries are going strong, with 369 libraries across the state, 3.2 million members (that's 44% of the population), 46 million loans per annum and over 35 million people visiting libraries each year.

For more information visit our Celebrating 75 years blog at libraryact75th.tumblr.com

Visit our Celebrating 75 Years Pinterest board at www.pinterest.com/slswpl/celebrating-75-years to view and share historic photos of NSW public libraries.

EDWINA DUFFY
Editor

Celebrating 75 Years of the NSW Library Act 1939



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NSW public libraries: “A never failing spring ...”

2014 marks the 75th anniversary of the passage of the NSW Library Act 1939 through the NSW Parliament on 3 November 1939. The bill enjoyed bi-partisan support. The passage of the NSW Library Act underpinned and enabled the provision of free public libraries in NSW. It provided for State Government subsidies to local councils as an incentive to set up free public library services; and instituted the Library Board of NSW, one of the predecessor bodies of the Library Council of NSW.

Free Library Movement

NSW was the Australian frontrunner in the Free Library Movement. Prominent solicitor and businessman Geoffrey Remington was the founder of the Free Library Movement in 1935 and became its chief spokesperson and Executive Chairman in 1936. His activities were stimulated by the Munn-Pitt report into the parlous state of libraries in Australia. This report, with an overseas expert as lead investigator, received extensive exposure when it was published in 1935. In the mid 1930s, there were only two free public libraries in NSW operated by local authorities. Broken Hill Public Library, established in 1906, served a substantial and remote mining centre in western NSW. The Sydney Municipal Library (now City of Sydney Library) commenced operations in 1909 following the transfer of the Public Library of NSW's¹ lending branch to the Municipal Council of Sydney.

In 1935 on the lower north shore, a meeting of parents and citizens groups and progress associations met at the Chatswood-Willoughby School of the Arts and established the Free Library Movement. The Free Library Movement's objects were to establish free public libraries in NSW and persuade government to complete the building that housed the Public Library of NSW. Public Library of NSW Principal Librarian WH Ifould and Deputy Principal Librarian John Metcalfe were unofficial advisors and supporters to the Free Library Movement.

This group was broadly based and comprised of people of all political views; from local councillors to business groups to teachers; together with the returned services movement, service clubs, trade unions and parent and citizen associations. Geoffrey Remington was the layperson with great lobbying skills behind the group. He was well connected, with a gift for public relations and a good understanding of influence. The group was well organised in its communications: speakers were trained and put their case on radio, locally and nationally; pamphlets were circulated; school children were invited to participate through writing essays and winning prizes – the topic was the benefits of free public libraries.

Remington together with John Metcalfe toured the state by train and branches of the Free Library Movement sprang up in regional areas as well as suburban Sydney by the end of 1938. It was essentially a laypersons' movement – the librarians took care to be involved more informally.

- 01 THE NSW LIBRARY ACT 1939
- 02 & 03 PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NSW PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN WH IFOULD AND DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN JOHN METCALFE, UNOFFICIAL ADVISORS AND SUPPORTERS TO THE FREE LIBRARY MOVEMENT
- 04 EDUCATION MINISTER DH DRUMMOND, WHO SET UP THE LIBRARIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

¹ The Public Library of NSW is now the State Library of NSW



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- 01 A MEETING OF THE LIBRARY BOARD IN 1944
- 02 ALBURY CHILDREN'S LIBRARY, 1940S. ALBURY WAS ONE OF THE EARLY COUNCILS TO ADOPT THE ACT AND START A LIBRARY SERVICE IN 1945
- 03 BROKEN HILL OUTBACK SERVICE, 1977

PHOTOGRAPHS
COURTESY STATE
LIBRARY OF NSW.

The Government acts

The Education Minister DH (David) Drummond, who was keen to see public libraries improved, set up a Libraries Advisory Committee in June 1937 to recommend improvements to library services and draft legislation.

Remington was appointed to the Libraries Advisory Committee by the Minister for Education in 1937. Ifould and Metcalfe were also appointed members of this Committee together with an under-secretary from Department of Education. This committee developed a plan for public libraries in NSW via a report and drafted the bill that became the Library Act 1939.

In early 1939, NSW cabinet agreed in principle to the establishment of a Library School at the Public Library of NSW and adopted in principle the report of the Libraries Advisory Committee. The draft bill was sent to the Parliamentary Counsel for finalisation. Copies of the Libraries Advisory Committee report were sent out to every institute and school of arts in NSW; to the returned services branches; the Country Women's Associations; all town clerks and elected members; relevant librarians; NSW parliamentarians; various government departments and a number to each Apex and Rotary club.

Various activities, lobbying, and refinements continued as matters progressed with the Government. For example, the Inverell area continued to be interested in establishing provision of library services through the Library Bill though the fine details including financial assistance had not yet been worked out. World War II broke out and at the end of September 1939 Cabinet decided to defer the introduction of the Library Bill. Much further behind the scenes lobbying took place, which included Principal Librarian Ifould threatening to resign if the Bill did not progress. In the end a compromise was found - the Bill had support but the financial clauses would be delayed.

The Bill was passed in the early morning of 3 November 1939; proclaimed 22 December 1939 and would take effect, apart from financial clauses from 1 June 1940.

The Public Library continued to be extended and the great reading room (now Mitchell Reading Room) was open from June 1942. Its official opening occurred in November 1943 and included the announcement that the Library Act including its financial provisions would be effected 1 January 1944.

Growth of the network

Within 18 months of the Act being passed, 32 NSW councils had adopted the Act, seven were already providing library services and 16 councils planned to begin in 1945. By the end of 1946, a quarter of the people of NSW were being served by a free public library service.

By 1984, the battle for the establishment of public library services across the State was at the mop up stage. The Library Council of NSW annual report of that year notes: "There are still six local government authorities in New South Wales which do not provide public library service. A report was prepared for Wollondilly Shire during the year identifying options for the establishment of library service and recommending co-operation with neighbouring local government authorities. Great Lakes Shire Council is considering a similar report prepared in May 1983. Mulwaree Shire council is currently engaged in negotiations with the Southern Tablelands Joint Library for extension of library serviced to the Shire."

The last council to adopt the Act and establish a public library was Junee in 1992. Today Central Darling Shire is the last council in NSW that does not provide a library service, although it has adopted the Act. The Library Council of NSW supports library services to the people of Central Darling Shire and the unincorporated area of NSW through an annual grant to Broken Hill Council for their operation of the Outback Letterbox Library for these isolated residents.



/03

The Library Act 1939 must rank as one of the great achievements of the NSW Government through its creation of a network now numbering 369 public libraries for the people of NSW.

There was also a national impact. Across Australia, the success of the Free Library Movement following the Munn-Pitt report of 1935 brought about a turning point for libraries. Legislation was passed in every state between 1939 and 1951 resulting in the establishment of Library Boards, whose chief purposes were to develop local public library services.

75th Anniversary

The 75th anniversary of the passage of the NSW Library Act in 1939 is a great opportunity to celebrate the history of NSW public libraries, their achievements and their future.

Library philanthropist and industrialist Andrew Carnegie was of the view that it was imperative that local citizens embraced their local libraries to ensure their ongoing funding and upkeep from their local authorities. Carnegie also said: "A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert."

Today, NSW public libraries are vibrant community spaces, with services beyond book lending and story-time. While the services offered, the technology employed and the types of building and spaces are beyond that dreamt of by the architects of the NSW Library Act, the bedrock public library principles of benefiting and strengthening communities through free library services remains as strong as ever.

ANNE DOHERTY
Consultant, State Library of NSW

Celebrating 75 years: Join the celebrations

Over the next few months we are planning a program of events to mark the 75th anniversary of the Library Act 1939 and celebrate the growth and development of public libraries in NSW. Here are the highlights:

We have set up a blog libraryact75th.tumblr.com to post and share content across the public library network. Visit the blog and share stories and photos of your libraries.

Over 100 photographs of NSW public libraries from the 1940s-80s from the State Library Corporate Records have been digitised and shared on our Celebrating 75 years Pinterest board www.pinterest.com/slnewswpl/celebrating-75-years

We would love you to share historical photographs of your library by pinning them to our Pinterest board. To do this you will need to follow the board, and then we will invite you to pin. We will be inviting NSW libraries, councils and individuals to pin.

Host a celebration event at your library on 3 November and participate in social media activities to celebrate and promote your library. We will send a "Celebrating 75 Years" pack to libraries, containing poster templates, bookmarks, balloons and suggested social media activities.

Take part in our oral history project by recording interviews with former library managers and staff. We will provide training and guidance for carrying out the oral histories.

We will look towards the future of NSW public libraries by building on the Bookends Scenarios project of 2009, which explored alternative futures for the public library network.

We are also organising and hosting Libraries for the People: the 11th Australian Library History Forum on 18-19 November at the State Library. This national conference will feature presentations from past and present library staff and academics, and will focus on the development of public libraries in Australia. Find out more at www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events

For any further information about the 75th anniversary of the Library Act contact Edwina Duffy at edwina.duffy@sl.nsw.gov.au

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The Evolution of the Library Subsidy

The State Library is currently researching the early years of NSW public libraries under the Act to share the stories of the network's development. Our sources include consulting Library Board of NSW Annual Reports (the Board was a predecessor of today's Library Council), as well as a range of archival documents and pictures.

The evolution of the State Subsidy, a key incentive for councils to adopt the Act and open a public library, is of great interest.

Although the Act was passed in 1939, the NSW Government was unable to immediately introduce subsidy payments. The onset of WWII in September 1939 almost scuttled the Bill as the Government appeared unwilling to commit to extra expenditure in light of the conflict. A compromise was reached which saw the Bill passed into law on 3 November 1939, but the payment of subsidies was delayed until a later date.

The Government subsequently introduced the first subsidy payments in 1944/45.

The original Act set out a subsidy formula which took into account the population of a municipality or shire, council's budgeted expenditure on libraries and the unimproved capital value of municipality / shire land. Under the formula some small and relatively less well-off councils were able to receive "pound for pound" funding from the State Government, although most councils did not qualify to receive a 50:50 subsidy.

Table 1 outlines the first six councils funded under the Act (1944/45):

Table 1

Council	Council Contribution (£)	Subsidy (£)	Total Expenditure (£)
Broken Hill Municipality	1,960	1,236	3,196
Burrangong Shire	514	141	655
City of Sydney	13,886	2,093	15,979
Inverell Municipality	534	309	843
Port Stephens Shire	283	224	507
Young Municipality	214	213	427
TOTAL (£)	17,391	4,216	21,607

By the following year, 1945/46 a total of 31 councils had adopted the Act and opened libraries, and were therefore eligible for subsidies. This growth in the number of libraries in just one year typifies the proliferation of NSW public libraries in the late 1940s

and early 1950s as councils adopted the Act in great numbers and committed to providing libraries.

Six of the 31 councils operating libraries in 1945/46 (Cooma, Forbes, Narrandera, Wade, Wingecarribee and Young) qualified for 50:50 funding. The rest were mainly receiving subsidies of around 25% of their total expenditure. The councils that received 50:50 funding were all in the country and had very low expenditure compared to larger councils.

For example in 1945/46 Young had expenditure of £213, and received a matching subsidy of £213. Ku-Ring-Gai on the other hand contributed £2,635 to its library and received a subsidy of £878 (1945/46 Annual Report).

The 50:50 possibility lasted until 1952, when the Act was amended to cap subsidies with a prescribed amount per head approach. The per capita amount grew periodically until it reached \$1.85 in 1997/98. After 1990 the per capita amount ceased to be the sole component of subsidy payments to councils.

The 1990 funding formula introduced base payments, extra weightings for council "disabilities" and discrete small grant payments (for collections and "special projects"). The formula ensured extra funding was provided to country councils and Western Sydney councils in particular.

The formula was modified in 2005/06 following a \$2.3M increase to the funding. The objective was to ensure that this 12% increase to the total funding was shared uniformly across all councils. This was achieved by splitting the subsidy payment into 2 parts. Part 1 is the \$1.85 per capita amount, while part 2 is the Disability and Geographic Adjustment payment or DGA. The DGA includes the previous base payments, disability payments, small grants and each council's share of the 12% increase. This formula continues to be in place today.

A separate capital grants program was first introduced into the State Government's public library funding in 1974. This program was superseded by the Library Development Grants program in 1990/91. From 2014/15 the new \$15M Public Library Infrastructure Fund will be introduced.

In 2014/15 the Subsidies and Grants programs administered by the State Library will total \$27.5 million. Total council expenditure for 2013/14 was \$345M, a far cry from the £17,391 spent in 1944/45!

CAMERON MORLEY
Manager, Funding & Advisory Services
State Library of NSW

EDITOR'S NOTE: A MORE COMPREHENSIVE VERSION OF THIS ARTICLE IS AVAILABLE AT WWW.SL.NSW.GOV.AU/SERVICES/PUBLIC_LIBRARIES/PROFESSIONAL_DEVELOPMENT_EVENTS/LIBRARY_ACT_ANNIVERSARY.HTML

One Library Association for NSW



NSW Public Libraries Association

THE NSWPLA
FORMATION MEETING
ON 20 JUNE

The NSW public library network has reached a new level of unity as the establishment of a single library association for NSW is being celebrated!

At specially convened meetings held in Sydney on Friday 20 June 2014, the two peak bodies representing the sector resolved to join forces in a new association – the NSW Public Libraries Association.

This long-awaited amalgamation is the result of some 15 years of discussion by many stakeholders in many forums.

The NSW Metropolitan Public Libraries Association originated out of what was perhaps the first major cooperative venture involving public libraries in NSW, when it came into existence in 1963 as the Sydney Chief Librarians' Committee. This organisation was established to oversee the inception and development of the Sydney Subject Specialisation Scheme and the Joint Fiction Reserve with the support of the then Library Board of New South Wales. The Sydney Subject Specialisation Scheme and the Joint Fiction Reserve were, in their day, great resource sharing initiatives.

These initiatives led the way for metropolitan libraries to cooperate over the years on a variety of other innovative projects and initiatives, ranging from the first reciprocal borrowing agreement drafted in May 1963, to the inter-library-loan van service and the Film Circuit in later years. Such collaborative strategies strengthened the capacity of metropolitan libraries to provide collections, programs and services that would have not been possible individually.

The first regular meeting of the Committee was held in May 1963 with the new executive elected in late 1963.

The NSW Country Public Libraries Association had a different genesis, being established in June 1989 when over 200 country councillors, council officers and library managers converged on the central west town of Parkes with one objective in mind – to improve the paucity of funding for NSW libraries. Within three months of the Parkes conference, Minister for the Arts, Peter Collins, announced an additional \$3 million for NSW public libraries. The inaugural chairperson was Councillor Phil Potter, ably assisted by association secretary Anne Burnett.

The association later changed its name to Public Libraries NSW - Country, and finally Public Libraries NSW.

Throughout its history, the country association has provided strong support and advocacy for its member councils and their libraries through a network of five geographic zones that cover the large area of country NSW.

Collaborative ventures that are too numerous to mention have seen the enhanced delivery of library services to communities ranging in size from 1,200 to 170,000 residents. Public libraries, including mobile library service points, are often the only remaining public service available to small and remote communities. Libraries play a critical role in ongoing community capacity building, regardless of size and demographic make up.

The formation meeting of the NSW Public Libraries Association on 20 June was preceded by 18 months of productive collaboration by the two associations on a number of fronts. The NSW State Librarian and Chief Executive, Dr Alex Byrne, was instrumental in assisting with the initial discussions about cooperation through the delivery of a message from the then Minister for the Arts, Hon. George Souris in February 2013, advising that the state government was no longer prepared to accept delegations from two associations representing the same sector. A memorandum of understanding soon followed and the rest, as they say, is history.

The new association will come into being as soon as the legalities of incorporation are completed. The first conference and annual general meeting of the unified association will be held in Mudgee between 11 and 14 November next.

ROBERT KNIGHT
Joint Executive Officer, Public Libraries NSW

New Grafton Library



THE NEW SIR EARLE PAGE
LIBRARY AND EDUCATION
CENTRE GRAFTON



Seventy five years to the day he became Australia's 11th prime minister, Sir Earle Page's name returned to prominence with the official opening of the new Grafton library on the 7 April 2014. The \$8 million facility was funded through a Federal Government grant, and includes outreach learning facilities for the Southern Cross and New England universities.

Hundreds of people poured through the doors and up the stairs of the new state-of-the-art facility after the official ribbon cutting ceremony. Readers have embraced the new Grafton library wholeheartedly, in the first 5 weeks since the library opened five weeks ago 837 new members have signed up and borrowed items, compared to 85 during the same period last year.

Daily people counts have increased from 300-400 daily, to more than double that figure, our Wi-Fi usage has increased also. 33% of stock is currently on loan which is up from the standard 20% at any one time. The books have literally flown out the door.

The library boasts a number of green credentials that minimises the negative impact it has on the environment and running costs. One is called "Night Purging" which is a simple automated system that enables the building to open windows at night to "pre-cool" itself at appropriate times of the year, minimising the energy required to cool the space. Design innovations include full height glass walls that engage the street and use transparency to open up the library to the city. A robust lower level and

elevated library level safeguards from inundation while significant improvement on ventilation has helped to prevent "sick building syndrome". There is also a roof mounted photovoltaic system connected to the grid to offset the energy consumed by the building.

Other design features incorporated to increase accessibility include a hearing loop at the service desk, Braille signage, accessible bathroom facilities, mobility scooter parking and charging station and lift and ramp access to public spaces. Community space is included in the Foyer for display and events.

New technology features include gaming consoles, TV/Screen advertising of library services/collections/events, DIY Loans stations, increased Internet/PC access, interactive floor projector and teleconferencing in the multifunction room.

Local artists have also had input into the design elements of the building and its surrounds. These art works include: a cast aluminium Kelpie statue outside the building by Cass Samms, a stainless steel and jarrah park bench by Keith Cameron, a digital print on 3M Fasara glass film depicting native bush images by Robert Moore, covering the glass walls of the offices and study rooms, and Frances Belle Parker's Our Life, Our River, Our Story... 2014 – a digital print on 3M Fasara glass film that covers the glass in the entrance stairwell.

KATHRYN BREWARD
Clarence Regional Library

Coffs Harbour Libraries turn the big 'Five O'



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A crowd of former staff, current and former Councillors, long-time library customers, current library employees and volunteers took over Coffs Harbour Library on Tuesday 15 April to help celebrate the Library's 50th birthday.

The birthday party consisted of a special morning tea event held at Coffs Harbour Library. Speakers at the event included the Mayor, Cr Denise Knight, Frances Sims representing the State Library and previous librarians, Lorraine Vass and Janet Merriman.

Janet Merriman told the audience a few tales of her time in the Library Service, which began on the opening day of the first purpose built library building, the Harry Bailey Memorial Library, in 1973. She caused laughter when she described how the very first Cleo magazine – containing the infamous Jack Thompson centrefold – was sent to the Library with strict instructions to keep it under the counter “and only produce it when requested”!

Lorraine Vass, the first professional librarian employed by Council, said that although things were informal in the early days they achieved a lot. Both former staff members wished the Library all the best for another 50 years.

No party is complete without a birthday cake and the library's, in the shape of a shelf of books with special spine titles reflecting key developments over time, was a real talking point and the focus of many photos... it was delicious as well. A photo exhibition was on display as well as various library memorabilia including a card catalogue, complete with cards!

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ENZO ACCADIA
Coffs Harbour City Library

50 years 50 Stories

The library also launched its 50 years 50 stories project on the day, an innovative project using an online blog site and digital media to showcase its history and its impact on users over the years. The site includes narratives on these milestones as well as photographs, online oral history interviews and streaming videos. New stories will be added each month until all 50 stories are published by the end of the year.

One of the reasons that the blog appealed to us was that it allowed us to celebrate our anniversary over a much longer period – it wasn't just a single day in the year to mark 50 years of service, but an entire year to showcase our library, its development as well as the impact we have had on our community. It also provides us with something concrete that we can look back on in later years to see how we commemorated this occasion.

Contributions to the 50 years 50 stories are from a small but dedicated team of library staff who are working towards the common goal of actually managing to post 50 stories in 50 weeks.

The oral history element of this project has been an interesting journey as none of our staff had experience with conducting oral histories - we had to learn the intricacies of not just copyright laws, but also preparing, conducting and editing an interview, as well as ‘what do all these buttons on the recorder do??’ One fun aspect has been pointing the recorder at staff and saying ‘keep talking, I'm just testing the sound levels’ and seeing how they react!

50 years 50 stories is an exciting project to be involved with, which will not only commemorate 50 years of public library service in Coffs Harbour but hopefully also highlight the impact the library has had on our community members. Visit the 50 Years 50 Stories site at <http://ourstorycoffslibrary.info>

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LIZ THOMAS
Coffs Harbour City Library

- 01 THE ORIGINAL COFFS HARBOUR LIBRARY BUILDING IN ABOUT 1964
- 02 FRANCES SIMS, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC LIBRARY AND LEARNING SERVICES AT THE STATE LIBRARY, AND CR DENISE KNIGHT, MAYOR OF COFFS HARBOUR, INSPECT THE CAKE
- 03 50 YEARS 50 STORIES BLOG

If you build it they will come back!

Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre open for business



/01

- 01 VISITORS STREAM THROUGH THE DOORS OF THE NEW BANKSTOWN LIBRARY
- 02 THE NEW BANKSTOWN LIBRARY AND KNOWLEDGE CENTRE
- 03 VISITORS ENJOY THE NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES
- 04 CHILDREN IN FRONT OF THE GREEN WALL

Word is quickly spreading throughout the state about how fantastic our Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre (BLaKC) is since opening early April. It is already up for its first award after being named a finalist in the 2014 United Nations of Australia World Environment Day Awards in the Green Building category. The library has a number of sustainable elements including the Green Wall that spans across all three levels and consists of 4,000 individual plants, the geo-thermal heating and cooling system, and the clever use of recycled timbers from the old Town Hall.

Opening Day on Sunday 6 April was not unlike the Boxing Day sales with hundreds of residents waiting to hear the Mayor open the library to the public. Locals had clearly missed coming to their local library as 2,771 visitors came through the gates throughout the afternoon. In the first six weeks 1,200 of the 1,400 new members were children, who received a Busy Nippers activity bag to celebrate joining the Library service.

The new BLaKC offers residents the opportunity to access state-of-the-art technology all around the library including a technology table and 6 iMacs. The new centre offers 54 public computers of which 12 are located in the IT training lab, and 2 PCs in the kid's library, 2 smart information kiosks, a smartboard and 2 Scan Pros in the Local History

library. The new colourful children's library is located adjacent to the outdoor reading garden. The library introduced an overnight returns solution and smart internal returns to a 5 bin configuration. The old library had introduced RFID but more equipment was installed at the BLaKC with 4 patron self loan stations and a self serve reservations collection point.

The library has new merchandising shelves for recent returns and new book display which encourages time-poor patrons to browse at the library foyer find something of interest and borrow all within 10 minutes of walking into the library. Council's social media platforms were launched just days prior to the official public opening and generated a good deal of community comment which is ongoing. We often see library patrons enjoying a coffee in the light and spacious BLaKC Café after visiting the new facility.

Editor's Note: the BLaKC was assisted by a Library Development Grant of \$200,000.

History @ Bankstown

A major feature of the new BLaKC is the History @ Bankstown special library. The purpose built library contains all our local collections including microforms, monographs, photographs, maps, land grants and oral histories and specialist staff are working on a project to provide improved e-access to valuable materials as a means of preserving the originals.

The History @ Bankstown project includes the extensive Lightwall history display that patrons see immediately entering the BLaKC and designed by library staff from photos and original materials from the collections. The Light wall depicts the history of the site including council chambers, The Spirit of Botany statue, the old Town Hall, Paul Keating Park and the history of the Library Service on the site for nearly 50 years prior to the new 5,000sqm building. The History @ Bankstown project includes cataloguing and indexing local photographs into the Library Management System for access to patron from our OPAC. The Library will create the pictures database from existing digitised images as a test for the thousands of local images that are being reviewed for inclusion into the database.

Bryan Brown Theatre opens in Bankstown

The Bryan Brown 300 seat Theatre and four community function rooms in the BLaKC were officially opened during a VIP event on Saturday night 5 April. The evening brought back many fond memories for the time the Bankstown Town Hall operated as a theatre restaurant. As part of the opening night, guests enjoyed a variety show compared by Bryan Brown with performers that included Mark Vincent.

The hit of the night was Bryan's and his sister's trip down memory lane in the History @ Bankstown library where he recounted his adventures on the library mobile in his youth as the Brown family resided in Panania. The Mayor enthusiastically opened the new History library the next day with stories from invited guests resounding in his ears.

ROBYN OWENS
Bankstown City Library and Information Service



/02



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/04

At last, Rockdale will get a new Library



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF THE NEW ROCKDALE CITY LIBRARY

Over the last 30 years there have been several attempts to build a new library for the City of Rockdale, to replace the 'temporary' library – now in its 30th year. On Wednesday 4 June 2014, Rockdale City Council unanimously approved to proceed with building a new Library.

Rockdale Council made the decision to provide a library service to its residents in the early 1950s. When the Rockdale Library Service commenced in November 1955, it was in the form of mobile library truck that serviced the whole municipal area.

The first Rockdale Branch Library was opened on 8 February 1958. Branches in Bexley, Bexley North, Arncliffe and Ramsgate Sans-Souci were opened in the 1960s-70s. The last branch, Brighton-le-Sands, was opened in 1985.

In 1982, Council decided to build a new administration building behind the Town Hall, demolish the Rockdale Branch Library, and move the library into the vacated Council office space adjacent to the Town Hall. In September 1984, the library moved into the 'temporary' space.

A 1985 report found that Rockdale Library was failing to meet basic standards of library service and was in fact ranked third last in library effectiveness in the Sydney metropolitan area. Dissatisfaction with the Library service and building continued to be expressed throughout the remainder of the 1980s.

On several occasions during the 1970s, 1990s and 2000s Rockdale, Kogarah and Hurstville Councils raised the possibility of building a regional library, however discussions led nowhere.

In 2009 Rockdale Council established a Working Party to investigate opportunities to fund, construct and operate a new Central Library. In 2010 Council noted a proposal for a new Rockdale Central Library and resolved that concept plans should be prepared.

A Feasibility Study and Masterplan was completed, bringing the library project in at \$16 million. A decision was taken to wait until after the 2012 elections to present the project to the newly formed Council.

Following the elections in 2012, the new Council further delayed the project. A number of newly elected Councillors, while in principle supporting libraries, were not convinced Council could fund a building project of this size. The project finally went back to Council on Wednesday 4 June 2014 and was unanimously supported. Council voted to approve the tender for the design and construction of the new Rockdale City Library.

"This is an historic day for Rockdale and its community," said Rockdale Mayor Shane O'Brien. "The City Library will provide a state-of-the-art research, study and information space for all our residents.

Three speakers addressed Council, passionately supporting the new Library project. Dr John Barclay, a long time Rockdale resident and former member of the Library Council of NSW, stated:

The central library facility here at Rockdale is an embarrassment and something to be ashamed of... As an interested and concerned long term resident I urge the Council to vote in favour of fully supporting this critical initiative to build the long overdue new City of Rockdale Central Library building which is of such rare importance for the whole common good.

Year 11 student and member of Rockdale City Youth Council, Andrew Edwards said:

What kind of leader do you want to be? Maybe you're happy with just keeping the peace and maintaining the status quo or maybe you want something more. Maybe you want to inspire others by stepping outside your comfort zone so they have the courage to do the same. Maybe you want to leave a lasting legacy for future generations in this community. What kind of message do you want to communicate to the local young leaders of tomorrow?

... Rockdale Library needs your support and tonight is your chance to show it.

When I began at Rockdale, some staff said of a new library "it will never happen; we've tried so many times; Rockdale plans but never builds". In early 2016, we hope to see you all at the opening of Rockdale's new City Library.

MARK NORMAN
Rockdale City Library

Planning for the future at City of Ryde

In 2013 Ryde Library Service embarked on an ambitious journey to plan the future of our libraries. In June 2014 the journey came to an end when City of Ryde Councillors unanimously endorsed *Libraries for Ryde* as a 10 year plan for the development of libraries in Ryde.

In the development of *Libraries for Ryde* all library staff were involved – through brainstorming sessions that explored key features such as our Guiding Principles and in workshops that helped to fine tune the emerging Library Service Delivery Model.

A group of 16 staff were involved as researchers to the project, each spending about 2 weeks away from their normal duties so that they could undertake intensive research on aspects of the plan eg collections, technology, services and staffing.

Such a level of staff involvement has ensured the relevance of our plan – it is about our community, our libraries and our future. The process has also been an extraordinary staff development opportunity as our staff have grown a unique understanding of these issues and they are, without doubt, the City of Ryde library experts.

Of equal importance to the involvement of library staff was the role that others played. A Community Reference Group provided valuable insight into what locals expect from our libraries now and hope to see developed. Roger Henshaw and Victoria Anderson of Roger Henshaw Consultancy Services brought great library expertise to the project. They provided guidance to the research, and then worked with the research papers to create a full document. They oversaw the work of the Community Reference Group, and assisted at those all-important meetings with Councillors and Council's Executive Team. Each of these groups provided feedback to the emerging document, helping to shape the final product and ensuring its relevance and ultimate success.

After many hours and volumes of writing, *Libraries for Ryde* was distilled into a slim and colourful document. All library staff now have a copy of our plan, and in reading the plan, they are quick to acknowledge just how relevant it is for our future.

Key features of our plan include:

- Our Guiding Principles – a remarkable distillation of why 60 individuals choose to work in a public library
- Analysis of our library today
- Review of the trends most likely to impact on our future



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- A Library Service Delivery Model that creates and describes a hierarchy of libraries. It will be invaluable in decision making about library development in future years.
- An Implementation Plan that provides broad goals and strategies across all aspects of public library operation, and that will provide tasks to be undertaken as part of our annual planning cycle.

- 01 STAFF OF RYDE LIBRARY SERVICE
- 02 STAFF PROUDLY DISPLAY THEIR COPIES OF *LIBRARIES FOR RYDE*

It's been quite a journey for all of us at Ryde Library Service. Like all good journeys though the end is in fact a beginning of the next journey. The completion of *Libraries for Ryde* gives great opportunity for our future. We really understand the complexity of what is ahead, have a plan to help us be ready for that future, and that will guide the decision making to come.

JILL WEBB
Ryde Library Service

Western Sydney's news: Read all about it! ... again



EVOLUTION OF THE CUMBERLAND ARGUS AND FRUITGROWERS' ADVOCATE - FROM NEWSPRINT, TO MICROFILM AND NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE STATE LIBRARY OF NSW

Eleven public library services, in partnership with the University of Western Sydney (UWS) Library, the State Library of NSW (SLNSW) and the National Library of Australia (NLA) have recently completed a project to digitise two of Western Sydney's historic newspapers.

Through the NLA's Australian Newspapers Digitisation Program, *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate* (also known as *The Cumberland Argus*) and *The Cumberland Free Press* have been digitised and are now available on the NLA's Trove website.

Work on this project began in 2011, when the Western Sydney Local Studies Librarians (WSLS) Group identified the need to digitise *The Cumberland Argus*, a Parramatta-based newspaper first published in 1887. The number of issues available and the vast geographic coverage, meant that it would have been impossible for any single public library service to have undertaken this project alone.

The WSLS Group decided early on to split this project into manageable stages.

Eight of the member libraries of the WSLS Group, along with Ryde, Hornsby and the UWS library services funded Stage I of the project, to digitise the available issues from 1888 to 1919, ensuring that articles about the early development of many of the suburbs and local government areas and more importantly stories about their residents, sporting groups, businesses and community organisations, were available to the public. Of particular benefit is the extensive coverage of the World War I period, reporting on the men and women who served overseas, and the patriotic spirit and fund raising efforts provided across the various districts.

Holroyd City Council Library Service on behalf of 10 public library services, submitted a successful joint Library Development Grant for funding of Stage II. The \$59,000.00 grant was obtained from the Library Council of New South Wales in May 2012.

Invaluable advice and assistance was provided by both the NLA and SLNSW during this project and for the joint grant application.

Progress on these first two stages exceeded our expectations, and it was decided to go ahead with the third stage of the project, obtaining permission from NewsLocal (the community newspaper arm of News Limited), to digitise the issues still covered by copyright. The Hills, Blacktown, Fairfield and Holroyd public library services and the UWS Library jointly contributed the funds towards this portion of the project.

Late in 2012, it was decided to digitise another newspaper – *The Cumberland Free Press*. This was a short lived newspaper published between 1895 and 1897 in Parramatta. *The Cumberland Free Press* was absorbed by *The Cumberland Argus* in the late 19th century, making it a logical choice as the next newspaper to digitise.

The project was closely linked with the Australian Newspaper Plan, a cooperative endeavour to collect, preserve and provide access to Australian newspapers.

Access to digitised newspapers is through the National Library's free discovery service, Trove (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>).

Already this service is providing free online access to nearly 13.5 million pages from almost 710 Australian metropolitan and regional newspapers from every state and territory.

The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate and *The Cumberland Free Press* join the growing number of Western Sydney based newspapers now available on Trove, which have been funded by individual library services or smaller consortia projects. Hopefully they won't be the last, but it is unlikely that there will be a newspaper digitisation project of this scale again.

Organisations wishing to contribute to a newspaper digitisation project can contact the National Library at andp@nla.gov.au

STEPHEN COPPINS
Holroyd City Council Library Service

On behalf of Auburn City Council Library Service, Blacktown City Council Library Service, Campbelltown City Council Library Service, Fairfield City Council Library Service, Hawkesbury City Council Library Service, Hornsby Shire Council Library Service, Liverpool City Council Library Service, Parramatta Heritage Centre, Parramatta City Council Library Service, City of Ryde Library Service and The Hills Shire Council Library Service.

Library & Information Week 19-25 May 2014



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BLAND SHIRE LIBRARY

The Library and Information Week 2014 program had lots to offer the Bland Shire community this year. The library held a week long picture puzzle competition, which required library patrons to use the clues to piece together well known book titles. A total of 22 picture puzzles were required to be unravelled and many library patrons had fun unravelling the clues.

The week commenced with the launch of the library's writers group on Monday 19th of May. The group plans to meet fortnightly and is open to anyone in the community interested in writing.

On Tuesday 20th of May, Mark Cafe was this year's guest speaker for Bland Shire Library's Living Libraries talk. A large crowd attended the event which has been hailed a huge success. Mark spoke about his growing up in Wyalong, his distinguished army career and his latest project – restoring the historic Royal Hotel (which is a hundred years old this year) and reopening it for business.

On Wednesday the 21st of May, the library together with many schools and libraries around Australia participated in the National Simultaneous Storytime. Children from Little Wattle Long Day Care, Family Day Care as well as children and parents from the community enjoyed a fun morning in the library listening to stories and participating in a range of fun activities.

On Thursday the 22nd of May, the library held a very successful biggest and littlest morning tea. The biggest morning tea was enjoyed by a large number of community members and Bland Shire Council Staff. The littlest morning tea was aimed at the under five's who followed the library's regular Thursday story time. Many members of the community contributed delicious cakes and slices to the event and over \$500 was collected for the Cancer Council.

JOANNE RUSSO
Bland Shire Library



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CLARENCE REGIONAL LIBRARY

Clarence Valley Libraries enjoyed a hectic fun-filled week for Library and Information Week.

Well known author and television presenter Andrew Daddo visited Maclean and Grafton Libraries. Over 260 students and teachers packed into the newly built Sir Earle Page Library and Education Centre to hear him speak about his writing and television work. Kindergarten to year 7 students were entertained with his humour and descriptive physical expression of his writing process.

The main public event was in Maclean for an author talk on Wednesday May 21 at the Maclean Bowling Club. The doors opened at 5:30pm, with time for a drink and a nibble before Mr Daddo spoke about his writing and the importance of reading to children. Andrew shared his fond memories of his family holidays to Yamba and had everyone laughing with his writing tales. Andrew's natural warmth and humour won many new fans over the course of his presentations.

Library Lovers from Iluka, Yamba and Maclean had an enjoyable visit to the Sir Earle Page Library and Education Centre in Grafton. The Lower River visitors were given a tour of the Library, demonstrated use of the self-checkout kiosk in pirate language, played with the interactive floor mat and learnt of the building's green initiatives. A tasty morning tea was provided.

KATHRYN BREWARD
Clarence Regional Library

- 01 MARK CAFE, GUEST SPEAKER AT BLAND'S LIVING LIBRARIES TALK, AND CATHY LANGE FROM BLAND SHIRE LIBRARY
- 02 ANDREW DADDO VISITS CLARENCE VALLEY LIBRARIES



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- 01 JOIN THE DOTS
DISPLAY AT COFFS
HARBOUR
- 02 SBS PRESENTER
TRINH NGUYEN AT
CABRAMATTA FOR
NSS
- 03 LIBRARY WEEK
ACTIVITIES AT
GRENFELL
- 04 LUCY CHEN AND
MARGIE ABBOTT
CELEBRATE NSS AT
ST IVES LIBRARY

JOIN THE DOTS AT COFFS HARBOUR

This library and Information Week we used the ALIA theme Join the Dots and we borrowed an idea from Eden Prairie Library in the United States, and asked our clients “Why did you come to the library today?” At the central branch the answers were pinned to a large display board, at the two smaller branches they were attached to a large window using low tack adhesive tape. All three displays looked attractive as they grew and using the tape avoided the unsightly blobs of Blu-tack. The answers from all three branches were enlightening and enchanting and delighted staff and our clientele alike. The key themes were: reading, books, learning, studying, research, knowledge, finding work, internet, email, helpful staff, relaxation, entertainment and the library as a place to escape to!

Here are some of the responses:

- To hide from the family for a while!!!
- To do a mountain of paperwork.
- To borrow a book, reserve a book & use the computer. Thank heavens for the library, I would be “lost” without it.
- I listen to talking books while driving my tractor. I can work & be well read at the same time. Thank you Coffs library.
- To study for uni, amazing study place!

Following Library and Information Week we loaded photographs of many of the responses onto Flickr and published an article in the library’s monthly e-newsletter promoting them for everyone to view.

It was a great project; it was light on resources and it’s given us some useful information on how people actually use the library. You can read about the original project by Eden Prairie Library at <http://shelfcheck.blogspot.com.au/2014/02/why-did-you-come-to-library-today.html>

CAROLYN ELMES
Coffs Harbour City Library



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FAIRFIELD CITY LIBRARIES

Herds of elephants appeared in Fairfield City Libraries in the lead up to this year’s National Simultaneous Storytime on Wednesday 21 May. Each of our five libraries participated and at Cabramatta Library we were privileged to have SBS radio presenter Trinh Nguyen read a Vietnamese translation of *Too Many Elephants in This House* by Ursula Dubosarsky. Approximately 282 children and their carers attended the five sessions and enjoyed the simultaneous story as well as other stories, songs and craft relating to elephants.

CAROLYN BOURKE
Fairfield City Libraries

LIBRARY WEEK AT GRENFELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Week was BIG at Grenfell this year. It began on Monday, 19th May, with a very enjoyable “Afternoon Tea with an Author”. Over twenty people gathered to hear award-winning Australian children’s writer Elizabeth (Libby) Fensham speak about some of her books and experiences as an author and answer questions from a very interested audience. Afterwards everyone enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea courtesy of the Friends of Grenfell Library.

On Wednesday, 21st May, seventeen children from the Grenfell Preschool visited the library for National Simultaneous Story Time from 11.00 am. After listening to the story the children talked about how elephants eat and wash, sang an elephant song and then decorated elephants to go on a large elephant house – which can still be inspected in the library. All children then went back to Preschool with a pair of elephant ears as a memento of the morning.

Thursday afternoon, 22nd, featured the Summer Reading Club Awards Afternoon Tea for members of the Club and their guests. Special guest entertainers this year were Sue and Steve from the Sydney Puppet Theatre and they provided half-an-hour of terrific entertainment. The dancing sausages were definitely a highlight along with the gradually dismembered duck.



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Sue presented Award and Participation Certificates to twenty-seven Club members and then all enjoyed another sumptuous spread provided by the Friends of Grenfell Library.

On Friday morning, 23rd May, all c.180 Year K – 4 students from the Shire schools attended a one-hour music and puppet performance by the Sydney Puppet Theatre. The show was entitled “The Emperor’s New Beat Box” and was essentially a quick musical tour around the world but with a shadow puppet play included.

And the finale was a puppet-making workshop for interested students after school on Friday (we did work Sue and Steve hard!!). Nineteen students created a rod puppet with head, skirt and hand and at the end of the afternoon performed some simple movements with their puppet – no doubt there was a lot more practice with them for other family members when they got home!

Library Week is a good time to reflect on the contribution public libraries make to their communities and also the variety of input that they offer. Our program demonstrated that the library is a centre of community enrichment as well as a fun place.

ANNE GAULT
Grenfell Library

DECKED OUT IN DOTS AND SIPPING JAPANESE TEA

Hornsby Library embraced this year’s LIW theme - Join the Dots - being decked out with dots as staff wore spotted scarves and dotty clothes and large festive paper dots hung from the ceiling. We hosted the Biggest Morning Tea and celebrated Library and Information Week as we engaged our visitors through a range of activities held over the morning to enjoy, discover, connect and Join.

Visitors enjoyed Bubs and Books, Toddler Tales and a delicious morning tea provided by staff raising money for the Cancer Council. Some discovered and



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connected with eBooks and eMagazines and many joined in the Japanese Tea ceremony.

The Japanese Tea ceremony added a serene and cultural element to a busy morning of activities. Three ladies dressed in Kimonos artfully prepared and showed around 90 participants’ elements of a Japanese Tea ceremony. Participants tasted the traditional sweets served with the tea and sipped the vivid green traditional Green Tea with its slightly bitter and refreshing taste. The tea ceremony proved to be a popular and well received aspect to our Biggest Morning Tea and LIW celebrations.

KATHLEEN ALLEN
Hornsby Library

NSS DOUBLE THE FUN AT KU-RING-GAI LIBRARY THIS YEAR

To celebrate 13 years of National Simultaneous Storytime, we decided to present a few of our favourite past NSS titles in addition to *Too Many Elephants in This House* by Ursula Dubosarsky. We chose *Feathers for Phoebe* by Rod Clement, *The Very Cranky Bear* by Nick Bland, and *The Wrong Book* also by Nick Bland.

St Ives library was fortunate to have two very special guests join the children to celebrate National Simultaneous Storytime. *Too Many Elephants in This House* was beautifully read by Margie Abbott and her animated reading was followed by a Mandarin version of the story told by journalist Lucy Chen from SBS.

It was a fun occasion for the children to have Margie leading the story telling as she is a gifted and involving narrator. Lucy encouraged the children to join in the reading by teaching them a few words of Mandarin, an opportunity which they took up enthusiastically.

A second NSS celebratory storytime for families was presented the following evening at Gordon library. *Too Many Elephants in This House* was presented as a play with children from the audience taking the role of the elephants. We did, of course,



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have far too many elephants and Eric's mum said they had to go. At the end of the event, the children dressed up in elephant masks for photographs with family and friends.

MICHELLE CAIRNS AND REBECCA SHOESMITH
Ku-ring-gai Library

WRITERS' DAY AT MONA VALE

We celebrated Library and Information Week 2014 at Mona Vale library with a Writers' Day on Wednesday 21st May. All the activities and events on offer were free and designed to engage people with the written word and promote reading.

It was a great day and very well attended, starting out with a workshop on the process of self-publishing, facilitated by local author Owen Ravenscroft. Our second session of the day was a writers' discussion group with the detective fiction writer Charles Boag, creator of the Mister Rainbow series featuring a Private Investigator with depth!

After a break for a well catered lunch we were delighted to be able to launch our eBook collection. We did this by offering clients an introductory session on the use of iPads to access the library's new collection.

Our other afternoon event called 'The Big Read' was also a new venture for us. Building upon the success of our traditional reading groups, we decided to hold an informal reading group, and invite open participation. The novel selected for discussion, *Jasper Jones* by Craig Silvey generated some very interesting debate.

Children were also well catered for on Writers' Day. At our preschool story time session children participated in National Simultaneous Story time. At the end of the day a creative writing workshop for 9-12 year olds was facilitated by our Children's Librarian. This was a very lively session.

Writers' Day was a team effort, drawing on the skills of staff from across the library to deliver on a dynamic event. It was a great opportunity to get people engaged with the written word in a variety of ways, by making use of writing, reading, technology and simply talking about books. The concentration of events on one day created a buzz and a sense of excitement, and allowed us to use our resources efficiently.

HEATHER THOMSON
Mona Vale Library

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION WEEK AT MOSMAN CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

It was an exciting time from 19 to 25 May in the Children's Library at Mosman. We danced, sang and joined the dots in celebration of Library and Information Week 2014. The year's theme - Join the Dots was used to create a fun display joining the big events during the week. This included a special Thursday Kids Craft Session after school when children made special "Join the Dots" bookmarks and of course National Simultaneous Storytime.

On Thursday 22 May at our Thursday Kids session the children made a monster bookmark and joined many dot to dots. There were thirty five children who helped us celebrate how great libraries are and especially Mosman Library.

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION WEEK AT MOSMAN LIBRARY

Here at Mosman we never let Library and Information Week pass us by without taking full advantage of the opportunity to celebrate and publicise the great services we offer. This year saw all kinds of fun activities taking place in the Children's Library as well as a three day library book sale, an author evening with Robert Wainwright speaking about his new book *Sheila*, and of course the highlight of the week, the Mosman Library Trivia Night.

Always a crowd pleaser the Library Trivia Night guarantees to bring in trivia diehards from far and wide. Not for the faint hearted our trivia nights have developed a reputation for being seriously challenging, thanks to the tricky questions devised by the project team. All up we had 8 teams who battled it out to beat last year's reigning champions and secure the honour of first place. As expected competition was fierce and it came right down to a tie breaker before 1st, 2nd and 3rd place were secured amidst an air of excitement and uncertainty.

Congratulations went, once again, to last year's winners 'Yesterday's Heroes' who won by all of 1 point, followed closely by 'The Ramsay Rockets' and 'The Dandy Warhols' in 2nd and 3rd place respectively. It was an awesome night of trivia, not to mention the great food, and the organising team worked hard to ensure all elements of the night ran smoothly. Our guests were impressed, even those who didn't win a prize, and it is wonderful to be able to engage the community in a fun social setting and remind them that the library is much more than a place to borrow books.

MERILYN PORTER
Mosman Library



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NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME AT PARKES

More than 100 children from a local pre-school, home schooled families and regular Rhyme Time/Storytime families attended "Parkes Library Players" performance of this year's National Simultaneous Storytime book, *Too Many Elephants in This House* by Ursula Dubosarsky and Andrew Joyner.

Many hours of planning, scripting and prop making were undertaken to ensure the children experienced a story telling session with a difference. All the props made were of a 'gigantic' size including a toothbrush complete with shaving cream (toothpaste) elephant masks, zoo gate with zoo animals and a box (house) for the elephants. Audio sound effects and a projection of the story on the library big screen had the children squealing with delight.

All the children left the library buzzing wearing huge smiles and their very own elephant mask. Bring on NSS 2015!!

SANDIE WARD
Parkes Shire Library

AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA AT CASINO LIBRARY

On Friday 23rd May Casino library hosted its inaugural Biggest Morning Tea fund raiser for the Cancer Council. Between donations, raffles and guessing competitions, a total of \$382 was raised.

The event also included lucky door prizes and a Bake Off competition which attracted 11 entries in 3 categories – Cakes, Slices and Biscuits. Judging was by People's Choice on the day, with only one vote separating 1st and 2nd place in all 3 categories.

The library is now compiling a recipe book of all entries received along with staff favourites. The book will be sold for \$5 with all proceeds going to the Cancer Council. To order your copy, please contact the library on 6660 0250.

As part of our Simultaneous Storytime event, we took *Too Many Elephants in This House* on the road. Aboard the Mobile Library we headed out to Bentley and its rural community preschool to share



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this delightful story. This Preschool doesn't get the opportunity to access its nearby township of Casino, so being able to supplement our monthly storytime visits to them and sharing a story whilst seated inside the Mobile Library was exciting for all!

SYLVIA COOLING
Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library

HENTY LIBRARY CELEBRATES LIW WITH A VISIT TO THE GARDEN CLUB

Library and Information Week was celebrated by Henty Library staff with an outreach visit and presentation of Communities Need Libraries to the local Henty Garden Club's monthly meeting.

The visit proved to be a fantastic opportunity to promote the wonderful library programs, collections and services to a community of different socio-economic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

Many participants at the meeting were surprised to learn that libraries are no longer just a repository for books and that they now provide a range of books, DVDs, magazines, and sound recordings.

Of even greater surprise to the audience was that the Henty Library, like most other libraries, is now a hybrid library - existing not only in the physical static building but also in the digital world, providing customers with free access to eBooks, eAudios, Zinio magazines, Freegal music and a selection of educational databases.

The Communities Need Libraries presentation was extremely relevant at a time when libraries are facing continual pressures of decreasing funding from the NSW State Government and competition from Google, Amazon and other new and emerging information professionals - trying to do what we do!

SUSAN KANE
Henty Library

- 01 TRIVIA NIGHT AT MOSMAN LIBRARY
- 02 NSS AT PARKES
- 03 BAKE OFF COMPETITION ENTRIES AT CASINO



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01 PARTICIPANTS
AND THEIR
GARDEN POTS
MADE AT MOSAIC
WORKSHOPS AT
WOLLONDILLY

02 A UKULELE-
PLAYING
ELEPHANT
STARS IN NSS AT
WOOLLAHRA

MOSAIC WORKSHOPS AT WOLLONDILLY

In celebration of Library and Information Week 2014, Wollondilly Library Service hosted a series of mosaic workshops in which participants decorated garden pots. Wollondilly Shire Council's Environmental Services and Community Nursery team also supported the program by donating plants for participants. Facilitated by Library Officer and Art Maker, Carmelina Nunnari, the sessions were a means of connecting local patrons creatively, socially and informatively whilst promoting our mosaic and related collections.

CARMELINA NUNNARI
Wollondilly Library Service

NSS AT WOLLONDILLY

Wollondilly Library Service celebrated National Simultaneous Storytime by dressing up and acting out *Too Many Elephants in the House* by Ursula Dubosarsky and Andrew Joyner. Staff had a fabulous time releasing their inner elephants, presenting the story at a preschool storytime session. One participant won the lucky door prize, a copy of the book, while everyone else got to choose a lucky dip prize.

JULIE ABRAHAMS
Wollondilly Library Service



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NSS AT WOOLLAHRA LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICE

Ursula Dubosarsky's delightful story *Too Many Elephants in This House* was dramatised at the Double Bay Library on Wednesday 21 May as part of National Simultaneous Storytime. Right on cue with the 11.00 am countdown the storybook characters leapt into action with Eric peacefully reading his beloved elephant book when a herd of elephants nearly successfully took over his house – much to his mother's annoyance.

A local preschool and Library staff laughed and readily joined in as we acted with elephants in the bath, elephants in the bed and even an elephant in a gigantic fridge box. There was much mayhem as the elephants crashed and banged makeshift musical instruments and made a frightful noise.

The elephants very poorly played a game of hide and seek. The children were much better at finding the elephants than Eric. Finally Eric was able to round up all the elephants and get them into an enormous box that he found. Favourite songs were interspersed in the story reading with one elephant skillfully playing a ukulele and the audience joined in with great enthusiasm. At the end of the session children were all given an elephant mask and danced and stomped to some classic elephant walk music.

The National Simultaneous Storytime has proven to be a wonderful team building experience at Double Bay Library with many library staff actively seeking out to be involved in the event. A big thumbs up LIKE from staff who are already requesting to be involved next year!

VICKI MCGREGOR
Woollahra Library & Information Service

In the Libraries

G+ HANGOUTS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Video and telephone conferencing has come a long way in the past 10 years and is now a vital element of pursuing and maintaining professional development. Over the past few years the NSW Reference and Information Services Group (<http://referenceandinformationservices.wikifoundry.com/>) has pursued a number of options as ways of connecting members across the state to meetings, workshops, and seminars.

In May 2014 the annual Reference @ the Metcalfe seminar made use of Google+ Hangouts to connect presenters from the US and Queensland to the seminar. These G+ Hangout presentations were streamed and shared via the RISG YouTube account (<http://www.youtube.com/user/NSWRISG>) ensuring that everyone can access these presentations whether they attended the seminar or not, or review them afterwards and share them with colleagues at their place of work. All planning for the seminar was undertaken using G+ Hangouts as the key tool for connecting working group team members whose locations range from around the Sydney metro (including Fairfield, Manly, and Randwick) to Sutherland in the south and Coffs Harbour in the north of the state.

From a professional development perspective the primary advantage of utilising G+ Hangouts is to enable participation regardless of distance. G+ Hangout allows for video, audio, and chat and if scheduled correctly facilitates participation across a range of time zones - which is what makes providing overseas presenters with opportunities to speak at our local seminars such a viable (logistically and financially) option. And like other popular services such as Skype, G+ Hangouts is a free service enabling up to 10 users to create and join a hangout whilst providing the ability to stream a hangout for widespread public viewing. Additionally, using G+ exposes librarians to other ways in providing communication and services which may not have previously been thought of, such as running online book clubs and providing a video-connected reference service to off-site locations (like schools).

However, as with all online services there will always be limitations, usually in form of slow or highly protected networks and secured workstations. But our communication needs are changing and so will access. Video conferencing (and online training)

has become a commonly used service as have mobile devices such as tablets and smartphones as well as a wide range of social networking sites. Phone conferencing has all but been replaced by video conferencing. Our changing needs at work will open up access to video chat and conferencing services such as G+ hangouts which has become commonplace in our private lives.

SEAN FINLAY, Randwick

CATHY JOHNSTON, Coffs Harbour

NEW CORPORATE LIBRARY MODULE NOW AVAILABLE IN REF-EX

NSW Ref-ex, the training based on Ohio Reference Excellence (ORE), has recently been updated with Module 12 - Corporate Library Services.

Ref-ex (or Reference excellence) is self-paced reference and information services training that was developed through collaboration between New South Wales public libraries and the State Library of New South Wales. It aims to help libraries improve training for reference and information services, without having to plan appropriate training from scratch. Modules 1-6 cover general reference issues, while modules 7-12 relate to specific areas such as Roving reference; Local studies and now Corporate libraries.

The purpose of this new module is to develop understanding of the nature of corporate library services in local government and to enhance the knowledge and skills needed to answer reference questions from a specific client group, council staff and elected councillors. Whether or not your library offers a dedicated service to this group, there will be occasions when they will turn to the library for information, and staff who have completed this module will have the skills and confidence to assist.

The Ref-ex training program is available on State Library of New South Wales website. Further assistance with questions relating to services to council staff and elected councillors is always available by contacting the Local Government Corporate Librarians group members@lglb.org

JANE WHEELER

On behalf of the Corporate Librarians Group

In the Libraries

Albury

ENVIRO TALKS AT ALBURY

Albury LibraryMuseum and Lavington Library have collaborated with the Council's Sustainability team to run a series of monthly Saturday environmental talks alternating between venues. Talk topics have included: sustainable lifestyle, save power and sustainable gardening. This is a great opportunity to display and promote relevant library resources. The Sustainability Team also ran Environment Day storytimes at our libraries, reading a children's book they have written about an adventure in Albury's local environment.

CARINA CLEMENT
AlburyCity

Blacktown

DIGITAL HUB IN BLACKTOWN: THE BIGGER PICTURE

Blacktown City Council has a vision to ensure that residents have equitable access to evolving computer technologies and opportunities to develop their digital literacy skills.

This is particularly important given Blacktown City's unique demographics and cultural and linguistic diversity. Blacktown City is home for over 318,000 people living in 48 residential suburbs, making it the largest Local Government Area by population in NSW. It is also one of the fastest growing regions with a population anticipated to reach 500,000 by 2031.

Over 35 per cent of Blacktown residents were born overseas and speak a language other than English with 169 languages represented in the community. In addition, Blacktown contains the largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in NSW. These factors present unique challenges for digital literacy and online participation.

That is where the Digital Hub comes in – as part of the 'Digital Networks and Communications Trigger Project' led by the Blacktown City Libraries, it complements a range of library digital training and networking initiatives, including the Blacktown Memories project. The Digital Hub plays an important role in assisting residents to be job ready and able to attract higher order employment.

"The Digital Hub has seen a highly successful collaboration between Blacktown City Libraries and the Department of Communications in providing



FRIDAY BOOK CLUB AT BLACKTOWN CITY LIBRARIES

the community the opportunity for personal growth, lifelong learning and online engagement", says Mary Ternes, the Digital Hub Coordinator. "The Digital Hub is having a real and lasting positive impact on our community."

SIX YEARS OF FRIDAY BOOK CLUB

Blacktown City Libraries' Friday Book Club met in April for the sixtieth time. These avid readers have formed a strong bond, enjoying regular monthly lunch dates in addition to their book group meetings, taking overseas holidays and visiting other cultural events together including the Sydney Writers' Festival. Over the years, each group member has enjoyed the chance to select the book of the month, with popular choices ranging from classics like *Anna Karenina*, to challenging modern fiction such as Murakami's *The Wind-up Bird Chronicle*, or non-fiction by Helen Garner. Some authors inspire very passionate responses, with the group split 50/50 over whether to read more Faulkner, White or Hemingway. Other books such as *To Kill a Mockingbird* have been so universally adored that once the love has been shared there's not much to say...then the discussion moves on to politics, religion and all the other taboo subjects. Meetings are scheduled to last an hour and quarter, but typically run to over two hours.

All would agree that the best book is a book on which no-one agrees, and that by reading beyond their individual comfort zones, each group member has discovered a book which has changed their way of seeing the world. Some members are so keen on book discussion, that they attend the Library's Tuesday Book Group as well!

SAMANTHA CADWALLEN
Max Webber Library

Bland Shire

NATIONAL LAW WEEK 2014 ROUND UP

On Tuesday the 13th of May the Bland Shire Library celebrated National Law Week by hosting a workshop focusing on Wills and Power of Attorney. Tony Dacey from the Wagga Wagga Branch of the NSW Trustee's Department was the library's guest speaker.

Tony gave a very informative presentation on the topic which was followed by many questions from the audience. The event concluded with a light lunch and each person was given an information kit on the topic to take home as well as a sample bag from the State Library of NSW.

JOANNE RUSSO
Bland Shire Library

Blue Mountains City

AUTHOR TALKS

Blue Mountains City Library has been delighted to continue our program of Author Talks, supporting local authors and others from further afield. In March, Springwood Library hosted local author and researcher Sharon Cross, who spoke on the historic public houses that line the Great Western Highway from Emu Plains through to Bathurst.

Also in March, Katoomba Library was pleased to host another local author, Pauline Conolly. Pauline has written two books, *The Water Doctor's Daughters* and *All Along the River*, both published by Robert Hale Publishing. Pauline shared with us the haunting story of the children of Doctor John Marsden, 19th century water doctor, and the interesting paths her research took her as she wrote *The Water Doctor's Daughters*.

In April, the Blue Mountains Branch of the Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc. launched their new Anthology of poetry and prose, *Journeys*, at Katoomba Library. This was a well-attended event, with members of the group taking the opportunity to share about the journey of developing this work. The book was officially launched by Professor Ian Jack, of St Andrew's College at Sydney University, who spoke with both humour and gravitas of the many wonderful pieces included in the anthology.

Blaxland Library was host to another two author talks during May. Susan Boyer, who is an experienced and highly respected author in the English Language

Teaching field, has embraced her passion for Australian history and written her first book in this area. *Across Great Divides: true stories of life at Sydney Cove* is a journey into the hearts and minds of those who experienced life in Australia's first colony. The book has been praised by the History Council of NSW, as well as by Darug cultural consultant and Aboriginal artist, Christopher Tobin. Susan's presentation was well received, with audience members commenting that they loved the pace of delivery, the slides and the examples of sources which Susan discussed.

Jennifer Smart also spoke at Blaxland Library, on her debut novel, *The Wardrobe Girl*, published by Random House. Jennifer's background is in the TV industry, having worked on the set of shows such as *Home and Away*. Her experience in this area gives a delightful background to her comic romance story. As well as highlighting the book itself, Jennifer gave an interesting presentation on her journey towards publication (including the five drafts which she had to write and re-write along the way).

In July, Katoomba Library was able to host another local author, Storm JK, who spoke on her first novel, *Emily*. This is Book One of what Storm envisages to be a trilogy (*The Eve Continuum*), a fantasy fiction story where the protagonist has magical powers enabling her to communicate with animals. Storm gave a touching talk on the process of writing this book, which audiences responded to enthusiastically. Many commented that Storm's honest presentation has inspired them to write themselves.

EDITOR-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Throughout 2014 Blue Mountains City Library is running an Editor-in-Residence program, with local freelance editor, Natalie Muller. Once a month, Natalie makes herself available all day at one of our Library branches to offer advice, answer questions and provide tailored feedback on people's writing.

This program has proved very popular with our creative locals, who have jumped at the chance to chat with Natalie about reading, tools and tips for writing, and advice on the publication process.

WRITING WORKSHOPS

Blue Mountains City Library hosted writing instructor, Keith Whelan, to run several creative writing workshops for our customers in 2014. These creative writing workshops offer customers the opportunity to pick up tips and techniques for their writing, including the "daydream" technique

In the Libraries



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01 & 02 FREE COMIC BOOK DAY AT BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY LIBRARY

03 AN IMAGE FROM *ON THE ROAD TO CAMDEN*, SHOWING BURRAGORANG VALLEY BEFORE IT WAS FLOODED

(how to create that “lost in a book” feeling for your readers), character development, plot structure, showing and telling, point of view, setting and description, and dialogue.

The workshops have been so successful, with places booking out fast, that we have decided to run another, longer workshop with Keith in August this year, focussing on the art of the short story.

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

Blue Mountains City Library and Kings Comics partnered together again this year to celebrate Free Comic Book Day 2014. This year saw the likes of Cruella De’Ville, Sailor Moon, Sylvester the Cat, Bat Girl and Captain America visiting Katoomba Library to catch up on the latest comics. Thanks to Sydney comic book and popular culture retailers, Kings Comics, 1,000 free comics were given away to attendees on the day.

In addition to having thousands of free comics to give away, and encouraging the growing participation in some fun cosplay, the Library offered a free Question and Answer session with local comic artist Tad Pietrzykowski, creator of *The Dark Nebula*. Another local comic artist, Glenn Misztal, was available on the day to provide comic sketches of Library customers as their favourite superhero. Donations collected on the day were given to the Blue Mountains City Council Mayoral Bushfire Relief fund, which contributes to the recovery and rebuilding efforts of fire affected residents in the Blue Mountains following the October 2013 bushfire.

ADRIANNA DEMMOCKS
Blue Mountains City Library



/02

Camden

CAMDEN JOURNEYS

National Trust Heritage Festival was celebrated in the Camden area with a program in partnership with the local historical and family history societies. A photographic exhibition of journeys through the area was held during April and May in the library and online. *On the road to Camden* included images of travel into Burragorang Valley before it was flooded for Warragamba Dam and was enjoyed by those who remembered the road and others who can only imagine this perilous journey.

Local people shared their journeys coming to the district at the museum and a local author told fascinating stories of those who travelled over the Razorback Road before the Hume Highway was diverted.

Dr Noeline Kyle conducted a practical and thought provoking workshop about how to write about our ancestor’s journeys by focusing on one person or an incident as a hook into a story.

Mini-discoverers, a hands-on session to introduce library storytime pre-schoolers to the museum, was a fun morning as children dressed up in clothes to travel including hats, gloves and long dresses.

The Heritage Festival was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the library and museum collections and encourage young and old to journey into the past.

JO OLIVER
Camden Council Library Service



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MORE BOOK CLUB KITS AT CAMDEN LIBRARY

Camden Council Library Service has adopted many services to encourage reading as a communal experience. With successful programs like the staff run book club and the visiting author program the library wanted to create more avenues for people to share this reading experience. However, being part of the Sydney growth zone and with large increases in population now and in the future, the service needed a method that still provided this access to a social literary world without requiring large staff involvement.

The answer was book club kits. The library provides the resources, 10 copies of each title and a list of questions to get the discussions going, and the individual clubs provide the venue and facilitation. The kits allowed new clubs to form as well as aided those already operating.

What makes this advantageous for libraries is that, once the kits are assembled, staff involvement requires little more involvement than regular loans.

The new kits allow this service to grow but also aim to diversify the narrative experience for users. This was done firstly by creating an assorted range of literary styles, from Australian classics to biographies and non-fiction and a graphic novel. The second addition is the inclusion of film adaptations in selected kits to encourage an appreciation of different narrative approaches, allowing users to read and view the work and compare how the ideas were handled in different medium.

ANDREAS MERTIN
Camden Council Library Service

Campbelltown

HISTORY WEEK AT CAMPBELLTOWN CITY LIBRARY

Campbelltown City Library celebrated History Week 2014 with an exhibition and cemetery tours featuring the lives of Campbelltown's convicts. Reflecting this year's theme of Journeys, *Bound for Campbelltown* aimed to provide an insight into what it was like to make the journey to Campbelltown as a convict from distant lands.

The lives of 21 convicts were featured in our cemetery tours and exhibition. The first cemetery tour that the library provided was of St Peter's Anglican Cemetery. This cemetery is the oldest in Campbelltown and dates back to 1822. The most famous 'resident' and convict is Fred Fisher of Fisher's Ghost fame. Another convict buried there is Thomas Rudd, an ancestor of former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. Thomas was transported for stealing a bag of sugar, much to the amusement of Kevin.

The second cemetery tour was of St John's Catholic Cemetery. This 'cemetery on the hill' has a number of interesting convict graves including the first farmer in the colony James Ruse. We had a combined total of 80 people attending the cemetery tours. The response was overwhelmingly positive and convinced us to plan more for the future.

The convicts featured in the tours were also part of the display at H.J. Daley Library at Campbelltown. Short biographies were written for each convict. Accompanying this was a video that the local studies team made of various library staff that had made the journey from overseas to Campbelltown. They responded to such questions as what they first thought of Australia and what they think about living and working in Campbelltown.

ANDREW ALLEN
Campbelltown City Library



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Canterbury

- 01 THE NOBLE COLLECTION
- 02 16 YEAR OLD ERNEST POWTER (RIGHT) AND HIS BROTHER CLAUDE. IMAGE COURTESY AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL.
- 03 HISTORIC PUB WALKING TOUR OF ORANGE DURING F.O.O.D. WEEK CELEBRATIONS.

A CANTERBURY ANZAC

On 27th May, Mayor Brian Robson launched “A Canterbury ANZAC” (The Noble Collection) at Campsie Library. The collection comprises a series of artefacts related to a local WW1 digger, Robert Noble, who died on the Western Front in 1917. The exhibition includes his service medals, photographs and letters sent to his family with news of his death, and his wristwatch.

With full translation into Chinese, the exhibition provides access to content about the Anzac Legacy to communities who have not been previously engaged. This project aims to provide valuable historical WW1 content in one of the City of Canterbury’s key languages other than English. To the library’s knowledge, it will be the first local history exhibition in Chinese on this topic to be provided by a public library.

The collection highlights the severity of the Great War, the heartbreak of those Australians left at home waiting for news of their loved ones, and the universal response of grief and recognition. The exhibition emphasises how Robert was a regular person called upon to complete an extraordinary duty and highlights awards given posthumously that reflect the impact of the Great War on Australians. As such, it is one of the most valuable collections the City of Canterbury holds to promote the Anzac legacy.

The collection was donated to City of Canterbury in 2010 as per the will of Brenda Noble, niece of Robert Noble. The project was made possible through an ANZAC Community Grant through the Department of Education & Communities and supported by the Chinese Australian Services Society (CASS).

A short video of the launch can be seen on Canterbury Library’s YouTube Channel:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/CanterburyLibrary>

KIRSTIN COX
 City of Canterbury Library

HERITAGE WEEK 2014 - JOURNEY TO HERNE BAY

As part of this year’s Heritage Festival, Brian Madden, local historian and author, presented a talk on Herne Bay (present day Riverwood) on 22 May. The event was completely booked out with over 90 people attending. Brian gave a fascinating talk on the Herne Bay hospitals during WWII. With no suitable accommodation in Sydney’s existing buildings, the Australian Government built a new hospital of temporary buildings at Herne Bay to support the war effort. The 118th Hospital in Herne Bay was a unit of the United States Army, consisting of staff from the Johns Hopkins University Baltimore, Maryland. General Douglas MacArthur inspected the hospital in June 1943, and Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of President Franklin

Roosevelt visited Herne Bay Hospital in September 1943. After WWII, the Herne Bay site was used as emergency housing from 1946, before the suburb’s name was changed to Riverwood in 1958.

A short version of Brian’s talk can be found on Canterbury Library’s YouTube Channel:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/CanterburyLibrary>

KIRSTIN COX
 City of Canterbury Library

SUSTAINABLE LIVING IN RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

In partnership with the Environmental Strategy Team at Council, Riverwood Library hosted a “Sustainable Living in Rental Accommodation” workshop in May. The subject covered a wide range of practical solutions to sustainable living, not only in rental accommodation but applicable to across many fields. The participants were extremely delighted to have attended the workshop as it had helped them to make informed decision in solving environmental problems while saving energy and money.

JAYANT PRAKASH
 Riverwood Library



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Central West

JUST A SLIGHT SLIP OF A BOY

'Just a slight slip of a boy, with rather a girlish face' was how a comrade described Ernest Powter, Orange's youngest recruit who died in France in November 1916 aged just 16 years and 8 months. Ernest's is just one of the many stories that have come to light as part of the Centenary of World War I in Orange project.

Researchers at Orange City Library are hard at work delving into the stories of the WWI service men and women from the area and posting their findings on the Centenary of WWI in Orange blog: <http://www.centenaryww1orange.com.au>

To date they have identified 1,816 local service men and women, 209 of whom failed to return home, having been killed in action or having died of disease. There were 25 women from the area who served as nurses, and at least seven indigenous service men.

The Centenary of World War I in Orange project is being led by a community committee which includes representatives from Orange City Council, Central West Libraries, the Orange and District Historical Society, the City of Orange RSL sub-branch and the local community.

The planned program of events includes working with the Coo-ee March 2015 groups who will stage a re-enactment of this famous snowball march in October 2015. Twenty six men left Gilgandra on 10 October 1915 on the 'Cooee March', led by the Captain of the local rifle club, William Thomas Hitchen. At each town on the route the marchers shouted "cooee" to attract recruits and held recruitment meetings. By the time they reached Sydney just over one month later on 12 November, the numbers had swelled to 263 recruits, marching a total of 320 miles and being welcomed by large crowds along the way.

TRUDI MAYFIELD
Central West Libraries



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LIBRARY HOSTS HISTORIC PUB WALKING TOUR

It took a bit of explaining to everyone that the launch of the Self-Guided Historic Pub Walking Tour Brochure was not an excuse for a pub crawl but a pub tour.

The inaugural Historic Pub Walking Tour of Orange was held as a free event as part of the city's F.O.O.D. Week celebrations. The rain held off for the morning walk that took in the interesting stories and sights of ten local pubs in and around the Orange CBD, led by Central West Libraries Manager Jan Richards. Tour leaders were also impressed with the courteous drivers who stopped at roundabouts and crossings to allow the large tour group of locals and visitors to cross streets safely.

The tour highlighted the significance of Public Houses, or pubs for short, played in the development of Australia. Pubs thrived in the region due to the discovery of payable gold at Ophir. In 1880 it was recorded Orange had 33 hotels and now there are less than half that number.

Jan Richards spoke about the changing names of many of the hotels and their original proprietors, many of whom were prominent citizens in the city.

JASMINE VIDLER
Central West Libraries

Clarence Regional Library

ABC OPEN FILM MAKING WORKSHOPS

ABC Open Film making workshops are still going strong in Dorriggo Library with at least 13 community members taking part. The by-product of these workshops are some lovely stories about the Dorriggo area. You can learn more here: <https://open.abc.net.au/openregions/nsw-coffs-coast-76rj5ar>



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- 01 AUTHOR JANET BUTLER AT COFFS HARBOUR
- 02 AIDEN O'BRIEN, WINNER OF THE GLEN INNES GNOME HUNT
- 03 WRAP WITH LOVE KNITTING GROUP AT GLEN INNES (PHOTO FROM THE GLEN INNES EXAMINER)
- 04 GOSFORD CITY MAYOR LAWRIE MCKINNA WITH AUTHOR GEOFFREY POTTER (PHOTO FROM DYLAN FOGARTY-MACDONALD)

HARMONY DAY MORNING TEA

Wet weather forced the Harmony Day morning tea inside Bellingen Library. The intimate crowd enjoyed performances by local musicians and shared yummy food from around the world. If you looked hard, you may have even noted the librarian at the desk singing and dancing along!

KATHRYN BREWARD
Clarence Regional Library

Coffs Harbour

TRAVELLING AUTHOR JANET BUTLER COMES TO COFFS HARBOUR

Coffs Harbour Library was lucky to have the opportunity to host award-winning author Dr Janet Butler as part of the State Library initiative *Going Places – Authors on Tour*, in conjunction with the Copyright Council.

Janet was a delightful speaker, talking about her book *Kitty's War* and sharing her passion for history with the attendees. Janet's book is based on the war diaries of First World War nurse, Sister Kit McNaughton who finished the war as Australia's first plastic surgery nurse.

After the talk everyone wanted to chat with Janet and share their own experiences and memories. One library customer even shared the photos and war records of his grandmother who was also a nurse during the First World War.

As this year marks 100 years since the start of the First World War and people are more interested than ever in this subject we are so appreciative of the State Library and the Copyright Council for giving us the opportunity to host this event.

CASSIE ROWSELL
Coffs Harbour City Library



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FOOD FOR THE MIND

Coffs Harbour City Library aims to make sure that every member of the community has access to reading – including the clients of the Uniting Church Soup Kitchen in the city centre.

“We started this initiative in 2012 as part of our ‘National Year of Reading’ activities and came from an idea suggested by one of our library assistants, Ingrid Alexander,” said Library Manager Enzo Accadia.

“Not having a fixed address or appropriate identification can make it difficult to access some services – so making these books available to people for free, without normal library membership requirements, helps address the disadvantage of their situation.”

Since the initiative began in 2012, Library staff have delivered about two boxes of books to the Soup Kitchen every two to three months, with each box containing approximately 20-15 books. The books are of good quality, taken from library donations that are not needed – such as duplicate copies.

CAROLYN ELMES
Coffs Harbour City Library

Glen Innes

GNOME HUNT IN THE LIBRARY

Recently the hunt for the mysterious Glen Innes Severn Public and TAFE Library's Gnome was on. Somewhere in the Library a Gnome was hidden and up for grabs to the lucky winner was a \$20 iTunes gift card. The Library held the event to encourage school aged Library members to use the Library's catalogue both online and in the Library. Clues were released both on the Library's Facebook page and on a notice board in the Library. Each clue related to the book that the Gnome was hidden in and was a hint for the catalogue search. Every afternoon primary and high school children would venture to the Library looking



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for the Gnome. To encourage the children to follow the clues we hid decoy Smurfs around the Library in sections that did not relate to the clues. The elusive Gnome was eventually found by Aiden O'Brien, a Glen Innes High School student who followed the clues and successfully searched the library catalogue system. The event was successful in making children more involved with the Library and in particular, the non-fiction section where the Gnome was hidden but most importantly, was fun for all involved!

HOME LIBRARY SERVICE REVIEWS

The Home Library Service (HLS) members were invited to write reviews on books, DVDs magazines and talking books that they have enjoyed. Our intent was to involve and include HLS members so they had a voice and were more visible to our community, and of course, enjoy the activity. Library members love reading the reviews on display around the Library and give them great suggestion for their next selection. The project was expanded to include book reviews in our local newspaper, the Glen Innes Examiner. This has given our HLS members great joy to see their reviews being published in the paper for the public to see.

'WRAP WITH LOVE' WARMS THEIR HEARTS

The local 'Wrap with Love' knitting group meets every week at the Library for 2 hours to knit warm winter rugs. The 'Wrap with Love' charity started in 1992 aiming to address the effects of extreme cold to those who are less fortunate. There have been over 300,000 rugs distributed since the charity started, in over 75 different countries. The Glen Innes group started in 2008 and has grown considerably, donating more than 800 blankets since the start. The group knits 10 inch squares which are then sewn together to make the woollen rugs. Home Library Service members also receive a wrap from the group and this year they have made over 110 rugs!

KERRY BYRNE
Glen Innes Library



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Gosford

BOOK LAUNCH: WRECK OF THE MAITLAND

On Tuesday evening, 6 May a new local history book *Wreck of the Maitland ... a scene to make the angels weep*, was launched at Kincumber Branch Library.

The book, written by Local Studies Librarian Geoffrey Potter and published by Gosford City Council, tells of a disaster in which 27 people are believed to have perished in the wreck of an ageing paddle steamer off the NSW Central Coast in 1898.

The book was launched on the 116th anniversary of the disaster by Gosford City Council Mayor Lawrie McKinna. Among those attending were many descendants of people involved with the events of 1898. Gosford Musical Society members Raie Brady and Alf Taylor performed several very moving readings of contemporary eyewitness accounts from Captain Richard Skinner, crew and passengers.

Wreck of the Maitland attempts to examine the disaster in a wholistic manner. Research for the project took many hundreds of hours, and a combination of traditional library research combined with the availability of early newspapers on TROVE helped to identify a great deal of material not seen since 1898. The publication of this book was a major Gosford City Library project. The author is very grateful to Gosford Library staff for their support and to Gosford City Council for publishing this significant local history.

The book is available for purchase through Gosford City Libraries.

GEOFFREY POTTER
Gosford City Library Service

- 01 WWI MEMORIAL BOX ON DISPLAY AT GOULBURN MULWAREE LIBRARY
- 02 AUTHOR & STAND-UP COMEDIAN OLIVER PHOMMAVANH WITH LOCAL STUDENTS AT THE GREAT BOOKS FESTIVAL
- 03 TEA COSIES OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS CHARACTERS AT GREAT LAKES
- 04 THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR DRESSED UP FOR AUTUMN AT GUNNEDAH



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Goulburn Mulwaree

AUTHOR VISIT: SULARI GENTILL

Novelist Sulari Gentill spoke about the writing process to a large crowd at the Goulburn Mulwaree Library on 18 March. Sulari Gentill was born in Sri Lanka and immigrated to Australia, growing up in Brisbane. She studied Astronomy at ANU before switching to law and graduated with degrees in law and science. She practiced as a corporate lawyer for many years before becoming a full-time author.

Sulari is famous for her historical novels set in 1930s Australia and based around the character of Rowland Sinclair – an affluent young man living in Yass in the 1930s.

Sulari explained to the audience that getting published is usually a tiered process, with authors getting a literary agent first who then sell their work onto publishers. She sent her manuscript around to every agent in Australia and was rejected by them all. Not to be put off, Sulari decided to send her story to a few publishers – and they were all interested.

The audience had a great time with Sulari. Aspiring authors found it very useful to be able to pick her brains on the writing and publishing processes.

AUTHOR VISIT MICHAEL MCKERNAN

Michael McKernan, the respected author and historian, visited Goulburn Mulwaree Library on 24 April to speak about the one hundred year anniversary of World War One, and how this war has shaped Australia's social landscape. More than 40 people attended this informative and moving talk. In addition the library was lucky enough to have on display a Memorial Box from the National War Memorial, with artefacts from World War One including hats, helmets, coats and badges.

SUSAN MCILROY
Goulburn Mulwaree Library

Great Lakes

GREAT BOOKS FESTIVAL

The Great Books Festival, run by the Great Lakes Library, celebrated its 14th year of success in May. The GBF is a four-day festival and this year featured author/stand-up comedian Oliver Phommavanh and author/illustrator Gus Gordon. Seven different schools around the region hosted visits from these presenters and the feedback the Library has received is fantastic.

Around 1,000 children and youth were entertained while being inspired to read, write and illustrate. Oliver and Gus are both extremely successful in their chosen fields and shared their knowledge and experience freely with their captivated audiences. It was wonderful to see the children queuing up for autographs.

The GBF is a significant event to hold (all coordinated by our Outreach Services Officer, Meredith Campbell) and we continue to run it each year because the schools are so keen. It's also a rare opportunity for children in the region to meet nationally recognised and awarded authors and illustrators. We look forward to another great line up for 2015.

KNITTING IN

What started out as the Library being a collection point for donations to the Wrap with Love project has definitely morphed into much, much, more. We now host a regular knitting group, called *Knit and Knatter* (they live up to both parts of their name), continue to supply blankets to good causes and continue to support Wrap with Love. In the last six months 50 wraps have been donated to the Wraps with Love Project, and this is prior to the winter knitting drive even beginning!

There is a twist to it all that we think might just be unique. There are a couple of anonymous customers who knit children's book characters into tea cosies and donate them to the library to sell and use the profits to improve our service. Last year we held an auction, but this year we'll do it slightly differently.

This year on Friday 29 August The Friends of Great Lakes Library Service and Knit and Knatter will host a knit in, when the library will come alive with knitters from far and wide and customers up for a social morning, a bargain-priced tea cosy and a sumptuous morning tea.

BETTER READING BETTER COMMUNITIES

Last *Public Library News* we told you about our volunteer literacy tutors – this issue we'll reporting on what has happened since. We realised that though the literacy tutor program was a great outcome there was so much more that could be done. The problem was that there was no community group that had a literacy focus – so we decided to create our own. We invited key people in the community, representing a range of organisations, to a brainstorming session on what to do next. Out of this has come the Better Reading Better Communities Action Group.

The group has established a number of objectives and important projects to implement. It's also led to the development of a great network and the formation of what look to be some very effective relationships. We've already established an online presence for sharing ideas, contact details and important documents, begun an active promotional program for our literacy tutors, created a webpage to collate details of organisations that provide literacy support services and started work on a number of projects, including the development of some form of branding.

It's a significant task but we can see the pay-offs already. The Library has established a literacy team,



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comprising of the Library Manager, the Information Services Librarian and our Outreach Services Officer. Whilst we're driving this Action Group we hope that in time others will step up to lead the group.

Alongside all of this we continue to coordinate the volunteer literacy tutors so that they have the best chance of linking up with people in need. We're also steadily expanding and developing our literacy support collection, badged as Better Reading. We're trying very hard not to mention the word literacy, to avoid any stigma the term might create with the people we're trying to assist.

Why are we doing all this? Public libraries have always championed better reading, but I think now more than ever we're entering a world where literacy isn't a peripheral role – it's central to what we do. We all know that we're people places, not just book spaces – this is just a natural extension of that shift.

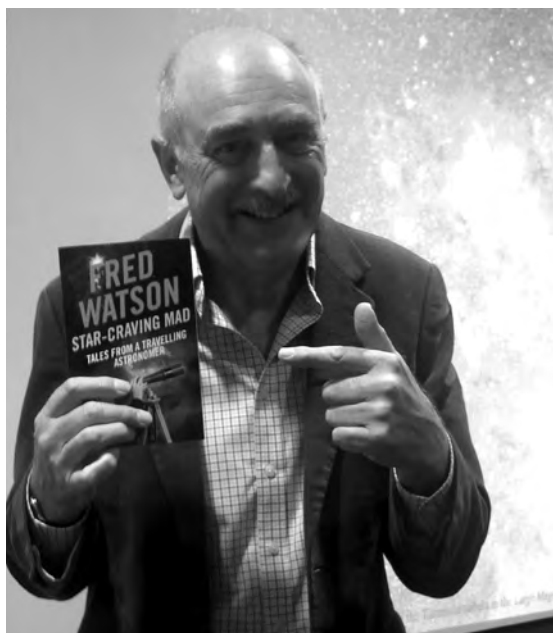
CHRIS JONES
Great Lakes

Gunnedah

SOME GENERAL NEWS ABOUT GUNNEDAH LIBRARY!

On April 12th we had our first 1,000 Books Before School milestone certificate presentation, and we combined this event with our 5,000th member celebration. Our 5,000th member – not bad for a shire whose total population is 12,200 odd! – received a framed certificate, a special library card with gold stars on it, and a library bag filled with gifts for the whole family.

On April 10th the General Manager, Mayor, a staff member from Community Care and myself attended the Local Government Awards Dinner in



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- 01 FRED WATSON
AT HAWKESBURY
LIBRARY
- 02 JANET TURNER
HOSPITAL SPEAKS AT
HORNSBY LIBRARY
- 03 JIM BUTCHER VISITS
KIAMA LIBRARY
- 04 INTERIOR OF THE
NEW CARDIFF
LIBRARY

Sydney. The 1,000 Books Before School/Shop Bound library service program had reached the finalist list in the Community Services section. Unfortunately we didn't get an award, but it was a nice evening in Sydney!, and one of the other council programs did get a Highly Commended for their program.

After Easter, the library was decorated for autumn, with streamers of autumn leaves at the entrance, leaf covered logs (stockings stuffed with newspaper and covered with brown crepe paper) and stumps with red capped cardboard mushrooms. The Very Hungry Caterpillar was also strewn with coloured leaves.

Our library web site was also finished and went live at the beginning of May, the culmination of months of work by the web master and myself.

CHRISTIANE BIRKETT
Gunnedah Shire Library

Hawkesbury

UNRAVELLING THE MYSTERIES OF SPACE WITH FRED WATSON

Professor Fred Watson, one of Australia's best known astronomers, gave a presentation for Hawkesbury Library Service during May. This drew one of the largest crowds for a library event, with over 120 people of all ages attending. Through his enlightening and very engaging presentation, Fred helped the audience to unravel the mysteries of space and time, drawing on his vast knowledge and experience. An author of a number of books on the study of the universe, Fred enjoys communicating his passion for astronomy to the public.

May also marked the 180th birthday of renowned Hawkesbury astronomer John Tebbutt (1834-1916).



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John Tebbutt was a pioneer in the field of astronomy and lived his whole life in the Hawkesbury district. He was highly regarded overseas and his observations assisted in advancing astronomy in Australia and internationally. During his talk, Professor Watson made reference to Tebbutt's remarkable contribution to astronomy. Participants enjoyed an impromptu singing of "Happy Birthday Mr Tebbutt" led by the guest speaker followed by birthday cake and refreshments.

WRITING AUSTRALIAN ROMANCE WITH CATHRYN HEIN

Bestselling Australian rural romance author, Cathryn Hein spoke at the Library during June. Cathryn was born in South Australia's rural south-east and after receiving her Bachelor of Applied Science (Agriculture) worked in the agricultural and turf seeds industry. More recently she has pursued her life-long desire to write. Cathryn spoke about her childhood as well as her rocky road to publication. The author's love for the Australian landscape features prominently in her new novel *Rocking Horse Hill*, along with family drama, mystery and a sprinkling of good old romance. *Heartland*, *Heart of the Valley* and *Promises* are her earlier novels. Her honesty and humour bewitched the audience and further discussion carried on during morning tea.

MICHELLE NICHOLS
Hawkesbury Library Service



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Hornsby

SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL

Hornsby Library once again enjoyed a full house for our two events with the Sydney Writers' Festival

Alex Miller held us enthralled with his description of country and has us laughing with his incredible wit.

Janette Turner Hospital's history of why she wrote *The Claimant* was fascinating. The different concepts that she uses and threads together is amazing. We could have kept exploring over a whole weekend, but we only had one evening.

The audience once again were full of praise for everyone's efforts and promised to come back next year. One couple commenting, "It is fantastic that the Sydney Writers' Festival has these regional events. We have been going to the city for years, but are too old to queue now. Keep up the good work".

MERILYN HILLS
Hornsby Library

Kiama

JIM BUTCHER AUTHOR VISIT @ KIAMA LIBRARY

Around 75 eager fans made the pilgrimage to Kiama Library on 8th April to see American paranormal fantasy author Jim Butcher on his first ever overseas tour. The event was promoted by Supanova Expos, Hachette Australia, and bookshops and libraries around NSW. Some fans travelled from as far away as Orange, Armidale and even Perth! No-one left unhappy, with Jim staying back far past the advertised finish time to make sure everyone had their books signed. So the commonly asked question is - how did we get a *New York Times Best Seller's List* author exclusively at Kiama Library?



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As one fan asked:



It's amazing what a simple email can do sometimes.

MICHAEL DALITZ
Kiama Library

Lake Macquarie

NEW BRANCH AT LAKE MAC LIBRARIES

It was standing room only when the new Cardiff Library was officially opened by Cnr Jodie Harrison, Mayor of Lake Macquarie, on Tuesday 25 March - much to the delight of the Cardiff community.

Vince Pollock, a weekly visitor for nearly 60 years (at the previous branch location), also spoke at the opening. Mr Pollock said he was delighted with the new location of the library believing it gave better access to the community.

Opening day celebrations included, a local radio station broadcasting live from the branch, with free giveaways. Two lucky visitors won an iPad each much to their delight.

After much community consultation, Cardiff Library now offers a welcoming and contemporary facility that will provide new technology, increased programming and reader friendly collections in a more convenient location. In a first for Lake Mac Libraries the branch operates in a shopfront location.

Features in the new library include a technology play area with 3D printer, screen displays for promotion and training, plug-and-play areas, free WiFi, flexible space for program delivery and a free phone/tablet charge bar station.

MELISSA KITE
Lake Mac Libraries

In the Libraries



BETWEEN THE LINES AT LAKE MAC LIBRARIES

THEATRE AT LAKE MAC LIBRARIES

In a first for Lake Mac Libraries, its newest branch Cardiff Library hosted a play during Information Week this year.

Between the Lines, fittingly was a musical/drama set around four women who meet at their local library. Local singer/songwriter Maureen O'Brien wrote the play and the cast were all local residents (including some library members).

Between the Lines was a wonderfully successful community event, attracting a full house at each performance. For some it was an enjoyable first visit to a library, and they signed up for library membership on the spot!

JULIE DUNN
Lake Mac Libraries

VALUER GENERAL RATE BOOKS PROJECT AT LAKE MAC LIBRARIES

Who's been sleeping in my house? Lake Mac Libraries are undertaking an ambitious digitisation project to help local residents answer this often asked question.

We plan on providing our community with online access to the historic Valuer General Rate Books of Lake Macquarie City Council, covering the years 1926 – 62.

The project involves digitising and indexing 146 master microfilm rolls previously stored at the Government Records Repository (GRR). The master copies on microfilm are the only copies that exist. Due to their uniqueness and fragile condition, all access has previously been denied.

With funding from the State Library of NSW we will load approximately 160,000 digital images onto Lake Macquarie History Online (history.lakemac.com.au). Over time, we will add the metadata for each digital image, providing the community with fully searchable records.

ANN CRUMP
Lake Mac Libraries

Marrickville

LAUNCHING THE INTERNATIONAL FILM CLUB

The Marrickville Movie Club, launched in October 2012, proved to be very popular and quickly expanded to Stanmore which commenced screenings in January 2013. Buoyed by the success of these film clubs, Marrickville Library now introduces the International Film Club.

Screening movies from around the globe on the first Tuesday of each month, all titles are shown in their original language with English titles. Upcoming films include *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, *A Wedding in Ramallah* and *City of God*.

MAHJONG CLUB

Marrickville Library's recently introduced Mahjong Club has been taken up with enthusiasm. A four player game of skill and strategy played with tiles, the club is an opportunity to learn to play mahjong for free in a social environment. Customers can bring in their own mahjong sets or use those provided at the library. The club is looking to expand to other branch locations soon.

ONE STOP SHOP FOR STUDENT TUITION

Tutors are available at Marrickville Library during school term for free study help with various subjects including Science, English, ESL, Mathematics, Essay writing, Ancient and Modern History, Religion and more. Both primary and high school students can drop by to ask a question or get detailed guidance. Bookings are not required.

Plus, YourTutor free online one-on-one homework help can now be accessed by Library members on Sundays from 4pm – 8pm, as well as the previous weekday access.

THE MARRICKVILLE ANZAC SOLDIERS PROJECT

Marrickville Library and History Services is collating material for the *Marrickville ANZAC Soldiers Project*, which will share the story of local heroes, including that of Walter Ernest Brown who was awarded the Victoria Cross. His story is just one of many from the First World War. The local community is invited to contribute photographs, diaries, letters, other personal items, and also family stories about soldiers from the First World War. This will enrich Marrickville Council's contribution to the Gallipoli centenary year in 2015.

TANYA HO
Marrickville Library

Parramatta

TABLET DEVICES WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE AT PARRAMATTA CITY LIBRARY!

Another great new service is available at Parramatta City Library. Members will be able to borrow one of 13 new iPads or 13 Samsung Galaxy tablets, preloaded with useful apps for both adults and children. These apps will be aimed at helping parents to support their child's literacy and numeracy development.

The first stage of the tablet lending program allows borrowers to use the new devices inside the library only, but once that process has been established, we're hoping to introduce home-lending in the future.

JOB SKILLS SEMINAR

The "Job Skills Seminar" which was held on Saturday 7 June 11-2pm was a partnership program with Parramatta YCW. The enthusiastic response indicates that this type of program is really appreciated in Western Sydney. The participants were mainly new migrants, refugees and others who are looking for ways to enhance their job skills.

The success of this program proves that partnerships with NGO's such as Parramatta YCW are really important to Libraries, especially in Western Sydney.

KATHERINE MITCHELL
Parramatta City Library

ARCHITECT'S CHAIR

Parramatta City Library, in partnership with The Australian Institute of Architecture, is presenting a very popular bi-monthly program on Saturdays called 'The Architect's Chair'.

This program is held on the ground floor of the Library in an open and inviting space enabling people drop in, grab a coffee and listen to the expert advice of local architects with an opportunity to participate in a Q & A discussion after the presentation.

Topics discussed include, DA changes in new the regulation effective since Feb 2014, creating a sustainable home on a budget and creating great design elements into your home.



TABLET GALORE! NEW TABLET LENDING SERVICE AT PARRAMATTA

These talks have proved very interesting and popular with Library patrons who like to grab a coffee and take advantage of having an architect on hand to answer questions.

YAN ZHANG
Parramatta City Library

MOBILE ENTERTAINMENT WORKSHOP @ DUNDAS LIBRARY

On 21 May 2014 Dundas Library organised a technology workshop promoting eReaders, eBooks and the electronic resources of the library as a part of our Library & Information Week.

Nathan Turner conducted this workshop and explained the benefits of eReaders and other smart electronic gadgets which could be used to explore our vast wealth of electronic resources in the library. After the talk and demonstration, Nathan gave one-on-one tuition to those who wanted to set up their electronic devices for downloading our eBooks.



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Port Macquarie-Hastings

LAUNCH OF SEED LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY GARDEN

Port Macquarie-Hastings Library was lucky enough to have Costa Giorgiadis from ABC's Gardening Australia officially launch our new seed lending library and community garden in April. Costa entertained 70+ guests, barefoot, in his typically enthusiastic presentation style. He was incredibly excited about the seed library and seed-sharing in general. As far as we're aware, the seed library is one of the first of its kind in Australia (pipped at the post by Nundle Library!).

The primary aim of both the seed library and the community garden is to get people thinking about healthy eating and healthy lifestyles, and to promote yet another use of the library space.

The seed library provides free seeds on 'loan' to library members, encouraging them to grow healthy food and to provide them greater access to fresh fruit and vegetables. Those that want to have a go at seed-saving, or indeed keen seed-savers, are encouraged to harvest the high-quality, non-hybrid seeds and return some of them to the library, to share with other gardeners.

So far the response has been fantastic, with over 1000 seed packets being 'borrowed' in the last 3 months. The feedback from the public has been equally positive.

Our community garden is now run by a dedicated group of volunteers who share a lot of gardening experience between them. We plan on utilising that expertise with future gardening workshops and produce-swaps.

I would encourage anyone considering such a venture(s) to jump in and have a go. You'll likely be surprised at the level of interest generated.

BRENDAN MCDONALD
Port Macquarie-Hastings Library

Richmond-Upper Clarence

LAW WEEK 2014 AT CASINO

On Wednesday 14th May Casino Library hosted a Law Week information session on the topics of Wills, Powers of attorney and Guardianship. Guest speaker was local solicitor, Mr Peter Walsh, who gave an in depth and informative talk to a group of 28 people. Peter was highly entertaining, giving a humorous slant to a very difficult and often unpleasant subject. He stressed the need not only make a will, but keep it current and applicable to your current family and economic situations.

The session also provided follow up handouts and guides to making your own will as well as guardianship procedures. If any members of the public would like a copy of these guides, please contact the Casino Library on 6660 0250 or visit us in Graham Place.

Sylvia Cooling
Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library

Ryde

TEDxSYDNEY AT RYDE LIBRARY

Last year a member of our community approached the library and asked if we could help him stage a live stream of the TEDxSydney event on Saturday 26 April at the Opera House in our library, complete with live performances in the breaks. As TEDxSydney has some great talks we enthusiastically agreed and started on the logistics and planning in conjunction with David, our community member. We signed ourselves up as a Satellite site for our community to come and go throughout the day and listen to the talks. David lined up some fabulous local singers and a string quartet to delight our audience on the day.

We used our open library area to stage the event, moving shelves to create a space for large, comfortable chairs and people to relax in front of a

- 01 COSTA GIORGIADIS AND BRENDAN MCDONALD AT THE LAUNCH OF PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS SEED LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY GARDEN
- 02 SEED LIBRARY AT PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS
- 03 TEDxSYDNEY AT RYDE LIBRARY
- 04 JPS GEORGE AND MARGARET AT WEST RYDE



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portable stage, large screen and projector rigged up to the internet and audio system. Streaming a live video feed takes a great deal of bandwidth, so our wonderful library IT specialist rigged up a hard wired connection to one of our public internet ports. Plenty of testing ensured the day ran smoothly, with David and his signed up crew of volunteers ensuring all went well and providing MC and technical services.

Our community had a great day, with plenty of positive feedback. We've found the experience helped us learn more about the limits of what we can do in our library, and how stretching ourselves to do the unfamiliar helps us meet our community's expectations. Our thanks to David for not only having the idea, but the enthusiasm to carry it through and work with us to bring TEDxSydney to our community.

KIM O'GRADY
Ryde Library Service

EXCELLENT JUSTICE OF THE PEACE SERVICES AT WEST RYDE LIBRARY

West Ryde Library staff are proud of the excellent Justice of the Peace services which operate regularly in the library on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The volunteer community service has been running since 2009. Our JPs include George and Margaret, Denis, Elaine and relief Tom.

Having the JP services in the library has assisted in promotion of the library and increased usage.

Approximately one thousand people have come in to the library for 4,451 signatures over the last five months. Most are not library members. Often the customers become members of the library after their JP visit and start to use other library services.

PENELOPE NORTON
Ryde Library Service



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Riverina

RENOVATIONS TRANSFORM THE HENTY LIBRARY

Henty Library, a branch library of the Greater Hume Shire, is currently undergoing renovations to transform the library into a community space and technological hub for all members of the community. The renovations have been made possible due to the Greater Hume Shire receiving a Library Development Grant in 2013.

Extensions of the Henty Library are well underway. The external walls are up and work in the internal space of the library is beginning to take shape. It is now possible for staff and customers to envisage the shape and size of the internal structure which includes a large computer room, two meeting rooms (which can extend into one large meeting room), a long-awaited kitchen and storeroom for staff, and a secure archive room for community records.

Once the dust has settled on completion and the library resources are back on the shelves, there will be an array of new bright accessories and furniture in the community space which will also serve as an extra space for children and youth.

The library staff will provide a selection of programs and training courses from this space, which will include Ancestry.com, Database discovery, ipad and eReader classes for all members of the community.

SUSAN KANE
Henty Library

NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS WEEK AT COOLAMON LIBRARY

The Coolamon Library was abuzz in May, celebrating National Volunteers Week. This annual event was held to recognise and showcase the success of all the volunteers throughout the Shire of Coolamon.

In the Libraries



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- 01 VOLUNTEERS
RECOGNISED
AT COOLAMON
LIBRARY
- 02 PRINCESS LEIA AT
WAGGA WAGGA CITY
LIBRARY
- 03 HOMELESSNESS
CONNECT DAY AT
WAVERLEY LIBRARY
- 04 HELEN TRINCA,
GIDEON HAIGH,
MONICA ATTARD,
CHRIS WIRASINHA
AND RICHARD
GLOVER CELEBRATE
THE LAUNCH OF
THE NIB WAVERLEY
LIBRARY AWARD
FOR LITERATURE

More than 50 volunteers turned out for our Thank you Morning Tea provided by Coolamon Shire Council and a local catering company, Heavenly Baked.

This year we recognised volunteers from many local groups and organisations including Meals-on-Wheels, St Vincent de Paul and the Coolamon Singers. They were all presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for the very important part they play in our small community.

The event has been running for the past three years and is growing bigger each year.

HELEN MCLOUGHLIN
Coolamon Library

STAR WARS DAY

Star Wars Day (May the 4th) came early to Wagga Wagga City Library this year with staff dressing up to mark the day. Circulation assistants Toby and Kristy dressed up as Hans Solo and Princess Leia and used the opportunity to promote a range of Star Wars books and DVDs on the library's Facebook page and to interact with delighted (and sometimes perplexed) customers.

KRISTY DIFFEY
Wagga Wagga City Library

ONE BOOK ONE WAGGA

One Book One Wagga 2014 finished in style with a gala dinner attended by 100 Wagga Wagga City Library members on Friday 9 May. Our guests devoured a delectable three-course meal while the Australian Army Band Kapooka laid down some stylish jazz numbers. Seriously, those Army dudes know how to play. The One Book One Wagga 2014 author Mark Dapin then took to the stage to discuss

his novel *Spirit House*, the story of an old man coming to terms with his experience in the Changi POW camp.

Expertly interviewed by Riverina Regional Librarian Amy Heap (who, incidentally, agreed to host the gig after our original compere pulled out with illness at the last minute), Mark regaled the audience with tales from his years as a journalist: having his ribs broken after foolishly getting in the ring with a young Kostya Tszuyu; padding up to be savaged by police attack dogs; getting kicked out of Gordon Ramsay's house during an interview for asking the wrong questions, and many more.

Mark talked with ease for almost an hour, and then took questions from the floor as the audience took advantage of the opportunity to gain a deeper insight into the writing/researching of *Spirit House*. Here the conversation took on some heavy subjects, such as the brutality of war, the nature of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and the mythology that permeates our war history.

Mark backed up the next day to run a 2 hour writing workshop that was booked-out well in advance. Feedback from both events was constructive and positive; the many avid readers in our community are very much looking forward to One Book One Wagga 2015.

MICHAEL SCUTTI
Wagga Wagga City Library

Waverley

NO PLACE LIKE HOME(LESS)

Waverley Library has led the development of a guide for working with homeless people who could benefit from library services. The toolkit has been made to assist libraries to consider how they can make



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an accessible service for those in need. Practical examples include altering membership requirements, providing training to staff and challenging our assumptions about homelessness. The toolkit is available from the website www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/services/library

Waverley staff put their skills to the test by attending the *Sydney Homelessness Connect Day*. They worked with *The Footpath Library* to give away books to attendees and to share information about the library services.

The day was a fantastic success with staff making connections with new customers and fostering partnerships with other service providers attending on the day. For more information on libraries who are working out ways to provide service to those in need, join the ALIA Future of the Profession: Professional Discussions group and view discussions on this very topic.

HEATHER DAVIS
Waverley Library

RICH RECOGNITION FOR RESEARCH

A panel made up of some of the nation's leading journalists and publishers recently launched the Nib Waverley Library Award for Literature, now in its 13th year.

As part of the Sydney Writers Festival, Richard Glover chaired a discussion featuring Monica Attard, Helen Trinca, Gideon Haigh and Chris Wirasinha, examining the nature of literary research in a changing digital landscape.

The overwhelming positives that new digital methods for researching and distributing content were highlighted at the event.



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Public Libraries are encouraged to support the award by making copies of the shortlisted works available for loan and by encouraging members of the public to vote in the people's choice award supported by media partner the Wentworth Courier.

MATTHEW FALLON
Waverley Library

Willoughby

SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL COMES TO CHATSWOOD

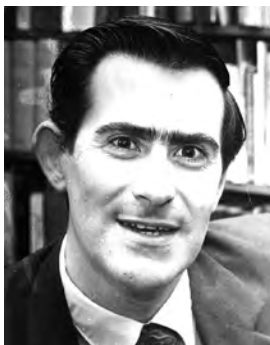
The Concourse was a proud partner of the Sydney Writers' Festival this year, hosting four major events as part of the 2014 program. Two of the events were held at Chatswood Library, which attracted interested audiences from far across the Sydney area.

The first event at Chatswood Library was a lunchtime talk with North Korean defector, Jang Jin-sung. A former court poet to Kim Jong-il, Jang's recent publication, *Dear Leader*, provides an electric expose of the inner workings of the totalitarian state.

On the day of the event, an audience of 120 were privy to hear about Jang's life in North Korea, the events that led up to his decision to escape, and how he has transitioned to life in the West. The session was facilitated by Scott Whitmont of Lindfield Bookshop and Jang was assisted by his translator, Shirley Lee. Due to the enormous popularity of the event, the talk was also streamed live on the outdoor Urban Screen on The Concourse.

The second event was an entertaining conversation between ABC Radio National's Kate Evans and award-winning crime novelist, Adrian McKinty. More than 80 people came to hear Adrian discuss his

In the Libraries



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01 JOHN FLINT, THE FIRST CHIEF LIBRARIAN OF WILLOUGHBY LIBRARY, WAS AWARDED AN OAM IN JUNE.

02 WINTER READING CHALLENGE AT WINGECARRIBEE

03 COMIC GONG STALLS AT WOLLONGONG

04 WOLLONGONG LIBRARY HOSTS A STALL AT THE WOLLONGONG PRODUCE AND CREATIVE TRADERS MARKETS FOR LAW WEEK

body of work, which includes the ever-popular Sean Duffy series.

Feedback from the audience at both events was extremely positive, with many expressing the hope we will be able to take part in the Sydney Writers' Festival program again next year – we do too!

JOHN MARSDEN FLINT OAM

Willoughby City Library wishes to congratulate John Marsden Flint on the OAM awarded to him in June 2014. John was the first Chief Librarian appointed to establish Willoughby Library in 1972 and he was one of the founding members of Shorelink established in 1983.

NAREMBURN LIBRARY OPENS AFTER REFURBISHMENT

After undergoing recent renovation, Naremburn Library was officially opened by Mayor of Willoughby, Councillor Gail Giles-Gidney, on Saturday 3 May as part of an Open Day for the local community. There was something for everyone at the Open Day with storytime, craft activities and face painting for children, as well as local history, sustainability and bushcare displays, and live music and entertainment. Visitors were delighted with the new look Library and updated collection of DVDs, fiction, paperbacks and book club kits.

Naremburn Library is the smallest of Willoughby City's six branch libraries. This refurbishment increased the community learning multi-functional area, and offers two great new community spaces available for hire. These spaces are ideal for meetings, active classes, group activities, workshops – even children's parties – and are already proving to be a popular facility for community groups to utilise.

LIZ PARKER
Willoughby City Library

Wingecarribee

WINTER READING CHALLENGE AT WINGECARRIBEE

Due to our success with Summer Reading Club, we have introduced a Winter Reading Challenge here at Wingecarribee Public Libraries for 5-12 year olds. The idea behind the challenge is to keep the children reading through our cold winter months with a bit of incentive. We are lucky enough to have a very supportive Friends of Wingecarribee Public Libraries who assist us with funding.

The challenge runs for 6 weeks and includes the 2 weeks of July School Holidays. Each child receives a Reading Log along with 18 challenges, of which they are required to complete 10. Once they hand in their completed Reading Log, they are entered into a prize draw. There is a \$50 voucher and 3 \$20 vouchers to win. We also have a colouring competition for 5-8yrs and a drawing competition for 9-12years with a \$15 voucher for both age groups. Each child who hands in a completed Reading Log will also receive a goodies bag which will include such things as activity sheets, pencil, eraser, stickers and a notepad.

We started the Winter Reading Challenge last year and it was a great hit, so we are hopeful for another successful year.

TRUDY ECCLESTON
Wingecarribee Public Library



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Wollongong

COMIC GONG 2014

Holy Bookbinding Batman the Library is that Way! This piece of sidewalk art and many superheros and anime characters were in evidence on a busy Wollongong Street on Saturday the 17th of May.

Wollongong City Libraries recently hosted our second Comic Gong. Comic Gong 2014 featured all things related to comics, graphic novels and popular culture. Comic Gong 2014 was held across three locations: Wollongong Central library, Wollongong Town Hall and the Wollongong Art Gallery.

Comic Gong 2014 included an artist alley, trade displays, merchandise, a cos play competition, a costume competition, face painting, superhero stilt walkers, badge making, caricature artist, photo booth, air brush tattoos, lots of workshops and movie screening of "Graphic Novels! Melbourne!" followed by a Q & A session with the producer and one of the featured artists.

In all there were 36 stall holders in the main auditorium made up of comic artists showcasing their comics or graphic novels plus stalls selling comic and popular culture related material.

10 workshops were held throughout the day, including many different aspects of creating a comic such as anime drawing, writing comics, character design and zine making.

The event ran from 10am-4pm and was a great success with around 4,000 people coming along to enjoy some truly awesome superhero fun.

PETA MOSS

Wollongong City Libraries

LAW WEEK 2014 AT WOLLONGONG CITY LIBRARIES

This year Wollongong City Libraries hosted four events to celebrate Law Week. At Thirroul and Dapto Libraries, Margaret Pantall lawyer from Legal Aid, gave helpful and informative talks about Planning Ahead, which demystified wills, power of attorney and guardianship for our customers. These talks were well attended with 24 attendees in total.

At Wollongong Central Library Margaret Pantall presented a further session about wills, power of attorney and guardianship as part of a larger Planning Ahead event. Vivienne Gish from Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District Drug and Alcohol Service also presented at this event and gave a very practical and interesting talk about medicines, alcohol and healthy lifestyle. This was also a great opportunity for our library staff to explain the Find Legal Answers collection and draw attention to our library services for senior adults. This event was also well patronised with 24 people attending. Feedback was very positive with 90% of respondents rating the event as good to excellent.

We also stepped outside the walls of the library this year and hosted a stall at the Wollongong Produce and Creative Traders Markets. 80 people took home Law Week showbags and in addition to this others took home information brochures and literature from the stall on the topic of their specific legal issue. The stall was well received with many positive comments about the Find Legal Answers service and our library's services in general.

EILEEN SMITH

Wollongong City Libraries



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Wyong

- 01 KINGS OF WAR
AT LAKE HAVEN
LIBRARY
- 02 REFURBISHMENT
AT BAY VILLAGE
LIBRARY

FAMILY/LOCAL HISTORY TALKS

To kick start our 2014 family history program we hosted local historian Patricia Kennedy who spoke about researching your World War I Australian ancestors. Pat demonstrated how to find out where your ancestor had been located during the war, how to read service records and the amazing amount of information and number of photographs that are available online. Participants shared the experiences of their ancestors and swapped war stories.

We are often asked about reading parish maps and apart from advising customers to visit the historic maps site we tend not to be able to offer more advice. To address this we asked longstanding Wyong Museum and Historical Society member Phil Morley to come and chat to us about NSW parish maps. Phil also works in the Land titles section of council and so his knowledge of maps is pretty amazing and he was a great hit with our historians!

GAMING AT LAKE HAVEN

Our gaming guru branch leader Darryl Kane transforms Lake Haven Library each month into a battleground for the fantasy war game Kings of War. Kings of War is a fantasy battle game in the vein of Warhammer; the game's miniatures are fully compatible with each other.

Spread over two program rooms, gamers strategise, attack and defend their turf. This follows on from a craft session held in the school holidays last year, where we created various scenery components for fantasy gaming. We have been amazed to see a wide range of ages (from primary school to forties, both male and female) willing to participate and hope to have other branches commence their own group so we can have some inter branch rivalries! We aim to host intergenerational miniature painting and terrain building sessions sometime in the future too.

REVAMP OF BAY VILLAGE LIBRARY

Bay Village library opened over twenty years ago as part of the Bateau Bay Shopping Complex and whilst the shopping centre may have been updated over the years the library had not been. This ended earlier this year when the library was transformed. A new counter, new furniture, paint, carpet and shelving were added in a new arrangement, making the library seem not only bright and funky but much larger! Due to the refurbishment no new stock had been sent to the branch for months before the commencement of work. Upon opening, customers received not only a new look library but a huge selection of new books, dvds and more! Feedback from customers (and staff) has been overwhelmingly positive.

CELIA LASHLIE AND GROWING GORGEOUS BOYS

We were delighted to welcome Celia Lashlie, international bestselling author of *He'll be OK – Growing Gorgeous Boys into Good Men* to our library service. Due to the large numbers of attendees the talk was held at St Peter's Catholic College in Tuggerah so we could make use of their very large hall. Over one hundred and forty people attended this event and listened to Celia sharing her experiences of raising boys. She spoke for nearly two hours, hosted a Q&A and then a book signing (books supplied by Dymocks). Celia was an amazing speaker and feedback has been extremely positive.

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Wyong Shire Library Service

Children's News

WRITING COMPETITION WINNERS OPENED NEW LIBRARY AND KNOWLEDGE CENTRE

Bankstown Council held a writing competition to promote the new Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre with the winner assisting the Mayor in opening the new building on Sunday 6 April. The competition involved students writing about what they were most looking forward to about the new Library and Knowledge Centre.

Brother and sister Joel, aged 7, and Phoebe Tilaye, aged 9, and Aqeel Roshan, aged 8, were chosen from more than 60 entries by the Bankstown Library Advisory Committee, with the winner named at the opening in time to cut the ribbon with the Mayor. All the entrants to the writing competition received a certificate from the Mayor as part of the opening day celebrations. And the winner Aqeel Roshan and his family were thrilled to be cutting the ribbon as part of the opening day festivities.

TARA CORDINA
Bankstown City Library and Information Service

SCIENCE WORKSHOPS A HIT AT CESSNOCK LIBRARY!

One of our most successful holiday activities to date has been our kitchen science workshops – they're always fully booked AND fully attended! We put together an hour's worth of simple scientific experiments – criteria being they have to be easy, safe, educational and – most importantly – fun! Activities at our latest workshops ranged from the amazing ability of surface tension to hold an upside down cupful of water to a coaster, to the beautiful patterns created with food colouring, milk and a drop of detergent, to the way bicarb soda and vinegar can blow up a balloon! Each participant was given a bag of non-toxic home-made goo and a booklet explaining each experiment so that they could repeat them at home (much to the delight of those parents who accompanied their children!). I would highly recommend this activity – it's relatively easy to run (although there's quite a bit of cleaning up to do), it's lots of fun, and a great way to encourage boys into the library!

SANDY RYAN
Cessnock City Library



KITCHEN SCIENCE WORKSHOPS AT CESSNOCK

CHILDREN'S BOOK SWAP AT GOULBURN MULWAREE

Goulburn Mulwaree Library Celebrated World Environment Day on June 5th with a children's book swap running for the month of June.

Celebrate World Environment Day
Swap a book at the library today!
Save the rubbish and a tree
Take a book and leave one in its place for free!

The Book Swap was very well received; children could swap a book that they had read many times for something new from the book swap trolley. Children and families enjoyed swapping their books so much that they continued to swap books throughout the month. It was a great way to celebrate World Environment Day.

MICHELLE STUART
Goulburn Mulwaree Library

1,000 BOOKS BEFORE SCHOOL AT GUNNDAH

We now have 60 participants for this early childhood literacy program. In April we held the first of the certificate presentation events. 69 people attended the presentation, with 14 children receiving their first 50 books milestone certificates. The Mayor presented the certificates, and the event was attended by senior council staff, including the General Manager and the Department head. They were all amazed at the

- 01 POPPY'S BEDTIME STORYTIME AT HOLYROYD
- 02 EMPEROR'S NEW BEAT BOX AT LACHLAN SHIRE: L-R, GORDON THOMSON, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND GOVERNANCE, SHARON DENYER, LIBRARY MANAGER, RACHAEL BROOKS, MANAGER CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND ON STAGE SUE AND STEVE WALLACE



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level of participation; it was a good opportunity for networking, and observation of what the library did for a wide segment of the community. Morning tea was available, the children clamoured for their usual stories, which were read, and a good time was had by all, chatting and networking.

We held a second presentation event on the 12th of June, with eight children receiving their 50 books milestone certificates, and 12 children their 100 books milestone certificates.

CHRISTIANE BIRKETT
Gunnedah Shire Library

PAINT HOLROYD READ – POPPY'S BEDTIME STORYTIME

Holroyd has been encouraging residents and visitors to share a book with a child for over four years now and as part of this early literacy initiative, the Library has been hosting 'Poppy's Bedtime Storytime' each term this year.

Starting at 5.00pm and open to all ages, these sessions include stories, songs and games based

around a theme. Teddy Bears' Picnic encouraged children to bring their favourite teddy; Pyjama Party invited them to wear their PJ's and Pirate Party will mean dress-up fun! At the end of each session, our hostess, Poppy the Possum, makes an appearance and the children are able to have a photo taken or cuddle with her.

These sessions are very popular, easy to run and are open to children who are not able to attend our regular storytime sessions.

LACHLAN SHIRE

Condobolin RSL club was the venue for the Sydney Puppet Theatre's performance of "The Emperor's New Beat Box" on Thursday 22nd May 2014.

With an audience of over 500 ranging from 4 years to adults they travelled from all over Lachlan Shire to be entertained by The Sydney Puppet Theatre's musical performance "The Emperor's New Beat Box". The Puppet performers, Chops and Lix, entertained the audience with a musical storytelling show using puppet characters from different countries. Musical instruments from around the world including the didgeridoo, guitar and mandolin were played during the performance. This event was organised by Lachlan Shire Library and Children's Services.

SHARON DENYER
Library Manager, Condobolin

MORRIS GLEITZMAN TWITTER CHAT @ PARRAMATTA

Public Schools across NSW, together with Learning Systems got together to take part in an author twitter chat. Parramatta Public School was invited to the library to participate in real time with well-known Australian author Morris Gleitzman. The schools enjoyed the live interaction with Morris and the other schools and engaged with twitter as an effective learning tool.

The storify tweets can be found at <https://storify.com/7mrsjames/nswdecchat-with-morris-gleitzman>.

TIM FERGUSON @ PARRAMATTA

Parramatta City Library was the lucky winner of the Love2Read Cowzat competition, a national competition encouraging parents and caregivers to share a book with their child for 10 mins a day. The library won a special story time with Reading Hour ambassador and comedian Tim Ferguson whose voice appears in the interactive eBook Cowzat.

Thank you to Tim Ferguson for his storytelling and his sound effect skills that had all the kids in fits of giggles as he read the interactive eBook.

HIBA KANJ
Parramatta City Library

ANTOINE THE MUSICIAN @ CONSTITUTION HILL LIBRARY

On Tuesday 15 April 2014, 25 kids came along to Constitution Hill Branch Library to watch Antoine the Musician. Antoine the Musician (of ABC's Hooley Dooley fame) focused on musical instruments like the trombone, guitar and violin in order to engage the children into physical participation.

The show was both interactive and educational entertainment. Antoine had all the kids captivated with his great musical talents!

JO, MAGDA, ZHORIK, ELIZABETH & BARBARA
The Constitution Hill Team

PAINT PARRA READ @ DUNDAS LIBRARY

Dundas Branch Library organised Paint Parra Reading days on the 1st and 2nd April 2014. Paint Parra Read is a community literacy strategy that aims to promote the importance of reading, rhyming, singing, dancing and talking to children from birth. Dundas Library organised some very engaging, interactive and fun activities for the children and their parents while always stressing on the aim of early literacy. This was a partnership project between Dundas Library, Dundas Area Neighbourhood Centre and Rosehill Police Command. The children's area of the library was given a touch of red with Redsee ever present and the Paint Parra Read theme board in the background.

SAND ART CRAFT @ DUNDAS LIBRARY

On Thursday 17 April 2014 twenty-five children and their parents joined us at Dundas Library for a school holiday event which involved making Australian animals with coloured sand on patterns which were provided to them. Completed art work samples made by Dina and library staff were shown to them.

The entire craft work involved very precise use of the sand at the correct places on the templates. Contrasting colours gave the art work a very colourful and impressive finish. The children took their artwork with them to be proudly displayed at their homes. Dina, Lou and Thanh made the event a success.

SYDNEY WILDLIFE @ DUNDAS LIBRARY

Bev Young and her team of four volunteers from Sydney Wildlife educated and entertained a group of 36 children of varying ages (and 23 parents) with their unique program on native animals and birds.

Bev and her team, with the help of a power point presentation and a live display of animals, showed the participants how to assist animals in danger. Everyone experienced the excitement of getting up close with the animals including a possum, a blue tongued lizard, a tawny frogmouth and a flying fox. In the end the children were given interesting activity sheets to take home.

AMBAR, DINA AND NEHAL
Dundas Library

LOOKING AFTER THE LITTLIES AT HOLBROOK LIBRARY

In conjunction with Holbrook Rotary Club, Holbrook Library has developed a great Storytime program targeting early literacy skills through song, stories and visual props.

Some of the ideas Storytime presenter, Dom Heriot, has come up with include repeating certain songs over the weeks with actions or felt board characters so that children become fluent in reciting and participating in these songs and rhymes.

Craft has also become a big part of Storytime this year as demonstrated by some beautiful displays in the library. The children love coming to Storytime and attendance is impressive for such a small library.

For National Simultaneous Storytime, Holbrook Early Learning Centre four year olds came to visit. After listening to *Too Many Elephants in this House*, they answered questions about the story and a very astute bunch they were! They created some very noisy elephants using foam sheets and party hooters - causing a big noise in the library.

Finally, to much hilarity, *What Colour is your Underwear* by Sam Lloyd was read to the children owing to the fact there was an elephant at the end of the story who had forgotten to put any knickers on - lots of fun. The last activity was handprints on paper which were skillfully transformed into a herd of elephants and used to decorate the library window.

ALISON COWIE
Holbrook Library



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- 01 NOISY ELEPHANTS
STORYTIME CRAFT AT
HOLBROOK LIBRARY
- 02 KIDSFEST AT
SHELLHARBOUR

MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS JOIN STORYTIME FUN DURING KIDSFEST

KidsFest celebrates and connects Shellharbour's children 0 to 12 years, their families and carers. In a happy, busy coincidence, it falls during Library and Information Week. As in previous years, library staff were dedicated to KidsFest and were busy entertaining and educating attendees. National Simultaneous Storytime is a very popular event of the KidsFest calendar. Three Councillors joined library staff over four locations and presented to a total of 162 people.

Media attended Warilla Library's event with the Mayor, and printed a positive story, currently available here: <http://goo.gl/GbD63N>. As part of a showcase of what our suburb Warilla has to offer children, we performed a Puppet Show at a local Open Day to 104 people. Furthering our ongoing partnership with the Warilla 2528 Project, we presented a Community Storytime as part of their Cardboard Community event to 60 people. To promote our services, staff also delivered storytimes and library information sessions at the KidsFest Playgroup Muster and Children's Health and Development Expo to 81 people.

Increased numbers were recorded at our KidsFest registered, advertised regular Kids' Time and Lapsit programs. Library and Information Week combined with KidsFest made for a very busy week!

DAVID GREEN
Shellharbour City Libraries



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CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS AT WYONG

During the April school holidays we hosted 'What's in the craft box' - essentially a way of using up excess craft materials that had been squirrelled away. It proved to be very successful as young people made amazing works of art out of all sorts of materials!

Bob Turner and his reptile show is always a favourite in Wyong Shire and both shows at Lake Haven and Tuggerah were booked out well in advance. The children learn all about handling reptiles safely, what to do when they see a snake and most of all love being able to pat and hold all sorts of slimy or slippery critters.

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Wyong Shire Library Service

Young Adults Update

LAW WEEK: CRIME SCENE AT THE ALBURY LIBRARYMUSEUM

Like many public libraries Albury works with the local legal community and runs a range of Law Week activities each May, with a particular focus on the promotion of LIAC resources. This year as well as hosting Legal Health Checks at the Albury LibraryMuseum and setting up stalls in local shopping centres we decided to run a fun, family activity – that had its serious side as well.

We worked with a local actor and secondary school forensic science students to develop a Crime Scene scenario at the LibraryMuseum. A Murder in the Museum was staged, with the students and actor all playing various characters – including dead bodies, museum workers, visitors to the museum and detectives. Various clues (and red herrings) were laid out throughout the LibraryMuseum with a visit to the LIAC collection an essential step in “solving” the murder. The highlight of the evening was the appearance of a real (off-duty) Police woman to arrest the “murderer” and take him away - complete with handcuffs!

Capping participation numbers at 60 and staging the event on a Friday evening outside normal opening hours worked well. The concept certainly caught the attention of the media with front page coverage in the local paper. It was a very well received event that we will look at repeating – maybe for an adult audience next time.

LOCKER ROOM AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Learning and Outreach team members at Albury LibraryMuseum and the branch Lavington Library run weekly Locker Room after school activities for upper primary / lower secondary students. Having tried after school activities in the past without much success the team seem to have hit on a formula that works with the kids. The participants work on a project each term and this has included making animations, claymations and spy films. The participants choose the projects or mediums that they want to work and includes photography, game making, film making – anything with a technology focus seems to be popular.

CARINA CLEMENT
AlburyCity



CRIME SCENE AT ALBURY LIBRARYMUSEUM

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN AT RIVERSTONE

Catch Me If You Can was a school holiday activity in April that saw four teams of youth navigating their way through Riverstone looking for clues, chasing a rabbit and completing a number of challenges. The various pit stops where challenges were staged included Riverstone Library & Digital Hub, Riverstone Youth Centre, Riverstone Police Station, bank and local parks. The Western Area Adolescent Team and Job Prospects ran quizzes and games on health, alcohol and employment.

Catch Me If You Can, which was offered in partnership with Riverstone Neighbourhood Centre, was an active and engaging way to inform youth of new services and programs that are available to support them in their local community.

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY – COSPLAY CATWALK COMPETITION

Free Comic Book Day was held on 3 May at Our Library @ The Mount Druitt Hub and Max Webber Library, Blacktown with drawings by Character Caricatures, button badge making and of course the all-time favourite, free comic books! There was an overwhelming response with die-hard fans queuing before the event even started.

Cosplay Catwalk Competition was a new segment introduced to this year's program. Young and old came dressed up for the chance to win great prizes



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from Madman Entertainment. Characters from Black Butler, Mermaid, Spiderman, Snow White through to the Justice League Family and more had fun strutting the catwalk at the Libraries.

DHARSHINI PERERA
Blacktown City Libraries

YOUTH WEEK MASH BASH @ CONCORD LIBRARY

Concord Library celebrated Youth Week when 75 youth bashed it out Sumo style. On Saturday 11th of April from 6-8pm, the whole of Concord Library reopened just for youth to come together and have some fun in a library setting. There was plenty of bouncing and rolling around in sumo suits as well as many hilarious photos taken in our photo booth; a highlight of the evening. Youth also enjoyed spray-on tattoos, slushies, pizza, and karaoke. Tragically bad singing could be heard throughout the library.

Show bags were provided with plenty of Youth Week and City of Canada Bay Council goodies including USBs, glow sticks and bouncy putty.

Mini prizes were handed out during the evening as well as our major prizes, one of which was a \$100 JB HiFi voucher. Local sponsors included Outback Steak House, Pancakes on the Rocks and Pantera Press, all of whom supported the event with generous prizes.

It was a great night which promoted the library while exposing our youth to our wonderful facilities and services in a fun and inventive way.

TARA KLEIN
City of Canada Bay

FAIRFIELD CITY LIBRARIES

Fairfield City Libraries hosted the launch of local student Isabella De Horta's first book *Half Blood* at the Wetherill Park Library on Thursday 22 May. Guest speakers for the launch were Isabella's principal Michelle Wood from Bossley Park High School and Joy Aimee from A&A Book Publishing and Library Manager Paul Scully was master of Ceremonies. 16 year old Isabella spoke about how she'd been inspired to keep writing by best-selling fantasy author Alyson Noel at a book event held at Wetherill Park Library 2 years earlier. The launch was attended by about 90 guests, including many other aspiring authors from local high schools. We hope that Isabella's success will inspire other young people to follow their dreams and write a book. *Half Blood* by Isabella De Horta is available from <http://www.shortstoppress.com> or via Bolinda Digital.

CAROLYN BOURKE
Fairfield City Libraries



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YOUTH WEEK

Gunnedah Library had three Youth Week programs with the collaboration of local businesses, groups, and the Council Depot. We ran a Skin Care and Make up Talk, courtesy of a local chemist staff member, Knitting and Crochet courtesy of the Gunnedah Embroidery Guild, and Simple Car Maintenance, courtesy of a Council Depot staff member.

MANGA MAY MADNESS

In collaboration with the Youth Services and Cultural Development sections, the Library has played a starring role in a Manga comic produced by participants in this program. The participants were given a tour of the library to familiarise them with the surroundings and work that goes on in the library. Their brief was, after they had learnt to draw in the Manga style, to produce a book set in the library, starring books, or characters from books. The pages will be laminated, and the book catalogued and added to the stock in due course with suitable fanfare.

There were over eight participants ranging in age from four to 24, and according to the Cultural Development Officer who is also an artist and who taught them all to draw in the Manga style, the four week program was enjoyed by all.

CHRISTIANE BIRKETT
Gunnedah Shire Librarian

MOSMAN HIGH SCHOOL VISITS MOSMAN LIBRARY

In the month of June this year, 210 Year 7 students from Mosman High school walked through the doors of Mosman Library in a program organised by Promotions and Young Adult Services Librarian, Amanda Hudson and Mosman High School Librarian, Carolyn Davy.

This outreach program aimed to engage the students with the Mosman community, promote the Library and raise awareness of our services



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and resources for teenagers as well as develop information literacy skills. The library visit focused on areas of relevance to teenage borrowers.

The students were taught how to search for items on the catalogue and were introduced to the Library website and the wired4teens blog.

The students were engaged in a fun activity, "The Amazing Library Race" where they had to utilise their newly acquired skills in searching the catalogue and internet. The students thoroughly enjoyed racing around the Library searching for clues, library items and prizes. This element of fun attached to their experience impressed upon them a positive image of the Library as a fun and friendly place with "cool books and cool things to do".

The presence of the young people in the Library added a much appreciated vitality and energy to the place and we are looking forward to continuing this valuable program next year.

LEGO MINDSTORM ROBOTICS EV3 @ CONSTITUTION HILL LIBRARY

On Monday 14 April 2014, Fizzics Education came to Constitution Hill Branch Library for an engaging and interactive science show called Lego Mindstorm Robotics Workshop.

Using laptops and brand new EV3 Lego Mindstorm Robots, young adults were able to find out how a robot really works. The children are asked to complete a variety tasks whilst learning about basic programming.

The programming itself is based on Lego's EV3 computer program. The students, who worked in groups, were shown step by step on how to program their robot to perform different movements as well as how to operate environmental sensors such as light and sound.

As well as being educational, the workshop was enormous fun for all.

JO, MAGDA, ZHORIK, ELIZABETH & BARBARA
The Constitution Hill Team

- 01 TEAMS COMPLETE CHALLENGES AT CATCH ME IF YOU CAN AT RIVERSTONE
- 02 CANADA BAY CELEBRATES YOUTH WEEK, SUMO STYLE
- 03 CANADA BAY CELEBRATES YOUTH WEEK
- 04 YOUNG AUTHOR ISABELLA DE HORTA AT HER BOOK LAUNCH AT WETHERILL PARK LIBRARY
- 05 SKIN CARE AND MAKE UP TALK AT GUNNEDAH SHIRE LIBRARY
- 06 YEAR 7 FROM MOSMAN HIGH SCHOOL VISIT MOSMAN LIBRARY



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01 MANGA ART WORKSHOP AT DUNDAS LIBRARY

02 ANIME + PIZZA EVENT AT SHELLHARBOUR

MANGA ART WORKSHOP @ DUNDAS LIBRARY

A manga art workshop was organised by Dundas Library to celebrate Youth Week. Artist Matt Lin kept the young participants engrossed with his artistic skills. The workshop was conducted on Tuesday 15 April 2014 at Dundas Area Neighbourhood Centre's hall. Twenty five participants came for the workshop with varying levels of artistic skills.

Matt started with simple ovals and circles and then helped the participants to turn them into manga characters by adding eyes, arms, legs and wings. It was fun and exciting. Simple lines showed how the characters were made to frown, smile and depict different moods. Robots were created from an egg outline by adding legs, arms, etc. Different costumes were added, again with simple lines. Some parents and even Constable Edgar Moore, the Youth Liaison Officer, joined the participants following Matt's instructions as he went about his presentation on the white board. After the event Constable Edgar Moore spoke to the youth members about safety issues in the community and during the holidays.

AMBAR, DINA AND NEHAL
Dundas Library

ANIME AND PIZZA, AN ART EXHIBITION AND A TEA PARTY

42 young people attended our hugely successful *Anime + Pizza* event for National Youth Week. Committed members of our popular regular program Manga + Anime Group (MAG) were there, plus over 20 'new' teens. The event gave young people a sense of ownership and belonging.

It was exciting to see MAG young people exhibiting art for the first time in Shellharbour Youth Services' 6th Annual Youth Week Art Exhibition. There are many enthusiastic, talented artists in the group



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and they were very pleased to have been asked to contribute. Opened by the Mayor of Shellharbour City, the exhibition was an excellent display of local talent. This was a great opportunity to showcase library members' skills and passions in an alternate environment, alongside advertising for MAG, which gained exposure for our library and new members for MAG. We're very pleased to have been asked to exhibit again next year.

In May, MAG held a Tea Party at the request of group members. Our regulars and some new faces enjoyed this lively event. Young people provided food and drink, and a few dressed up in cosplay (costume play, as characters from manga and anime). It was an excellent night!

DAVID GREEN
Shellharbour City Libraries

Wollondilly

RAMPAGE AT WOLLONDILLY

Wollondilly Library Service commenced RamPAGE, a monthly after-school activity, during June. Young people can socialise at the library making new friends, playing video and board games, creating crafts and eating pizza as well as having the opportunity to be the first to see and borrow the newly acquired books, DVDs and CDs.

JULIE ABRAHAMS
Wollondilly Library Service

In touch with the State Library

PUBLIC LIBRARY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

As announced in the State Budget on 17 June 2014, the Government will provide an additional \$15M over 4 years for a Public Library Infrastructure Fund, commencing at \$3M in 2014/15, growing to \$4M per annum for the following 3 years. This extremely welcome development will enable a new public library grants program to be delivered, with a focus on public library buildings, spaces and IT. Guidelines for the new program are in development and all councils will be invited to apply once the Guidelines are approved by the Library Council of NSW.

CAMERON MORLEY
Manager, Funding & Advisory Services
State Library of NSW

CHANGES TO THE LIAC SERVICE

The State Library has enjoyed a long standing and successful partnership with public libraries in providing NSW communities with plain English legal information through the Legal Information Access Centre (LIAC).

Since 2000 LIAC has been funded by the Public Purpose Fund (PPF) in partnership with the State Library and local government. The PPF is a fund established under the Legal Profession Act 2004 (NSW), controlled by four trustees and administered by the Law Society of NSW. The Trustees have advised the Library that LIAC will no longer receive PPF funding after 30 June 2014.

While this decision is extremely disappointing, the Library remains committed to this valuable community service. We will ensure that quality legal information is provided to NSW communities through the public library network, the Find Legal Answers website and by working collaboratively with key agencies.

However, due to the changes in funding the LIAC service point in the State Reference Library, staffed with specialist librarians, closed on 27 June 2014. Reference librarians in the State Reference Library now respond to legal information inquiries as part of

the Library's general reference services provided to all clients.

The State Library's partnership with public libraries in delivering the Find Legal Answers service to NSW communities will continue and specialist LIAC librarians will continue to:

- provide collection management advice, informing libraries of collection updates and new developments
- provide promotional material and support for activities such as Law Week that increase awareness of legal information in local communities
- deliver legal information workshops for the public library network
- develop partnerships with the local courts, legal agencies and community service providers to increase awareness of legal information in public libraries
- promote and advocate on behalf of public libraries

The Find Legal Answers website will continue to be maintained by State Library specialist librarians to provide access to plain English legal information for public libraries and the community.

PHILIPPA SCARF
Acting Manager LIAC and Drug Info Services
State Library of NSW

WATCH OUT - ELKS ABOUT!

NSW.net's eLending Kit (eLK) program has been making its way around NSW this year. Following the pilot of the eLending Kit program in Mudgee and Lithgow libraries last year, eLending visits have been made to 13 libraries.

There are four kits in circulation - two small kits with four eLending devices and two large kits with eight eLending devices. There is a mix of Android and Apple, tablets, smartphones and dedicated eReaders in each kit.

The program includes a visit from NSW.net trainer Kathleen Alexander to deliver a two-hour familiarisation session introducing the devices. eLK is also supported by the eLending Portal on the NSW.



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01 KATHLEEN FROM NSW.NET WITH VICTORIA, MARGARET AND THERESE AT CENTRAL WEST LIBRARIES

02 THE STATE LIBRARY'S INDIGENOUS SERVICES TEAM

03 THE REVISED PLAN FOR THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE MITCHELL BUILDING

net website (developed by Ross Balharrie) and a four week online self-paced learning program.

After the visit the library has the kit for four weeks to play with and learn more about the devices.

More than 30 familiarisation sessions have been delivered attracting more than 150 participants.

Feedback from library staff has been positive:

"A wonderful initiative. Staff would not have had the opportunity to learn these devices in a relaxed and non-threatening environment without this kit."

"Great to have had the opportunity to experience all the different devices".

For more information on the program, please contact Kathleen Alexander: kathleen.alexander@sl.nsw.gov.au

KATHLEEN ALEXANDER
NSW.net

INDIGENOUS SERVICES: CONNECTING WITH THE PUBLIC LIBRARY NETWORK

One of the goals of the Indigenous Services team at the State Library is to work with public libraries to develop their library services and collections for the local Indigenous community.

In the upcoming year, the Indigenous Services and public library branches will work together to conduct a survey of Indigenous services in the public library network. The survey will aim to gather data for the Library to further develop our programs and support.

It has been a number of years since a survey of this kind has been conducted to gather data on existing programs, and to seek feedback on what kinds of tools or advice the Library can provide as support for Indigenous services at a local level.

We look forward to progressing these conversations in the year to come.

We are continuing our work with the Rediscovering Indigenous Languages Project and are planning for the upcoming Corroboree Sydney Festival, which is held in Sydney from 20 – 30 November 2014.



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If you would like to find out more about Indigenous Services at the Library visit the Indigenous Services page on the Library website, www.sl.nsw.gov.au/services/indigenous or visit the Indigenous Services Tumblr blog at <http://indigenous-services-sl.nsw.tumblr.com> for updates on our programs.

If you would like to make contact with our team please contact us on email: infokoori@sl.nsw.gov.au

KIRSTEN THORPE
Indigenous Services, State Library of NSW

LARGE PRINT AVAILABLE FOR BULK LOAN!

The State Library of NSW has a significant collection of Large Print fiction and non-fiction in English available for loan to NSW public libraries via bulk loan. The collection has over 9,000 books and more are added on a regular basis.

Fiction is available across a number of genres including romance, historical fiction, mysteries and crime as well as many current popular titles. The non-fiction collection covers a range of subject areas including politics, history, biography, film, society and many others.

If your clients have read out your large print or you would like to supplement your collection with extra material from the State Library's, please get in touch with me or Oriana Acevedo to discuss how we can meet your needs, or simply request a bulk loan <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/services/ask/publib.html>

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Oriana Acevedo: oriana.acevedo@sl.nsw.gov.au
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ABBY DAWSON
Multicultural Bulk Loans Services, State Library of NSW



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RESTORING THE MITCHELL LIBRARY

We have listened carefully to feedback since our December 2013 announcement of plans to renew the Mitchell Library building, and have been working on a revised plan to address them fully.

Under that plan, researchers and readers will continue to read and work with our rich collections in the Mitchell Library Reading Room supported by our expert librarians at a dedicated service desk.

The current special collections area inside the Mitchell Library Reading Room will be extended for researchers and readers to access the Library's original materials, related reference books and the card catalogues for manuscripts and Mitchell printed books.

The feedback period on the revised plan for the Mitchell Library Building announced in April was open from 16 April to 9 May 2014.

Overwhelmingly the responses received were positive with many readers and visitors informing us of their support for the plan. We also received several suggestions for further improvements that could be made to the Mitchell reading room and building.

We have responded to everyone who contacted us and have passed their comments on to the planning team for their consideration. Further details of the plan and schedule will be placed on the State Library's website at http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/about/projects/mitchell_division_review as they are ready.

RICHARD NEVILLE
Mitchell Librarian, State Library of NSW

Public Library Network Research Projects Update

EARLY LITERACY AND THE LIBRARY CONNECTION

People often think of literacy as a skill children acquire when they go to school, but learning to read begins in the preschool years. Parents are their children's first teachers and time spent reading to children and sharing books together can make a big difference to children achieving their full potential when they begin school.

Dr Emilia Djonov from the Institute of Early Childhood at Macquarie University will be working with the NSW public library network to develop a framework for libraries to support children and families in acquiring pre reading skills and building early literacy. Her research will include attending a variety of storytime sessions in libraries across the state and interviewing parents.

MYLEE JOSEPH
Consultant, State Library of NSW

STOCK QUALITY HEALTH CHECK, COLLECTIONS AND BIBLIOSTAT

Over the next 12 months the State Library's Public Library Network Research Program will undertake a range of projects based on analysis of the annual NSW public library statistics. The statistics, available online through the Bibliostat database, are able to be manipulated and explored. This has led to some new projects being proposed, such as analysis of best practice for non-fiction collections.

Bibliostat provided a starting point to explore non-fiction loans and the trends being seen in different libraries about these. It led to questions which will be explored by a survey across NSW, and interviews which will take place with a small number of libraries. The statistics provided by public libraries were a critical starting point.

We will analyse why some libraries have very high use of non-fiction and why others do not. What are the libraries with high usage doing to attain this success?

Similar exploration is taking place from looking at ebook and eaudio collection size and loan statistics. We will explore what good practices are in this area, and through interviews with libraries which have similar turnover rates for ebooks or eaudio to other resources will hopefully find some suggestions for good practices for libraries to follow. This research will also include a survey to find out how libraries are using ereaders and tablets. Are these devices being well used in the community, or are they being underutilised? We hope to discover the reasons for success and underutilisation, to assist the libraries where these devices are available but are not being well used.

ELLEN FORSYTH

Consultant, State Library of NSW

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS MODEL

The State Library has engaged the UTS Centre for Local Government to provide assistance with a project to explore and recommend regional management models for NSW public libraries.

Public libraries in NSW are managed by local councils in accordance with the Library Act 1939, with assistance from the State Government through the State Library.

At present approximately 68 councils are party to regional library agreements which are enabled by s12 of the Act. Effectively this means that one council provides library services (or an aspect of library services) to neighbouring councils. Councils that are not party to regional library arrangements run their own public libraries, but often cooperate with neighbouring council libraries to some extent.

In 2011 the Act was amended to add s12A which enables councils to propose alternate models for regional cooperation on libraries. To date no councils have proposed an alternate model.

The project will ascertain the types of arrangements that are currently in place between councils for regional or cooperative library services across NSW, and explore other possibilities for management models, e.g. cooperative models that councils use for other services and functions that may also be appropriate for library services.

The project will result in a report with recommendations, and discussion of possible models for regional and cooperative libraries. A tiered approach (from a basic cooperative model through to a full regional model for libraries) would be a desired outcome.

CAMERON MORLEY

Manager, Funding & Advisory Services
State Library of NSW

MOBILE LIBRARY AND OUTREACH MODELS IN THE NSW PUBLIC LIBRARY CONTEXT

In NSW, mobile libraries have traditionally been offered via vehicles (trucks, semi-trailers) however any library service that does not stay in one place may be classed as a mobile library.

There are currently 22 traditional mobile library services operated by NSW public libraries. There are also a growing number of library services that are offered via smaller vehicles, portable library service outlets (for example at train stations, airports, ferry wharves) and “pop-up” libraries which can be offered at different locations at different times.

In addition to mobile library services there are 59 public library public service outlets or deposit stations in static locations in remote communities. These deposit stations typically provide limited collection access only.

Most NSW public libraries offer limited personalised delivery models including home library services for clients who are not able to attend the library.

Broken Hill City Library operates the Outback Letterbox Library, which delivers collection items to remote residents of Central Darling Shire and the Unincorporated Area of NSW.

The project deliverables are to:

- Undertake research to identify current NSW public library outreach service and mobile library models.
- Develop clear descriptions of the various models of outreach and mobile services which include - service offerings, collections, technology access, type of transport used, staffing, budget, target groups, frequency of visits, locations and reach of outreach services models.
- In consultation with mobile and outreach service providers identify the strengths, weaknesses, costs, benefits and opportunities of different service models.
- Identify key performance indicators for NSW mobile and outreach services.
- Review and adaption of existing mobile library guidelines, including the IFLA mobile library guidelines, for the NSW context.
- Develop good practice guidelines for NSW public library mobile and outreach services for endorsement by the Library Council of NSW and inclusion in the State Library of NSW's *Standards and Guidelines for NSW public libraries*.

Roger Henshaw Consultancy Services Pty Ltd has been engaged to assist with the project.

CAMERON MORLEY

Manager, Funding & Advisory Services
State Library of NSW

Seniors News

SHARING THE FUN WITH GRANDPARENTS AT SPECIAL SENIORS WEEK STORYTIME

To celebrate NSW Seniors Week Coffs Harbour Library held a special storytime event and asked the children to bring along a grandparent or 'senior' who was special to them.

In the month before Seniors Week our storytime staff told the children and their parents about our plan. We handed out special invitations to be filled in and handed on to their grandparents, or favourite senior.

Our regular storytime is on Wednesday mornings from 11am. For our Seniors Week storytime we held a morning tea prior to the storytelling. We then settled the crowd for the usual songs and stories. We planned a craft activity that the grandparents could help with and everyone had a great time making pom-poms.

The children had a great time sharing their love for storytime with their grandparents. One child had even invited her grandparents all the way from the Gold Coast – four hours' drive from Coffs Harbour! It was a fun morning and was enjoyed by all who attended.

CASSIE ROWSELL
Coffs Harbour City Library

IF IT'S TUESDAY - IT MUST BE ABOUT TECHNOLOGY

Ah! Technology - how we love it! It's made our lives so much easier - we don't think twice about shopping online, tweeting, updating our Facebook status, transferring money from one account to another, Skypeing our friends and family overseas, reading an e-book or a digital magazine, adding to our Pinterest boards or booking our next trip and all without getting off the couch.

Because we all know 'how to' we assume that everyone else does too. However, a look at the research shows that although 'younger' seniors have taken to the digital world with gusto there are some 'older' seniors who are being left behind. So with this in mind we decided to reach out to those seniors struggling with technology and introduce a monthly program called Technology Tuesdays aimed at bringing our older residents into the digital age.



SENIORS WEEK STORYTIME AT COFFS HARBOUR LIBRARY

The program started on the first Tuesday in March in 2013 with a session on the Library's e-books and although not many turned up, those who did found it 'interesting' even if they had no intention of downloading and reading an e-book. In April the session was on email and from then on the participation rate started to grow and with a maximum number of 20 participants being able to fit into the room we have, this year we have had to turn people away.

A different topic is covered each month and there is a core group who diligently turn up for every session and who greet any newcomers lucky enough to have been able to book in with the question: "is this your first time?" and then follow up with the retort "Oh I've been coming since the start." Friendships have formed and a group who met at Technology Tuesday go for lunch at a nearby café after the sessions. So on different levels both social and educational, Technology Tuesdays have been a success.

After the sessions, we had people staying back wanting help with their phones, laptops and their iPads, so in April we expanded Technology Tuesdays and introduced Technology Tuesday Drop in Sessions. Held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, the sessions are an informal way for seniors to get help with their devices. We've helped with downloading ebooks from Overdrive, downloading maps of Paris onto a lady's iPad for when she was travelling, a man who had been given a laptop and didn't know what he was going to do with it and a man who was having trouble with his dongle.



TECHNOLOGY TUESDAY AT MOSMAN LIBRARY

And thanks to a successful Library Development Grant application, we have been able to furnish our 'Interactive Learning Centre for Seniors' with the latest in laptops and tablets for our seniors to get their hands on and experience the digital world in the safe and friendly environment which libraries are so good at providing.

JANE BROADBERE
Mosman Library

SENIORS WEEK AT WOLLONDILLY

Wollondilly Library Service Seniors Week 2014 program gave the opportunity for seniors to explore their tech-side during *Navigating the Internet* workshops, which were very well attended. The library also facilitated a *Tech Taste Tester* session where seniors were able to explore a range of technologies including tablets, smartphones, laptops and even the Wii.

LAW WEEK 2014

Wollondilly Library Service hosted a Seniors Information Forum as part of Law Week 2014. A Speakers Bureau spokesman delivered information on the topics of wills, powers of attorney, enduring guardianships, life insurance and trusts. Sessions on the topics of *Older driver survivor* and *How to keep your licence for longer* were very well received. Other topics included *How to be a confident older driver*, *Maintaining independence* and *What happens after you're 75*. Free Driver Assessments were also given as lucky door prizes. Over 55 people attended this very successful event which also provided Wollondilly Library an opportunity to promote its Legal Information collections.

CARMELINA NUNNARI
Wollondilly Library Service

TECH SAVVY SENIORS IN WOLLONGONG!

For the first half of 2014, Wollongong City Libraries have been enabling senior residents in the latest technology, through a program of easy training courses held at all the district libraries.

The Tech Savvy Seniors technology training program has been running regular training workshops, twice weekly at each library. The program includes learning how to use tablet computers, basic internet skills, email, social media, shopping and banking online, as well as workshops on cyber-safety. Additional workshops have also been added to cope with the demand for basic computer skills.

Over 500 seniors have participated in the course during the first 4 months of 2014. Feedback from workshop participants has been extremely positive, with many enrolling for more courses.

A lengthy waiting list for the more popular courses has resulted in the extension of the program until August. A very high level of demand for tablet computer training in particular, has resulted in plans to run targeted workshops with more trainers, to address this need.

Approximately 600 seniors have now participated in the training, which has included regular weekly workshops at Wollongong, Corrimal, Dapto, Thirroul and Warrawong libraries.

ANDREW GEE
Wollongong City Libraries

Multicultural News



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NEPALESE COLLECTION LAUNCHED!

On 22 March 2014, the first collection of Nepalese books in Australia was launched by the State Library of NSW, in partnership with Rockdale Library and the St George Migrant Resource Centre. Rockdale Library hosted the proceedings as it has the largest community of Nepalese people residing in the local government area. Large communities also exist in Ashfield, Auburn, Canterbury, Hurstville and Parramatta, as well as many smaller communities across the whole of NSW.

The launch was attended by 300 people including Mr Rudra Kumal Nepal, Ambassador of Nepal, Mr Deepak Khadka, Honorary Consul-General of Nepal, Shane O'Brien, Mayor of Rockdale, Frances Sims, Director Public Libraries & Learning Services at the State Library of NSW and many people from the Nepalese community. The event was ably coordinated by Stephanie Lee from Rockdale Library, ensuring a successful and enjoyable afternoon was had by all. Thank you Stephanie! Following the official speeches, those attending were entertained by cultural performances including traditional Nepalese dancing, a parade of traditional costume followed by a taste of delicious Nepalese cuisine.

Since May 2011, the State Library was approached by public libraries, community workers and members of the Nepalese community to consider the

establishment of a collection. Further investigation using ABS Census statistics revealed a significant number of Nepalese people in NSW. The spread of the community around the state made it difficult for any one local council to provide a targeted service, so the decision was made to develop a collection at the State Library for NSW residents to access.

The collection includes fiction and non-fiction for both adults and children and is available for bulk loan. The collection is currently around 600 items, with another significant investment to be made in the 2014/15 financial year to increase this number. Request a box for your clients today!

ABBY DAWSON

Multicultural Bulk Loans Services, State Library of NSW

ARABIC STORYTIMES AT CHESTER HILL LIBRARY AND KNOWLEDGE CENTRE

Arabic Storytimes were developed to serve a large language group in the local community – Arabic speakers, who we wanted to bring into the library and promote literacy skills. There are young families now growing in the Chester Hill area. Contact was made with the Mothers Inspire Mothers group based in Bass Hill (a part of the United Moslem Women's Association Inc.). Library staff worked with them to introduce and promote the library's services. They were very keen to come to the library, join the library



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- 01 HAT AND COSTUME PARADE AT THE NEPALI COLLECTION LAUNCH
- 02 1,000 BOOKS BEFORE SCHOOL CERTIFICATE BEING AWARDED AT GUNNEDAH

and to participate in a Storytime at the new Chester Hill library. It was decided to make it monolingual in Arabic as a trial, as previous Bilingual Storytimes did not prove that successful, were time-consuming both in preparation and presentation and we wanted to promote literacy to young children as a start to help them become interested in books and stories.

Library staff prepared a beautiful Storytime with a great read-together story, songs (providing mothers with the printed words to take home and practise with the child), and craft.

The hardest part was getting this cultural group to make bookings and a concerted effort was made to get the 10 bookings we received for the weekly program.

JANN DEBENHAM
Bankstown City Library and Information Service

FAIRFIELD CITY LIBRARIES

Transplant Australia and Fairfield City Libraries have developed a program aimed at informing the Arabic, Chinese and Vietnamese communities about the very important issue of organ donation. The two key points which need to be communicated are that tissue typing has a connection with ethnicity and that there is now a national organ donation register. Working out how to promote this very sensitive topic to our various community groups was quite a challenge. We came up with a great poster advertising the Last Race, a film produced by Alagna Films, which showcased a comment by Hugh Jackman "I was moved to tears... beautifully done on all levels" and was translated into Arabic, Chinese and Vietnamese. We ran three separate screenings in English with subtitles in the appropriate community language. Bilingual library staff attended each session to interpret any questions and answers from the audience. Although audience numbers weren't large, between 12 and 16 people attended each session and several people signed up with the national register. Requests for more information from the Vietnamese community in particular have meant that we will run a further two screenings over the next few weeks.

CAROLYN BOURKE
Fairfield City Libraries

GUNNEDAH SHIRE LIBRARY

A very good flow on from our Multicultural March display was the requesting of books for adults and children in five different languages. Languages ranged from Indian to Swedish to Korean, from board books to books for adults. We have encouraged

several mothers to join their children into our 1,000 Books Before School Program, and one of them is filling out her tally sheets in Korean as she finds it easier.

One of the mothers was also very proud when her son got his first certificate for 1,000 Books Before School, was photographed with the Mayor and the photo appeared in the local paper!

CHRISTIANE BIRKETT
Gunnedah Shire Library

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES AT MARRICKVILLE

The English Conversation Classes available at Marrickville Library and History Services continue to be highly successful. These free weekly classes are taught by trained volunteers in partnership with Mission Australia. The classes help improve English conversation skills and enable migrants (both long established and the newly arrived) to meet new people in the community. Beginner, intermediate and mixed classes are taught at Marrickville, St Peters, Dulwich Hill and Stanmore branches.

TANYA HO
Marrickville Library

MULTICULTURAL SERVICES @ PARRAMATTA CITY LIBRARY

More than 20 women attended an Arabic health talk on Diabetes Awareness at Parramatta City Library on the 3rd May 2014. Mary Prince, an expert from CPSA (Combined Pensioners & Superannuates Association) discussed the definition of diabetes, symptoms of high blood glucose, types of diabetes, risk factors and management plans.

After the talk the attendees enjoyed morning tea and had the opportunity to ask Mary questions. Attendees also took home an instructional booklet on diabetes. The women who attended commented that they learned a lot and enjoyed the session.

NADA ANTOUN
Parramatta City Library

WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED ANZAC?

Ryde Library Service is having a year of events in the lead up to the commemoration of the Centenary of the landing at Gallipoli. One of the early events, on the 9th of April, was a bi-lingual talk in English/Mandarin on what ANZAC means along with the stories and symbolism that are remembered every year.



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There was a group of 23 interested listeners happily taking it all in and asking questions about the images and information being presented to them. Margaret Hyland spoke in English and Jinru Zhu interpreted in Mandarin. All the visitors were given a handout explaining the slides, a sprig of rosemary, a paper poppy and enjoyed ANZAC biscuits for morning tea.

The topics covered were the landing, last post, the ode and many others. But the most impressive information to them, especially the men, was the statistics: that nearly 10% of Australia's population willingly enlisted to fight on the other side of the world amazed many of them.

MARGARET HYLAND
Ryde Library Service

ENGLISH CLASSES AT WEST RYDE LIBRARY

City of Ryde Council is progressive and inclusive of all of its residents and at an annual general meeting in April 2013 council unanimously voted to make the City of Ryde a Refugee Welcome Zone, declaring to welcome refugees into the Community, upholding the human rights of refugees, demonstrate compassion for refugees and enhance cultural and religious diversity in the Community.

West Ryde Library has many borrowers with limited English skills who are keen to practise their English language skills to enable them to participate more fully in their community and family life.

Relationships Australia - Community Builders Program and West Ryde Library have joined together to build a partnership and deliver free beginners' English classes to interested people.

The partnership is well balanced with West Ryde Library providing the meeting room for the class, promotional material and referral of interested people. The Community Builders Program provides a teacher, class material and registration to the class.



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The class is now into its second semester and is growing in popularity. The class initially started with 8 people and has grown to 18 people attending each week due to the strong interest and need in our Community. The class is made up of a mixture of nationalities - Chinese, Korean, Indian, French and Russian. It is a warm and friendly class with lots of laughter and friendships forming between the class members.

Staff have taken class members on a tour of the library to help them become acquainted with the resources we have available, including our learning English collection. We have encouraged class members to join and continue to use the library as an enhancement to their lifelong learning journey.

RAECHELL HIGGON
Ryde Library Service

HARMONY DAY AT WAGGA

Wagga Wagga City Library celebrated 2014 Harmony Day by presenting the Colourfest Multicultural Film Festival. Colourfest is a national film festival that showcases the best culturally diverse talent in films from around Australia. We ran three screenings of the film festival across the day.

All films shown were appropriate for all ages and each session was 58 minutes in duration. Our local community was invited to join us in celebrating Australia as a nation of diverse faces.

We partnered with our Social Planning Department to cover the associated screening costs. An unexpected bonus was the approach we had on Harmony Day from members of Wagga's Polynesian community to screen the films that evening at a Harmony Day event they were holding which we were able to accommodate.

CHRISTINE BOLTON
Wagga Wagga City Library

- 01 BILINGUAL ENGLISH/
MANDARIN ANZAC
TALK AT RYDE
- 02 BEGINNERS ENGLISH
CLASS AT WEST RYDE

IN THE STATE LIBRARY GALLERIES

Life Interrupted: Personal Diaries of WWI

Galleries, until 21 September

They were teachers, farmers, clerks, architects. Some were still at school. They came from cities, regional towns and the bush. From August 1914, Australian men and women kissed their loved ones goodbye and enlisted in a war they knew little about. Some would not return home; those who did were changed forever.

For many, the only link back to a life dramatically interrupted by the war was a personal diary with tales of adventure, heartache and bravery — and thoughts of home.

Life Interrupted remembers those who served — in their own words.

Portraits of War: The Crown Studios Project

Galleries, until 21 September

In May 1918 the Mitchell Library Trustees embarked upon an ambitious project to photograph NSW soldiers heading overseas to serve in World War I.

Officers of the Australian Imperial Force and Naval Forces were invited to the Crown Bromide Enlargement Company, the Crown Studios, in George Street Sydney to be photographed in person, or their families sent photographs to be copied. However, due to a fire at Crown Studios in December 1918 the project was never completed.

From this project, the Library holds over 1600 touching portraits and 230 of these feature in *Portraits of War: The Crown Studios Project*.

Don McCullin: The Impossible Peace From War Photographs to Landscapes, 1958-2011

Galleries, 27 September to 26 October

A retrospective exhibition of the great British photojournalist Don McCullin features 150 images made over five decades. The exhibition is curated by Robert Pledge, founder and president of Contact Press Images.

Lynley Dodd: A Retrospective

Level 1, Mitchell building

1 November to 15 March 2015

This exhibition showcases a collection of original drawings from Lynley Dodd's popular children's books, including the *Hairy Maclary* series, the *Schnitzel Von Krumm* series, *Slinky Malinki*, and *Scarface Claw*. A celebration of Dame Lynley's work to date, this exhibition also includes drawings from her first work dating back to school days, through to the most recent publication, *Shoo*.

A touring exhibition from Tauranga Art Gallery, New Zealand

Remember Me:

The Lost Diggers of Vignacourt

Galleries, 1 November to 18 January 2015

The small French village of Vignacourt was always behind the front lines. For much of the First World War it was a staging point, casualty clearing station and recreation area for troops of all nationalities moving up to and then back from the battlefields on the Somme. *Remember Me: The Lost Diggers of Vignacourt* tells the story of how one enterprising photographer took the opportunity of this passing traffic to establish a business taking portrait photographs.

Captured on glass, printed into postcards and posted home, the photographs made by the Thuillier family enabled Australian soldiers to maintain a fragile link with loved ones in Australia.

An Australian War Memorial travelling exhibition

LIBRARIES FOR THE PEOPLE: THE 11TH AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY HISTORY FORUM

State Library of NSW, 18-19 November 2014

To mark the 75th anniversary of the NSW Library Act 1939, this year's forum will focus on the development of public libraries in Australia.

A full program and booking information is available at: <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events>

Book before 12 September to secure the early bird rate of \$140 (full price \$220).

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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