

Public Library News



STATE LIBRARY®
NEW SOUTH WALES

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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the April 2015 issue of *Public Library News*. This issue we feature the programs and events taking place in libraries across the state to commemorate the World War I and Anzac Centenaries. We also feature Library Lovers' Day activities and share what's happening in your libraries, from floods and film screenings to Summer Reading Club adventures.

Thank you for all your contributions, we couldn't fit all your articles in the printed edition, but you can see all your photos on our *Public Library News* Pinterest board at www.pinterest.com/slswpls/public-library-news/

EDWINA DUFFY
Editor



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Front cover image: WWI honour board (detail) restored by Rockdale library (see Rockdale Library commemorates WWI, page 11)

Commemorating World War I



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From 2014-18 the Centenary of World War I is being remembered around the world. 25 April 2015 marks the Anzac Centenary, one of the most significant commemorations for Australians. Public libraries have been working closely with their local communities to research and plan special projects, exhibitions and events to commemorate the First World War and the Anzacs. We share some of your commemoration activities here.

State Library's WWI Commemorative Program

Building on the successful first year of our World War I commemorative program, in 2015 the Library will continue to share the stories from our collections through events, public programs and online engagement.

We have been delighted at the interest from public libraries across the state to host the World War I touring program workshops. We have reviewed the expressions of interest and programs planned across NSW over the next 12 months to work out how we can best support local initiatives to commemorate the centenary, and we will be publicising the workshop dates shortly.

While the focus has been to visit regional areas, there has also been a very high level of interest from metropolitan libraries. We are planning visits to metropolitan libraries, and will share more details when they are scheduled.

Share your WWI programs

There are two online spaces to share information and links about your programs: on Pinterest and

on the public libraries pages of the State Library's website. NSW libraries and councils are invited to pin their programs to the WWI in NSW public libraries Public Library Services Pinterest board <https://www.pinterest.com/slswpl/wwi-in-nsw-public-libraries/> For the website, send program information to world.war.i@sl.nsw.gov.au

'A Town Named War Boy' by Ross Mueller

The Library has teamed up with the Australian Theatre for Young People in a first-time collaboration that will see the Library's First World War diary collection brought to life. Award winning playwright Ross Mueller was commissioned in 2013 to produce a script based on the diaries that interprets the experiences of young men and women at war a century ago. This extraordinary new play connects young men three generations apart, and will be performed at the State Library from 29 April – 9 May. Learning staff from both organisations will be developing the resources around the production, and one performance will be streamed live. See www.atyp.com.au for more details.

Key inquiry questions for students studying WWI

Curriculum linked learning resources for Stage 3 English and Stage 5 History have been designed by the Library's Learning Services staff to engage students through key inquiry questions using the Library's original First World War materials. Resources are available for download from website at <http://ww1.sl.nsw.gov.au/resources/for-schools>

- 01 'A TOWN NAMED WAR BOY', THE STATE LIBRARY'S COLLABORATION WITH ATYP. PHOTO: JOHN TRAVIS
- 02 HISTORY ENTHUSIASTS ATTEND A TALK ON WWI COLLECTIONS WITH STATE LIBRARY CURATOR ELISE EDMONDS AT WAGGA WAGGA
- 03 SISTER LINES AFTER A STORM - LEMNOS 1915: THEN AND NOW. PHOTO 1915: AW SAVAGE, PHOTO 2011: CHERYL WARD AND BERNARD DE BROGLIO



POSTCARD SHOWING MEMBERS OF THE 53RD BATTALION, CONTRIBUTED BY BANKSTOWN RESIDENTS

Calling all digital creatives

From 3 - 5 July, we're partnering with other Australian collecting institutions to host Gov Hack with a World War I focus. What is a hack? A hack brings a community of creatives together to engage with, and reinterpret, large data sets.

Participants in the WWI Hack will engage with digitised WWI collections from diverse institutions to create new ways of thinking about the War and its legacy. These are some of the deepest, richest and most comprehensive set of digitised humanities resources created in Australia. The hack event will launch a six-week competition, with prizes offered in a number of categories. Encourage your digital and online communities to get involved. See <http://ww1.sl.nsw.gov.au/events/ww1-hack-launch-sunday-3-5-july-2015> for more details.

Become part of providing world-wide access to our vast collections

In late 2014 we launched a new online tool which allows volunteers anywhere in the world to log on and help us transcribe and share our diaries, letters, manuscripts and records. To date over 26,000 pages have been partially or fully transcribed! Log on to transcripts.sl.nsw.gov.au and give it a go. Visitors to the site can search through the transcriptions using key words. A how-to guide is available on the site to get you started.

BROOKE HUTCHISON
Coordinator, WWI Program
State Library of NSW

Commemorating the Great War at Bankstown

In our City, the Bankstown Anzac Centenary Working Party has been working to actively promote, encourage and support Anzac Centenary initiatives and events across the local area. A dedicated web page and interactive forum has been set up for residents to submit photos of any Anzac memorabilia they may have. We have been seeking:

- Anzac related photographs (of relatives, friends, and places)
- photos of diaries
- letters home from Anzac veterans
- service awards and medals
- historic photos of Bankstown
- anything that tells the story of an Anzac experience.

So far we have received photos of servicemen and images of postcards and war graves. The Library has been maintaining the Council web pages with a section on "100 years ago this month in the war", and snippets from the official history of the war by Charles Bean such as how the Anzac name came about. Library staff have been researching locals who enlisted in the Great War and names from the local RSL Honour Roll. We hope to be able to host a travelling exhibition of WWI images on our digital screens at Bankstown and Chester Hill libraries.

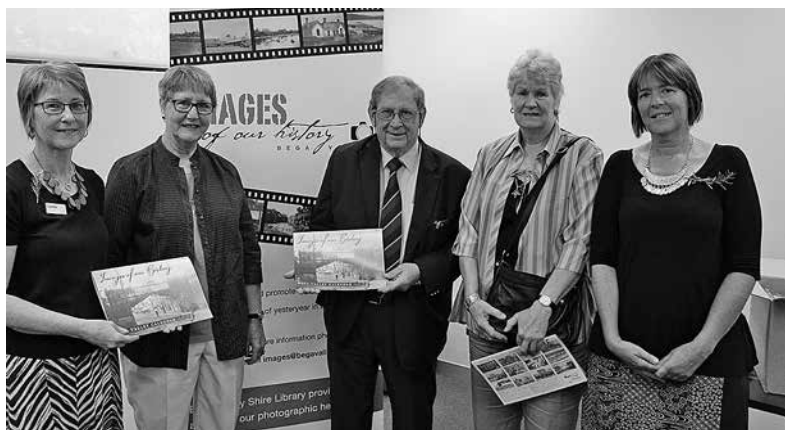
ROBYN OWENS
Bankstown Library and Information Service

Bega Valley local history calendar

The fourth Bega Valley local history calendar was launched in early December. The theme of the 2015 calendar is 'World War I: The War Years' to fit in with World War I commemorations.

The calendar features photographs from around the Shire which show local events connected with World War I such as processions, farewells, end of war celebrations and memorial openings. 185 men from our Shire lost their lives in World War I and the aim of the 2015 calendar is to acknowledge our community's varied experiences of World War I and to remember the impact the War had on our region.

"Finding suitable photographs for this year's calendar was challenging and would not have been possible without the support of the Bega Valley Historical Society and the Eden Killer



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Whale Museum,” says Linda Albertson, Local and Family History Librarian. “100 years is a long time for photographs to survive from an era when photography was not commonplace and ‘selfies’ were unheard of!”

The library uses images from its ongoing photograph digitisation project, ‘Images of Our History, Bega Valley’ to produce a calendar. The first calendar was produced in 2012. This year we had people asking when it was coming out so it’s good to know we have repeat customers each year. They make easy-to-post Christmas presents too.

The ‘Images of Our History, Bega Valley’ project preserves our photographic heritage and provides access to it through the library’s online catalogue, available at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au

LINDA ALBERTSON
Bega Valley Shire Library

The Centenary of WWI in Orange

The Centenary of World War I in Orange website endeavours to pay tribute to those service men and women from the district who enlisted in the First World War. More than 1,800 locals volunteered their services, and 220 of them did not return, having been killed in action or succumbing to disease.

Daily updates highlight events unfolding on the international stage as well as those developing at a local level: latest enlistments, the progress of the Patriotic War Fund, letters received from the front, not to mention casualties.

Stories of mateship and tragedy are being unearthed as Orange City Library researchers delve into service men and women’s lives.

Herbert ‘Rocky’ Rockcliff and Bernard ‘Bun’ Kelaher were the best of mates. Rocky was a champion euphonium player and Orange Town Bandmaster, and was later appointed deputy Town Clerk of Orange. Bernard, a keen sportsman, was a clerk and an apprentice tailor. Ever the prankster, Bun was notorious for his quirky sense of humour.

The pair enlisted together in February 1915, and left together for camp at Liverpool, where Rocky founded the 17th Battalion Band. Both Rocky and Bun served at Gallipoli and in France.

During his time in the field Sergeant Rockcliff had one ambition that he was ultimately unable to fulfil - that of returning to Orange and marching down Summer Street with his old band; he was killed in action on the Somme in July 1916, buried by an exploding shell, aged 31.

Three months later, in September 1916, Bun was returning to camp after a night out when a sentry ordered him to stop and state his name. Bun failed to stop, and being the jokester that he was, replied in a foreign language. As Bun moved off the sentry fired two shots, mortally wounding him. He was 26 years old.

Read more at:

<http://www.centenaryww1orange.com.au/>

TRUDI MAYFIELD
Central West Libraries

01 LINDA ALBERTSON (BEGA VALLEY SHIRE LIBRARY), SANDRA FLORANCE (BEGA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY), BEGA VALLEY SHIRE MAYOR MICHAEL BRITTEN, KATE CLERY (TOWAMBA VALLEY HISTORY) AND ANNE CLEVERLEY (BEGA VALLEY SHIRE COUNCIL) AT THE LAUNCH OF BEGA VALLEY’S LOCAL HISTORY CALENDAR

02 HERBERT ROCKLIFF, ONE OF THE LOCAL SERVICEMEN’S STORIES BEING UNEARTHED BY ORANGE CITY LIBRARY RESEARCHERS

Canterbury Digitises Anzac heritage

Canterbury's Boys is an invaluable compendium of WWI soldiers hailing from the Canterbury District. Published by the Canterbury & District Historical Society, this incredible tool allows readers to use a street index to identify soldiers who once lived in their street or suburb. City of Canterbury Library Service has embarked upon an exciting digitisation project of the book and is expecting to launch before Anzac Day, making this wonderful wealth of information available digitally to the broader community.

From 1915 onwards, but particularly in 1919 and 1920, there were joyous 'Welcome Home' activities for returned servicemen throughout the Canterbury District. At these functions, Illuminated Certificates were often presented by the Mayor to the returned soldiers in thanks and appreciation. City of Canterbury Library is proud to hold a number of Illuminated Certificates in our local history collection.

Noble Collection at Canterbury

"I have had this in my possession over 12 months now & wondering whether to send it to you or not, as naturally a small thing as this even brings back sorrow and grief."

These are the written words of former Private Mr JH Page who was part of the exhumation crew that came upon WWI digger Robert Noble's body and found a watch on the dead man's wrist.

Noble, who died on the Western Front in 1917, was a Canterbury local and the City of Canterbury Library Service possesses a magnificent collection of service medals, photographs, letters to his family and the beautiful wristwatch.

The *Noble Collection: A Canterbury ANZAC* continues to interest people and is being displayed in our local area. It is translated into Chinese and is currently on loan to Campsie RSL.

The original artefacts are now displayed in Campsie Library and attract many people who are touched by Roberts' story.

KIRSTIN COX
City of Canterbury Library



NOBLE COLLECTION AT CANTERBURY

5000 Poppies at Goulburn Mulwaree

For the past three months Goulburn Mulwaree Library has been collecting handmade poppies from the community to contribute to the 5000 Poppies project. Goulburn's contribution to the project was initiated by the Goulburn Knitters Group as means for the community to get involved with in a nationwide tribute to Anzac Day 2015. The response has been overwhelming. The library has collected over 2000 poppies from schools, community members, organisations, crafting groups and the Goulburn Knitters Group.

The 5000 Poppies project originally started as a grass roots project by craft lovers in Melbourne, with an aim to collect 5000 poppies as a tribute to those who served at war. Since the project's inception, more and more individuals and groups have come on board. On Anzac Day 2015 a massive field of handmade poppies will be displayed in Federation Square, as a stunning visual tribute to Australian servicemen and women for more than a century of service in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

After Anzac Day, the 5000 Poppies project is hoping to tour nationally from 2015 to 2018 with the ultimate aim being to give the entire project to the Australian War Memorial for all Australians to enjoy.

MICHELLE STUART
Goulburn Mulwaree Library

500 Poppies at Gunnedah

Gunnedah Shire Council, and the Library, have started a 500 Poppies project for Anzac Day 2015. The project was launched in the library on

11 November by the Youth Services Officer, with knitting and crocheting lessons, patterns and wool being available. The library is a distribution point for the red and black wool and patterns, and also collects the finished items to forward to the Youth Services Officer.

During the April school holidays the library will be the venue for the assembly of the poppies onto florists' wire and bricks, and in April a 'path' of the finished poppies will lead into the art gallery with its display of World War I items. To date we have approximately 450 poppies ready to be mounted.

CHRISTIANE BIRKETT
Gunnedah Shire Library

Hawkesbury WWI display

In February we updated our permanent display case which is situated in the central library foyer. It features a variety of women's clothing and objects dating from circa World War I. All of the items are on loan from the Hawkesbury Regional Museum and the display was assembled by our talented museum staff. The background image is of a WWI recruitment drive in Windsor in 1915 and was supplied from the Library's Local Studies Collection. This display will be up until October 2015.

LAURA SAUNDERS
Hawkesbury Library Service

WWI commemorations at the Hills

The Hills Shire Library Service has a range of activities planned to commemorate the World War I and Anzac centenaries. In the lead up to the centenary a library volunteer spent many hours searching records to collate the names of all Hills residents who served in WWI. This data has become a valuable online database available to all via the Hills Voice Online website. In addition to this, visitors to the site can explore Hills wartime stories, view honour rolls, plaques and the stories behind them.

Castle Hill Library has a new interactive *Australians at War* kiosk. This kiosk brings to life the history of conflicts involving Australian soldiers. The touch-screen kiosk, purchased by The Hills Shire Council, contains information, images and video of wars from pre-Federation to modern times.



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- 01 5000 POPPIES AT GOULBURN MULWAREE LIBRARY
- 02 KNITTING 500 RED POPPIES AT GUNNEDAH SHIRE LIBRARY
- 03 WORLD WAR I CLOTHING DISPLAY AT HAWKESBURY LIBRARY

The Feast of Speakers program will play host to Christopher Lee, one of Australia's most accomplished screenwriters and scriptwriter for the Nine Network's mini-series *Gallipoli*, as he discusses his novel *Seasons of War*.

Throughout April and May all Hills Shire Libraries will host an electronic exhibition of *A Camera on Gallipoli*. This exhibition showcases photographs of Anzac drawn from Sir Charles Ryan's private collection assembled during the Gallipoli campaign.

- 01 CASTLE HILL'S AUSTRALIANS AT WAR KIOSK, WITH DON TAIT, DAVID CRONAN, CLR DR JEFF LOWE AND DEPUTY MAYOR CLR DR MICHELLE BYRNE
- 02 HEDLEY MALLARD, ABOARD THE TROOPSHIP HRH PT NICHOLSON. PHOTO: HURSTVILLE CITY LIBRARY MUSEUM & GALLERY



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Each branch will display this exhibition via TV screens making these remarkable photos accessible to all customers.

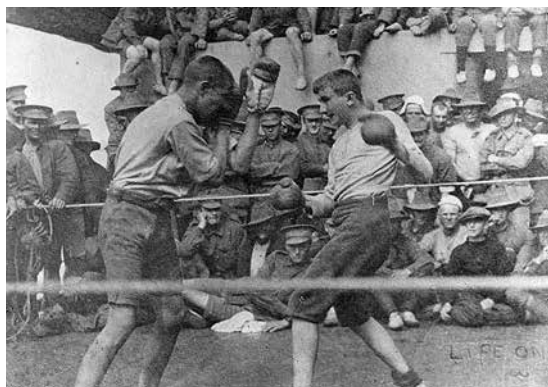
There will also be an opportunity for children of the Shire to attend an Anzac storytime and participate in the Hills Remembrance walls by completing a writing and colouring activity which will be displayed across the Shire.

ERICA WORT
The Hills Shire Library Service

Remembering Them: People of St George and WWI

As part of the Hurstville City Library Museum & Gallery's commemoration of the centenary of Gallipoli, the exhibition *Remembering Them: People of St George & the First World War* displayed at Hurstville Museum & Gallery acknowledges the contribution of the local community throughout the Great War. The exhibition features numerous photographs and artefacts representing the wartime experiences of the St George community, as well as recognising local people who volunteered for service and the ways in which their sacrifice continues to be honoured.

In association with the exhibition, our continuing research surrounding the First World War centenary and Hurstville City Library Museum & Gallery's *Picture Hurstville* digitisation project, an energetic image was recently unearthed purportedly depicting future Mayor of Hurstville, Hedley Mallard, aboard the troopship *Port Nicholson* en route to England in November 1916.



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Possibly honing the pugilistic skills required of him during his subsequent municipal career, Mallard is the contestant preparing to land the left jab. The young fighter went on to serve with the AIF on the Western Front, as did two of his brothers. Each of the Mallard men returned to Australia following the war.

Remembering Them: People of St George & the First World War will be on display at Hurstville Museum & Gallery until 31 May 2015.

HURSTVILLE MUSEUM & GALLERY

Poignant tribute at Ku-ring-gai Library Gordon

A special gift from St John's Church Gordon to the French village of Pozieres was placed on display at Ku-ring-gai Library Gordon from 16 January to 4 February 2015. The gift takes the form of 20 cross-stitched kneelers that have been faithfully recreated in a design of the era. Each kneeler – which cushions the knees when praying – has nearly 40,000 stitches and took 20 St John's parishioners around two years to complete.

The project was the brainchild of long-time St Johns parishioners Betty and John Edwards, who coordinated a band of cross-stitching churchgoers across Ku-ring-gai.

The Battle of Pozieres in 1916 was one of the bloodiest of the Somme and is still the site of the highest loss of Australian life in wartime. More than 8000 Australian troops lost their lives there during the weeks that the battle raged, with 23,000 wounded.

Last year Ku-ring-gai Council and the village of Pozieres signed an historic friendship agreement,

recognising the special wartime bond between the two communities.

St John's Church at Gordon also has a special bond with Pozieres. The 18th Battalion based in Ku-ring-gai brought home the Pozieres Cross, a relic of the battlefield at the end of the war. It was dedicated at St John's Church in 1934 and placed in the Warriors Chapel where it remains.

The kneelers were on display at Ku-ring-gai Library Gordon until 4 February and will be sent to Pozieres for use in the local church.

Library staff included local information sourced from the Local Studies collection. Photographs of the local area and information about Ku-ring-gai residents who fought in WWI made for a fascinating display!

LYNNE FRANCES
Ku-ring-gai Library

Lake Mac Dunbar family reunited with missing WWI diaries

The family of World War I soldier, John Jackson Dunbar, has been reunited with the soldier's stolen war diaries which have been missing for more than six years.

The 1916 and 1917 Dunbar diaries were stolen alongside seven World War I medals, which have since been returned.

Community History Librarian, Ann Crump, said after the launch of the Lake Macquarie History Online website in 2013, an unidentifiable bag of donations was accessed from the Library's records area, which included two World War I diaries, postcards and photographs.

"We started works to decipher and transcribe the faint and cursive handwriting contained in the diaries in 2014 and it took quite some time for staff to complete the digitisation and transcription process," Ms Crump said.

"In November last year, we discovered an article in the Newcastle Herald, published in 2009, that provided some intriguing clues around the journey of the diaries.

"The article described how in 2009, seven stolen World War I medals were returned to John Allenby Dunbar, son of John Jackson Dunbar.



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01 KU-RING-GAI LIBRARY GORDON'S GIFT OF CROSS-STITCHED KNEELERS TO THE VILLAGE OF POZIERES

02 LAKE MACQUARIE MAYOR JODIE HARRISON WITH MEMBERS OF THE DUNBAR FAMILY AT THE HANDOVER OF THE STOLEN WWI DIARIES

"We then suspected the diaries may have also been stolen and worked through a list of Dunbars in the phone book to identify the owner. We made contact with the widow of John Allenby Dunbar to return the diaries to the Dunbar family, and Mrs Dunbar generously allowed Lake Mac Libraries to keep the diaries to finish the digitisation project and share them with the community online before taking them back."

As part of the project, the team also carried out research on the author, John Jackson Dunbar, Sergeant Acting Warrant Officer 2nd Light Horse Field Ambulance.

Mayor of Lake Macquarie City Council, Cr Jodie Harrison, handed over the long lost diaries to the Dunbar family in a ceremony on Tuesday 17 February. Pages from the two diaries are currently on display in Council's Administrative Centre foyer, as well as online at <http://history.lakemac.com.au>

LAKE MAC LIBRARIES



CAST OF WINGED VICTORY AFTER GILBERT DOBLE, 2014, TO BE UNVEILED OUTSIDE MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL IN APRIL

Liverpool war memorial guide

To celebrate the Anzac and World War I centenary year, Liverpool City Library has organised a range of events designed to appeal to residents of all ages. We are also working on a guide to our local War Memorials for the public to be able to see and visit.

Revisiting the memorials and the stories behind them has been a wonderful and emotional experience. Bringing to life the men and women who selflessly risked their own lives to defend our country and our way of life has been extremely humbling, and reading the newspaper stories relating to the memorials has shown us a way of life very different to that which we now experience.

Some detective work has also been required as we try to locate the Honour Rolls that we have located records of, but have not seen, or others that have been misplaced. We have now resorted to a callout to the residents of Liverpool via the local newspapers. We have also identified other relics that were once in our area, but have now been misplaced or otherwise lost and will sadly never be recovered.

Although the guide is still being compiled, we're hoping that many people will visit the memorials to learn about and appreciate the history behind them and the people who inspired them.

DONNA EDGAR
Liverpool City Libraries

Marrickville Soldiers

Marrickville Council is commemorating the Anzac Centenary through *Marrickville Remembers*, the most significant series of events ever undertaken by Council. One of many events is the Library and

History Services exhibition, *Marrickville Soldiers*. This will explore the lives of local soldiers in WWI. The exhibition runs from 19 to 29 April and includes a series of free talks, tours and performances in Marrickville Town Hall. *Marrickville Soldiers* will examine the lives of local soldiers that served in World War I, from their enlistment and training through to their return home. Drawing from a range of photographs, images and objects this exhibition will explore Marrickville's homefront and show the severe impact of war on the community. As part of the Gallipoli centenary commemorations, the new interpretation of the Winged Victory statue will be unveiled outside Marrickville Town Hall on Sunday 19 April.

RUTH KOTEVICH
Marrickville Library

Doing our Bit: Mosman 1914-1918

Mosman Library has received a grant under the Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program for the conservation of five First World War Honour Boards held in the Mosman Local Studies Collection.

To acknowledge the centenary of the First World War Mosman Library devised an innovative online resource to locate, collect and share information, photographs, stories and memories relating to the wartime experiences of local service people.

In 2013 *Doing our Bit: Mosman 1914-1918* was launched and once online we invited the local and global community to take ownership. Since its launch *Doing our Bit* has generated a great deal of interest. Not only have service records of local Anzacs been uploaded and linked but wonderful personal stories and memories of these brave men and women have been shared with an enthusiastic audience.

A major incentive for creating *Doing our Bit* was that the Mosman Local Studies Collection was home to three large First World War honour boards, featuring oval gelatine photographic portraits of Mosman men (sorry no women) who enlisted in the First World War.

The names on these boards were the starting point and after gathering more names from the Mosman War Memorial and honour boards in sporting venues, churches and community halls we had 1,600 names to list on the site.



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As *Doing Our Bit* gained popularity we learnt of the existence of another two honour boards. These boards had been purchased by a First World War scholar who had researched the men featured on his boards. His extensive research provided information on 1,800 Mosman First World War servicemen which he recorded on index cards.

Mosman Library acquired these two additional boards, along with the index cards, for the Local Studies Collection and the new names were added to *Doing our Bit*. We now had five locally significant honour boards depicting over 220 men.

At the commencement of *Doing our Bit* the photographic portraits on the 'original' three boards were scanned at high resolution and uploaded to our digital archive *Trace* and made available on Flickr. It was the availability of these images that encouraged the gathering of information on locals who had enlisted in the Great War.

Following the satisfying first flurry of activity we realized the portraits on the recently acquired boards needed to be digitised and added to *Trace*. It was also apparent the memorial boards in their original condition were fragile and oversized with deteriorating photographs on poor quality board.

So the various options available to preserve, commemorate and allow us to share these valuable First World War resources were investigated and I wrote a successful submission for an Anzac Centenary Local Grant.

This grant will allow us to digitise the remaining photographs and upload them to the *Doing Our Bit* website, to have the boards treated by a professional conservator and a facsimile photographic copy of



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each board framed for display in the library and council.

By preserving, digitising and facilitating the ongoing display of these honour boards online and at commemorative events and exhibitions, we are able to make them available to the local Mosman community and beyond. This publicity encourages the further accumulation of materials, photographs, ephemera, memorabilia and stories.

—
DONNA BRAYE
Mosman Library

WWI touch table at Parramatta

Parramatta Heritage Centre's interactive World War I touch table has images of over 1900 soldiers and nurses recorded in the 1922 Cumberland Argus publication "Parramatta and District Soldiers".

The Local Studies & Family History, Archives and Collections team has been working for the last 12 months and has seeded the table with around 400 stories relating to individual soldiers and nurses.

The WWI touch table is not a static display as it allows users to enter stories into the table and this is directed to a CMS in the cloud which we use to feed information back into the table.

The WWI touch table is made up of two screens. The first screen is for browsing using an A-Z of scrolling images the over 1900 names and portraits of soldiers and nurses from the Parramatta region of Western Sydney. The second screen allows users to search by location or free text.

The WWI touch table is a work in progress and we will have all the stories entered by 2018. It is

01 ONE OF MOSMAN'S FIVE WWI HONOUR BOARDS

02 PARRAMATTA HERITAGE CENTRE'S INTERACTIVE WWI TOUCH TABLE

01 PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS LIBRARY HOSTS A DISPLAY FROM THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL TO MARK THE CENTENARY OF THE START OF WWI

02 NURSES AND SOLDIERS RELAXING 1914-1918. FROM THE PRIVATE ALBUM OF ENID BETTS, RANDWICK CITY LIBRARY LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION



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a great tool for engagement. Over the next three years we are taking this table to various locations like RSLs, Historical Societies in Parramatta LGA and Parramatta Library and its branches. To commemorate the Anzac centenary, we are moving this touch table to RSL Parramatta for over eight weeks so that interested people can add their story or comment on our stories.

NEERA SAHNI
Parramatta Heritage Centre

WWI Centenary at Port Macquarie-Hastings

To mark the centenary of the start of World War I last August, Port Macquarie-Hastings Library hosted an exhibition from the Australian War Memorial of objects and materials from the war years. This included uniforms, maps and even a two-up game! This was supplemented by a display of photographs of some of the men from the Hastings who served in the war.

The display attracted great interest especially as the North Coasters recruitment march came through Port Macquarie in 1916. Library staff also produced a

book to mark the occasion that details the lives of the servicemen and women whose names are inscribed on the Port Macquarie War Memorial. The book, titled *They Crossed the Ocean* includes photographs of the recruitment march and some of the service personnel. The title comes from the inscription atop the memorial. The book can be accessed online from the library website at www.mnclibrary.org.au

JEFF STONEHOUSE
Port Macquarie-Hastings Library

Women of Empire: A commemorative Anzac exhibition at Randwick City Library

During the National Trust Heritage Festival, April-May 2015, Randwick City Library has invited Waverley Library to collaborate in a joint exhibition commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing. In keeping with the theme of the festival, *Conflict and Compassion*, the exhibition tells the story of 30 women of the WWI era.

Women of Empire 1914-1918, transports us back to the era of the women of Australia and New Zealand whose lives were transformed by their experiences in the First World War. Women in uniform, working women, women campaigning against conscription, women fundraising, women in mourning, even the story of Miles Franklin. The exhibition takes the stories of some of these women and illustrates them with uniforms and costumes of the era. The collection will travel to Sydney for the first time courtesy of the Dressing Australia Museum of Costume and will be shared between Randwick City Library and Waverley Library. The exhibition at Bowen Library will be launched by the Mayor of Randwick on 20 April and will run until 30 May 2015.

The Bowen Library exhibition will also include unique local images of the nurses and soldiers at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick during the First World War. These are from the private album of a nurse from the period that has been recently donated to the local studies collection. The images are poignant reminders of the humility, compassion and sacrifice of many men and women in all wars.

GEORGINA KEEP
Randwick City Library

Rockdale Library commemorates WWI

'Together We Remember' is Rockdale Council's banner headline for the Anzac Centenary.

In 2013, Rockdale Library began locating, repairing and installing a number of Rockdale WWI Honour Boards. Two existing Honour Boards were retrieved from storage, restored and installed in the newly refurbished Rockdale Town Hall foyer in late 2013.

A third Rockdale Municipal Honour Board that not only listed names but also included photographs of men from Rockdale who enlisted was discovered by a Library borrower for sale in a local medal shop. The Library purchased this Pictorial Honour Board and had it restored; it has recently been placed on permanent display in the Rockdale Town Hall.

A fourth Honour Board listing Arncliffe residents who fought in the war was found by members of a local community club in the disused loft of a church garage. This Honour Board was in pieces and in terrible condition. After nine months of painstaking restoration work, it was installed in early February in Rockdale's Town Hall building.

Library staff have also been busy compiling a list of local residents who enlisted and fought in the war – so far almost 1,500 men have been identified. This research was helped by a joint project (undertaken with Kogarah and Hurstville libraries and historical societies) to fund the digitisation of our local newspaper the *St George Call* for the period 1914 to 1924. Every week during the war this paper would include a photograph of a local soldier serving overseas. The *St George Call* is now freely available on the National Library's Trove website.

We have also conducted local history bus tours of sites associated with WWI, are giving talks on the local community's involvement in the Great War, and are preparing a photographic display. The photo display, featuring photographs and stories of Rockdale enlistees, will be held at the Rockdale Town Hall from late March in conjunction with another exhibition: *Lemnos Now and Then 1915-2015*, coordinated with the support of the Consulate General of Greece in Sydney.

KIRSTEN BRODERICK
Rockdale Library



ONE OF THE WWI HONOUR BOARDS RESTORED BY ROCKDALE LIBRARY

Ryde Remembers

As part of the City of Ryde's Centenary of Anzac commemoration 'Ryde Remembers', the library co-ordinated the knitting and crocheting of poppies for display before Anzac Day 2015 in a project called 2000 Poppies. Each poppy was dedicated to someone who went to the First World War, whether they were one of the 2000 enlistments from the local area or a member of someone's family.

Our poppy knitting and crocheting sessions were very successful. The participants had a real sense of achievement because they could complete a poppy in the time and were so enthused they wanted to do more! It also allowed them to feel connected with the Anzac centenary in a very personal way.

Because knitters and crocheters crafted more poppies than they wished to dedicate, there were additional poppies available for dedication by



POPPY KNITTING SESSION AT RYDE LIBRARY FOR THE 2000 POPPIES PROJECT

community members unable to make their own. We raised money for Legacy by asking those people for a gold coin donation.

Ryde Library Service has four active charity knitting groups. Interestingly, many of the people who attended these poppy sessions were not part of those regular groups.

ANGELA PHIPPEN
Ryde Library Service

Remembering WWI at Willoughby

As part of ongoing programs to commemorate the anniversary of the Great War, Willoughby Library's Local Studies team has prepared an information session titled *The Digitised War: Australian Military History Online*.

This session will aim to give beginners a general guide on how to access and navigate the many valuable online resources, such as the National Archives of Australia's digitised service records, and

the many online treasures made available through other institutions including the Australian War Memorial and State Library of NSW. The first session will be held in March as part of the Library's Seniors Week program, with a view to offer the session again at different times throughout the year.

This session follows on from the engaging exhibition, *Willoughby and the Great War*, which was on display at Chatswood Library from September 2014 to April 2015, and featured the service records of many young Willoughby men who enlisted for service during the course of World War I. The exhibition also featured images of the various honour boards and war memorials in the local area.

Chatswood Library will also host a talk in April by local music enthusiast, Graham Ball, entitled *The Music That Helped to Win the War - A Musical Celebration of the Anzac Spirit*.

In this special talk to mark the Anzac Centenary, Graham will explore Australia's engagement in both World Wars, and the relationship between the wars and the music of the time - how songs have served as patriotic anthems to call men to arms, as well as bawdy ditties to mock the enemy. Songs were also an important part of troops entertaining themselves and a way of commemorating the fallen.

LIZ PARKER
Willoughby City Library

Wyong Anzac commemoration

Council is working with the local RSLs and Wyong Family History Group in the lead up to the Anzac commemoration. There will be a competition for the local schools that involves interviewing a local digger, banners with images of soldiers for the main street and more. The Library Service will be assisting the students in researching their selected local soldier and has put together a list of war related resources that they can access via the web page as well as in brochure form. For more information about the competition go to <http://www.wyong.nsw.gov.au/my-community/centenary-of-anzac>

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Wyong Shire Library Service

Library Lovers' Day

Speed dating at Tamworth Library

On 12 February Tamworth Library celebrated Library Lovers' Day with a literary speed dating event for singles aged between 20-35 years. The Library was transformed into a romantic setting. Tables were decorated with scented candles and rose petals. Participants took part in 5 minute speed dates and were encouraged to bring along their favourite book to act as an 'ice-breaker'. Champagne and nibbles were served. The night was a success with new friendships developing, three new members signing up to join the library and several new members for the library's under 35s evening book group.

Comments came from mature library users asking "why not hold an event like this for an older age group as well?" So, it looks like there will be more than one literary speeding dating event happening next year.

AMANDA BURKE
Tamworth Library

Library Lovers at City of Canada Bay Libraries

Celebrations at our libraries in Concord and Five Dock for this year's Library Lovers' Day were extended over a week in February including a crafty dress-up Children's party, a heartwarming author talk, Youth book blind dates and fun Youth competition plus beautifully handcrafted displays in the theme of #librarylove.

We asked our library visitors to tell us what they love about City of Canada Bay Libraries with their own words which we are sharing across our social media including Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. We are thankful for the open affection for our libraries!

Last but not least, we also would like to extend a special thanks to The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG and his personally written I Love Public Libraries statement which you can read on our website at <http://bit.ly/1F5fp8A>

Here is a short extract from his statement:

I love libraries, especially public libraries. I learned to love them at school, starting with North Strathfield Public School, which I attended in 1944-1948. When, at the University of Sydney, I started my studies in law, the old Law School in Phillip Street in 1959 had its own library.



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- 01 TAMWORTH CELEBRATES LIBRARY LOVERS' DAY WITH LITERARY SPEED DATING
- 02 LIBRARY LOVERS' DAY DISPLAY AT CITY OF CANADA BAY LIBRARIES

But it tended to be overheated and had ladders climbing up to the sky which challenged my agility and sense of balance. So I moved to the great reading room in the State Library of New South Wales. And I came to appreciate Lionel Murphy's advice to me. "The best legal ideas", he said, 'do not come from legal books. They come from serendipity; from reading books outside the law including books on science'.

Public libraries have always played a big part in my life. Also in the life of my family, my father, who had all his marbles when he died nearly 96 in 2011, was a most faithful user of the Concord Library (now City of Canada Bay Libraries). He was constantly photocopying articles from books (hopefully at pensioner rates). He was forever talking of the attentive, imaginative and painstaking service that he received at his local public library.

WITH LOVE FROM ALL THE STAFF AT CITY OF CANADA BAY LIBRARIES

01 LIBRARIAN JUDY ATKINSON AND UNITING CARE BURNSIDE'S NADINE HILL WITH FAMILIES FROM THE 'THURSDAY PLAYGROUP' AND THE NEW BOOKS



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Coffs Harbour spreads the love

February 14 was Library Lovers' Day and Council's Library Service – in partnership with The Book Warehouse (Coffs Harbour) – spread the love by presenting \$400 worth of books to Uniting Care Burnside.

The aim was to help promote a love of reading at an early age, so the books were presented to Early Childhood Facilitator Nadine Hill for the children and families who come along to the three playgroups run by Uniting Care Burnside.

SARA HINDS
Coffs Harbour City Library

Blind date with a book at Clarence Regional Library

Library Lovers' Day 2015 was celebrated across the Clarence Regional Library with a guessing competition for the most loved adult fiction book, Wrapped Blind Dates, and plenty of hearts and chocolate.

KATHRYN BREWARD
Clarence Regional Library

Delicious packages for a great night in!

What a wonderful week of Library Lovers' Day or should we say Library Lovers' Week at Lindfield Library! We had scores of beautiful red ribbon, bundles of deliciousness and movie fun for a great night in. The love packages, which were quite a



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feature in our foyer, included mouthwatering cookbooks and movies with inviting tags stating, 'Borrow me for a great night in! Return me when you are done!'.

Staff had a lot of fun matching up the cookbooks with DVDs and they included sushi with *Howls Moving Castle*, Aussie barbeque with *The Castle* and much more. We also went the extra mile to custom make packages for our borrowers and popular requests were Italian and Indian nights in!

Whether one was living alone, with family or with pets these little packages brought a smile to our borrowers.

SHOBA ABRAHAM
Ku-ring-gai Library

Library Lovers' Day at Lake Haven

Lake Haven Library was awash with hearts and romance – and biscuits and chocolates! Leading up to the big day customers had been invited to pin the titles of their best loved books on a tree. The result was a great display of book love. There was also 'blind date with a book' which proved to be very popular. Staff also hosted a morning tea (with homemade heart shaped biscuits!) and had about 40 people turn up! It was a great success.

Tuggerah celebrated LLD with a talk from romance author Jenny Ford and a morning tea. Jenny spoke about the writing process and the difficulties faced when publishing. Her love of writing and books certainly shone through and the small but interested audience stayed around to chat to her over morning tea.

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Wyong Shire Library Service

Library Lovers' Month Competition at Wollondilly

Building on last year's successful campaign, we held another Library Lovers' Month Competition throughout all of February inviting patrons to tell us why they love the library in 50 words or less. We're obviously very lovable because we had an amazing response or it could have been the great prizes which included a double movie pass and book vouchers. This is what one of our winners had to say:

I love reading and I can borrow books at no cost. There is a great variety of reading material, computer access and even daily newspapers. The Librarians are really helpful and patient and are willing to help with computer queries. Yes, I LOVE my library.

F. Leonard

GEORGINA KONSTANTA
Wollondilly Library Service



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- 01 LOVE PACKAGES AT LINDFIELD LIBRARY
- 02 LAKE HAVEN LIBRARY CELEBRATES WITH HOMEMADE HEART SHAPED BISCUITS

In the Libraries

Ashfield

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Local Studies staff have been digitising hundreds of fabulous and evocative images from the Ashfield Council Archives. An image of the 1950s Jazz Band Convention held in Ashfield, is a staff favourite. Here you can see the band traversing down Liverpool Road - quite unrecognisable to us now! - led by two spiffy chaps, one playing a trumpet.

What is their story? Who are they? What does the young boy in long shorts standing in the top left of the photo think of this parade? We recently ran a Short Story Competition based around this photo and received some well written stories, all very interesting, moving and creative.

The leader of the Cardinal Freeman Village Nursing Home Book Club, Mrs Irene Sykes, kindly judged them for us, and the winner was Rota Rakula with her story 'The helping hand'. Rota imagined that the trumpet player is Robert, returned from the war with a lame foot and a much changed outlook on life, but with his love of music as strong as ever. We are now running this competition quarterly as a way of promoting our digital resources, our Local Studies Room and Lifelong Learning in our community of readers and writers.

COMIC CON-VERSATION

On 20 September Ashfield Library was abuzz with superhero activity and comic conversation, as we held our first ever comic convention. Comic Conversation was a fun evening of workshops, panel discussions, sketching and portfolio reviews with the local comics community. Our special guests included two of Australia's most highly respected graphic novelists, Bruce Mutard and Pat Grant, and over 25 talented graphic storytellers exhibited their works. Kings Comics set up a store, geek pop singer-songwriter Meri Amber performed, and Sydney's real life superhero The Black Rat RLSH made an appearance.

FREGAL

Freegal rounds out Ashfield Library's suite of online resources, which encompasses ebooks, streaming movies, emagazines, databases and now streaming and downloadable music. Freegal was launched in late 2014 and is a free and legal MP3 download



ASHFIELD'S SHORT STORY COMPETITION INSPIRATION - A PHOTO OF THE 1950S JAZZ BAND CONVENTION IN ASHFIELD

service that allows Ashfield Library members to download music from the extensive Sony catalogue, as well as many independent music labels. Freegal offers access to thousands of artists, millions of songs and over one hundred music genres. This innovative offering has proven popular with our patrons, with 858 songs streamed and 116 downloads during the month of September alone. Freegal is also the first library music service to offer the music as MP3s that do not have DRM (Digital Rights Management) copy-protection schemes, which means that library members can download and keep the songs in their iTunes libraries and listen to them on multiple devices. We also offer Freegal's streaming music service and, combined with the free Freegal mobile app, patrons are able to search and stream music on the go. Find out more on our website <http://ashfieldnswau.freegalmusic.com/homes/index>

THE HABERFIELD SINGERS

The Haberfield Singers have been a tremendous success in raising Ashfield Library's profile and increasing community engagement since the group's formation in 2013. They are a diverse and friendly group of people who meet weekly to learn new music and practise for upcoming concerts, and they have recently partaken in a series of lessons with a singing coach. Their performances in nursing homes continue to be a highlight for residents and staff alike. Not only do the residents appreciate their visit and enjoy their music, but they feel less isolated as well

as having a greater sense of being part of the wider community.

The Haberfield Singers have also performed concerts at Ashfield Library for Remembrance Day and our Rhyme Time and Story Time sessions. In addition to their outreach work, the members have reached out to each other in forming new friendships. One of the group's positive flow-on effects is that people who would not have met otherwise are now socialising with each other outside of their weekly singing practice to celebrate holidays and special events such as Christmas Eve and New Year's. In giving back to the community through music, the members of the Haberfield Singers have in turn gained a sense of community and belonging.

RENEE FITTLER
Ashfield Library

Bankstown

LOCAL HISTORY PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION GOES ONLINE

The Bankstown Library photograph collection is progressively being incorporated into the online public catalogue. Over 270 digitised images of local people, places and events from around the early Bankstown area are now available anytime, anyplace through the library OPAC. The Library has used State Library grant funding gained some years ago for the digitisation project following the opening of the new Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre. As part of the library modernisation project, with the upgrade of our Library Management system and equipment purchased from the grant allocation we are able to provide wider access to our local history photographic collection.

Any local researcher can now retrieve photographs along with books, vertical file material when undertaking searches in the OPAC, anytime from home. A search for Bankstown Hospital will retrieve books, photographs from the 1970s, vertical file information and the image of a 1945 plan.

ROBYN OWENS
Bankstown Library and Information Service



BANKSTOWN LIBRARY AND KNOWLEDGE CENTRE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF JOBSUPPORT WITH JAMES TAN

10 YEARS OF JOBSUPPORT AT BANKSTOWN

At a recent function to celebrate over 600 Jobsupport clients in open employment Senator Mitch Fifield presented awards to employers and employees with 10, 20 or 30 years of employment, including Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre. Jobsupport was established in 1986 to place, train and maintain as many people with a significant intellectual disability as possible into quality jobs in the regular workforce.

Following the official function library staff celebrated with James Tan and his family as he received his award for 10 Years of Service working as a Library Shelver at Bankstown Library. James is kept busy every morning shelving returned items and tidying the shelves, which he knows makes the staff and library patrons happy. James loves coming to work at the library each weekday and the staff and patrons appreciate his efforts in making certain the library looks welcoming for patrons and staff in presentation of the library stock in a most professional manner. Many public libraries struggle in keeping the books tidy on their shelves but at Bankstown we are very lucky to have such dedicated staff as James helping keep our shelves looking perfect so that patrons and staff can find interesting books, DVDs, music CDs, magazines, newspapers on our shelves.

KAREN BARRACLOUGH
Bankstown Library and Information Service

In the Libraries



POETRY UNDER
THE STARS AT BLUE
MOUNTAINS CITY
LIBRARY

Blue Mountains

POETRY UNDER THE STARS

On 28 November Blue Mountains City Library held the 3rd annual *Poetry Under the Stars*. The stage was lit with a warm glow as the sun slowly descended, and the Courtyard began to fill with family groups, older couples, and teenagers. Some chose a picnic feast, while others opted for easy take away, and everyone spread out with blankets and cushions to claim their space and settle in for the evening. Meanwhile, folk musicians Chloe and Jason Roweth set the perfect atmosphere with their Australian bush music, creating a welcoming scene.

MC for the evening was local poet Sandy Holmes, frequent *Poetry Under the Stars* performer and previous winner of the Australian Poetry Slam: Blue Mountains heats. Her quirky humour and easy-going nature kept the momentum going as she introduced the many featured poets who performed throughout the evening. These stellar performers included Milton Taylor, Kate Fagan, Simon Lenthén, Elouisa West, and Peter Kuypers.

New this year was a bracket of poetry especially for kids to start the evening's performances. This worked a treat, with some sparkling performances of classic Australian poetry by some very talented young children, as well as by our featured poets. And the popular Open Mike session, giving audience members a chance to perform, was once again a hit.

As the sun went down, the evening grew chilly, but the clouds held off just long enough to see us through. And although everyone hurried home at the end of the evening to warm up, the musicians were having so much fun that they stayed to jam just a little longer, giving the audience a cheery send-off.

Our goals for this event were to promote literacy and a love of poetry, to promote social inclusion by creating a multi-age event, to showcase local talent and support local musicians and poets, and to showcase the library. One audience member said, "Awesome. These goals are why we support this event". Over 300 people attended, from the very young to the young at heart, and enjoyed a wonderful evening. Look out for the 4th annual *Poetry Under the Stars* at Blue Mountains City Library in November 2015.

READERS & WRITERS FORUM

Since the opening of the new Katoomba Library in November 2012, Blue Mountains City Library has hosted over 30 author talks, book launches and creative writing workshop events at Library branches in the Upper and Lower Mountains.

Due to continued interest from a large number of authors in offering events at Blue Mountains City Library branches, and out of concern for hosting events in a manner which will continue to attract a wide audience, the concept of a Readers & Writers Forum was conceived.

Blue Mountains City Library partnered with Varuna the National Writers House for the 2014 Readers & Writers Forum, on 25 October at Katoomba Library, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre. Aimed at aspiring authors and readers who love to support local authors, this event showcased the work of local authors, both upcoming and established, across a wide range of genres.

The structure of the event was an all-day program of five panel sessions focussing on specific aspects of writing (children's literature, memoir & biography, historical fiction & non-fiction, editing, and self-publishing), plus an introductory session on the creative writing process. There was also a marketplace open during breaks, where authors sold their own works, as well as a stall run by local bookshop, Megalong Books.

This event was aimed at local aspiring authors (of which there are many in the Blue Mountains area!) and at readers who love to support local talent.

There were approximately 300 attendees across the day with lots of positive feedback. The day gave exposure (and support) for lesser known authors and showcased the Library collections, services and events available to the public.

ADRIANNA DEMMOCKS
Blue Mountains City Library



BURWOOD LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY HUB TURNS ONE

Burwood

BURWOOD LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY HUB TURNS ONE

Burwood Library and Community Hub opened on 31 January 2014. Much like a Boxing Day sale there was excitement, nerves and last minute fine tuning. Members of the public were waiting outside; faces pressed against the glass and when the doors finally slid open there was a rush of people eager to experience Burwood Library in its new location. We had approximately 5,000 people visit the library that day.

The new location is actually the spiritual home of Burwood Council. The building housed the Council from 1887-2009 and the history is embedded in the architecture right down to the office where in 1894 the Town Clerk shot and stabbed the Mayor before turning the gun on himself. The library incorporates the old (yes staff do occupy that office!) and the new and is on two levels. The building is surrounded by glass covered with falling green leaves and trees, and is energy efficient with lights that are sensitive to movement. Patrons sit in the uniquely designed fabric armchairs and read, the furniture comfortable yet functional. The colour themes of soft grey and green is soothing and timeless. The junior room is a child's delight with a "tree" growing in the middle of the room, space to lie and crawl and simply be and modular furniture that invites shared story telling. Upstairs and downstairs there are computers, study desks, self-loan checkouts and OPACS. Local Studies has its own temperature controlled sanctuary,

evidence of the commitment and importance Council places on preserving its unique history and heritage. Light and space infuses the library, making it a delight to work in and a pleasure to visit.

Our visits have increased substantially. In 2013 we averaged 20,000 patrons a month we now average 60,000. Our online traffic has increased, in particular Zinio, Your Tutor, Lifelong Learning and Consumer Health Complete. Below is a table which highlights the marked increase of usage and patronage:

	1 Jan-15 Dec 2013 (library closed for move)	31 Jan-31 Dec 2014
Average visits per day	339	2293
Average registrations per day	8	19
Average PC usage per day	67	118
Average WIFI connections per day	45	387
Average loans per day	752	810

Dire predictions of the death of the Library have been, to paraphrase Mark Twain, greatly exaggerated. Statistics support what we already know, that public libraries are thriving, evolving and relevant places in the lives of our communities. They are vital in supporting and encouraging early literacy and lifelong learning and are loved by our patrons. Libraries deserve our passion; they are worth fighting for.

On 31 January 2015 Burwood Library and Community Hub turned 1. To celebrate the library held a special morning tea. The Mayor, staff, invited guests and members of the public enjoyed delicious treats and received a commemorative mug.

HELEN KASSIDIS
Burwood Library

In the Libraries

01 FRIENDS OF TAMWORTH LIBRARIES MEMBERS, JAN MORRIS, KAY DRIVER AND DI HOWE, AND TAMWORTH LIBRARY HOME SERVICES COORDINATOR, LISA CUNNINGHAM, CELEBRATE THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOTL



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02 MITTENS ACCOMPLISHED! CENTRAL WEST LIBRARIES' KOALA APPEAL



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a bank of funds with which to buy resources and equipment for the libraries.

Over the years FOTL has raised over \$130,000, almost all of which has gone directly back to library resource funding. Thousands of books, talking books, equipment and furniture have been purchased. Money has been spent on visiting shows and speakers, as well as specific library promotions, such as the first event FOTL was involved in, the LAPSIT program, where 24 mothers and their babies completed a four-week program designed to inspire literacy skills from infancy, with FOTL supplying all the babies with jumpsuits bearing the words “Born to Read”.

FOTL has supported reading programs for all ages, run theatre groups, presented book reviews, and sold advertising on bookmarks. These days, it is mostly involved in running monthly book sales of ex-library and donated books and supporting the Library’s huge Home Library Service, where members select books for the readers and help library staff deliver the books to its housebound clients.

FOTL celebrated their 25th anniversary recently with a special morning tea for library clients, FOTL volunteers, Home Library Service clients and special guests.

JAN MORRIS
Friends of Tamworth Libraries

Central Northern Regional Library

FRIENDS OF TAMWORTH

The Friends of Tamworth Libraries is one of the longest running Friends groups in New South Wales libraries, starting in 1989 when the then Librarian of the Tamworth City Library, Judy Jaeger, put a notice in the paper calling for the establishment of a Friends Group to support Tamworth City and South Tamworth libraries. A group of very eager supporters was soon established and The Friends of Tamworth Libraries was born, immediately named FOTL, a strange word to start with, but now widely recognised in the community.

FOTL began with a flurry of letter-writing, to local and state governments and fund-raising. I wish someone had taken a picture of that first “How Many Jellybeans in the Bottle”, which marked the beginning of many imaginative efforts to develop

Central West

KOALA APPEAL

When the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) posted an appeal for fabric mittens to help with the treatment of burned koala paws, Jan Richards added the request to Central West Libraries’ Facebook page. Almost immediately, the local media picked up the story and arranged to meet the library mascot, Freeda the Reader, a koala family* and Orange City Librarian, Sean Brady, to find out more about how the library community could help.

Within days the collection basket was overflowing with 160 mittens. We packed up the first box and sent them off to IFAW just before they announced “mittens accomplished” as they had been overwhelmed by the response and had plenty of mittens. However, they did need some joey pouches to distribute to their animal rescuers and carers.



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Once again, our library patrons rose to the occasion and delivered fabric pouches and liners in various sizes and colours. Soon box #2 with pouches and the rest of the mittens was sent off to Sydney.

Total mitten count: 231

Total joey pouch count: 85

Central West Libraries is frequently a collection point for community campaigns but the main difference with this one was how rapidly the whole appeal unfolded through social media as well as a rapid response to the newspaper article and posts.

View the Central Western Daily article at <http://tinyurl.com/l8pdxul> or CWL on Facebook at the following links:

Mittens galore <http://tinyurl.com/mgb9p3x>

Koala pouches <http://tinyurl.com/k3khjv8>

*Koala puppet from Central West Libraries' storytime props.

ROS DORSMAN
Central West Libraries

City of Canterbury

CAMPSIE LIBRARY HOSTS AWARD WINNING FILM NIGHT

Following on from a long list of events City of Canterbury Library has held promoting the ability of people with a disability came "Spotlight On Ability" at Campsie Library, an evening of short films.

Featured on the night were two films by award winning director and 2015 NSW Young Person of the Year, Genevieve Clay-Smith. The evening also featured the public premiere of *The Interviewer*, and the 2009 Tropfest Film of the Year *Be My Brother*,



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both of which starred our special guest Gerard O'Dwyer, the 2009 Tropfest Actor of the Year.

The night was a fantastic success, a celebration of talent and positivity. Gerard himself was a delight, so cheeky, funny and insightful, and a delight to interview. A delightful reunion between one of our Campsie patrons, who was involved in the making of the films, with Gerard was an added bonus.

It was a unique and memorable library event that we are very proud of, and will no doubt be doing similar celebrations in the near future.

GREG ROBERTS
City of Canterbury Library

Coffs Harbour

CREATING MENTAL WELLNESS

On 20 November 2014 Coffs Harbour Library hosted an evening event, *Keys for Creating Mental Wellness*, in partnership with Coffs Harbour Women's Health Centre (CHWHC).

With over 90 people in attendance, the evening began with light refreshments and a mini-expo which included local, state and federal organisations promoting their services. These services included Ability Links, Coffs Harbour Neighbourhood Centre and Mission Australia. The library displayed some of our own resources relating to Mental Illness and Wellness.

The CHWHC organised four speakers for the night speaking on a variety of topics including: Understanding the Brain and Mental Illness, Practical strategies for taking care of your Mental Health, Inspiration to keep physically active, Importance of connection to community, Tips for

01 CANTERBURY HOSTS SPOTLIGHT ON ABILITY FILM NIGHT

02 KEYS FOR CREATING MENTAL WELLNESS EVENT AT COFFS HARBOUR

In the Libraries

maintaining a healthy network, and Finding support networks and resources.

This was a great event to be involved in. We had the opportunity to introduce the library to members of the community that may not have visited us before, as well as promoting our resources. We have formed relationships with local organisations which we hope to maintain and further in the future when opportunities arise.

CASSIE ROWSELL
Coffs Harbour Libraries

GRAEME BASE VISITS COFFS HARBOUR CITY LIBRARY

We were exceedingly fortunate to be the only venue in Coffs Harbour to have Graeme Base visit to promote his latest book *Last King of Angkor Wat*.

Approximately 200 people came to meet Graeme and have their new and preloved books signed. For each signing Graeme drew a small picture in the book; each picture and inscription was unique to the child or adult. Nobody complained as they waited patiently to meet Graeme and there were smiles all round when they admired the inscriptions.

Graeme Base and Penguin Australia were a pleasure to work with and we would happily do a similar event with them in the future.

CAROLYN ELMES
Coffs Harbour City Library

Clarence Regional Library

THERE'S A STORM COMING

On 23 January, Armidale author Bronwyn Parry launched her new book, *Storm Clouds* at the Bellingen Library. Fans enjoyed hearing about the writing process, what inspires Bronwyn and how suspense and romance just go together so well.

AUTHOR TALKS

David Roland, psychologist and author of *How I Rescued my Brain*, visited Grafton Library in November 2014. David spoke about his remarkable recovery from stroke and his application of neuroplasticity to heal his own brain.

Phil Dudman, ABC Radio's Garden Guru and gardening writer and broadcaster, visited the Sir Earle Page Library and Education Centre in January



GARDEN GURU PHIL DUDMAN VISITS SIR EARLE PAGE LIBRARY AND EDUCATION CENTRE

to talk about organic gardening. Phil discussed getting started on designing and building a garden, which herbs and veggies to grow, and signed copies of his book. Over 60 people enjoyed organic, locally-sourced nibbles and 30 of these stayed on to listen to a local proposal to initiate a community garden in the Grafton area.

KATRINA SHILLAM
Grafton Library

CAMP CREATIVE

From 12-16 January, Bellingen Library provided a meeting room for the Family History workshop being held via Camp Creative. A group of 10 participants utilised the free library wifi and family history databases to find missing links in their family stories. The library provided an overview of what is available in the library and State Library collection that can assist family history researchers. It is hoped that this will become a regular event.

SHARON UTHMANN
Bellingen Library

Eurobodalla

BORROWBOX AT EUROBODALLA

BorrowBox has a new customer in Eurobodalla Libraries! All three libraries at Batemans Bay, Moruya and Narooma have embraced their new eaudio and ebooks resources with Bolinda in 2014

and were hot on the trail of displays to showcase the new resources! It's a growing collection for us and so many of our customers love it, especially the Australiana content and our keen young readers are hungry for more titles!

We love all the free collateral from Bolinda and it shows in the striking displays at all of our libraries which have claimed the "hot spot" for maximum impact!

JANICE TAYLOR
Eurobodalla Libraries

Gosford

BOOK DRIVE FOR CENTRAL COAST REFUGES

Gosford City Library (in partnership with Coast Shelter), organised a book drive in December 2014 to benefit guests of residential refuges on the Central Coast. The idea was inspired by the work of the Footpath Library, founded by Sarah Garnett, who provide books for libraries in hostels and shelters in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, as well as operating mobile libraries on the streets of Sydney.

The public was encouraged to donate a new lifestyle, fiction, children's or young adult book during November and early December, with the books presented to Coast Shelter in the week before Christmas. Tubs were also left in several central staff areas for Gosford City Council (GCC) staff to contribute to. The book drive was promoted via the library newsletter, posters in all library branches, and the Coast Shelter and GCC Facebook pages. To encourage the most donations, a friendly competition between branches was devised, with the prize being a 2.8kg can of jelly beans.

The response from the public and staff was encouraging, with close to 400 new books donated. The book drive was part of a wider library project looking at ways in which GCL can engage with local homeless and marginalised communities in the Gosford City area.

KIRA PAZNIKOV
Gosford City Library



THE NEW BOLINDA BORROWER BOX AT EUROBODALLA

Great Lakes

AFTER THE DELUGE

Well, at least we now know why we're called the Great Lakes Library Service. Thanks to intense rainfall in a short period of time on 20 January, box gutters (curse them) and two pieces of bark blocking a downpipe, our Forster Library briefly featured an impressive waterfall and a rapidly expanding lake. It's hard to say how much water ended up in the library but I reckon if we'd left the doors open the ducks would have turned up.

In the end the damage was far less than might have been expected, thanks to quick action and a bit of luck. We only lost 336 books and will need a section of the ceiling replaced. Even the flooring survived – thanks to recently installed, hard-wearing carpet tiles and industrial-strength water extraction units and fans. The biggest impact was really on the public as we had to close for a week.

We also learned plenty. There's nothing like a real disaster to refine your disaster management plans. In the main we did many things right, but not necessarily in the right order. It underlined the importance of pausing to properly assess a situation that changed very rapidly and to fight the urge to rescue property (i.e. books) at the risk of people's safety. Perhaps the most remarkable thing was how quickly everything unfolded. From the first recognition of water trickling through an air-conditioning unit to the library being inundated, the power switched off and having the public out of the place took only 10 minutes. Now, thanks to what we learned, I think we could halve that.

One last lesson – don't expect the public to use common sense and leave. Expect them to sit inside a darkened library, with water pouring through the roof, hoping that you won't notice them. Expect them to need to use the toilet. Expect them to move at

In the Libraries



FLOODING AT FORSTER LIBRARY

glacial speed. Expect them to try and sneak back in for “something else”.

And an amusing story to end with. After the flood a member of the public had problems downloading an ebook. She rang up to enquire if the ebooks got affected by the rain.

BETTER READING BETTER COMMUNITIES

Better Reading Better Communities seems to be a regular feature for us in *Public Library News* but that’s because so much keeps happening under its umbrella since it came into being in March last year.

We have recently been developing promotional material, using our *Better Reading Better Communities* logo. We now have cards to give to individuals as well as a pamphlet with information on how to identify people that may have a reading barrier.

The benefit of branding ourselves *Better Reading* means that not only don’t we run the risk of some sort of stigma associated with the term literacy, it also allows us to think more widely. As a result we’re starting to develop a program involving reading to the elderly in nursing homes. This has significant potential.

We’ve also commenced special storytelling sessions at local markets and are trialling means to further expand these. Most recently, we launched a free form-filling service that will operate out of Forster Library and the Forster Neighbourhood Centre, using one of our literacy tutors, who is also a JP.

And it doesn’t stop there. By the time you read this we should have commenced a literacy tutoring

course being delivered to local indigenous elders, who will then go on and become literacy tutors in their community.

On 30 March we will officially launch *Better Reading Better Communities*. This will potentially open even more doors and opportunities to the group.

This has all only been possible thanks to the combined effort of library staff and real and very active engagement from the wider community.

CHRIS JONES
Great Lakes Library Service

DISPLAY SCREEN AND PA

As part of the Forster Library refurbishments (made possible through a library development grant) we have installed a display screen and PA system throughout the library. The display screen is a 65” Hisense LED Smart TV which is connected to a BrightSign Digital Signage Player. The advantage of the BrightSign is that it’s connected to the network and can be accessed by any computer on the network. Its BrightAuthor software allows you to make presentations that can be made up of images, video, audio or html5 content which you upload directly to the BrightSign player. Presentations can be scheduled to run at appropriate times.

The PA system has been set up with a number of zones which provides us with the flexibility to make announcements to the areas we want. The addition of a wireless receiver unit allows us to use the PA system for events in the library. We can play audio from either the display screen or a projector, which gives us even further flexibility. On top of this, the PA layout is all fixed, which has saved considerable time and effort in setting up events. There is no longer a need to move equipment and there is no risk of cables creating trip hazards. The whole process is just that much easier.

We are just starting to learn how to use the BrightAuthor software and there’s a whole range of functionality that we could incorporate e.g. multiple screens, RSS and twitter feeds, ability to schedule turning on and off of the display screen. The possibilities are almost endless.

As part of the refurbishment we have strived to de-clutter and create more space. The display screen has played an important part in achieving and it has added a fresh contemporary feel to the Library. It has

reinvigorated how we promote events and services, and get messages to our customers.

PETER FLEMMING
Great Lakes Library Service

GUNNEDAH UPDATE

Last year the library won a \$6,000 Autism Spectrum Resources grant, and held meetings with local special needs school GSKids and Gunnedah Carers' Group to gain some insight into what resources were required and would be the most used. As well as buying 'medical' books for the adults, I also spent a good deal of the grant on easy junior nonfiction and other materials that the children themselves could use. The official launch of this collection will take place in the first half of 2015.

Gunnedah's Shop Bound Library Service, where library bags of books and other materials are delivered to shop keepers who can't get to the library, was commended for Library Stars 2014, and I travelled to Melbourne to make a presentation about it during the ALIA conference. It was great to meet many other librarians and hear about all the other programs being run throughout Australian public libraries.

The library also went 'solar' during January, and the staff all got new computers with wide screens – much jubilation!

CHRISTIANE BIRKETT
Gunnedah Shire Library

Hawkesbury

CONNECT @ HAWKESBURY LIBRARY

During the second half of January, Hawkesbury Library provided patrons with some sessions for those interested in technology. The first class – aimed at absolute beginners - was an introduction to the basics of computing. This session provided participants with some basic skills to use the mouse and keyboard as well as navigate the desktop screen. Free online programs and games were used for participants to practice their skills – this was such fun, even staff enjoyed having a play! This session proved so popular, an additional class was scheduled.

We also took the opportunity during the summer break to promote our Overdrive service and encourage participants to download ebooks and audiobooks 24/7. As some patrons were unfamiliar



STYLISH AUTHOR NIKKI PARKINSON AT BELMONT LIBRARY

with this type of technology, we held a hands-on introductory session which was very popular. It gave patrons the opportunity for some one-on-one time with knowledgeable staff to answer any questions or difficulties they had with the service.

Overall, participants walked away from each class happy and with a new set of skills to show off to their friends and family!

LAURA SAUNDERS
Hawkesbury Library Service

Lake Mac Libraries

STYLISH AUTHOR SHARES HER TIPS AT LAKE MAC LIBRARIES

In February, Belmont Library's *Unlock Your Style* event with author and stylist Nikki Parkinson was hugely popular, booking out in record time. Nikki is famous for her real-girl guide to fashion, beauty and life, which she shares through her website stylingyou.com.au

To celebrate the publication of her new book *Unlock Your Style*, Nikki visited Belmont Library for an afternoon of food and fashion with a full house of eager fans. During a delicious high tea, she shared her famed styling tips on dressing to suit your shape, personality and lifestyle.

Social media was a-buzz with people's enjoyment of the afternoon.

JULIE DUNN
Lake Mac Libraries

In the Libraries



STILLS FROM *NEWSFRONT* SCREENING AT MAITLAND LIBRARY

3D PRINTING TAKES OFF AT LAKE MAC

Going to the library to print parts for your robotic dragonfly sounds futuristic, but this is just one way members are making use of Cardiff Library's 3D printer.

From local engineering companies to students creating 3D print jobs for their HSC and children designing from tinkercad.com, the new equipment is tapping into people's imaginations and helping them solve practical problems.

3D printing allows users to create a three dimensional object from a digital model, by building up layer upon layer of solid material. Library members can design online or download a pre-made model to print in a variety of colours.

Replacement parts, architectural models, prototypes, toys and jewellery are just some of the many objects that can be made. Cardiff's 3D printer can print in ABS (acrylonitrile butadiene styrene) thermoplastic, which is the same plastic as Lego. ABS is the plastic of choice for 3D Printers, as the printed parts are tough and durable and can be used as functional end-use products.

MELISSA KITE
Cardiff Library

MAITLAND REMEMBERS THE FLOOD IN WORDS AND ON FILM

On 25 February 2015, Maitland City Library hosted a special screening of the Australian classic film *Newsfront* to commemorate the 1955 floods and their impact on the Maitland community.

This event struck a chord with the Maitland community, drawing a capacity audience of over 300 and requests for additional screenings. The event attracted media articles, radio interviews and even television coverage.

Partnering with the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia and Reading Cinemas, the Library conceived the event to mark the 60th anniversary of the floods and reflect on the lasting legacy they left upon Maitland and the region.

The 1955 Maitland flood was a landmark event – it wrought massive destruction on built and natural environments, and prompted the introduction of a flood management system to guard against future catastrophes. The '55 flood is also recognised as one of the first natural disasters in Australia to be captured in detail for newsreel viewers. The footage has become part of Maitland folklore, providing stories and images that are part of our popular culture.

Directed by international award winner Phillip Noyce, and starring Bill Hunter, Wendy Hughes, Gerard Kennedy, John Ewart, Bryan Brown, Chris Haywood and Angela Punch-McGregor, *Newsfront* tells the story of an intrepid group of newsreel cinematographers and reporters, who risked life and limb to capture footage of breaking news for the movie-going public, before the arrival of television in Australia in 1956. The film includes actual newsreel footage of the Maitland floods, inter-cut with recreations for the film.

The event included panel of experts discussing the floods and their representation in media.

We were privileged to host actor Chris Haywood at the screening. Chris played a pivotal role in the film as a young reporter who drowns in the floods, and clearly was a magnet for media attention! Chris also generously made a special cameo appearance, regaling the audience with some quirky anecdotes from the making of *Newsfront* and introducing the film.

Special thanks to Peter Woodley who initiated the event and nurtured the partnerships that supported it, and all the Maitland City Library staff who contributed their enthusiasm and event management skills to make it such a success.

KERYL COLLARD
Maitland City Library



STAFF AT MANNING VALLEY LIBRARIES GO DESKLESS

Manning Valley Libraries

BUT WHERE'S THE DESK?

This is one of the most common questions Manning Valley Libraries staff have been asked since we went desk-less at Taree Library and embraced mobile technology. We've been called free range librarians and concierge librarians but whatever the label we are out from behind the desk and helping people out in the library.

Armed with Windows 8 tablets our staff are getting out amongst it, seeking out our patrons wherever they are. Windows tablets give us the full functionality of our Libero library management system, the Envisionware computer booking software and Council's corporate systems, without the need to be wired up behind a desk. We even have bluetooth barcode scanners paired with our tablets.

The extra floor space generated by the removal of the desk has enabled additional comfortable seating to be provided near the library entrance. This has become a welcoming space which sets the tone of the library as the community lounge room.

Staff have commented that they feel that they are more engaged with our clients and that we are offering a more personalised service. The one-on-one interaction has given library staff opportunities to promote library services, events and resources as part of a natural dialogue. By removing the barrier of the desk library patrons seem to be more willing to ask questions and seek assistance.

Our loans are processed through RFID enabled kiosks. We have deliberately avoided the term 'self-serve' to allay the fears of patrons who aren't comfortable using technology and the perception that staff are being replaced by computers. Rather, we are still there lending library items - just side-by-side instead of across a counter.

LISA GREENWOOD & MARGIE KIRKNESS
Manning Valley Libraries

Marrickville

MARRICKVILLE LAUNCHES APP

Marrickville Library has launched a free new app so members can access their accounts with the simple click of a button.

App users can manage their library membership, view collections, place holds and access many resources such as ebooks and digital magazines.

The Marrickville Library App also provides extensive information about the Library, including online databases, history services and event details. The Marrickville Library App is available on the App Store for iPhone and iPad and on Google Play for Android devices.

To download the app, search 'Marrickville Library' in the corresponding store for your device.

RUTH KOTEVICH
Marrickville Library

Parramatta

LIBRARY VOLUNTEER WINS PARRAMATTA YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The last issue of *Public Library News* featured a story about Meihua Gong, an inspiring mentor for HSC students. Meihua was recently awarded Young Citizen of the Year Parramatta. Meihua was nominated for the award by our Information Access Librarian Katherine Mitchell. We wish to congratulate Meihua on her wonderful achievement and well deserved recognition.

ANNE POOLE
Parramatta City Library

BOOK DONATIONS FOR NIGERIA

For the past 18 months Parramatta City Library has been donating preloved library books to Obodoakpu

In the Libraries

- 01 PARRAMATTA DONATES BOOKS TO A PRIMARY SCHOOL IN NIGERIA
- 02 PARRAMATTA WINS ZEST AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT FOR READ WITH A MATE PROGRAM



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Primary School, located in Nigeria. Recently the library received a letter of appreciation from the school: 'We appreciate your good efforts to uplift academic status of our pupils here.' The letter also included photographs of the students being presented with the library books. Parramatta City Library will continue to support the primary school and the Obodoakpu community by promoting literacy.

SARAH HUSSEIN
Parramatta City Library

GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY ZEST COMMUNITY AWARDS

Congratulations to Parramatta City Library, winners of a Zest Award for Exceptional Community Partnership Project across a region for the 'Eels Read with a Mate' Program. The program is designed to educate fathers of language and literacy rich environments for children from birth. The award was won in Partnership with the Parramatta Eels and Holroyd City Council and the Community Migrant Resource Centre.

Twenty one fathers from Parramatta and Holroyd Local Government Areas participated in the interactive two week program followed by a graduation ceremony at the Parramatta Eels home ground.

The Zest award is an initiative of the Western Sydney Community Forum and highlights and celebrates outstanding work achieved by the community service sector in Western Sydney.

HIBA KANJ
Parramatta City Library



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Ryde

ONLINE LIBRARY AT RYDE

Following on from two and a half years of continuous development, promotion and growth, loans from our Online Library are now at a similar level as those from our smallest branch, and are close to 10% of total loans.

Our Online Library was launched mid 2012 with over 3000 titles including ebooks (Overdrive) and eaudiobooks (Overdrive and Bolinda). At the time this was a substantial ebook collection, which we hoped our community would continue to find interesting and relevant. The collection was launched with a significant promotional campaign which included both outreach demonstrations at community festivals as well as in library promotions and web communications. We also trained staff in use of the collections, and provided each library location with an ipad and ereaders for staff to hone their skills. Many staff also used their own devices to download items and still enjoy the collection as much as (or more than!) our customers.

Emagazines were added down the track (Zinio) and more recently we have included Overdrive's Kids eReading Room and RB Digital's indieflix. Ebooks, emagazines and eaudiobooks continue to be the mainstay of our collection, with indieflix and the Kids' eReading Room at an early stage of customer acceptance, promotion and development. Our Online Library now contains close to 12,000 items available for customers to download and enjoy. Total loans for the online library have grown from 849 in July 2012 to 8059 in January 2015, approaching a 10 fold increase in two and a half years.

Future challenges include continuing to develop the collection within resource constraints without detracting from the importance of our physical collections, and readiness to evaluate and adopt new products as they emerge. We're also working on ensuring our promotions reach those who are yet to discover the convenience of downloading great titles at home.

RYDE LIBRARY SERVICE

Singleton

SUSTAINABLE SINGLETON

Sustainable Singleton is a joint project organised by Singleton Library and Planning and Sustainable Environment Department. Launched in October 2014 by renowned environmentalist John Dengate, it has delivered a monthly program of workshops and events since then. Highlights have included a talk on permaculture gardening, children's workshops on making recycled Christmas decorations and the sustainable use of water. February features a two hour walking tour with Diego Bonetto 'The Weed Hunter' on identifying edible and medicinal weeds.

Currently 145 people have attended Sustainable Singleton events and following our asset based community development philosophy a community group has been formed to guide and develop the future Sustainable Singleton program. As well as further developing our relationship with our community, the program has significantly built the relationship between the library and the Planning department. It's also been a boost to the lifelong learning dimension of the library service; our community are learning through not only through the use of library resources but through engaging and targeted programming.

The program originated through a Council initiative that Council departments begin working more closely together. I attended the Blacktown Librarians' & Environmental Educators' Forum in June 2014 with a representative from the Planning department. We both left with a determination to put together a joint environmental program. The Planning department often find it difficult to get their environmental message out, or to gather effective feedback from the community. The Library has good communication



ENVIRONMENTALIST JOHN DENGATE WITH MATT CHARLEY AND SHERRYL CHARLEY AT A SUSTAINABLE SINGLETON EVENT

channels with our community and offers the public forum the Planning department lacks.

Involving the community in the decision making around the program has multiple benefits, including tapping into local networks, providing relevant and immediate feedback and guidance on program direction and opening up a wider range of grant applications. The Sustainable Singleton community group have set the direction for the next six months of the program with events and workshops around the secret world of ants, native bees, setting up a vegetable garden from scratch, talks on local biodiversity and electric cars and a school holiday herb garden workshop.

ROBERT STEWART
Singleton Library

Willoughby

TWO GEMS WORKING TOGETHER - PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Opal card, the relatively new "smartcard" for public transport in NSW, is a little gem for public libraries.

With an Opal card, once the user has taken eight trips in a week, their card allows free travel for the rest of the week.

Why is this relevant? Willoughby Library has an impressive range of Chinese titles - Chatswood has many Chinese-literate patrons, who frequent our libraries and borrow heavily. The other day a Chinese

In the Libraries

man approached the desk asking to join the Library; on checking his ID we found he lived and worked around Kingsgrove. It takes about an hour to travel between Kingsgrove and Chatswood by train.

That's a long way to come - why did he travel to Chatswood to join the library?

His Opal card allows him to travel to Chatswood, free-of-charge, to enjoy the delights of Chatswood's extensive Chinese collection.

Thanks Opal!

EPAYMENTS: INTRODUCTION OF SELF-SERVICE PAYMENTS AT CHATSWOOD LIBRARY

Willoughby Library has a philosophy of introducing self-service facilities, particularly at the busy central library in Chatswood, to enable patron-empowerment and to allow staff more time to provide value-added services to our customers.

With this in mind, Willoughby staff worked with three vendors to make possible the introduction of self-service payments (ePayments) at Chatswood Library. These three systems were required to “talk” to each other. The three vendors included: 3M, who provide the RFID self-service checkout facility; Monitor Business Systems, who provide our “smart card” facility, whereby customers can load credit onto their library card; and AIT, the Aurora Library Management System vendor.

This new ePayments initiative allows customers to pay any money owing on their library account – such as reservation fees or overdue fees – at their convenience at the RFID self-check stations. Customers just simply need to “top up” their library card with money at one of the Monitor ePayment kiosks. Money credited to a customer's card can also be used for the Library's printing, photocopying, scanning and email facilities.

The ePayments service has been introduced to customers at Chatswood Library using signage and a dedicated staff member positioned at the self-service stations to “walk the customers through the process” until they feel comfortable with doing so independently.

The roll out of the new service is a gradual one, with three of the six self-service stations at Chatswood Library being used for the initial trial period which commenced in January 2015. So far, it



THE NEW EPAYMENTS FACILITIES AT CHATSWOOD LIBRARY

has proved very effective with roll out to all machines to be implemented soon.

Our aim is that the introduction of ePayments will continue to improve the convenience of our self-service facility and our customers' library experience.

LIZ PARKER
Willoughby City Library

Wollondilly

READERS' ADVISORY TRAINING REAPS REWARDS

Following on from Wollondilly Library staff completing the Rewarding Reading training, they have taken a comprehensive and creative approach to garner the many and varied reading experiences, knowledge and tastes of their entire staff base. Each staff member writes a book review (on a rostered basis) for monthly team meetings following the structure of genre, plot, setting, characterisation, pacing and appeal characteristics. Staff reviews are then published and distributed via library blog, website, Facebook, Twitter and catalogue. Staff have also formed their own monthly book group and much debate has been generated!

The monthly New Items List has been revamped to include book covers making it more visually appealing; greater access to reader's advisory resources have been made available; *Novelist* training for staff and patrons has occurred; and a “Read anything good lately?” whiteboard has been added to the staff room to generate discussion. Many other initiatives for promoting reading have been

developed and implemented but they believe it is the enthusiastic input from all staff that has seen readers' advisory skills develop and reap such great rewards for their patrons.

WOLLONDILLY MOBILE LIBRARY AT AUSTRALIA DAY 2015

Wollondilly Mobile Library was part of the festivities at the Australia Day event at Picton Botanic Gardens. The day also included music, entertainment, a variety of stall holders and a free Aussie breakfast. We found this event to be an incredibly successful PR opportunity as we had so many enquiries from people who wouldn't normally come to the library. The mobile library was open for patrons to borrow and return, and several new members were registered. A temporary tattoo activity for the kids and adults was also provided as a way to initially attract people over to us.

GEORGINA KONSTANTA
Wollondilly Library Service

Wyong

ANNE FRANK EXHIBITION AT TUGGERAH

The Library Service is very pleased to have the International Anne Frank Exhibition on display at our Tuggerah Branch Library. Direct from Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, the free exhibition shows family photographs, quotes from Anne's diary, text and video footage of historical events during the Holocaust. The exhibition is confronting and informative and offers a message of tolerance and mutual respect.

The exhibition was launched on 9 February and by mid February has had over 1100 visitors. The exhibition will be at Tuggerah Library until 16 March. The launch was opened by Mayor Doug Eaton and attended by Evert Brongers, Deputy Consul General Kingdom of the Netherlands. Over 60 people attended the official launch and they all stayed to walk around the panels and watch the documentary.

Tuggerah staff did a wonderful job in assembling the panels and making the display look professional with lighting and seating arranged in such a way as to



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transform the programming room into a fitting arena for such an exhibition.

TOUKLEY LIBRARY DECK OFFICIAL OPENING

The official opening of the new deck and walkway around Toukley Library took place on 2 December. After our normal weekly storytime the deck was opened by Mayor Eaton and Councillor Best.

Customers were treated to the Toukley Public School choir singing 'We are Australians' and other songs. The Library held a 'fill a bag with books' sale with discarded books and that was very popular as was the free face painting. We were lucky to have great weather and that also suited the Gorokan and Kanwal Lions Club who hosted a barbeque and beverage stall.

KINGS OF WAR TERRAIN BUILDING

Lake Haven held a terrain building session for its popular Kings of War gaming group. This was very well attended with gamers learning how to build the all-important terrain in this game of strategy. Kings of War is a game where participants use strategy, maths and logic to conquer territory and defeat opponents. Lake Haven has developed a dedicated group, from primary school-aged children to middle-aged adults, who are very passionate about the game and Hobby. Participants were also invited to try their hand at painting miniatures they could use in their terrain. From our perspective it is a great way to draw teenagers, in particular, young boys, into the library!

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Wyong Shire Library Service

- 01 EVERT BRONGERS, DEPUTY CONSUL GENERAL KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS, AT THE LAUNCH OF THE ANNE FRANK EXHIBITION AT TUGGERAH LIBRARY
- 02 LAKE HAVEN'S TERRAIN BUILDING SESSION, PART OF THE POPULAR KINGS OF WAR GAMING GROUP

Children's News

SATURDAY STORYTIME AT ASHFIELD

Ashfield Library is proud to present quarterly Saturday Storytime programs for preschool aged children and parents who may not be able to attend our week day sessions! The program is in its third year and is treasured and highly valued by local families, with up to 90 attending a single session. This year's program started in February with a visit from Lionel Robinson, and we look forward to the rest of our program!

EMMA SUYASA
Ashfield Library

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2014 AT ASHFIELD

Anna Fienberg, author of the bestselling Tashi series, was our special guest on 18 August. We had nearly 300 local school children booked in to attend. We were quite worried as the day was miserably cold, wet and terribly windy. The phones started ringing and schools started cancelling. Yikes! We didn't know what to do. Lucky for us one school ganged up on their school principal and demanded a bus and the other school was coming rain hail or shine. Anna was a delightful speaker and the children had a fantastic time. In the end we had over 120 children attend.

RENEE FITTLER
Ashfield Library

SYDNEY CHILDREN'S WRITERS' FESTIVAL COMES TO BANKSTOWN

Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre was delighted to be an organising partner in the Western Sydney Children's Writers' Festival. The Children's Writers' Festival was a free event supporting literacy and reading in our local schools where students had the unique opportunity to attend author talks and participate in interactive author workshops.

The program offered Australian authors such as Sarah Ayhoub, Melina Marchetta, Tamar Chnorhokian and Jessica Shirvington for secondary students and Andrew Daddo, James O'Loughlin,



SATURDAY STORYTIME AT ASHFIELD LIBRARY

Rachel Spratt and Tony Flowers for primary students. Each author held a lively half hour talk followed by an interactive workshop with students invited from our local primary and secondary schools. There were book signings at the mid-morning break and a bookshop was set up each day.

Over 240 students participated from four of our local high schools and over 270 primary aged children participated in workshops and author talks.

The authors loved sharing their stories with our local children and all were entertaining and learning sessions. The Festival was a wonderful experience for local children to have time interacting with some of their favourite Australian authors up close, talking and learning about the importance of reading, stimulating the imagination, self-esteem and identity in society while having a lot of fun.

ROBYN OWENS
Bankstown Library and Information Service

HELP WITH READING PROGRAM AT BANKSTOWN LIBRARY AND KNOWLEDGE CENTRE

Help with Reading is a program run by Bankstown Library and Information Service whereby children read with community volunteers each week as a way



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of improving their confidence in and love of reading. Parents were frustrated that their children were reluctant readers, and felt powerless to encourage or help their child as for the majority English is their second language. Schools expressed a desire to help these children, but lacked the time and resources to offer the focused reading support for children. There was a desire in the community to participate in volunteering activities within the library, to participate in community life and to gain practical skills from people of different ages and backgrounds.

The library decided to offer Help with Reading as a way of meeting these community needs. The first trial period from mid-2012 was fully subscribed with requests for an extension of the program from the community.

The program is held once a week at half hour slots between 4-6pm. Each child has a half hour reading slot with the community volunteer each week during school term. The parents are to stay within view of the child but not be involved with the reading. The community volunteer helps each child select a book to read, and guides them as they read aloud through the book, helping them to develop their confidence and skills in reading and comprehension.

Volunteers listen to the children read and correct only when necessary using a small white board to spell out words phonetically. Volunteers are rostered to the same children to help build up the confidence in reading aloud throughout the school term. Each child is provided a log book and each completed title is added to the log. The volunteers stamp the log book entries next to the completed titles and after 10 books have been recorded, a prize can be chosen from the selection on offer. After the completion of

a further 20 books, another book prize will be given. Volunteers are asked to encourage the children to borrow at least one book to read at home before the next week's session.

Volunteers do not provide homework help or advice on library services and refer any Readers' Advisory, Reference and Library administration questions to library staff on duty in the Children's Library. Library staff oversee the program, co-ordinating volunteer recruitment, training and induction. They undertake the administration with bookings, printing reading records and promotional activities.

The program objectives were:

- To help improve literacy levels, and therefore educational attainment, within the LGA.
- To extend the library's reach into the community by providing enhanced and additional valuable services.
- To enable community benefit – via additional services and by utilising the expertise and attributes of the volunteers.
- To enable individuals to volunteer and gain the personal satisfaction from volunteering and to expand the range and skills of our volunteers group.

Very quickly the program was fully booked and a waiting list was created. Library staff were most concerned about the unmet demand and branch libraries undertook to trial the program as well to determine how successful it might be in the distributed library network and to reduce waiting list for the central library. From the commencement of the trial program in the Bankstown City Library we had 6 volunteers who saw 18 children weekly during

01 AUTHOR ANNA FIENBERG AT ASHFIELD LIBRARY FOR CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2014

02 STUDENTS ATTENDING A WORKSHOP AT THE SYDNEY CHILDREN'S WRITERS FESTIVAL AT BANKSTOWN

Children's News

01 OUTSTANDING READERS REWARDED AT BLUE MOUNTAINS SUMMER READING CLUB

02 A IS FOR AUSTRALIA SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT BURWOOD



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school terms. By Term 3 & 4 2013 this had grown to 10 volunteers seeing 30 children weekly.

Some 968 primary aged children had attended the Help With Reading program since mid-2012 listened to by our 288 volunteers during that time. Parent, child and school feedback has been tremendous, reporting great improvements at school as children grew in confidence with reading and comprehension as well as having fun with their volunteers in the learning process.

ROBYN OWENS
Bankstown Library and Information Service

SUMMER READING PROGRAM AWARDS AT BLUE MOUNTAINS

For the past seven years Blue Mountains City Libraries have held a summer reading program over the December/January school holidays with the aim of promoting literacy and a love for reading among our younger patrons. The program involves completing a log sheet of reading from the Library's catalogue (not unlike the successful Premier's Reading Challenge).

This year there were 407 young people registered for the program, 8,850 books read and 445 log sheets returned. This makes 57,560 books borrowed and 3,241 children and teens participating over the past 7 years. A noteworthy number for those who think children don't read anymore!

The program culminated with an awards ceremony for outstanding readers in the categories of Best Junior Reader, Best Teen Reader, Encouragement Award and Best Family Readers' Award. The Ceremony was held on 24 February with presenter and supporter of the program, Mayor Mark Greenhill.

EVIE MARSHALL
Blue Mountains City Libraries

INTERNATIONAL GAMES DAY AT BURWOOD LIBRARY

Burwood Library participated in its first International Games Day. We held the event in our junior room and had a range of games to enthrall our young members and challenge the teenagers playing. Families sat and played old school board games such as Monopoly, Jenga and Snakes and Ladders, while card games and online games appealed to the older children. Of course no games day is complete with snacks and we had plenty to keep everyone satisfied. We had over 40 participants and the feedback was very positive. We will definitely hold this event again this year.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN AT BURWOOD LIBRARY

Burwood Library held a number of activities in January during the school holidays.

The Australian Wildlife program introduced children to Australia's unique wildlife enabling them to come and meet a variety of animals up close, including a python, a possum, a crocodile and more.

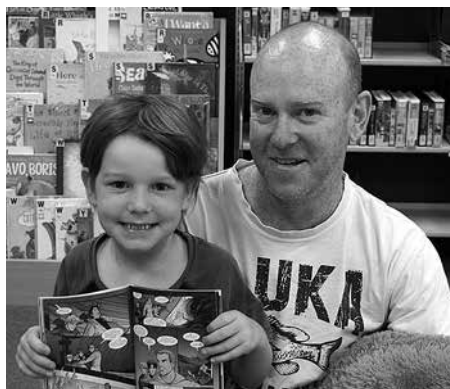
Floating on a Sea of Stories was a joyous storytelling performance based on traditional stories from Japan – tales of magic, bravery, kindness, ingenuity, determination, family and friendship.

'A' is for Australia was a fun show celebrating Australia's folklore and history, ranging from the Dreamtime, to Colonial times, to Australia's modern day heroes including a tribute to Australians in World War I. The program was very interactive with children participating in various activities such as shearing a 'sheep' and being part of a bush band.

HELEN KASSIDIS
Burwood Library



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01 KRISHAN, KAJAN AND ANDY TAKE A TEST FLIGHT IN THE AIRSHIP AT ORANGE CITY LIBRARY FOR SUMMER READING CLUB

02 PARTICIPANTS IN THE TEN MINUTES A DAY LITERACY PROGRAM AT COFFS HARBOUR

CENTRAL WEST LIBRARIES SUMMER READING CLUB

“Look out, look out! An airship has crash landed in the Library!” A giant airship was discovered in Orange City Library stranding its pilot and crew. They needed help from the Summer Reading Club adventurers to build machine parts in order to get the airship operational again and return them to Victorian times. The immersive storytelling activity was all part of the Summer Reading Club Wrap Party.

Children decided the airship had travelled through time via a cosmic worm hole and they focussed on rescuing the crew and powering up the engine ready for its time travel flight. Library staff had created the airship using painted cardboard and even hung a giant parachute from the ceiling to act as the airship’s balloon.

Adventurers were also attracted to the “I Spy” competition featuring 25 items hidden in a display case. Four winners received book vouchers and reader’s reward cards. Other adventurers took photos of themselves in the photoboard using the adventurer graphic.

JULIE SYKES
Central West Libraries

TEN MINUTES A DAY REACHES 300 FAMILIES

Coffs Harbour City Library has been running Baby Book Time workshops for parents and their bubs under two since we launched the Ten Minutes a Day (TMD) program in September 2010. The TMD early childhood literacy program, initially funded by Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation, aims to improve literacy rates within the community by

educating parents and carers about the importance of reading to children at an early age.

The group workshops are an integral component of the program, and are held across the three branches of the library throughout the year. To date, we have held 28 group workshops, with a total of 300 families participating. It is exciting to see the young children grow and learn throughout the workshops, and eventually join in our Storytime sessions on a regular basis as seasoned library goers – mostly with their own library cards!

It has been rewarding to see the little children develop in their confidence through the four weeks of each program, and then continue to visit the library. The program has also fostered connections between the families who attend each session, and many common issues have been discussed over refreshments at the conclusion of the workshops.

We look forward to a continued opportunity to present the program to our families, and help foster independent readers in our community. It will be wonderful to see our first batch of “babies” heading off to school in 2015.

JUDY ATKINSON
Coffs Harbour City Library

ONLY GOLDDILOCKS WAS MISSING.....

There were no ‘grizzly’ bears at Coffs Harbour Library’s National Pyjama Day Storytime and Teddy Sleepover – everyone was having too much fun!

Around 65 babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and Mums and Dads came along with their bears, toys and pyjamas for the special evening Storytime where



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- 01 TEDDIES TAKE OVER AT COFFS HARBOUR LIBRARY'S TEDDY SLEEPOVER
- 02 PIRATE THEMED ACTIVITIES AT GRAFTON LIBRARY FOR SUMMER READING CLUB
- 03 SANTA VISITS YAMBA LIBRARY

they enjoyed loads of stories and the chance to make special blankets for their teddies.

But it was when all the humans had gone home for the night that the fun really started and the teddies got to have their very own Sleepover.

They stayed up too late, they played on the computers, they pretended to be librarians, they hid in the cubby holes, they raided the fridge and, in the morning, they had a very messy breakfast in the kitchen.

When the Library opened the next morning, they were ready and waiting by the door to be collected and taken home.

All their adventures were captured on Facebook for their families to see because - as everyone knows - what happens at a Sleepover stays on Facebook!

SARA HINDS
Coffs Harbour City Library

SUMMER READING CLUB AT BELLINGEN

Bellingen Shire Libraries once again hosted a successful Summer Reading Club with Bellingen and Urunga Vacation care groups taking part in the activities offered at the libraries. Bellingen and Urunga libraries facilitated a write/choose your own adventure story and completed a range of mazes and puzzles. Dorrigo Library had a lot of fun with a Harry Potter potions day, footpath chalk drawing and Mad Hatters Tea Party. Colouring in and writing competitions were on offer at all Bellingen Shire Libraries with a range of prizes for creative kids. Over 600 books were read by children of the Bellingen Shire during this period.

SHARON UTHMANN
Bellingen Library

SUMMER READING CLUB AT CLARENCE VALLEY

Summer Reading Club adventures across the Clarence Valley libraries included iPad adventures, adventure mapping, an adventuring truck and a pirate story adventure. Loopy loom bands were made, kids danced off and D&D and board games were enjoyed.

KATRINA SHILLAM
Grafton Library

SANTA VISITS YAMBA LIBRARY

With the help of the local fire brigade Santa paid a visit to story time at Yamba Library much to the thrill of the children present. The children had an opportunity to visit with the fire truck in the library courtyard, as well as spend time with their favourite man in red.

KATHRYN BREWARD
Clarence Regional Library

HARRY POTTER BOOK NIGHT AT GOULBURN MULWAREE

Goulburn Mulwaree Library celebrated the first ever Harry Potter Book Night on 5 February. The Harry Potter book night was celebrated internationally at libraries, schools and bookshops. We were very excited to hold an event as the Harry Potter series is very much loved not only by the library staff but the Goulburn community. With over 60 people attending the event that was filled with magic and fun, children dressed up as their favourite character and were sorted into Hogwarts School Houses. The night involved Harry Potter trivia, crafts and a vast array of goodies from Honeydukes Sweet Shop trolley. The night introduced the next generation to the wonder

of the Harry Potter series and enticed avid readers to borrow the book again and start the journey all over again. We are looking forward to celebrating again next year!

FATTY THE RATROD

Goulburn Mulwaree Library was thrilled last December to have visit from Fatty the Ratrod. Fatty is a 1951 Dodge Fargo truck that was rescued from the scrap heap by two rock and rollers, Anne and Mitch. Anne and Mitch then went on to create an amazing picture book all about Fatty and their adventures. They have been touring around Australia meeting children and introducing them to Fatty ever since. Fatty the Ratrod was parked outside Goulburn Mulwaree Library for a special storytime session. Children listened to the story of Fatty and then were able to have their photo taken with the truck, everyone had a great time.

MICHELLE STUART
Goulburn Mulwaree Library

GUNNEDAH UPDATE

Toddler Time three times a week, and the promotion of 1,000 Books Before School are the mainstays of our children's activities. There was a presentation of certificates for 1,000 Books Before School, with the Mayor presenting the certificates. One child received a prize and certificate for attaining the 1,000 books.

The library was as usual decorated in different themes, with the children's section having *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* taking a starring role. During October/November he morphed into a witch, in December he became Rudolf the red nosed caterpillar, and in January he became the Loch Ness Monster to fit in with the Summer Reading Club theme of 'Adventure'. During February he turned into a rather cute Cupid with bow and arrow, yellow 'hair' and fairy wings!

During December and January the library staff handed out approximately 140 prepared bags of Summer Reading Club activity sheets. Several schools were also given 'master copies' of the bags so they could prepare their own to hand out to interested children. The preschool and primary school bags were the most popular. Storytelling and school holiday activities in January were also themed around 'Adventure' to tie in with the Club.



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- 01 GOODIES FROM HONEYDUKES SWEET SHOP AT GOULBURN MULWAREE'S HARRY POTTER BOOK NIGHT
- 02 FATTY THE RATROD VISITS GOULBURN MULWAREE LIBRARY

This year, for the older children, instead of having a staff intensive program, we prepared activity bags in the theme of the week – Space, Pirates, Under the sea and Jungle – and made available the space, pencils, sticky tape, etc., and let the children do whatever activity they chose from their bags. This activity bag worked so well we are going to use it again.

CHRISTIANE BIRKETT
Gunnedah Shire Library

CREATIVE WRITERS AT KU-RING-GAI

We started our Summer Reading Club with some creative workshops, targeting children and young adults who wanted to be writers but potentially were unsure how to get started. Presenter Wendy Fitzgerald gave participants some fantastic tips and tricks to boost their creativity. Upon the workshops' conclusion, all participants were invited to enter a story that reflected some aspect of a summer reading adventure.

Children's News

We received a modest number of entries but the quality in the stories submitted showed that the participants had learned a lot from Wendy. There was a diverse approach to themes and story ideas presented, which created some tough competition to decide who would be awarded what kind of prize.

All participants were invited to an award presentation in early February. We were thrilled when all of our budding authors agreed to read their stories aloud, it gave us a new perspective of what the story sounded like when it was presented by its author. Wendy provided each of the recipients with some feedback on the strengths of their stories and ideas for potential sequels if they wanted to pursue more writing avenues. One of our participants has already plotted two sequels which we are looking forward to seeing.

JO POTTER
Ku-ring-gai Libraries

OUR WORDS OUR STORIES AT MANNING VALLEY

Our Words Our Stories is about Aboriginal people creating books for young Aboriginal children which contain real stories of growing up in the Manning Valley. These books will support the literacy development of local children by providing interesting, relevant stories about people and places they know, using language and contexts they are familiar with. Eighteen books have been published altogether over a two year period, and distributed to local schools and preschools.

Our Words Our Stories is a community literacy program funded by the Government's Communities for Children initiative, and Manning Valley Libraries partnered with Mission Australia, Childcare Services Taree and Districts and North Coast TAFE to create and deliver this exciting program. The books were written by local Aboriginal authors and capture memories of growing up in the Manning Valley. While most of the authors were adults, eight students from Chatham High also contributed stories and poems to 'Stories from Chatham High School Homework Centre Students' Volumes 1 & 2. The voices of these young Aboriginal people ring out proudly as they speak about their families and their dreams. The



CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS AT KU-RING-GAI

second series of Our Words Our Stories books was launched in December 2014 at Chatham High School.

DEBBIE HORGAN
Manning Valley Libraries

DUNDAS SUMMER READING CLUB

Dundas Summer Reading Club Party was held on 6 February in the Dundas Community Hall and attended by 30 kids aged between 5 and 15 years as well as 32 parents. The hall had been decorated by staff in real party mode with balloons and SRC promotional displays throughout.

The party included nibblyies, playing board games, team games, pizzas and a lucky door prize draw in which everyone managed to win a prize. The climax of the afternoon was the draw for an iPod. There was plenty of excitement and anticipation. The lucky winner was a regular YA borrower and he was thrilled.

The kids and parents thoroughly enjoyed themselves and thanked the library staff. One of the mums, a single parent from the housing commission estate, told the staff how her son worked so hard for the SRC party explaining that before the SRC commenced, he couldn't read but after his SRC participation, he could now read. To the staff at Dundas Library, that encapsulated what the summer reading club was all about.

AMBAR & DINA
Dundas Library

BRILLIANT SUMMER AT LAKE MAC LIBRARIES

Summer was bigger and better than ever at Lake Mac Libraries this year, with holiday programming attracting hundreds of visitors and new members.

More than 580 people joined school holiday activities offered across 10 library locations.

Guest presenters entertained and informed with magic and wildlife shows, and helped participants get creative with cartooning and drumming workshops. The program was also supported by library staff, who presented puppet shows, storytime sessions and workshops on how to create stories using the LEGO Storybuilder app.

Lake Mac Libraries also joined in the fun of the Summer Reading Club. Local newspaper *The Star* once again provided in-kind sponsorship to promote the event through a series of news articles. Advertisements in the paper encouraged kids to come into the library and collect a free Summer Reading Club starter pack to help their school holiday reading adventures. This year, more than 530 children participated in the Summer Reading Club, with 370 new junior members joining between December and January.

RACHEL MALLABY
Lake Mac Libraries

SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL - CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Two days of authors and schools organised in partnership with Sydney Writers' Festival and Parramatta City Library. The first day saw three schools come to see popular authors and illustrators from Sydney including Rachel Spratt, Frances Watts, Andrew Cranna, and Nathaniel Ekstrom. It was wonderful to see young people really enthused about reading and drawing.

On the second day, we took authors Will Kostakis, Gabrielle Tozer, Tamar Chnorhokian and Jessica Shirvington to the classrooms whereby authors and each class had the opportunity to workshop ideas for writing and illustrating. The second session gave an opportunity for HSC students to have a panel session with authors about how to improve their creative writing, a component in the HSC.

It was a wonderful experience to be able to work with the Sydney Writers' Festival to bring



the Children's Festival to many young people in the community to promote reading, writing and illustrating.

HIBA KANJ
Parramatta City Library

WEST CHATSWOOD POMPOM CRAFT

Over the last months of 2014 at West Chatswood Branch Library, 20 children and their families were busy learning to make pom-pom decorations just in time for Christmas. Using their own imagination, over 50 pom poms were ready to go in December to decorate homes.

Residents of a neighbourhood retirement village volunteered their time and resources to teach the children and adults the wonderful art of pom-pom making.

Participants ranged in age from 3 to 80, this was a great activity to bring a wide range of community members together. The Library, with the support of its community, will continue to offer children and their families an enchanting hands-on arts experience.

BRILLIANT SUMMER
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT
LAKE MAC LIBRARIES

Children's News



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01 MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY STORYTIME AT WOLLONDILLY LIBRARY

02 SHARPIE TIE-DYE CRAFT ACTIVITIES AT WOLLONDILLY LIBRARY

SUMMER READING CLUB: ADVENTURE

Willoughby City Libraries 'Adventure' themed Summer Reading Club was launched by Rowena Lee, literacy advocate and founder of 'Middlemarch: reading and books', with a seminar titled, *Adventurous Reading* open to parents and primary school aged children.

Rowena discussed the power of reading and shared the story *Library Lion* with the children, who were then invited to go and complete the Summer Reading Club Activity Packs provided, while Rowena spoke with the parents and answered their questions.

In total, 599 children and teenagers signed up for Willoughby City Libraries SRC, across the six branches. It was great to see participants regularly visit the Library with logbook in hand ready to receive their lucky dip prize for reading the required 10 books.

Participants were also invited to a Summer Reading Club Celebration at the end of January, with a very special guest, Mayor of Willoughby, Councillor Gail Giles-Gidney, Willoughby City Library's new Literacy Ambassador. Mayor Gail presented certificates and prizes to participants, staying for photos and discussing the great importance of literacy.

LIZ PARKER
Willoughby City Library

SUMMER READING PROGRAM AT WOLLONDILLY

Young people of Wollondilly Shire made a beeline for their library to register for the Summer Reading Program. This year the reading program had 290 young people participating. Worth noting is that this year saw the greatest number of registrations on our Mobile Libraries, 89, almost one third of the total received. The total amount of books read was 2022. The prize draw saw 29 young people win prizes this year including; books, movie tickets, book vouchers, JBHiFi vouchers, games, toys and craft activity sets.

JANUARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Wollondilly Library held a Teen Craft day that was a great success with young people coming along to the library to make a range of crafts including a decorated bulletin board. The craftiness continued with a Sharpie tie-dye activity in which participants created tie-dye t-shirts, pillowcases, bags and wall art. It was all about the hats for the younger members who attended the Mad Hatter's Tea Party Storytime. Wearing their own special hats, children had fun listening to stories, playing games and eating yummy tea party food. Prizes were awarded for the most imaginative hat.

GEORGINA KONSTANTA
Wollondilly Library Service

Young Adults Update

SUMMERFEST 2015 AT MANNING VALLEY

Music, young people and the beautiful Manning River on a summer evening – perfect!

Summerfest is an annual outdoor youth music event which celebrates the talents of young people in the Manning Valley. The event is built upon Live'n'Loud @ the Library which is held at the end of each school term showcasing young bands and performers from local high schools. Live'n'Loud is a long running event at Taree Library which regularly draws around 100 teenagers into the library to play and listen to loud live music. It is eagerly anticipated each term, with new bands constantly asking to be on the program.

This program of live music events for young people is the result of a dynamic partnership between council's Youth Services and Manning Valley Libraries, which also supports the Manning Youth Action Team – a group of young people who work together to create events and provide opportunities for local youth.

This year Summerfest welcomed over 250 people through the gates to enjoy a selection of acoustic performers and local bands. The highlight of the night was seeing over 100 audience members dancing in front of the stage for headliners 'Eleven Eleven' as the flying foxes from Wingham Brush winged their way across the summer afternoon sky.

DEBBIE HORGAN
Manning Valley Libraries

WYONG INFO SERVICES GOES TO SCHOOL

Library staff were invited to visit Mary Mackillop Catholic School to demonstrate our online resources. The great library staff at the school are very keen to have their students, particularly the senior students, become better information retrievers. We demonstrated our web page and how to use



the NSW.net databases, in particular ANZRC and Science Reference Centre. We view these as great opportunities to promote the library and its services. We have been invited back to give the library staff an in depth look at all of our online products so we are hoping for an increase in our usage stats!

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Wyong Shire Library Service

SUMMERFEST YOUTH
MUSIC EVENT AT TAREE
LIBRARY

In touch with the State Library

STATE-WIDE PROJECTS

Three major state-wide projects managed by the State Library on behalf of the public library network are in progress:

- Early Literacy Framework Research
- Regional Library Models Research
- Mobile Libraries and Outreach Models Research

EARLY LITERACY FRAMEWORK

The project will develop a context-sensitive model for benchmarking and designing effective early literacy programs in NSW public libraries. The State Library engaged Dr Emilia Djonov from the Early Childhood Institute at Macquarie University assisted by Dr Jane Torr and research assistant Lien Pham to deliver the project.

The methodology includes three phases:

1. Statewide public library survey: multiple choice and short answer questionnaire, designed with assistance from librarians
2. Review of research on early literacy
3. Close observation and analysis of early literacy programs in 24 NSW public libraries representative of the diversity of settings and programs across NSW:
 - a. video recording of sessions
 - b. interviews with library staff engaged in those sessions
 - c. voluntary questionnaire for parents and families

Phase 3 commenced in February 2015, with the team progressively visiting 24 NSW public libraries to observe, survey and video sessions. The libraries featuring in this phase are:

- Albury City Libraries
- Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre
- Blacktown City Libraries
- City of Canada Bay Library Service
- Cessnock City Library
- Coffs Harbour City Library and Information Service
- Gilgandra Library
- Manning Valley Libraries
- Holroyd City Council Library Service

- Kiama Library
- Leeton Shire Major Dooley Library
- Maitland City Library
- Newcastle Region Library
- Parkes Shire Library
- Parramatta City Library Service
- Penrith City Library
- Queanbeyan Palerang Library Service
- Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library
- Richmond Tweed Regional Library
- Sutherland Shire Libraries and Information Service
- Central Northern Regional Library
- Willoughby City Library
- Wollondilly Library and Information Service
- Wyong Shire Library Service

Further meetings will take place between the research team and the State Library as this field-work phase continues.

REGIONAL LIBRARY MODELS

The UTS Centre for Australian Local Government Excellence has been appointed to assist with this project.

The survey phase took place in November 2014. All NSW public library managers were invited to participate in an online survey. Responses have been received from 23 standalone libraries, 14 regional libraries, 12 cooperative libraries and five “other”. Therefore 54 of the 102 NSW library services responded. The range of library types and sizes among the respondents is reflective of the diversity across the state.

In addition the State Library sought copies of current regional and cooperative library agreements, including those not promulgated under the Library Act. A wide range of agreements have been submitted, which will assist the researchers to define agreement typologies.

Analysis of the results and agreements is under way at present. A report on the project will be published and distributed to NSW councils.

MOBILE LIBRARIES AND OUTREACH MODELS

The State Library on behalf of the NSW Public Library Network Research Committee, has commissioned a project to research Mobile Library and Outreach Models, to gain an understanding of current practice with a view to establishing good practice guidelines. Roger Henshaw Consultancy Services (RHCS) have been appointed to run the project.

The objectives of the project are to:

1. Identify the range and scope of NSW public library mobile and outreach service models, including an overview of the historical development of these models.
2. Explore the strengths, weaknesses, costs, benefits and opportunities of different outreach models used within NSW public libraries.
3. Develop good practice guidelines for NSW public library mobile and outreach services.

It is expected that a report of the project will be published by the State Library in the first half of 2015.

CAMERON MORLEY
Manager, Funding and Advisory Services

KNOW YOUR STANDARDS POURING KITS

In 2012 Drug Info purchased a number of Standard Drink Educational Pouring Kits to support alcohol awareness and "Know Your Standards" standard drinks activities in public libraries. The aim of Know Your Standards is to provide community members with information and resources to improve their knowledge and awareness of standard drinks and the Australian Alcohol Guidelines. The Standard Drink Educational Pouring Kit complements the print resources (postcards and pocket guides) and online resources (website) available in the drug info @ your library collection and is both an alternative format for communicating information and an educational tool.

The Pouring Kits have been made available for loan to public libraries and have been used in library displays, for group activities and as part of the Drug Info public library training program. A number of libraries have also used them with their councils or Community Drug Action Teams (CDATs) to run joint sessions. Feedback from libraries who have used the kits has been overwhelmingly positive with many



FULL-STRENGTH BEERS FOR THE KNOW YOUR STANDARDS POURING KITS IN PRODUCTION

libraries expressing interest in having a kit in their own library.

This year Drug Info will be providing a Standard Drink Educational Pouring Kit for all central public libraries for use in public programs, displays and/or for lending as part of the drug info @ your library alcohol awareness strategy. These kits are currently in production. They are handmade in Australia by a Victorian supplier - you can see an example of the full-strength beers being made in the photograph. The glasses will be branded with our drug info @ your library logo. Each kit comes with a lesson plan which explains how to use the kit to run an interactive demonstration. In addition to the Pouring Kit we will be sending an accompanying Know Your Standards toolkit with lesson plans and ideas for use in your community.

For more info about Know Your Standards - please visit the website: <http://www.druginfo.sl.nsw.gov.au/forpublibs/promotion/daw.html>

ANDREA CURR
Drug Info Services

ACCESS TO THE STATE LIBRARY'S ERESOURCES

Access to the State Library's eResources was rolled out to participating public libraries in December 2014. Seventy public library services now participate in this program and the State Library would like to invite the remaining library services to participate. So far, over 600 public library clients have registered with the State Library for this access.

This program enables anyone in NSW with a public library card to register as a State Library member and access the Library's purchased eResources free of charge. On offer is a wide range of eResources that complement those already held by NSW public libraries, including full text perpetual historical monograph and newspaper collections, business information, international newspapers and much more.

To gain immediate access to the State Library's eResources, public library clients need simply go to the eResources web page on the State Library website to register with the State Library using their local library card. Following registration with their public library membership cards, your client will only need to enter in their membership card number at the beginning of subsequent sessions to gain access to the eResources, 24/7.

More information about this access is available on the NSW.net website in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section at: http://www.nswnet.net/faq?field_faq_taxa_tid=121

Please contact the NSW.net team if your library service would like to participate in this program.

JOYCE AZZOPARDI
Manager, NSW.net Services

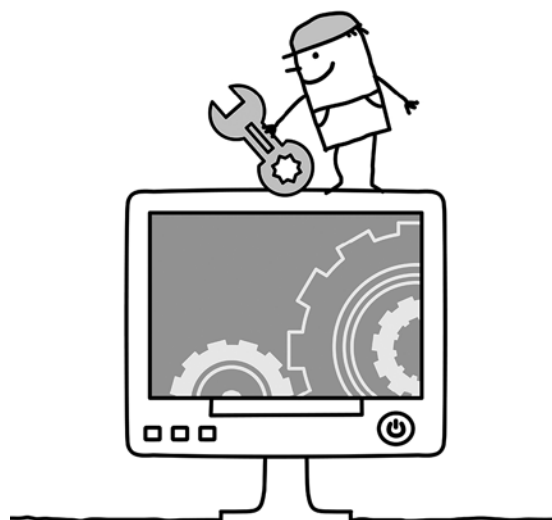
ERESOURCES TOOLKIT

Are you keen to spread the word about your library's great eResources? If so, take a look at the eResources Toolkit which is now available on the NSW.net website: <http://www.nswnet.net/e-resources/toolkit>.

The toolkit aims to assist NSW public libraries to promote and maximise the use of their eResources and is in four sections: eResources Health Check, Access, Promotion and Skills.

It is based on the New Zealand EPIC (eResources Purchasing In Collaboration) eResources Toolkit (<http://www.epic.org.nz/>) which was developed by Craig Cherrie, EPIC Training Coordinator until 2009.

A group of NSW public library staff worked on adapting the EPIC Toolkit for a NSW public library



audience. They are (in alphabetical order) Shoba Abraham, Ku-ring-gai Library, Linda Albertson, Bega Valley Shire Library, Louise Chapman, Newcastle Regional Library, Sean Finlay, Randwick City Library Service, Ali Hussein, Parramatta City Library Service, Kathy Maltby, Ryde Library Service, Janelle Monnox, Lake Macquarie City Library, Sarah Taylor, Shoalhaven Libraries and Nathan Turner, Parramatta City Library Service.

The NSW.net team, Joyce Azzopardi, Ross Balharrie and Kathleen Alexander also edited and contributed to the Toolkit.

The Toolkit includes references to relevant titles from our American Library Association (ALA) eBook collection for each section of the kit.

The ALA books contain 360 eBook titles, including the complete Tech Set Series and Library Technology Reports.

This full text collection is a great professional development resource. You will find practical industry based titles on a wide range of library topics: working with user groups, managing, delivering and evaluating collections and services, staff development and building and technology planning. Explore this collection before you start your next project!

NSW public library staff can access the ALA books via: <http://www.nswnet.net/generic/professional-development-resources>

Please let us know what you think of the Toolkit and the ALA books.

We would like to thank EPIC for allowing us to adapt their Toolkit and make this available to NSW public libraries.

KATHLEEN ALEXANDER
NSW.net Services

NSW.NET SERVICES FROM 1 JULY 2015

The State Library's NSW.net Service provides NSW Councils and their libraries with subsidised internet connectivity services and infrastructure equipment, WiFi hotspots, technical phone support, managed web services, training and state-wide access to a suite of 10 eResources.

The last four years (2011/12 to 2014/15) has seen the completion of the Revitalising Regional Libraries (RRL) funding program where WiFi Hotspots have been deployed in 126 country public libraries. This initiative has been a great success for the NSW.net Service with 126 out of a possible 139 country public libraries providing robust and reliable public WiFi Hotspot facilities. NSW.net continues to support these libraries in addition to its ever growing client base.

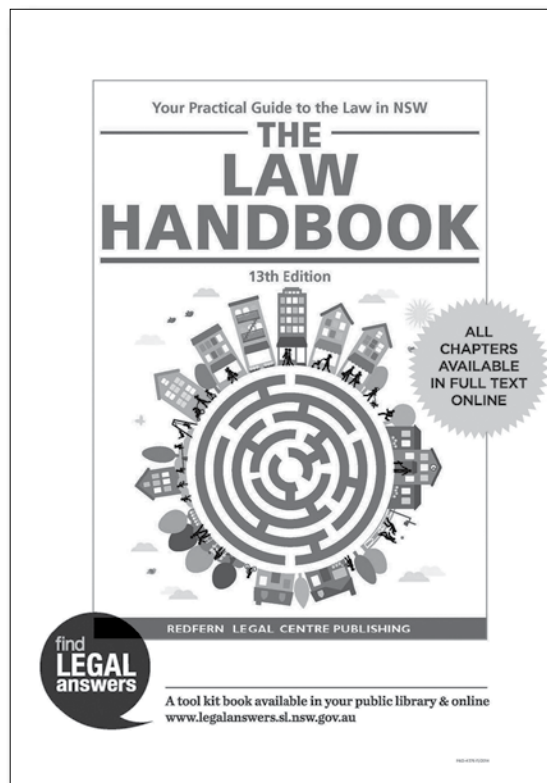
NSW.net is committed to maintaining connectivity and access across the state. To enable this continued support, NSW.net will be introducing the following new arrangements from 1 July 2015:

- The provision of NSW.net funded Symantec Managed Email and Web Services will conclude. An attractive and competitive NSW.net consortia opt-in offer has been negotiated for existing clients to purchase and continue their subscriptions for a three year contract commencing 1 July 2015.
- The provision of the SAI Global Standards Australia Online Public Library Service subscription will conclude. Access to this subscription is not available remotely and statistics show low use of this resource. NSW.net will investigate the possibility of a consortia opt-in offer for public library purchase.

All remaining services provided by NSW.net will continue as normal.

Please do not contact SAI Global directly regarding the continuation of the service beyond 30 June 2015. NSW.net will provide library managers with updates on any forthcoming consortia opt-in offer at the conclusion of negotiations.

JOYCE AZZOPARDI
Manager, NSW.net Services



LATEST EDITION OF
THE LAW HANDBOOK,
AVAILABLE ONLINE AND
IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

NEW TO FIND LEGAL ANSWERS

The Find Legal Answers Tool Kit was updated in December 2014. Two new editions were added to the Tool Kit collection, held by all public libraries in NSW:

Just a piece of paper? Making your AVO work for you. 3rd ed.

This booklet is designed to help women understand their rights and responsibilities once they have obtained an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO), and gives suggestions and strategies for making an AVO more effective. It covers police response, the importance of reporting breaches, personal record keeping, aiding and abetting/entrapment, cross AVOs, AVOs and children, AVOs and family law, varying an AVO, and following up on police action.

The law handbook: your practical guide to the law in NSW. 13th ed.

This book is the single most important plain English guide to the law in NSW. It provides a

In touch with the State Library

practical guide to over 43 legal topics – legal issues which affect people in their everyday lives.

Both of these books are also available in full text on the Find Legal Answers website www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au

Don't forget that the Tool Kit online tab can be used to search selected Tool Kit titles in full text – use the search function on the top right of the screen.

The *Domestic violence* Hot Topic is now available online – find it under subject on the Pathway or under the Hot Topics tab. Like the Tool Kit online, you can search Hot Topics in full text – use the search function on the top right.

Also new to the Find Legal Answers website are six research guides:

- Case law
- Researching the law
- NSW legislation and government
- Commonwealth legislation and government
- States and territories legislation and government
- Other countries legislation and government

The guides are designed to help you find case law and legislation online or in the State Library's collection, and to give strategies for doing legal research. They can be accessed via the Legal research tab on the Find Legal Answers website, or via the State Library's research guide page.

CATHERINE BRYANT
LIAC

TECH SAVVY SENIORS - ROUND 3

The NSW Government and Telstra partnership has been the impetus and funder of the Tech Savvy Seniors training program offered in NSW public libraries since 2012. Over 5,500 people have been trained in NSW public libraries.

On 5 February NSW Premier Mike Baird and Minister for Ageing John Ajaka, launched at Bankstown City Library the third round of the popular Tech Savvy Seniors program, which provides low cost or free training for seniors in using computers, tablets and smart phones.

The program has been expanded to include training in languages other than English with training being made available in Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Arabic, Hindi and Dari in select libraries: Auburn, Bankstown, Blacktown, Burwood, Botany



Bay, Campbelltown, Canterbury, Fairfield, Holroyd, Marrickville, Randwick and Willoughby.

ORIANA ACEVEDO
Multicultural Consultant

LIT UP! A LITERACY FORUM AT THE LIBRARY

Lit Up! A Literacy Forum at the Library was held on 11 March and attended by more than 100 literacy stakeholders (adult literacy and ESL) and collection specialists working in NSW public libraries.

The MC of the Forum was Dr Joseph Lo Bianco, Professor of Language and Literacy Education from Melbourne Graduate School of Education.

The program was lit up! by presentations from Jan Hagston (PIAAC Literacy Expert Group) and Dr Bruce Caldwell from ABS, and themes included understanding the PIAAC – OECD adult skills survey.

Great contributions from Keryl Collard, Maitland City Library, and Chris Jones, Great Lakes Library Service, covered community literacy partners and programs targeting literacy in the local community.

The Lost for Words project (<https://literacyservices.wordpress.com/>) was developed by Ruth Coulter, Rebecca Cowie, Maggie Leayr, Suzanne Micallef and Leisa Radford, as part of the State Library's *Taking the Lead* program. The website focusses on the following literacy types: adult, digital, early, family, indigenous, NESB, seniors and vocational.

Shauna Miller, Multicultural Purchasing Cooperative Coordinator, organised a literacy bookfair to assist libraries to build their literacy and English as a Second Language collection. Members

of the Literacy Working Group were at the book fair to provide support and advice to colleagues wanting to select the latest and most relevant items for their collections.

ORIANA ACEVEDO
Multicultural Consultant

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE LIBRARY

As the oldest library in Australia, the State Library of NSW holds the world's pre-eminent collection on the exploration, colonisation and development of Australia and Oceania. Help support our world-leading Library and receive exclusive access to these treasures by becoming a Friend of the Library.

Enjoy special events, innovative exhibitions, the quarterly *SL* magazine and *What's On* publications, discounts in the Library Shop and Café Trim, and a wealth of membership benefits and discounts.

The stunning Friends Room is conveniently located in the city for Friends to drop by between appointments, relax in comfort, read the newspapers, use the free WiFi and enjoy great coffee – complimentary of course.

To find out how to join Friends of the Library, visit www.sl.nsw.gov.au/about/support/friends or contact the Friends Office on 9273 1593.

HELENA POROPAT
Membership Coordinator

SPECIAL OFFER FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES: *THE SYMPHONY OF AUSTRALIA*

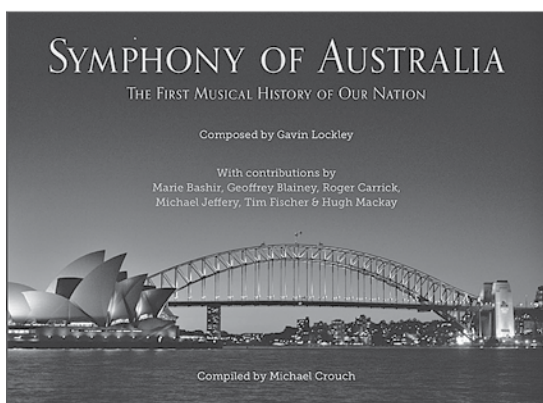
The Symphony of Australia celebrates the history of our nation in a deluxe CD/book package and features an orchestral CD by Gavin Lockley as well as contributions by eminent Australians including Geoffrey Blainey, Marie Bashir, Tim Fisher, Hugh Mackay, Roger Carrick and Michael Jefferey.

This classic Australian publication is being made available as a gift to public libraries by its compiler Michael Crouch AO. To request a free copy of this stunning publication for your collection please contact gavintoddlockley@gmail.com

GAVIN TODD LOCKLEY
Symphony of Australia



/01



/02

- 01 BOOKFAIR AT THE STATE LIBRARY'S LIT UP! LITERACY FORUM
- 02 THE SYMPHONY OF AUSTRALIA: THE FIRST MUSICAL HISTORY OF OUR NATION

Seniors News

GUNNEDAH

Gunnedah Shire Library is working closely with Community Care who wish to do 'Brain training' in the library, starting in April 2015. The library will be the venue for various activities for 'at risk' seniors, who will do activities, both paper and computer based. The program will be launched during Seniors Week.

CHRISTIANE BIRKETT
Gunnedah Shire Library

NEVER TOO OLD FOR DRAGONS AT LAKE MAC LIBRARIES

Swansea Library has forged a long-term partnership with a local retirement home, Tenison Apartments, which is bringing generations together around a shared love of storytelling.

For years, the working relationship between the Apartments Activities Officer and Swansea's Branch Technician has facilitated musical, choral and theatrical performances in the library. These events are designed to give residents a sense of place and, most importantly, a genuine experience of inclusion within their community.

The latest product of this partnership is *I wish I were a Dragon – a fairytale*. This engaging play, written by Kit, who is the Activities Officer for the Apartments, includes parts for the residents as well as for students from St Patrick's, a local primary school. The manuscript was brought to life in a performance in December, featuring puppets and fabulous dragon masks made by the residents.

CATHY SHAY
Swansea Library

WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS AND SENIORS AT WOLLONDILLY

Wollondilly Library is passionate about providing training, workshops and all other platforms for which to encourage up skilling and life-long learning. As part of the Adults and Seniors program they ran the following workshops:

- Ancestry.com workshop and demonstration
- Smartphone photography – where participants learnt how to take photos on their smartphone and how to share their photos with family and friends using Facebook and Instagram;
- How to download ebooks and audiobooks

GEORGINA KONSTANTA
Wollondilly Library Service

Multicultural News

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS AT CANTERBURY

On 10 February, Canterbury City Council Library hosted their Chinese New Year celebrations at Campsie Library, welcoming the Year of the Sheep.

There were six performances, all varied in style - from a Chinese harpist to a card magic show! Over 100 members of the public joined these festivities, from the local area and beyond, celebrating and feasting on a selection of Chinese fried rice and stir-fried noodles.

The overall feedback from the public and staff was full of praise, expressing enjoyment for the entire celebration, with many waiting for the next one!

BILLY ZHANG

City of Canterbury Library

GUNNEDAH UPDATE

Gunnedah Shire Library continues to be used by an ever increasing number of CALD members. Mothers attend Toddler Times with their children, and we encourage them to request picture or board books in their native languages from the State Library. Two years ago the library just had a collection of Chinese books for our FIFO Chinese workers; we now have adult and children's books in Dutch, Swedish, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Urdu. It's a great outcome and we are delighted that the mums especially feel comfortable enough to come to the library and network outside of Toddler Time hours.

CHRISTIANE BIRKETT

Gunnedah Shire Library

LUNAR NEW YEAR AT MARRICKVILLE

Marrickville Library celebrated The Year of the Sheep in Marrickville Town Hall with artists Cunde Wang, Dadi Xiong and Bing Wen Wu. There were cultural demonstrations in Chinese painting, calligraphy and dough modelling. On the day, a local woman requested the calligraphy artist write her sister's name on a piece of paper she then had framed. Her sister was in hospital recovering from an operation, had an approaching birthday and was born in The Year of the Sheep. The local woman said the calligraphy gift for her sister was very special and a testament to Marrickville's multicultural community and library programs.

CELEBRATING NEW GREEK BOOKS

Marrickville Library has made extensive new additions to the Greek collection and on 24 March the community celebrated the latest books and the country's rich culture with a presentation on influential artist, El Greco. Dr Alfred Vincent - former Lecturer for Modern Greek Studies at the University of Sydney - led the talk about El Greco's death, artistic journey, and artworks as compared with his mentors, colleagues and rivals.

RUTH KOTEVICH

Marrickville Library

IN THE STATE LIBRARY GALLERIES

Display - Lemnos Then and Now

Until 24 May 2015

Using photographs from the Library's collections, a series of images of Greek island Lemnos in 1915 are collaged with contemporary images of the island.

Crowd Source

4 April - 23 August 2015

The eerie, evocative but strangely familiar photographs of Sydney were taken by Arthur Syer to be used as source material for illustrators to draw from. He was an amateur photographer who specialised in candid, unstaged photographs of 19th century everyday people and subjects and he would supply 'snapshot' photographs of ordinary people in daily attire to assist artists in creating the life-like quality and characters of his drawings. Syer's distinctive low angle photographs were taken surreptitiously, using a 'detective camera'.

World Press Photo 2014

23 May - 21 June 2015

The world's best photojournalism from 2014, selected from the 58th annual World Press Photo contest.

Photos 1440

23 May - 21 June 2015

There are 1440 minutes in a day. In these minutes photographers capture a moment. These moments make up a day. The exhibition features prints and multimedia of the best published and unpublished work by *Sydney Morning Herald* photographers from 2014 to May 2015.

Physie

27 June - 4 October 2015

The Bjelke-Petersen School of Physical Culture was founded in 1892 by Hans Christian Bjelke-Petersen and it started as a medical gymnasium in Tasmania concerned with correcting health and posture in men and children. Today 'physie' is the domain of

Australian females of all ages and has modernised to include elements of dance. Competition is fierce and performers train intensely in an attempt to reach the pinnacle of perfection. They gather pace in Australia's towns and suburbs and build toward an annual sell out finale at the Sydney Opera House. Thousands of women do it but Physical Culture remains difficult to define. Sydney photographer Lyndal Irons documented the Physie national finals at the Opera House in 2012 and photographer Sam Hood documented Physie in the 1930s.

Inspiration by Design: Word and Image from the Victoria and Albert Museum

4 July - 5 October 2015

This exhibition draws entirely from rich collections of the National Art Library at the V&A. The National Art Library at the V&A is an encyclopaedic resource for designers of the future. Featuring treasures from the library's extensive collection, this exhibition will explore the role of the book in art and design. Positioning the book as both an educational tool and an object of aesthetic beauty, sections will focus on illustration, photography, graphic design, fashion and artists' publications.

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

August 2015 issue	19 June 2015
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