

Issue 36, March 2023

in the **libraries**

newsletter for NSW public libraries



WELCOME

Welcome to another year of *In the Libraries*! The quantity and variety of submissions for this issue indicate that it has been a very busy summer of programs and promotions for public libraries. Audiences of all ages and interests have been catered for with a broad selection of events showcasing the flair and originality we have come to expect of NSW public library staff.

Among other highlights in this issue we showcase some exciting and important local history projects, innovative maker programs and the best of summer festivals and celebrations.

In the Libraries is published quarterly and welcomes submissions from public libraries across NSW. Please [submit your articles here](#) (maximum of 150 words) and don't forget to include a photo.

Note: *In the Libraries* is a companion to [Public Library Services eNews](#), which features short articles about the work of Public Library Services at the State Library.

Your Summer Stories campaign — sizzling success for Newcastle Libraries



Using our stunning beaches and harbour as a backdrop for our annual [Your Summer Stories program](#), Newcastle Libraries launched a targeted campaign to attract new members, and promote our amazing eLibrary and podcast series. Displaying colourful signage in prominent summer hotspots we invited people to read or listen on the go with this season's hottest novels by Australian authors.

We also launched a digital campaign through the popular local [HUNTERHunter platform](#) which saw a huge spike in engagement through Facebook and helped us reach new audiences. Complementing the campaign was a series of podcasts in conversation with all our selected authors and two live events with Chris Hammer and Garry Disher which were well received. With an epic 100% increase in ebook loans and a 40% increase in new members we are calling this our most successful campaign yet...until next year!

Image: *One of our colourful campaign posters overlooking Bar Beach.*

Briana Elliott, Newcastle Libraries

Sensitive storytime at Blacktown City Libraries



The team at Blacktown City Libraries identified a need for neurodiverse children and their parents to be welcomed and included in the library's programs. In the past some neurodiverse children felt uncomfortable or disengaged when attending programs and often stopped coming. We investigated what other libraries were doing, did extensive research, did online training with Plumtree and training with professional storytelling organisations in the UK. We held a small pilot program of *Sensitive Storytime* in late 2022, which was a great success with the few families that attended, and

we are looking to continue the program this year.

Image: *Sensitive Storytime at Blacktown City Libraries*

Lee Castledine, Blacktown City Libraries

Love your weekends: Goulburn-Mulwaree hobbies expo



On Saturday 4 February, Goulburn-Mulwaree Library hosted a hobbies expo to showcase some of the wonderful opportunities Goulburn has to offer! We encouraged new residents, recent retirees and anyone looking for a group of like-minded people to come along to the event.

We invited a large range of special interest groups and hobbyists to come along and showcase their group, including enthusiasts from beekeeping clubs, garden clubs, motorcycle clubs, Aboriginal basket weaving, karate, jewellery-making and arts and craft groups. To add to the vibe of the afternoon, attendees were entertained by local musicians from the ukulele band, as well as some wonderful ballroom dancing! Attendees could also indulge in a delightful afternoon tea supplied by the CWA, famous for their delicious scones, jam and cream!

It was a fabulous afternoon, with many people enthusiastic to take up a new hobby or two!

Image: *Goulburn District Beekeeper's Club at the hobbies expo.*

Monique Hayes, Goulburn-Mulwaree Library

Summer of play at Woollahra Libraries



Double Bay Library's Games Space attracted a diverse range of young people eager to engage in a variety of games and workshops during the summer school holidays. Hosted over several weeks, the event was a mix of activations and workshops designed to be inclusive and accessible to youth aged 12+.

Attendees were able to knock about with a foosball table, access board games such as Carcassonne, Catan and Sushi Go, as well as play a variety of party multiplayer video games. David Mitchell, the Go guru, facilitated tournament style workshops which were aimed at introducing young people to this challenging ancient Chinese strategy game.

The Double Bay Games Space provided a welcoming and inclusive space for young people to come together and play games. The event helped to foster a sense of community and

provided a positive recreational activity for young people during the hot summer months.

Image: Double Bay Library's board game collection.

Alex Castro, Woollahra Libraries

Marvel escape room at Gerringong Library



It has become a wonderful summer tradition to host escape rooms at Gerringong Library. This year we were pleased to present an immersive Marvel experience, where eager fans completed S.H.I.E.L.D. training before being 'shrunk' to Ant-Man size in a garden of enormous flowers and a giant, upturned ice cream. Safely returned to normal size, players raced against time in Dr Strange's Sanctum Sanctorum before being intergalactically posted to the Guardians' base on Knowhere. A short spacewalk later, they saved the world by placing the infinity stones in the gauntlet!

We're always delighted to connect with different family groups as they complete puzzles, solve riddles, negotiate mazes and unlock clues. The escape room had 112 visitors over the span of seven days, many of whom were not regular library customers but were thrilled to discover our library! A great family holiday activity.

Image: Guardians of the Galaxy spaceship console

Lauren Watkins, Kiama Library

Mouse in the house at Albury LibraryMuseum



Our Learning and Outreach team devised and ran several great programs over the summer holidays including a mouse hunt. Knitted mice were hidden throughout the building with children hunting for the mice and receiving a small prize when they finished. The treasure hunt allowed library members and visitors to learn about all the different spaces within our library and museum and to explore a little bit further.

We offered location hints and heard comments including 'I didn't know that you had children's DVDs and audio books', and 'Wow, I saw Lauren Jackson's medals in your museum!' The program was so popular with individuals, families and vacation care groups that we relocated the mice halfway through the holidays to continue the fun.

Image: The Albury LibraryMuseum mouse hunt.

Victor Selway, Albury Libraries

Sutherland Library transformed into magical sideshow alley

More than 300 kids and their parents enjoyed a carnival atmosphere at Sutherland Shire Libraries' drop-in [Sideshow Alley activity](#). Families played classic carnival games, visited the fortune teller (pictured), and lined up for face painting, as well as doing loads of arts and crafts.



Parents commented on how nice it was to be able to play with their kids in the library. Several families came back each week. One customer commented: 'It's the first time I've been in this library, and you've set the bar pretty high!'

The best outcome from the event was the number of readers advisory services carried out, as kids got excited to explore the collection, find resources and borrow. It was a creative and engaging event that brought a fantastic atmosphere to the library and was also a unique training opportunity for staff. The librarians also noted that face painting is a tough gig, but kids absolutely love it anyway!

Image: *The fortune teller read palms, drew tarot cards and wowed kids with the mysteries of their future.*

Jay Fletcher, Sutherland Shire Libraries

GETTING LITERARY



Summer reading at Coffs Harbour

Summer reading success! Our Summer Reading Challenge (SRC) had a great participation rate across our three branches with 90 registrations for the SRC draw. To create a SRC buzz we collaborated with children's author and illustrator Penelope Pratley, who is a local artist, and big supporter of public libraries and children's literacy. Penelope created some amazing artwork and craft activities for our SRC party, as well as facilitating the children's activities and reading her latest children's book *The Secret of Sapling Green*.

We also held our SRC draw with Penelope, who had donated three of her books as prizes. We had eight lucky draw winners ranging from 4 to 12 years old. All the winners had a favourite book they read over the summer except one who when asked her favourite book replied 'all the books I read'. It doesn't get better than that!

Image: *Penelope Pratley reading from 'The Secret of Sapling Green'*



Making stories at Corrimal Library

A group of 15 participants aged between 20 to 70 furiously created and workshopped short stories, each week for six weeks, with guidance and inspiration provided by artist-writer Garry McDougall. The group produced *In Fifty Words*, a book of 50-word stories with illustrations; and *Coming Up for Air*, a book of 500-word stories.

The stories range from a childhood brush with fame, to a motorcycling nana, the death of a beloved pet, to the lived experience of surgery for cancer. Both books will be added to our library collection. The outcomes of this program include community connection and reduced social isolation, creative inspiration and practical skill building in the art of making stories and publishing books, and improved personal and social wellbeing. Participants have provided some amazing feedback, stating that they enjoyed the challenge of this experience more than anything they have ever done.

Image: *Making stories at Corrimal Library*

Supporting local at Bayside Library



As part of our January 2023 school holiday program, Bayside Library was proud to host local Sans Souci author Laura Albulario and illustrator Abi Fraser to showcase their new children's picture book *Leggy Peggy*. The clever duo took kids through a reading as well as an illustration workshop to draw characters from the book. It was a lovely way to promote and support local talent in the book world – as well as Bayside's future artists!

Image: *Abi Fraser taking school holiday kids through an art class.*

Samera Kamaledine, Bayside Library

MAKING HISTORY

First Nations oral history project at Broken Hill



The Broken Hill City Library/Outback Archives have been successful in gaining \$153,000 in grant funding to support the First Nations People Oral History project. The aim of this project is to work with the local community to collect mainly oral histories, as well as personal documents and photographs relating to the Aboriginal history of Broken Hill and surrounding region to preserve these for future generations and for reference use in the Archive.

Videos and oral histories will be undertaken through structured interviews. The interviewees will talk about their lives, memories, experiences, and particular events of the past through lived experiences. The Hon. Kevin Anderson and Nationals member Annette Turner made the trip to the Broken Hill City Library to make the announcement. This grant is being funded by the [NSW Government Community Development Fund](#).

Image: *Announcing the First Nations People Oral History project at Broken Hill City Library.*

Jessica Picken, Broken Hill City Library

Mapping Queer North Sydney

This [online project](#) invites LGBTIQ+ folks and allies to drop 'pins' on a map of the local North Sydney area and share their memories, life events and stories with others in the community. These 'place-based' stories of local LGBTIQ+ lives and experiences can be historical or current, and will then become a part of the library's local history collection, so that future researchers can have a greater understanding of queer life in the North Sydney area.

This project is also about community connection and resilience. Creating a space for queer locals to be seen and heard, and even if not submitting a story, they can still explore the map and read what is there and feel connected.



Mapping Queer North Sydney was launched February 2023 to coincide with the Sydney World Pride celebrations, and will be reactivated during future Pride Month and Mardi Gras seasons.

Image: *Mapping Queer North Sydney.*

Yasmin Greenhalgh, Stanton Library

Curious Campbelltown is launched



Campbelltown City Library recently launched its latest podcast *Curious Campbelltown*. Campbelltown has a long, interesting and unusual history with many stories that could be described as curious. From the legend of Fisher's Ghost to Campbelltown's own 'Saving Private Ryan' war story to the colourful and eccentric Tom Cooper, *Curious Campbelltown* has already captured the imagination and interest of the local community, reflected by encouraging feedback and statistics.

By calling our podcast *Curious Campbelltown*, we have left ourselves open to a wide variety of subjects. We have aspirations of covering such topics as true crime, military history, social history and historical and mysterious buildings of our city just to name a few. There might even be the odd ghost story! Each episode is recorded at Ingleburn Library's new creative studio. This studio is perfect for recording podcasts with its soundproofing and our new RodeCaster Pro.

Image: *Launch of Curious Campbelltown at Ingleburn Library.*

Andrew Allen, Campbelltown City Library



Rex Stubbs History Symposium, Windsor

Hawkesbury Library Service helped organise this event for over 100 attendees on Saturday 4 February, recognising our past mayor who held office for 27 years before his 2010 death. It acknowledges his commitment to Hawkesbury's history and provides opportunities to broaden knowledge of heritage trends.

Speakers included Dharug woman Jasmine Seymour, a teacher and researcher who presented on Dharug languages and



History goes back to school at Inner West

The history team at Inner West Council are creating [online educational packs](#) for high school teachers and students about significant historical sites in the Inner West. Collaborating with University of Sydney archaeologist Helen Nicholson, the team are building a suite of site studies designed for the NSW years 7–10 history syllabus.

Using the community history collection and archives, the educational pack provides teachers everything they need for a virtual

encouraged everyone to try some words, such as: 'warami' (hello) and 'budyari naawunya' (good to see you).

Our Local History Librarian Michelle Nichols gave a presentation about material in the Local Studies Collection with examples of photographs and resources being digitised from the collection. Historian Carol Liston spoke about Governor Macquarie's sixth town near Yarramundi. The event also included a tour of the *Dyarubbin* exhibition at Hawkesbury Gallery.

Image: *History symposium at Windsor.*

Michelle Nichols, Hawkesbury City Library

site study or a site visit, which can be undertaken as a class or in the student's own time. These resources enable students to find and use resources available at the library, to undertake a historical inquiry and evaluate and communicate changes in the site over time.

The first site study on Marrickville Metro (formerly the Vicars Woollen Mill) is now available, while Dawn Fraser Baths at Balmain (formerly Elkington baths) will be online shortly.

Image: *Marrickville Metro site study.*

Claire Macready, Inner West Library and History

CREATIVE ENDEAVOURS



Budding filmmakers at Macquarie Regional Library

Macquarie Regional Library recently hosted their first full day filmmaking workshops for both 12–15 and 15–21 year olds at Dubbo and Coonabarabran libraries. Local budding actors and directors were assisted to create their own short film from script to screen in a fun, hands-on school holiday workshop presented by local screen industry professionals, Dubbo Filmmakers.

Younger children were entertained during the school holidays with a series of very popular Minecraft workshops at Dubbo, Narromine and Wellington libraries presented by certified Minecraft global mentor Noelene Callaghan of World of Minecraft.

Image: *Tomorrow's moviemakers at Dubbo.*

Ken Klippel, Macquarie Regional Library



Quotes on Totes at Lane Cove Library

This year we ran a workshop for Library Lovers' Day which we called, *Quotes on Totes*. Borrowers were invited to find a quote they liked, to bring along and use in the design for their new library bag. With the free software for a computer-controlled cutting machine called a Cricut Maker, we were able to create an iron-on design which we cut out and ironed onto library tote bags.

The Cricut is an easy to use and relatively inexpensive technology tool which is great for crafting projects as well as for introducing digital design concepts and building computer skills. We enjoyed this session and will definitely be using this crafty little machine again!

Image: *From design to the finished bag.*

Sarah Kain, Lane Cove Library



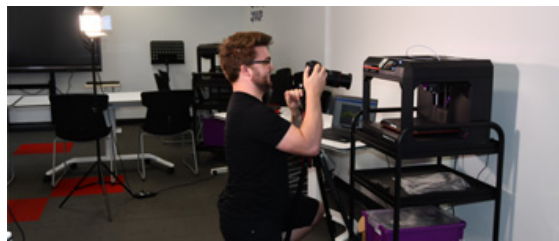
Amazing automata at Blue Mountains Library

Blue Mountains Library offered a masterclass in simple mechanics for kids from year 4 to year 7, when it hosted an automata workshop in the January school holidays. The kids learned how to use corks, straws, skewers and cardboard to create mechanisms such as crank handles, cams, camshafts and cam followers, the basic elements of an automaton.

With a bit of creative drawing, sticking and colouring, the final creations were wonderful, animated models that spun in circles, elevated and bobbed. This technological workshop was an excellent STEM activity and a playful way to explore how mechanics interact to create movement. Cardboard automata are a great way to combine science and art in a single activity.

Image: Finished products: automata creations.

Theresa Lock, Blue Mountains Library



Content creator in residence at Mosman

Mosman Library Service was fortunate to have professional content creator, Josh aka 'JaWoodle' join us for a week in January. He presented two wonderful programs, used our cutting edge Creation Space and trained library staff. Josh's engaging talk about Youtube for our monthly *Technology Tuesday* Seniors program was a sellout. He also presented a Q&A for children, youth and parents about the challenges and rewards of being a content creator.

The three videos he professionally produced — promoting and enthusing over our Creation Space ('I want to just, take everything from this room home with me please'), and making use of all the fun tech — will be available soon to enjoy. Thank you to the State Library of NSW Local Priority Grant for the chance to host JaWoodle!

Image: JaWoodle filming in our Creation Space.

Madeline Coulson, Mosman Library Service

OUT AND ABOUT WITH MOBILE LIBRARIES



The Hills Shire Library outreach van

The Hills Shire Library Service outreach van has been on the road for nearly a year, popping up at council events such as the Mayor's Easter Egg-stravaganza, Orange Blossom Festival and Australia Day. We've also held regular storytimes and baby



QPRC mobile bus at the Bungendore Multicultural Festival

Queanbeyan-Palerang Libraries' mobile library bus attended the inaugural Bungendore Multicultural Festival in February, which attracted a huge crowd on a beautiful sunny day. The jellybean

bounce at local community centres and regular home library service visits. The van's custom fit-out allows reconfiguration for different events, making it an incredibly versatile vehicle.

This year we are introducing outdoor family storytimes at the park where parents and carers can join and borrow from the library as well as enjoy some stories and music. Future plans include tours of remote rural schools, more festivals and lots more stories!

This project was made possible by a 2019/20 Public Library Infrastructure Grant from the State Library of NSW and the State Government of NSW.

Image: *Library staff at Bella Vista Farm.*

Erica Mellan, The Hills Shire Library Service

competition and craft activities on the story mat were real drawcards.

It was a great opportunity to promote the many services the library provides including children's storytimes, STEAM programs, home library services, seniors programs, and our new library app.

Many were interested in our online resources, while others were surprised to know about the fabulous author talks we host. We love the opportunity to take the mobile library bus to community events and enjoy sharing what we have to offer.

Image: *QPRC Library at Bungendore (image credit: The Regional Independent)*

Emma Ciechan, Queanbeyan-Palerang Libraries

FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS



Ryde Sustainability Families Festival

In the January school holidays, City of Ryde Libraries hosted our first Sustainability Families Festival in partnership with Council's Waste and Sustainability Teams, for a fun-filled day of activities to engage and connect with our community. Costa Georgiadis the Garden Gnome launched the day and danced to the performance by The Vege Plot who wowed the audience with their much-loved vege songs.

Our community enjoyed a range of activities including waste sorting games, recycled art workshops, VR experiences, 3D colouring in and face painting. Sydney Water came with their Wonder of Waters van to discover water conservation with Jila the Platypus. We held a sustainable community art display and competition colouring in a gumleaf to tell us how you care for your planet.



Giving it up to the seniors at Parkes

Parkes Shire Library gave up the library to their senior members to celebrate the Seniors Festival in February this year. Throughout our Festival of Seniors, members enjoyed great memories listening to the hits of the 50s, 60s and 70s during Throwback Tuesdays and Thursdays, and by contributing to and viewing a photo board of locals from 1975.

At the first big event, members showed up in their finest to hear local author Margaret Dwyer, who gave an inspiring talk covering everything from family to publishing your first book in your 80s.

To finish off our festivities with a bang, exclusive use of the library was given to seniors for the Seniors Lock-In. Attendees were excited to show their grandchildren

The festival was a huge success with fabulous feedback. 600 kids and parents enjoyed the day which will now become an annual event.

Image: *Sustainable celebrations at Ryde Library's Sustainability Families Festival.*

Gabrielle Wyllie, City of Ryde Libraries

what skills they learnt on the Nintendo Switch and many enjoyed the fun of competing with each other in block games from their childhood. Everyone is excited for next year!

Image: *The victors of Seniors Library Lock-In Cheezels Race brandishing their chopsticks.*

Veronica Shaw, Parkes Shire Library

New Year, New You at Port Stephens Library



In February 2023, Port Stephens Library hosted a successful *New Year, New You* program. The idea behind the program was that now the children are back at school, parents have time to focus on their own health and wellbeing. The week included meditation, yoga and decluttering which all focused on creating new habits and implementing fresh ideas. Buddhist teacher Cara from Meditate in Newcastle spoke to attendees about gaining freedom from worry and stress through simple meditation techniques.

Everybody left looking more serene and relaxed. Sharon from the decluttering company 'A Good Sort' taught attendees how to use creative solutions to organise their home using principles of simplicity, functionality and sustainability. The session also included the psychological aspects of decluttering. Finally, Simmone from Simshakti Yoga guided participants through a wonderful yoga session finishing with crystal bowls. They stretched out, meditated, and warrior-posed their way into a wonderful Zen state of mind and body.

Image: *Yoga @ Port Stephens Library.*

Kris Abbott, Emma Price & Nada Voorbij, Port Stephens Library



City of Canada Bay Libraries celebrates the Year of the Rabbit and the Cat

City of Canada Bay Libraries celebrated Lunar New Year with bilingual storytimes held in English and Mandarin, English and Korean, and English and Vietnamese! Visitors of all backgrounds were encouraged to join in the festivities with stories, cultural craft and demonstrations of cultural dress and activities. The program was part of Council's broader activities in the Rhodes peninsula and was the first bilingual storytime held in person since the success of



Chatswood Library celebrates the Lunar New Year

Willoughby City hosts one of Sydney's largest Lunar New Year celebrations and this year was no exception. Chatswood Library brought in the Year of the Rabbit featuring a massive line-up of events. A dazzling array of traditional crafts, performances and workshops across 16 sessions included Chinese calligraphy, musical performances, lantern making and fan painting — all capped off by colourful lion dancing. With a focus on promoting cross-cultural

3/23/23, 9:46 AM

Email Campaign

the Libraries' Bilingual Online Storytime videos in Mandarin, Korean and Italian.

Image: *Korean and English Storytime session for Lunar New Year.*

Katelyn Dunn, City of Canada Bay Libraries

understanding, it brought our community together to learn and share the rich history associated with this significant annual holiday.

Image: *Lunar New Year at Willoughby City Library.*

Luke McMaster, Willoughby City Library



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