

Public Library News



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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our first issue for 2013, and my last issue as editor. It has been a privilege and a great pleasure to work so closely with you all over the years. So many amazing stories! This issue we focus on two fantastic new public library buildings, share the love from Library Lovers' Day and follow Jackie French's hectic schedule around Lithgow. And of course, all our regular columns.

Thank you to our wonderful contributors and public library staff.

VICTORIA ANDERSON
Editor



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Front cover image:
The New Library at Katoomba
(see story page 1)

New Katoomba Branch Library

The new Katoomba Library, part of the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, opened to the public on Saturday 17 November 2012. This new facility is a bright, modern library with a space increase from the old location of 363m² to 896m², with plenty of natural light and quiet spaces. The New Katoomba Library provides a wonderful resource for the whole community and is the first new library to be built in the Blue Mountains in over 30 years.

The design, developed by CK Design International, is elegant and spacious, taking advantage of the location to provide breath-taking views of the Katoomba Township and valleys beyond.

The library features a range of collections such as fiction, non-fiction, reference, biographies, CDs, DVDs, magazines and newspapers as well as an exciting new children's area with specialised seating representing the Three Sisters and plenty of picture books, early readers, fiction and non-fiction. It also includes a multipurpose space for activities such as children's story times and book launches, meeting spaces, quiet study areas, lounges for reading, a youth area and more computers for Internet access. The new library's adjustable meeting rooms and mezzanine level with a brilliant view and lots of comfortable lounges allow visitors to relax, sit back and appreciate. A wifi bench with plenty of access to power points and an increase in the number of computers available to the public have quickly proved themselves to be valuable aspects of the new library.

And our community loves us!

- New Katoomba Library opened Saturday 17 November with over 2,600 people through the door on the first day.
- People counter average for Katoomba was around 10,000 per month – last December we peaked at 18,366!
- Loans usually around 13,000 per month – 17,381 in December.
- Over 7,000 (41%) of these loans were done via the self checkout machines which had previously only done around 1500 (11%) per month.

New memberships usually around 80 per month but hit 287 in December.

Fortunately, the new building has nearly 3 times more space to accommodate this increase!

The Library staff warmly invite everyone to visit the new library to experience the warmth and ambience and enjoy the fantastic view from

the Library mezzanine or the Cultural Centre viewing platform. For more photos go to: <http://bluemountainsculturalcentre.com.au/new-katoomba-library/>

The Blue Mountains Cultural Centre (which also officially opened on 17 November) worked with the Library to host a range of events on the day to ensure it was a memorable one. Over 6,500 people attended, making the most of the free access to the Art Gallery, Exhibition Centre and entertainment. They were treated to workshops including floral garland making, vintage collage, and badge-making using historical images. Designer Jenny Kee and other celebrated creative locals spoke on their experiences of 'the mountains as muse'. Musician Lisa Mitchell was a hit, along with Chris Gillespie and DJ Johnny Soul. The Gundungurra Aboriginal Dancers opened the performance program, followed by a collaborative performance with the Katoomba Theatre Company. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

If you haven't had a chance to see this impressive new building yet, it is well worth a visit. Tour the library, browse the Art Gallery and Blue Mountains World Heritage Exhibition, get lunch or a coffee from the Cultural Centre Café and make a day of it.

ADRIANNA DEMMOCKS
Reference and Marketing Librarian
Blue Mountains City Library

01 THE NEW KATOOMBA LIBRARY
02 THE NEW KATOOMBA LIBRARY



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Eastwood makeover



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01 LION DANCES AT EASTWOOD
02 EASTWOOD LIBRARY

Eastwood Library opened in its present location approximately 20 years ago, and is one of Ryde Library Service's busiest branches. The last 18 months have seen a complex reorganisation of this hard working branch library, culminating in a major refurbishment to complete the process.

Firstly, staff completed a weeding, reorganisation and relabelling project to create a browsable, up to date collection in line with that at the new Ryde library, where collections are organised into subject 'rooms'. For example, customers can browse for books in the Home and Garden section or Business and Finance. The fiction section was labelled by genre, making browsing this section even easier for our members.

Bays and furniture were then rearranged to accommodate the new subject rooms and, more importantly, to define areas for library members to relax, read and attend events. Attractive nooks, large and small, were created to permit different uses of the library space.

The City of Ryde then spent approximately \$200,000 on a comprehensive refurbishment of the branch. A consultant was employed to devise a new colour scheme for the library – the first new colour in its 22 year life. The combination of off white walls and ceiling, and a subtle grey on the exposed framework, doors and trimmings, creates an elegant look with the beech wood study desks, bay end panels and tables. Colour and sparkle come with new lounge furniture and seating in autumn shades and three feature walls in violet.

Central to the new look is the revitalised enquiries counter. New bench tops and a new fascia have transformed a tired looking desk into a sleek service point.

Replacement of a range of old and mismatched furniture with new tables, desks, chairs, a purpose built computer bench for public access PCs, signage and fittings, and a bright new floor mat in the story time area complete the transformation.

Another feature is the installation of a wall mounted smart TV with a new small cupboard replacing the large unattractive one needed to house the old TV. The TV is used for story times, rhyme times, event promotion, talks and presentations.

This transformation required a spectacular launch! Saturday 16 February was the chosen date, during opening hours from 9:30 until noon. This fortuitously coincided with Chinese New Year celebrations.

The highlight of the morning was undoubtedly the Chinese Lion Dance through the building with a huge crowd of excited onlookers present. The morning also featured a calligrapher producing stunning paintings and hangings by request. The Chinese God of Fortune handed out red envelopes and face painters were kept busy all morning.

After a short speech the Mayor of the City of Ryde, Councillor Ivan Petch cut a cake to officially re-open the revitalised space. Guests stayed to enjoy acoustic guitar music provided by Billy Burke, part time library assistant, part time musician and artist. Of course refreshments were on offer all morning.

Earlier in the week long time patrons were invited to a morning tea and some agreed to talk about their memories and experiences of the library on Radio 2RRR which broadcast from the library for the occasion. The final celebratory event was a bilingual local studies talk on the History of Eastwood presented by Angela Phippen and Jinru Zhu, thus 'christening' the TV. As always this was very informative and thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

The project has taken the hard work of a lot of people to complete, however it has proven very worthwhile. The outcome is a library that uses space more efficiently as well as being fresher, lighter, and more appropriate for the needs and expectations of the community.

KIM O'GRADY
Ryde Library



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Doors open at the new Byron Bay Library

Albury's Write around the Murray 2012 was once Byron Shire Mayor Simon Richardson and former Mayor, Jan Barham MLC, unveiled the official plaque at the new Byron Bay Library on 9 February 2013. Before a gathering of about 130 invited guests including Local Member for Ballina and Minister for Local Government Don Page, Yvonne Stewart from Bundjalung of Byron Bay Arakwal People, Cameron Morley from NSW State Library, Richmond Tweed Regional Library staff and Byron Bay Friends of the Library, the opening of the long awaited library was celebrated with applause.

During the opening, Mayor Simon Richardson made special acknowledgement of the Bundjalung of Byron Bay Arakwal People for the role they played in making the land available for the Library. *Under the Indigenous Land Use Agreement, the land on which the new library sits was significantly given to the community as a gathering place for lifelong learning.* In recognition, the Library features a local studies and Indigenous room to house research and archival material, plus an Arakwal Room to be utilised as a meeting place. The Library was built at a construction cost of \$3.75 million and also features a community room available for meetings and to display and celebrate the talent of local artists and craftspeople within the Shire. Mayor Richardson thanked the NSW State Library and the NSW government for the \$200,000 funding each provided for the construction of the building.

Construction of the new Library commenced in September 2011 and was completed in January 2013. The library has been designed to incorporate sustainable features which provide the building with a 5 star green environmental rating as defined by the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA). It is the Shire's first public building to meet the 5 star rating and is a statement of what can be achieved with ecologically sustainable design features.

Solar passive design principles have been adopted and the major window areas face north and south. The main library area has high south facing windows, in a traditional sawtooth roof, to provide even and non-glaring natural light to as much of the interior as possible. The light coloured steel roof reflects solar radiation and includes thermal insulation. The external walls are also insulated and a green wall has been installed on the eastern side to provide additional shading and insulation. The foyer and general circulation corridor are naturally ventilated by the unpowered roof ventilators. The building has an energy efficient reverse cycle air-conditioning system for those days when additional cooling or heating is required.

The design maximises the use of controlled natural lighting to provide outlooks for the building's occupants as well as to minimise the requirement for artificial lighting. The extensive highlight windows bring plenty of even natural light into the interior zone. The hot water for the building is solar boosted and, as an added energy saving feature, the water circulates through the hot end of the air conditioning units which heats the water and takes heat from the refrigerant, increasing the efficiency of hot water provision and air conditioning. Rainwater runoff from the site and roof is caught in an underground



THE NEW BYRON BAY LIBRARY

tank therefore reducing the amount of water into the town stormwater system. Stormwater is then stored in other underground tanks for use in the drip irrigation system and for toilet flushing. Building materials have been selected with regard to their good environmental qualities such as their low impact on indoor air quality, recycled content and recyclability.

The landscaping uses species which are appropriate for the local environment and have a high degree of drought tolerance. The planting areas are watered by an efficient drip irrigation system using the water harvested from the building's roof.

The Family Fun Day on February 16 was a day for the whole community to celebrate their new library and celebrate they did; over 2,000 people braved the inclement conditions to visit their new library and be entertained by local performers ranging from storytelling and authors to pirates, ballet and indigenous performers. A short YouTube clip highlighting the library and the family fun day can be found using the search New Byron Bay Library. In the first three weeks of business the library has attracted over 13,000 visitors, registered 353 new members, reregistered 375 existing members and issued 12,693 items, compared to an average of 7,200 visitors and 7,000 loans in a 'normal' month.

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JO CARMODY
RICHMOND-TWEED REGIONAL LIBRARYV

Love is in the air! Library Lovers' Day 2013

- 01 BATHURST BLIND DATES
- 02 LLD AT WEST WYALONG
- 03 LIBRARY LOVERS' DAY CAKE AT KATOOMBA
- 04 DISPLAY OF LOVE AT DUBBO

BATHURST

Roses are red, violets are blue, looking for a book? We've got one for you! Bathurst Library celebrated Valentine's Day with a display of *Blind Date Books*. Customers were enticed to go on a blind date with a book, in the hopes of broadening their scope to new titles, authors and genres. All of our staff selected a range of genres and wrapped them up in heart covered paper, to conceal the titles and blurb. However, we did include a short statement about the type of book to lure the readers in, such as *a scandalous read, Australian adventure, romantic comedy, mystery at sea* etc.

Customers enjoyed taking part in the fun, and the mystery of what was inside the package. We even included large print, teen and children's books in the display, and every customer who borrowed one of our blind date books also received a heart candy or chocolate. What more could you want on Library Lovers' Day!

BLAND

Library Lovers Day is always a highlight in the library calendar. It is a great excuse to have fun and to be a little bit silly! This year we celebrated Library Lovers' Week and used this as an opportunity to highlight all the wonderful programs and services that are in place for our library patrons. This year's competition was very simple. The aim was to encourage the

community to borrow from the library and each person who borrowed went into a draw to win a library pamper pack. We had two to give away, each one containing chocolates, wine and a few goodies. The competition was very popular and created plenty of interest, especially from people wanting to know what was in the pack.

Library Lovers' Day also coincided with the library's weekly storytime session for preschool aged children. The session finished with an enormous love heart shaped cake that was shared with the children and parents. In the afternoon we hosted a staff afternoon tea and used this as an opportunity to remind the council about their wonderful library service. As in previous years we also ran a limerick competition for staff. The entries were of course very silly and light hearted. Here's the winning entry:

*There was a young woman from Bland
Who liked to play nude in the sand
You can guess what could occur
With all sorts up the corps inférieure
But ended up with bites and plaster bands*

BLUE MOUNTAINS

We celebrated with heart-shaped chocolates at all branches but went all-out at the new Katoomba Library with cake, Steampunk performers and speeches. The cake was emblazoned with our Read



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Watch Play 2013 logo and Library Manager, Vicki Edmunds, explained to the 40 attendees that this campaign not only promotes our core business of encouraging the art and pleasure of reading but also promotes other media - film, television and performance art and playing, playing with your friends and family, board games, online games, and field games.

Councillors Chris Van der Kley, Mick Fell and Geordie Williamson came along to support the event and each gave a small speech emphasising the importance of libraries to all members of our community. Lady Chatslot from the Blue Mountains steampunk movement explained what she and her friends do, letting their inner creative sci-fi neo-Victorian side out via beautiful clothing and performance. The group was kind enough to come along to add some glamour and atmosphere to Library Lovers Day and stayed chatting and answering questions from the audience. We hope you all had a lovely Library Lovers Day too.

CLARENCE REGIONAL

Once again, the Clarence Regional Libraries celebrated Library Lovers' Day by offering our readers a *Blind Date with a Book* and *Guess the Most Desired Book* competition. These were typically embraced by our readers who look forward to it each year.

DUBBO

Library staff created a pyramid display stand, draped it with cloth and scattered rose petals between the books and DVDs with a romance theme. This was well patronised by library borrowers. The feature wall display focused on Valentine's Day with additional classic romance titles. From the local studies collection, a board display of wedding photos was arranged. One side had named photos, the other included photos from the collection for which the library is seeking help from the public to identify the photos. Several of these mystery photos have now been identified by library customers.

The library also took the opportunity to develop a promotional package which was delivered to key decision makers in the region. These included all



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members of the Library Committee, the Mayor of Dubbo and the local state member. The package included a mug with the library logo, a selection of chocolates and information about the library service.

LANE COVE

Lane Cove Library celebrated Library Lovers' Day with a number of activities.

Library staff used the templates on the ALIA website to produce posters, stickers and badges. A special selection of romance books in community languages was displayed - thanks to the State Library of NSW. This allowed the Library to highlight that collection.

The storytime theme for the week was *Libraries and Love* and, along with stories, film and craft, the children were treated to homemade heart shaped biscuits and given stickers. Our blind date book bags, designed to entice readers to experience new worlds, were also popular. One keen borrower rushed to the

- 01 I LOVE BARRY??!!
- 02 LOVE CLOUD AT MANLY
- 03 BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK AT MARRICKVILLE
- 04 LIBRARY LOVERS AT RICHMOND UPPER CLARENCE
- 05 DANCE FOR THE LOVE OF LIBRARIES AT PORT STEPHENS
- 06 JODIE COOPER AT SHELLHARBOUR

bank so she could pay off her fines and borrow a bag! Interesting incentive! Children were intrigued with the concept of mystery bags so junior bags may be featured next year.

After school, we had a pop-up event in the foyer..... making a heart-shaped origami bookmark. Library staff demonstrated the activity to children and adults entering and leaving the Library. The borrowers were very keen to make their own bookmarks.

Our scrabble letter message displayed at the Loans Counter changed from *love2read* to *I heart my library*, and then mysteriously, became *I heart my Barry!*

MANLY

Manly Library designed its own Library Lovers’ Day word cloud in the shape of a heart which was used as a template for a giant chalk mural created on the Library forecourt. The Wednesday Club Kids (aged 8 to 12yrs) were given handfuls of chalk and a copy of the word cloud to use as inspiration for the mural. The children filled the love heart with their beloved book titles and the names of their favourite characters. The mural attracted the attention of the local paper and featured in a half page editorial titled *Library Lovers pour their heart into mural*.

Manly Library’s Mobile Library Service Manly Library Afloat better known as ‘Bessie’, encouraged the fast ferry morning commuters to take a FREE book for Library Lovers’ Day. Heart-covered boxes brimming with pre-loved books were placed near the fast ferries, each book containing a Library Lovers’ Day bookmark and a membership form.

Inside the Library, a Library Lovers’ Day hamper was the lucky draw prize all patrons who used the

self-checkers and new members who joined the Library from the 4th to 10th of February.

MARRICKVILLE

To celebrate Library Lovers’ Day, Marrickville Library and History Services held a *Write a romance* workshop with experienced romance novelists, Cathleen Ross and Kandy Shepherd. Sharing tips and their valuable insight into the romance novel and publishing world, the experts inspired the attending romance lovers and aspiring writers alike to further explore their interest in romance writing. This Marrickville Library workshop was received with great enthusiasm, resulting in the workshop running for well over two hours.

Also available on Library Lovers’ Day was the opportunity for Marrickville Library members to take a book on a blind date. With varying genres and languages available, customers could choose a wrapped mystery title to borrow, perhaps discovering a new favourite in the process. Falling in love has never been easier!

PORT STEPHENS

On February 14 Port Stephens Library Service celebrated Library Lovers’ Day and V Day One Billion Rising – a global campaign to end violence against women and girls <<http://www.onebillionrising.org>>

Library branches developed and mounted displays, and held a free customer morning tea. Tomaree Library and Community Centre customers and tenants participated by enjoying the morning tea, talking about why they loved their library and some brave individuals joined with library staff to dance, laugh and celebrate the value of libraries, women and girls.



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RICHMOND UPPER CLARENCE

Library Lovers' Day celebrations started early with staff putting together three chocolate hampers the week prior for each main branch to display. Library patrons were invited to enter the draw which took place on Library Lovers' Day. There were over 500 entries and the three winners were more than delighted with their chocolate haul!

We also hosted a creative afternoon themed around Library Lovers' Day and again, chocolate somehow found itself in the mix (obviously a staff favourite at our library!). There were 18 excited ladies sipping apple cider as they made a Fancy Favour Box and matching gift card under the guidance of library staff. The box went home filled with, you guessed it, chocolates! Afternoon tea and lucky door prizes topped off a fabulous afternoon.

There were many people asking when a similar event would be held again, as they all enjoyed the friendship, socialising and learning a new skill. The best comment received was when a councillor walked in to the sounds of chatter and laughter and thought she had come to the wrong place!

SHELLHARBOUR

On Thursday 14 February at 11am, Shellharbour City Libraries hosted a garden party at the Warilla Branch to celebrate Library Lovers' Day. The library was transformed into an indoor garden with live plants from Council's nursery, lovely flowers from the Warilla Florist, and hundreds of beautiful paper flowers made by staff, particularly Warilla Branch

Supervisor, Imma D'Acunto, and some lovely attendees wore flowers in their hair!

Local motivational speaker and life coach, Jodie Cooper, author of the inspiring book, *Bringing happiness home*, enthralled the audience with her gentle humour, common sense and inspiring discussion about finding the beauty and happiness in the present moment, and infusing that happiness into every moment of our daily lives.

Afterwards, Jodie and the audience gathered together for tea, cucumber sandwiches and delicious cakes. Many attendees took the opportunity to record on video why they love libraries, and those who were too shy to face the camera wrote their Valentine's Day messages for the library on paper, which will be used in Shellharbour City Libraries' next YouTube video.

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Lithgow reads Jackie French



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During National Year of Reading (NYoR), Lithgow Library Learning Centre conducted a major event entitled *Lithgow reads....Jackie French* which comprised a community wide reading program based around books written by this author. The highlight of the program was the visit of Jackie in November 2012 which provided the community with an opportunity to hear, firsthand from the author, details about her books and writing.

Many libraries developed creative and inspiring programs to encourage their communities to read during NYoR and Lithgow Library Learning Centre wanted to become part of this event. A number of small programs were organised, but I had stumbled upon a program that was held in the city of Seattle called *Seattle Reads*. This program involved selecting one book title that the community was asked to read, and then a series of activities based around the title. Realising the difficulty of choosing just one book title, the idea was expanded to one author. There is one Australian author who writes across all age groups and that author was chosen - Jackie French. Many people remember Jackie from her appearances on the television gardening program *Burkes Backyard* where her quirky nature and love of organic gardening and wildlife endeared her to a wide audience. Since the early 1990s however Jackie has been better known for her writing. What sets Jackie apart from other authors is her ability to write books that appeal to both adults and children. Much of Jackie's work has a historical context and she is very good at weaving stories around the facts of history and every day events.

I emailed Jackie to ask if she would be available at some point to visit Lithgow. Her response was immediate. She was incredibly flattered that Lithgow would be focusing on her books and she agreed to visit in November. The program was officially launched at Lithgow Library on the 1 March 2012 by the then Mayor, Neville Castle.

The reading program was promoted with advertising in the Lithgow, Portland, Wallerawang and Rydal libraries as well as the local paper, the *Lithgow Mercury*; and schools were contacted to encourage them to participate. Several years ago Lithgow had a local librarians' network; and one of the benefits of the Jackie French reading program has been the renewal of this network, involving school and local librarians. The network plans to

continue and will provide a valuable forum for the learning organisations in the community.

The school librarians encouraged their students to read books by Jackie and public library customers have also been enthusiastic. A special collection was set up to allow circulation statistics for Jackie French books to be gathered and all her books which were still in print were purchased and added to this collection.

It has been many years since the Lithgow Library has hosted a children's author visit, mostly due to lack of funding, but also due to available staff time, as planning and running events is very time consuming. Maureen Breckell, the Library Coordinator was supportive of the Jackie French visit, and approached the Friends of the Lithgow Library (FROLLIC) to provide money from their fund raising activities to contribute to the costs. FROLLIC subsequently provided \$2,000 towards the cost of the visit.

I applied to the Children's Book Council of Australia NSW which makes money available through the ALOUD program for author visits to disadvantaged areas. This grant application was successful and provided an extra \$1,200. In addition to Jackie's fees, meals, accommodation and travel costs were also required; taking the cost of the visit to \$3,500. The grant funding meant we did not have to charge schools or the public to attend the events.

Jackie conducted a meet the author and book signing session in the Lithgow Library at 5pm on her first day. Approximately 70 people took part in this session which was followed by a supper in the library and then an author talk from 7pm. 65 people and 1 baby wombat attended the author talk! Jackie answered questions about a large number of topics including wombats, war, how she writes for children and adults and where her ideas come from.

The following day Jackie was taken to local schools to speak with the children about her books and writing. 300 Portland children from kindergarten to Year 7 learnt how to speak wombat, why they need to read books and that it is okay to not finish a book if they don't like it. Jackie also spoke about a number of her books such as *Pete the Sheep* and *Hitler's Daughter* as well as two of her newer titles, *Pennies for Hitler* and *The Girl from Snowy River*.

Following the school visit morning tea was held at the Portland Library for the public. Jackie chatted about dyslexia and learning difficulties, provided advice to the new Mayor, Maree Statham on a nuisance wombat and to someone else on scaring



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away snakes. After a short book signing session the next school visit was with Wallerawang Public School. Zig Zag Public School also attended the session at Wallerawang deciding that as they would need a bus they may as well go to Wallerawang where they also enjoyed a picnic by the lake as part of their excursion. 250 children had a great time, with wombats being very high on the subject list.

Following lunch at Wallerawang School, the next stop was Coerwull Public School where the Scots School also participated. Close to 400 children acted out the story of *Diary of a Wombat* and created their own *Diary of a Kangaroo*. This was a very noisy session which we all enjoyed. Coerwull School was the last speaking engagement of the second day and was followed by dinner at Secret Creek Sanctuary and Restaurant. Trevor Evans from the sanctuary spoke about the programs that the sanctuary runs and took Jackie on a brief tour to meet the dingoes, which was the highlight of her day. This dinner was

attended by a number of the local librarians and a number of avid readers of Jackie's books.

Over 400 children from St Patricks Primary School and Lithgow Public School filled the new hall at St Patrick's Primary School on the last day and were entertained once again by stories of wombats. Children from each year at both schools had prepared a list of questions and these were asked by student representatives on their behalf. The children from both schools had done a lot of research on Jackie French and her books and the questions asked were very well thought out and relevant.

Back at Lithgow Library Jackie conducted a very rowdy preschool Storytime. The children and parents were encouraged to help act out *The Diary of a Wombat* and *Pete the Sheep* followed by singing a wombat song. Storytime finished with a birthday cake for Jackie whose birthday was the following week, and more book signing session.

The afternoon session was held at Lithgow High School with La Salle Academy also attending. 300 students in Years 7 and 8 listened in rapt attention when Jackie spoke about the truth behind Simpson and his donkey and *Waltzing Matilda*. They were intrigued by Jackie's firsthand experience of terrorism and how she puts all of her life experiences into her books. It was interesting watching Jackie's interaction with the older students and it is clear that this is the age group she feels most comfortable with.

Jackie enjoyed her time in Lithgow, commenting on how nice the city is and the welcome she received. Librarians from the local schools were very grateful for the opportunity to have Jackie visit their schools.

Overall the *Lithgow reads....Jackie French* program was extremely successful in a number of areas including raising awareness of the NYoR, a renewed network of contact between schools and the public library, and increased conversations about authors and books throughout the community. Over 1,800 children were involved, and the only disappointment was that the visit wasn't long enough! It is hoped that with the support of council and other community organisations author visits will once again become part of the program of events in the Lithgow Library Learning Centre.

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SHARON LEWIS
 Lithgow Library

- 01 JACKIE AND BABY WOMBAT
- 02 SLEEPING LIKE WOMBATS
- 03 JACKIE AT LITHGOW HIGH

Mobile Beginnings?



JOSHUA THOMAS AND THE FIRST? BOOK WAGON OR BOOKMOBILE. IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE HORSES' NAMES WERE DANDY AND BLACK BEAUTY, AND THAT THEY WERE STABLED AT CORDERMAN'S LIVERY STABLE IN HAGERSTOWN, WASHINGTON COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

Travelling branches of public libraries have existed since at least 1905, when Mary Titcomb, a Maryland librarian, used a horse-drawn wagon as a library on wheels. The coinage of the word *bookmobile* to refer to these mobile libraries, however, is a later development. OED editors are in the process of revising the dictionary's entry for *bookmobile*. The earliest evidence found so far indicates that the word was first used in Oregon in the early 1920s:

1924 *Bakersfield Californian* 5 July 6/7 A smaller book wagon has served the county [**sc.** Multnomah County, Oregon] for several years... Miss Mulheron expresses herself as being greatly pleased with the appearance and performance of the new Graham Brothers 'Bookmobile'.

Was the word *bookmobile* coined in Oregon, or was it used earlier by libraries elsewhere? Local library records might hold evidence that could uncover the full story of the word's origins.

<<http://public.oed.com/appeals/bookmobile/>>

In the Libraries

MARRICKVILLE NEWS

WORKING TOGETHER TO RAISE DIABETES AWARENESS

Diabetes is one of Australia's fastest growing chronic diseases with an estimated 275 people developing the condition every day. In November 2012, Marrickville Library hosted a talk to raise community awareness of diabetes. Yvonne Appleby, a volunteer from the Australian Diabetes Council's Community Awareness Speakers Program, discussed characteristics and prevention of diabetes.

A local pharmacy contacted the Marrickville Library and History Services while the talk was being promoted and offered additional support for this event by providing blood testing kits for all talk attendees, completely free of charge. This gesture demonstrated the wonderful partnerships for all those working together in the community towards a positive result.

The awareness campaign continued in February 2013 with a separate series of diabetes talks running at Marrickville Library, held in Arabic, English, Greek and Vietnamese.

MORE CRYPTIC PLEASE

Due to popular demand, the two-day Cryptic Crossword workshop returned to Marrickville Library in February 2013, taught by expert Ralph Penglis. Having run three times in the previous year, it seems that a little bit of cryptic is never enough! Sessions aim to teach the art of deciphering cryptic crossword puzzles.

CALLING ALL FILM BUFFS

The Movie Club was launched at Marrickville Library in October 2012. This monthly event is free of charge and brings together movie lovers of all ages to enjoy films from the classic to modern. A variety of films feature, with *The Eye of the Beholder*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* and *Casablanca* just some of the titles shown so far. Due to popular demand, the Movie Club commenced screenings at Stanmore Library in January 2013. With *Dead Poets Society* and *Brokeback Mountain* slated for later in the year, there's something for everyone! The film screenings are popular social events to the point where a venue change was required in late 2012 to cater for an influx of attendees.



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- 01 CROSSWORD FANS AT MARRICKVILLE
- 02 OLD MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL

For insatiable film buffs, Marrickville Library and History Services has also begun hosting U3A Classic Movies, run by the University of the Third Age (U3A) from February 2013. With a fortnightly presentation of classic movies from the silent era to the contemporary, the sessions provide analysis with background and historical setting. Interesting talking points such as the biography details of directors and casts are also explored.

ARCHITECTURE FORUM

Marrickville Library hosted an Architecture forum on *Adaptive Re-use & Heritage Conservation* as part of the Sydney Architecture Festival last year at the Old Marrickville Town Hall. The Old Town Hall's restoration won the 2012 Marrickville Medal for Heritage Architecture.

Topics covered in the forum were *Shaping Affordable Housing*, *Restoration of Old Marrickville Town Hall and interwar architecture*, *Sustainable Futures from the Past: Adaptive Reuse and Conservation of Heritage Buildings*, and *The Antipodean Terrace*. Very well attended, the Architecture Forum was the second most popular event of the entire festival! The talks were followed by a Q & A session.

In the Libraries

01 L TO R: DEPUTY MAYOR EMANUEL TSARDOULIAS, ANTHONY ALBANESE, PAULINE, ST BRIGID'S, CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH LIBRARIAN MY AI NGO

02 ASHLEIGH IN THE MUSE MARQUEE

THE SECRET GARDEN LAUNCH

A new outdoor space known as the 'Secret Garden' was launched by Marrickville Library and History Services on Tuesday 26 February 2013. Opened by Grayndler MP and Leader of the House Anthony Albanese, the space was transformed with the help of a Regional and Local Community Infrastructure (RLCI) grant of \$60,000 supplied by the Federal Government.

Adjacent to Marrickville Library, the Secret Garden contains a pergola, barbeque, stainless steel sink, wooden bench seating and artificial grass turf. An extension of the library community hub, it creates a safe, outdoor space where the community may read books, or interact with other visitors of the library. In the future, the space may also be utilised to host events such as storytime or author talks. The Secret Garden is open to the public on weekdays from 10am to 4.30pm, weather permitting. *This is a fantastic project and unique to Marrickville. Locals will be able to use the new recreational facilities for get-togethers and social gatherings,* Grayndler MP Anthony Albanese said.



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The launch was attended by students from local school St Brigid's Primary School, ranging in age from Years 2 to Year 6. Entertainment included a children's story and the fun surprise of some temporary tattoos! A sausage sizzle and light refreshments were enjoyed by all following the launch.

TANYA HO

Marrickville Library and History Services

WOOLLAHRA NEWS

WRITERS' FESTIVAL

The Local Writers' Word Festival was held on 26 November, with 40 people attending sessions including talks and a workshop. The festival is an annual event to celebrate the written word; support and showcase local aspiring authors; and give them an opportunity to develop their skills. Writers are encouraged to submit their self-published or small-press stories, poetry or nonfiction for consideration for awards.

In the morning people had a choice of taking part in a discussion with talented first-time authors, Bruce Lyman, Ashleigh Mounser and Glenda Guest in the Muse Marquee in the Gardens, or attend a workshop on memoir writing with life-stories expert, Patti Miller. In the afternoon, author and film-maker Robin de Crespigny delivered the headline talk, focusing on her best-selling book *The people smugglers* and the complex issues central to its story. The event concluded with an afternoon session where shortlisted entrants in the Festival's Writing Competition were interviewed and the winners announced.

SMALL SCULPTURES

The annual Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize *Tea Topics* talk held in November is always a popular event, with a special High Tea followed by an artist talk from one of the sculptors. Finalist Fairlie Kingston spoke to the crowd about her career and her entry for the Prize. There was considerable positive verbal feedback regarding the event.

A Woollahra Library Friends VIP night was also hosted to provide an exclusive opportunity for Library Friends to view the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize exhibition, and enjoy refreshments on the terrace. Due to the popularity of this event, it will be held again next year.

WRITERS AND READERS

Crime fact and fiction writing and the law were discussed by Glen McNamara and Stuart Littlemore at the October *Writers & Readers* hosted by actress Kate Fitzpatrick. The evening attracted more attendees (48) than expected and went overtime, due to the audience interest in the subject matter.

POETS' PICNIC

The 24th annual Poets' Picnic evening on 26 February 2013 was a great success with an estimated 220 attending the event held in Blackburn Gardens overlooking the harbour. This year's theme *Dip into poetry* focused on water. MC Simon Marnie, actress Kate Fitzpatrick and well known and loved poets such as Robert Adamson, Judith Beveridge, Stephen Edgar, Brook Emery, Toby Fitch, Jane Gibian and Felicity Plunkett generously donated their time to the event. A wonderful line up of talented local students from Ascham, Reddam House, Rose Bay Secondary College and The Scots College also read poetry. A Haiku Hut for individual readings, chalk poetry workshop for children, live jazz, and a crowd entertaining pirate and mermaid added to the appeal of the event!

PAT MOORE
Woollahra Library

THE CARAVAN CHEF

Australia's very own Caravan Chef, Eva Stovern, visited Toronto Library to share her expertise on how to cook delicious meals with no more than 30 ingredients! Lake Macquarie City Library Section Manager, Jo Smith, said that Eva, the author of three popular cookbooks, had perfected the art of cooking while travelling with her husband Thom. The results are mouth watering! *This was a great session for local people to gain tips on what foods to take when they are travelling and tips on cooking when you are in a tent, camper trailer or caravan.* As a bonus, Eva shared her favourite caravan destinations too.

This session was the finale of Toronto Library's *Living the Dream: Caravan and RV Travel Week* program, a week of information and guest speakers for those who holiday on wheels, and those still dreaming of taking the big adventure.

RACHEL MALLABY
Lake Macquarie City Library

BIBLIO TURISMO: RIDING THE RIVERINA 2012

In one of the most unique events of the year, librarians from around New South Wales hit the highways for the 2012 *Biblio Turismo* motorcycle tour. In this, its seventh year *Biblio Turismo* went south west for the *Riding the Riverina* tour. Covering more than 1,000km in four days, riders (some very tired!) took the opportunity to visit libraries in rural, regional and remote areas. Tour founder, Gosford City Library's Manager Alan Flores, organises the event every year as a great way to raise awareness and promote the value of public libraries to communities. It is also designed to foster a sense of camaraderie and friendship amongst libraries throughout the state.

Biblio Turismo: Riding the Riverina toured many towns including Windsor, Lithgow, Cowra, Grenfell, West Wyalong, Griffith, Temora, Yass and Canberra. Visits to libraries usually involved a wonderful sharing of stories and exchange of information with other people, with the goal of bringing back new ideas and implementing them in local libraries. Tour participants pay for their own expenses and volunteer their time to promote the work that librarians do.

Biblio Turismo tours have been growing in popularity every year and have proven so successful that they have received media attention from across Australia and abroad.

BENJAMIN HARTLEY
Gosford Library

A WEEK OF ELVIS

In order to attract the interest of our major demographic, seniors and baby boomers, we decided to feature one of last century's most iconic figures, Elvis Presley. There was plenty of material upon which to draw: books, CDs, DVDs, movie posters and record covers. The library was festooned with memorabilia, including full size stand-ups near the entrance. We kicked the week off with a film screening of Elvis's first movie, *Love Me Tender*, which features four songs performed by Elvis. It is a very watchable movie, in Panavision no less, set at the end of the Civil War. The sight of Elvis hip-swivelling in front of squealing girls was somewhat incongruous, and his acting was on the hysterical side, but it was enjoyable nonetheless. We distributed



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03 MC SIMON MARNIE AND CROWD AT POETS' PICNIC

04 BIBLIO TURISMO RIDERS AT TEMORA

05 THE BIKES AT BLAND!

In the Libraries

an Elvis quiz with both easy questions (What colour are Elvis's eyes?) and harder ones (What was the name of Elvis's chimpanzee?)*; and finished off the week with an invitation to share Elvis memories, which included reminiscing about visits to Graceland and entertaining enthusiastic Germans dressed as a blonde Elvis! We all enjoyed his amazing music playing in the background, and memories of Elvis seemed to bring a smile to those who visited us in this special week, making it all the more fun.

VINCE DALE
Lake Macquarie City Library

**Blue eyes; Scatter the chimp

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

All libraries are a perfect example of reusing and recycling. After all that's what we do with books again and again. We even recycle books on recycling. But here at Great Lakes we've taken things a step further.

Over the last couple of years we've developed quite a relationship with a range of environmental groups, including Council's own community education arm. As a result school holiday programs have often featured hands-on activities from the Ocean and Coastal Care Initiative (with the great acronym of OCCI). These are always popular.

On top of that we now seem to be the venue for organisations and groups that want to show documentaries on important environmental issues. We recently held a screening of *Bimblebox* (about coal seam gas) and it drew a crowd of over 80 people. We are now working with Council's Natural Systems section and we'll be hosting a film on the dangers of plastics. It looks like we'll become a regular venue for these film nights and we're expecting crowds of 50 to 100 people for each screening.

And so the shift from being a book space to a people place continues but the fundamental role stays the same - a forum for the dissemination of information and the exchange of ideas. You may want to see if there are opportunities to link up with your own environmental section in Council.

CHRIS JONES
Great Lakes Library

LIBRARY FUN DAY

On Monday 21 January 2013, Shellharbour City Libraries kicked off the new year with their Family Fun Day. On the day over 1,400 young people and their families were treated to an array of activities and workshops. There really was something for everyone! You could visit the beauty bar and have



CAKE STALL AT SHELLHARBOUR FUN DAY

your nails done or perhaps your face painted. There was also a mad jumping castle and the cute little animals from Farm Buddies. We also had fun workshops from Council's Environment & Waste teams, along with great stories and Wii gaming. To make the day that extra bit special we also had an amazing cake stall filled with loads of sweets and goodies. Also over 450 sausages were sizzled and eaten. Now that's a lot of snags!

The Fun Day was a valuable opportunity to showcase library services and resources and a great reminder of just how fun and vibrant our libraries really are!

MICHAEL JAZBEC
Shellharbour City Libraries

PUZZLE GURU

DA was back due to popular demand! Self-described word nerd David Astle, known as DA by his many crossword fans, returned to Lake Macquarie libraries to share the secrets of cryptic clues. Those people lucky enough to secure a seat to see David, were able to purchase copies of his new book, *Puzzles and Words*, before its official launch.

Council's Library Section Manager, Jo Smith, said that David had many fans in Lake Macquarie. His last visit in April was booked out, so Council was pleased to welcome him back again. *We were delighted to give*

both crossword fans and readers another opportunity to enjoy David's passion for words. David's enthusiasm and knowledge ensure his talks are always entertaining for both crossword experts and beginners.

Recognised as the Dictionary Guy from the SBS show, *Letters and Numbers*, David has 25 years experience compiling cryptic crosswords. He took us on an entertaining look into word puzzles including puns, double-meanings, reversals and codes. He shared some word recipes for solving puzzles and gave us tips on how to decipher those cryptic clues.

RACHEL MALLABY
Lake Macquarie City Library

CELEBRATING LIBRARIES

On Friday 23 November Parramatta Library staff attended the Closing Celebration for the National Year of Reading and presentation of the 2012 NSW Marketing Awards for Public Libraries at Blacktown Library. They gave a presentation on the Library's program of events for the National Year of Reading (Parramatta was one of six libraries selected to give presentations) which was well received. And then came the exciting news...

Parramatta City Library Service had won a special Marketing Award for the Program. This was one of five main awards given out that day, along with numerous certificates of achievement. *It is nearly 10 years since Parramatta last won a Marketing Award – and it is a real thrill to be back in the winning circle*, said Debbie Best, Service Manager Library Network. *This was a great result for Parramatta Library. Staff worked so hard to plan, develop, present and evaluate the NYR program and it has been a real team effort!*

The result of all this hard work is an increase of around 25% in attendance at our events and successful trialling of several new programs. *It is wonderful to receive acknowledgement from our peers amongst NSW public libraries and know that Parramatta Library is providing a quality service for our community.*

ANNE POOLE
Parramatta City Library

TECHNOLOGY LITERACY

Throughout 2012 the technology team at Parramatta City Library held many cutting edge sessions that were very popular and resulted in great attendance by both staff and the public. These sessions included how to use smartphones, technology master classes, how to use social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and travelling with technology. Furthermore,



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since the introduction of our Ebook platform, the Technology Team also hosted a number of sessions on how to download Ebooks onto your eReaders, tablets and smart phones. During all the sessions the audience was encouraged to ask questions and participate in group discussions, and there was time to conduct one-on-one help on all things technology as well.

ALI HUSSEIN
Parramatta City Library

BEACH BOOKS

This summer Port Macquarie-Hastings Libraries introduced a new beach book service at one of our most popular beaches. The service operates on the same basis as our Airport Books service. Anyone can pick up a book and return it to any of our branch libraries. No registration, no cards, no staff. The books are stored overnight in the Surf Lifesaving Club and wheeled out every morning. If the service proves popular we plan to extend it to other beaches next year. Is there no escaping the tentacles of this ubiquitous library service?

JIM MAGUIRE
Port Macquarie-Hastings Libraries

BRANCHING OUT AT BELROSE

Recently we have branched out (excuse the pun) and begun providing family history services at Belrose Library. Our family history reference collection – reference books, microform and a dedicated family history computer – is held at our Dee Why branch. However, there was sufficient interest in family history in the Belrose area to warrant expanding our services. The resources held at Dee Why form a useful collection, a great starting point and an ongoing source of reference for genealogists. Also at Dee Why, our family history group meets regularly in the local

- 01 BOOKS AT THE BEACH
- 02 FAMILY HISTORY TALKS AT BELROSE

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- 02 PREPARING FOR THE FLOOD AT MACLEAN!
- 03 GREG BARRON AT BELLINGEN
- 04 CR PAT REILLY AND LIBRARY MANAGER MICHELE BURTON LAUNCH PICTURE WILLOUGHBY

studies room for talks and discussions. Duplicating some of these services at Belrose seemed a good way both to bring new people to our Belrose branch and promote what was available at Dee Why.

We have made headway establishing family history services at Belrose, setting up a family history computer with specialist resources, previously only available at Dee Why, as well as access to *Findmypast* and *Ancestry*. A resource list is available for patrons to pick up near the family history computers. This handout is a great take-home reference, enabling researchers to quickly check what we have and where it is located. It also cross-promotes the resources available at the two branches.

We've already had two very successful family history talks at Belrose. In August last year Kaye Vernon spoke about creating indexes for family history research and I gave an introduction to the family history resources available at both Belrose and Dee Why. In November, experienced family historian, Lorraine Turtle, gave a talk on how to unlock family history mysteries using birth, death and marriage certificates. Both these talks have been very well attended and received positive feedback.

We're hoping to establish an informal family history group at Belrose, similar to our group at Dee Why, and members from the two groups can come together for research trips and excursions. We're keeping the momentum up and hope to run similar programs every couple of months in 2013, starting with an author talk by Suzanne Voytas for Seniors Week.

ROSE CULLEN
Warringah Library Service

CLARENCE NEWS

NEW GRAFTON LIBRARY

The planning continues and building has commenced for the new Grafton Library with an expected completion date towards the end of 2013. A ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate commencement of building was postponed at the last minute due to the Clarence River flooding to its highest level in recorded history. Luckily, apart from some staff and customers being temporarily isolated in their houses and the occasional roof leak, the floods had minimal impact on any of the Clarence Regional Libraries.



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ZINIO

Following a month of establishment and staff training, access to the full content of over 35 e-magazine titles was offered to members of the Clarence Regional Libraries through the Library website at <<http://www.crl.nsw.gov.au>>. Australian titles were initially selected from the collection available on Zinio, a product offered by Wavesound. Although the first month saw a heavy demand for support from library staff with customers singing up using the full range of e-devices, there was positive feedback on the service from the 45 new subscribers over this period. As of mid February this had increased to over 130 subscribers, viewing over 1,000 issues, prompting the Library to increase the numbers of titles and include some overseas publications, particularly in the popular computing and decorating areas.

LOAN PERIOD CHANGES

As a way of increasing access, particularly for our more remote customers, we celebrated Library



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Lovers Day by implementing an increase in the loan period from 21 to 28 days, with the exception of heavily reserved items. As a further gift to Library Lovers the DVD loan limit was increased from 3 to 5 days, and the ticketing system previously required for wifi access was removed.

GREG BARRON

Greg Barron, author of *Rotten Gods* visited Bellingham Library on Thursday 14 February to share his story and photos from his travels to far distant places. The audience was thoroughly entertained and we recommend Greg as a speaker for any library wishing to host an author visit.

MARTY WILLIAMS
Clarence Regional Libraries

WILLOUGHBY NEWS

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY!

Before the doors open and the lights fully turn on, the staff at Chatswood Library congregate on Tuesday mornings at 8.30am to delve into the unknown and uncover the delights of technology and resources not fully understood or become acquainted with old procedural friends and processes. This regular custom is known as the Short n Snappy! These 30 minute sessions provide a regular forum to keep staff up to date with new developments and changes to workflow processes, policies and procedures. Each week a member of staff presents a short session on a different topic – such as introducing a new database, demonstrating the use and application of QR codes, or running through a new procedure in the returns room with the Automated Materials Handling System.



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Not only are these 30 minute gatherings a valuable opportunity to get the team together for some basic training and refresher sessions, they are also great for keeping up to date with what's happening in different departments in the Library, and allows us time to showcase particular services and celebrate our successes. One recent Short n Snappy saw the Local Studies team demonstrate their Picture Willoughby online image archive, following its successful launch in November last year.

So whether it's learning the new, or getting reacquainted with the old, Chatswood Library staff make it Short n Snappy!

PICTURE WILLOUGHBY

On Thursday evening, 22 November 2012, the Mayor of Willoughby, Councillor Pat Reilly, officially launched Willoughby City Library's online image archive, Picture Willoughby. Amongst those in attendance were Willoughby City Councillors, and community representatives from various Progress Associations, the Walter Burley Griffin Society, surrounding district historical societies, as well as former library staff, and Ms Frances Sims representing the State Library. Mr Paul Storm, President of the Willoughby District Historical Society, and local history enthusiast, spoke on the rich history of the district with a 'whistle stop' tour

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of Willoughby's past, brought to life with images from the archive. The event concluded with light refreshments, and the opportunity for guests to chat, purchase local history books and donate photographs to expand the collection.

The Picture Willoughby launch showcased this valuable resource to the public. The archive comprises over 5,000 images from the 1880s onwards – capturing Willoughby's people and places at work, and at play. The digitisation of these images was made possible through library development grant funding from the State Library of NSW. Included in the archive are rare images documenting Willoughby Council's Great Depression era relief work program. Another major addition to the archive comes via the A G Mitchell collection. Mitchell was headmaster of Northbridge Public School when it opened in 1923, and his photographs document the rugged and newly developing area north of the Suspension Bridge. This particular collection is an excellent example of suburban Sydney in a particular era.

Today's images are tomorrow's history, and the public are encouraged to contribute to the archive by donating originals or scans of their own photos of Willoughby so that the stories and diversity of our town will continue to be illustrated in the future.

LIZ PARKER
Willoughby City Library

CLUB CELLULOID

The Riverina Regional Library Book Club has been a wonderful success across the Riverina. There are now sixty clubs across our branches, that's around six hundred people who are getting together to read books and talk about them. It sounds very simple but book clubs are about so much more than just

the books. The social connection aspect has been so important to the club members. Many of our clubs were formed from groups of people who did not know each other but now are firm friends who feel that they are not only broadening their reading horizons, but sharing their lives as well. It is this sense of connection that we wanted to duplicate for more adults within our community when we decided to start a film club.

Club Celluloid meets once a month at Wagga Wagga City Library, from February through to November, and we watch a film and then discuss it. In order to choose the films we searched lots of those books that tell you which films to watch before you die (!), polled our Facebook followers on what they would like to see and asked customers in person. The long list of suggestions was then sent to Roadshow. We wanted to keep it simple and stick to the one company for screening rights and were consequently limited to what they had the rights to. The process was reasonably simple and we had to specify which dates we would be screening each film and make an application. The fees are reasonable and they bill us before each screening.

As we charge for our book clubs, we also charge for Club Celluloid. This means that the program pays for itself, which is always helpful! People have the option of joining the club for \$100, which enables them to see all the films, or they can choose to come to any of the screenings for \$15. We have a glass of wine and some nibbles before and after the film.

The first meeting was in February this year and we were very pleased with the attendance. There were around twenty six people and seventeen had joined the club. Our first film was *Stranger Than Fiction* and it provoked some very interesting discussion.

- 01 CLUB CELLULOID
- 02 TEAM READ



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There was some talk with the whole group, and some in smaller groups. Library staff didn't manage the discussion but provided some printed questions to get people started. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and while it is still early days, we think that Club Celluloid will give community members another option for enjoying their library while connecting with others. We can then look at rolling it out across the region!

—
AMY HEAP
 Riverina Regional Library

ORANGE LIBRARY DRAGONBOATERS

Visitors to Orange City Library during January were somewhat surprised to be greeted by a colourful dragon smiling over the desk. The dragon, affectionately known as Puff, was in residence in the lead up to the annual Dragonboat Challenge held at Lake Canobolas on Sunday 27 January. The Dragonboat Challenge was one of a series of events held throughout the city as part of the Slow Summer Festival in the eight days between 21 to 28 January. The Festival is an annual event hosted by not-for-profit organisation Taste Orange, and 2013 marks the festival's 5th anniversary.

The strongly contested Dragonboat Challenge presented the perfect opportunity for the experienced dragonboaters on Orange City Council's staff to convince their colleagues to be part of the action. With most paddlers drawn from the Library, the 16 member strong Team Read was launched. In the absence of a boat and paddles, chairs and mailing tubes were employed in informal practise sessions between the bookshelves. Also known as The Speed

Readers, Team Read took to the water on January 15 for the first of two formal training sessions, proving that team spirit and the ability to work well together are some of our strongest attributes.

On the day of competition Team Read was thrilled to be supported by so many friends and colleagues to cheer us on. The day's racing saw some outstanding performances and some very close finishes, but at the end of the day Team Read was outpaced by teams with more muscle. However, when it came to style, pizzazz and thoroughly enjoying ourselves we won hands down! Team Read is already preparing for the next regatta, to be held later in the year. Paddles UP!

—
TRUDI MAYFIELD
 Central West Libraries

OH WHAT A NIGHT!

It was a beautiful, balmy evening on Friday 30 November, 2012. Perfect weather for Blue Mountains City Library to host Poetry Under the Stars. Held in the brand new courtyard at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre and Library, Katoomba, this was the culmination of the library's 2012 National Year of Reading activities. The best Blue Mountains poets enchanted audiences with their talents, and local choir, The Mudlarks, entertained during intermission. This was a free, family-friendly event with people bringing along their own supper and deck chairs or picnic rugs. Over 150 locals came along to enjoy the evening's performances by Deb Westbury, Mark O'Flynn, Craig Billingham, Emma Brazil, Brendan Doyle, Sandy Holmes, Gregory North, Elouisa West, Paddy Cavanagh and Linda Muller.

The wonderful view from the new courtyard meant the audience could delight their eyes as well as their

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- 04 POETRY UNDER THE STARS
- 05 THE MUDLARKS AT KATOOMBA

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01 READY, AIM, FIRE!
02 BANNED!

ears, watching the sky transform as the evening rolled in. This added to the great atmosphere of the night. It was such a success that we are hoping to make it an annual event and plans are already underway for Poetry Under the Stars in 2013.

ADRIANNA DEMMOCKS
Blue Mountains City Library

TALE OF A WANDERING SPIRIT

I first saw HJ (Harry) Wedge's paintings at the Eora Centre for Visual and Performing Arts (TAFE), Redfern, in 1989. Originally Harry was interested in photography but soon discovered painting; a medium conducive to his creative needs. Although I don't have a background in the Visual Arts, Harry's modern style with its very strong messages blew me away. My daughter who works in Berlin was visiting me last December and wanted to buy me an Alban Hefin (celebration of the European summer solstice) present. She knew of my liking for Harry's work and found a secondhand copy of his book in Europe.

Wiradjira Spirit Man was written in 1996 by Harry with an introduction by Brenda Croft and published by Craftsman House in association with Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Cooperative. There are over 40 photographs of his early work from 1989 to 1996 together with a philosophical explanation behind each painting. The titles of his works give an insight into Harry's view of life in Australia as a Wiradjira man – Captain Cook Con Man, Massacre, Cultivation, Brainwash, Debating the Republic, Alcohol Abuse, Uptown Nigger, Suicide, No Respect, Pride, Stop and Think, Smog, etc. When I opened the book and turned to the inside cover I was astounded to see stamped over the bar code tag the following:

*WRITTEN OFF STOCK
RANDWICK CITY LIBRARY SERVICE
GENERAL MANAGER*

Harry, where has your spirit been wandering? So, thank you Randwick Library and NO you can't have it back!!!!

PAT WALLACE
President
Friends of Quirindi Library

BULLS-EYE!

Archery in the library?? That's right! Books and films such as *Lord of the Rings*, *Hunger Games* and *Brave*, and TV series such as *Robin Hood* and *Arrow* have reinvigorated interest in archery in the community. On Friday 21 January, Shellharbour City Libraries partnered with Illawarra Archers to give a presentation on archery at Warilla Library. The presentation featured an exciting video of the Australian champion Simon Fairweather competing for the gold medal at the Sydney Olympics, a fascinating talk on the history of archery and its role in the growth of civilisations the world over and demonstrations of modern recurve and compound bows. The morning culminated in a live demonstration of shooting, in which the archers, using compound and recurve bows, competed against each other to the great delight and cheers of the audience.

It was a fun and exciting way to showcase the great array of novels, films and non-fiction books featuring archery and archers available from the library for the community.

DIANE CRANSON
Shellharbour City Libraries

BANNED BOOKS

During February, the team at Raymond Terrace Library designed and mounted a Banned Books and Films display. The display generated much discussion and a level of disbelief. People were surprised to learn that the book *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr Seuss was banned in the People's Republic of China between 1965 and 1991 because it was seen as portraying early Marxism. The ban was lifted after Dr Seuss died. The book was also banned by a school in California for homosexual innuendo! The books and films are not necessarily banned today, but have been in the past for varying reasons in various countries. The display has also provoked much discussion about the impact of censorship in the world today.

HELENA LANE
Port Stephens Library

Children's News

KIDZ ART @ THE SPACE

Shellharbour City Libraries were delighted to co-host a very successful event for our local Warilla Childcare, 15% of whom identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI). Hosted in Council's Shellharbour Village Exhibition Space, the kids took over the Space, and were inspired to create Aboriginal-styled art. This pilot event was a special union between Community Development, Community Transport, Childcare and Library staff. The Children's and Youth Librarian led kids on clapping sticks in a folk song by Ruby Hunter and Archie Roach, shared indigenous poetry, and read some of Australia's best picture books by Aboriginal authors and/or illustrators. The Community Development Worker designed excellent art stations, which she and childcare staff assisted children to move freely around, as they created canvases, rock and dot paintings, and native animal etchings. As the kids created, Hunter and Roach's music played in the Space, which was adorned with ATSI puzzles, toys and picture books. Kidz Art @ the Space will be repeated with pleasure because all parties benefitted from the collaboration; sharing ideas, services, skills and costs to deliver a fun and culturally-important learning, artistic and bonding experience for our community. The children also collaborated: decorating two beautiful, huge didgeridoos as a team. It was wonderful to share the experience as the children filled the space with creative energy. It was equally wonderful to be a part of this teamwork. Library staff are thankful to Community Development Worker Karen Fuller for instigating the project with Group Manager Kathryn Baget-Juleff, and to all staff involved from our great team who truly live up to our name, Community Connections. See the photos on Flickr <<http://bit.ly/W8Odvj>>

DAVID GREEN
Shellharbour City Libraries

MARRICKVILLE NEWS

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Children were kept busy during the summer holidays at Marrickville with a bounty of events to choose



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from. Craft activities including creating a breezy, colourful kite mobile; designing a flashy fish art masterpiece; outer space collage, and a 3D dinosaur world. *Taronga Zoo: Animals of the Dreaming* paid a special visit with children and parents alike enjoying the stories and relishing the opportunity to meet and touch native animals like the echidna and a frog. Dreamtime stories and animal songs were shared by a respected Aborigine elder.

The inner detective in all of us enjoyed the Super Sleuths: Escape of the Monkey Show where the mystery of Mocha the monkey's disappearance had to be solved. The children proved very smart and were able to sleuth their way to the crafty solution in this fun and interactive program.

SUMMER READING CLUB

Children and youth participated in Summer Reading Club activities from 1 December 2012 to 31 January 2013 at Marrickville Library and History Services. Children and youth celebrated the end of their summer reading bonanza with parties and sculpture workshops with Reverse Garbage. Certificates, prizes and vouchers were handed out to the children and teens. The Reverse craft workshops were then followed with refreshments.

TANYA HO
Marrickville Library and History Services



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- 03 THE MURAL AT WAUCHOPE LIBRARY!

KIDS AT WOOLLAHRA

Visits from guest presenters at Storytimes, including Stephanie Dowrick, Tina Matthews, Lea Dunstone and the musical Mr Palindrome have contributed to engage and entertain the audiences. At Vaucluse House Tearooms, a Christmas themed Storytime session was well received, and library staff were invited to return in 2013 to provide further sessions.

Popular Kids Clubs sessions included a Manga focus session during which children were absorbed with learning to draw Manga themed characters, and create related origami pieces. In early November, a visit to the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize exhibition followed by small sculpture activities at the Library featured.

At the end of the year, life guards promoting water safety spoke with Kids Club attendees.

An extremely popular Writers and Readers for Young People workshop which booked out well in advance was hosted by renowned Manga artist David Lovegrove.

Ducklings Hatch 'n Grow were installed at Double Bay Library for a couple of weeks; progress from eggs to growing ducklings was avidly observed by Junior Library visitors. The ducklings also made a special guest appearance at Paddington Church of Christ Kindergarten as part of the outreach program. During the school holidays, special activities and storytimes featuring a number of the ducklings were presented at each library location.

The Summer Reading Club was launched on December 3, with the *Untangled tales* theme encouraging children to read during their holidays.



/01



/02

All library locations were decorated and there were entry packs for everyone.

A total of 105 children, from preschoolers to older ages, enrolled in this year's Club at Woollahra Library, and collectively 1,200 books were read over the summer holidays. At the end of January, a final *Untangled tales* party was held, and the Mayor presented reading achievement awards, and refreshments served on the terrace overlooking Sydney Harbour. Following the afternoon tea, a visit from Taronga Zoomobile enabled hands-on encounters with various native animals including several lizards, a snake, and Bungie the ring tailed possum.

PAT MOORE
Woollahra Library

NEW MURAL

The children's section of the Wauchope Library has become a livelier environment since its new mural was completed recently.

The colourful mural features a variety of animals from around the world all coexisting happily in a place that resembles Wauchope.

Lots of very young library visitors go up to the mural and point out the different animals they can name. The mural has excited the inquisitive minds of the children who visit the library.

The mural came about after I asked my husband Garry, if he could paint something to liven up and add some colour to the children's area.

He agreed and over time completed a mural that mixes the colourful and curious with the familiar - elephants, bears and tigers wandering through a landscape that includes locally recognisable landmarks such as the Bago Bluff, Timbertown Steam train, the railway bridge, the War Memorial Clock, and the now defunct Big Bull.

The only instructions I gave to Garry were to make it colourful and magical. The top of the mountain, Bago Bluff, can be seen from the front desk of the library above all the shelves and is as imposing as the real Bluff. From a distance it seems almost like a traditional landscape, however, as you get close enough to look at the subject matter and somewhat simplistic cartoonish style, you see that it is far from traditional.

My own involvement in the creation of the mural was confined to being the information collector. Like many interactions that take place in the library, I learnt a lot during the painting of the mural. When Garry asked me to find a picture of a lace monitor, I would come back and say Did you know that the lace monitor is the only reptile that has a forked tongue like a snake? I knew that sugar gliders were clever, but I never realised that they could glide for up to 50 metres using their long bushy tail for stability and steering!

When I asked Garry whether he had anything to say about the mural, he wanted me to make the important disclaimer that all the characters portrayed in this mural are fictitious and resemblance to anybody either living or dead is purely coincidental and to further add that no animals were harmed in the painting of this mural.

YVETTE MOORMAN
Wauchope Library
Port Macquarie Hastings Library Services

PARRAMATTA NEWS

The Summer School Holidays have left us again with nothing but smiles and successes for the summer activities at Parramatta City Library.

We had such a fantastic response from our Summer Reading Club for 2012/2013 across all our branches. We had a total of **475** registrations this year (not including online registrations that are counted and collated separately) -

- 99 preschoolers;
- 311 primary school students and
- 65 high school kids.

Reading over the summer is important for children to maintain (and hopefully improve) reading levels when they start the new school year. It is also fun with all the gifts and prizes and activities and online games and the feedback from both parents and children confirms this.

*April has a healthy hunger for new and different things to read, writing them down highlighted how much?
[SRC] helped keep his reading interest.
[He] looks forward to the club every year.
Thank you all the staff members of the library for being so helpful, polite and patient.
We are now in the routine of reading bedtime stories.*

We concluded our Summer Reading Club with a Summer Reading Party. There was dancing and quizzes, and we played musical statues. But who needs Gangnam style when the children's staff got their groove on by teaching the kids the Macarena! The major prizes for the Summer Reading Club were two movie tickets and a tickets to see Wizard of Oz at the Riverside Theatre.

This year we ran our first ever interactive drama acting workshops at Parramatta City Library. These were specifically for children 5 years and over and included children's readers' theatre where kids and staff read and acted out an entire play. We also incorporated Dreamweaver kits with kids getting involved using the puppets to recreate the stories.

HIBA KANJ
Parramatta City Library



/03

Children's News



BOOKS AT BEDTIME AT BLAND SHIRE LIBRARY

GUILDFORD

The Summer Reading Club Party was held at Guildford Library on Monday 11 February from 5.30pm until 7pm, and was a very enjoyable evening for the 15 kids who attended.

The proceedings kicked off with the participants receiving their certificates and posing for a group photo. The lucky door prizes were drawn with every child receiving something. We awarded books, movie tickets, animated DVDs and small toys to the children. The Zac Power compilation book was popular amongst the boys, surpassing Harry Potter in popularity. One lucky boy received a copy of the award winning scrapbook *William Shakespeare: His Life and Times*; a fictional autobiography written by the bard for his daughter Judith in which he recounts his life and career in the theatre. This delightful book contains facsimiles of historical documents interspersed with personal letters and quotes from Shakespeare's plays. The presentations were followed by food and refreshments. Staff served sandwiches, a selection of dips and passionfruit sponge cake to our hungry participants. The children were then able to play a range of board games such as Monopoly, Chinese Checkers, Draughts, a giant-sized Snakes and Ladders and Dominoes. Fortune cookies were on hand for our busy game players to munch on while pondering the meaning of their fortunes.

JOHN MCBEATTY
Guildford Library

GRANVILLE

Granville library held some fun events during the summer school holidays. One of the more successful events was flower pot decorating, with more than 30 participants attending on the day. Kids used rhinestones, stickers, papers, and lots of decorating materials.

Staff member Minh Tran conducted a popular **Legend of Tai Chi** workshop. Seventeen kids enjoyed participating and learning Tai Chi movements as their parents were entertained watching on.

This final activity of the school holidays was the Summer Reading Club Party. A large number of kids attended the party, and were rewarded with the snacks, fruits, lollies, and certificates. Movie tickets were given out as a lucky door price. The children were delighted with the dancing, games and lots more.

KRUPALI TEVAR
Granville Library

SUMMER IN WEST WYALONG

The Summer Reading club was held from December until the end of January. This year over 70 children registered as members. The highlight for the kids was the special night at the library for Club members. This was held in the middle of January and was an opportunity for kids to get together and have fun. The event started at 6pm and involved games, stories and

plenty of food!! The kids were encouraged to dress up as their favourite book character with most of the children getting into the spirit of the occasion. The summer reading club concluded on 1 February with a wrap up party. The children played a range of games until the formal part of the afternoon started. The winners of the different categories were announced and prizes were presented. The afternoon concluded with light refreshments.

The library has been running *Book at Bedtime*, night time storytimes, for a while now and they have been a big hit at Bland. **Book at Bedtime** is aimed at children from preschool to 8 years of age. Last year we held a Christmas themed **Book at Bedtime** in December and a special January school holiday session. The sessions have proved to be very popular especially with parents of school aged children. It is always wonderful to see our former preschool story time attendees at these events looking very grown up, but still ready to hear stories.

JOANNE RUSSO
Bland Shire Library

POP-UP BOOKS

As part of our school holiday program, Lake Macquarie City Library held a Pop-Up Book Exhibition. The display of moveable books had been collected over 17 years by Library Assistant and member of the International Moveable Book Society, Sue Leask. The collection is inspired by her love of storytelling, art and eccentricity. Containing over 400 books, Sue's collection includes new books as well as

those discovered in second-hand stores, or those that have been given to her.

This was a display with a difference – visitors were encouraged to touch and use the books, with Sue on hand to demonstrate and discuss all things relating to moveable books. The moveable books included pop-ups, lift-the-flaps, tab-operated mechanical motions, and rotating wheels that have been added to the text or illustrations on the flat page to create perspective and movement.

The range of books on display was eclectic - fiction and non-fiction, intricate and simple. Many were for children, however there are also those aimed at adults. The books ranged from instructional to just plain fun. Children had the opportunity to learn how to make their own pop-up cards using simple techniques at workshops with Sue during the week-long exhibition.

RACHEL MALLABY
Lake Macquarie City Library

CLARENCE NEWS

SUMMER READING CLUB

All Clarence Regional Libraries participated in the Summer Reading Club for the fourth year running. Across the libraries there were over 250 participants this year, with over 100 being from the three Bellingen Shire branches where over 700 books were read. A colouring and fairy tale writing competition was offered which received many creative entries.

01 POP UP LION
02 MAKING POP UP
CARDS AT LAKE
MACQUARIE



/01



/02

Children's News



WINDCHIMES AT
BATHURST LIBRARY

HOLIDAY FUN

The holiday period kept library staff busy delivering a diverse range of activities and workshops for all ages.

Bellingen and Urunga Libraries teamed up with the local OOSH Vacation Care centres and offered badge making and scavenger hunt activities during the school holidays. Badge making is a favourite amongst the younger library users and this was also offered in the other Clarence Regional Library branches.

For older kids, two Minecraft sessions were held in December at the Maclean Library. Fans of this game enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate with their peers and share ideas.

Grafton Library hosted a Drama Games workshop which was well attended, as was the Board Games morning where visitors of all ages joined in playing the many recently purchased games available, including new and old favourites.

Facilitators from ABC Open delivered the *Snapped* photography workshop and the *500 Words* writing workshops to 11 to 18 year old library users at most branches.

We also hosted workshops in scrapbooking, kite making, cartooning, letter writing and a Surrealism workshop.

A cooperative partnership has been developed between the Urunga Library and Urunga Public School with the Shire Librarian assisting and supporting the classes and their teachers with sessions on how to find information, break down their project tasks and access the resources from the Clarence Regional Libraries. So far visits to years 2 and 3, 3 and 4 and 5 and 6 have been made and the school is looking forward to this becoming a regular event so that students will understand that their learning needs can also be met outside of school.

MARTY WILLIAMS
Clarence Regional Libraries

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Bathurst Library had a range of summer school holiday activities aimed at kids of all ages. Our two most popular programs this summer were chalk boards and wind chimes. We had lots of very individual and unique chalk board designs. The kids used buttons, fabric and jewels to decorate their chalk boards and the results were great.

Our wind chimes workshop allowed kids to use items that they found lying around their homes to create recycled and natural wind chimes. They used old forks, shells, wood, little bells and lots of old trinkets. The results were very good - the range of different wind chimes was impressive!

SARAH FLEMING
Bathurst Library

HOMEWORK HELP (AGAIN)

Yes, we did mention our Homework Help program in a PLN issue last year but it really needs an update.

The Homework Help program is open to primary and high school children every Wednesday afternoon at the Forster Library where we provide access to mentors, photocopiers, the Internet, quiet space and afternoon tea – all free of charge.

Why we need to mention it again is that it is going from strength to strength. We started the program in 2011 and we only got a modest uptake but we kept at it. Things improved through 2012 until the numbers

were very impressive and 2013 has already started with a bang. The kids have been flocking in. A senior school teacher has also used the timeslot to conduct after-school tutorials. We've now scored a retired maths teacher who is working one-on-one with a year 10 student and is happy to assist any others and a retired principal willing to help primary and high school students with maths.

The success has been based on persistence, a good structure, staff commitment, wonderful mentors, great support from the surrounding schools and a concerted campaign to promote the program. Recently the local paper has written a feature article on the Homework Help program, complete with stacks of pictures of children participating, so we can expect even more people turning up.

So, if your budget doesn't stretch to excellent programs like Your Tutor, or you can't afford to pay a teacher to be in your library to assist students then you might like to consider something along the lines of what we are doing.

CHRIS JONES
Great Lakes Library

KIDS' LIT QUIZ 2013

Two members of Central West Libraries' staff attended a heat of the Kids' Lit Quiz this year held in Orange. The Quiz is an annual literature competition for teams of four children between the ages of 10 and 13. Quizzes are held across the world. The winning team from each heat competes in a national final, this

year in New Zealand, with the national champions competing at the international final in South Africa. Teams are asked to answer 100 questions on children's literature divided into ten categories, which vary each year. Examples this year were: food, beverages, books to movies, characters, ducks and cats.

Jasmine Vidler, Central West Libraries' Reading and Writing Coordinator, acted as a very fair adjudicator while I participated in the adult team (the Guest Stars) with two local authors (Charlotte Calder and Jeffrey Doherty) and a very knowledgeable retired teacher/librarian, (Jenny Medd).

The Guest Stars scored admirably but the kids were amazing with their knowledge and total engagement in the competition. It was so close that five teams were tied for 2nd place resulting in a playoff. There was only one point separating them from 1st place. Congratulations must be given to every single kid competing because of their outstanding good behaviour and intense fervour for the competition. Not a sound could be heard during question time. There were audible sighs however when the answers were revealed. Coaches, teachers and spectators in the crowd were encouraged to participate too and often were the noisiest.

During break time the conversations centred on literature and showed some very mature readers and reading habits. Everyone attending was completely immersed in the world of literature, its characters and places and it certainly was a wonderful place to be that day.

What a welcome to the Sport of Reading - so many passionate young minds who love2read. Every competitor was a winner receiving book prizes and ongoing question prizes. Team spirit was high as each player helped one another and cheers were given for their rivals too. Every table had an appropriate team name like Know-it-alls' and every player wore their full uniform proudly to support their school. The Kids Lit Quiz is undoubtedly a great event for promoting and showing off the love of reading.

CAROLINE EISENHAUER
Central West Libraries



HOMEWORK HELP AT FORSTER

Young Adults Update



GAME OF THRONES

BADGES AND ANIME

At our Badges and Anime night, young adults made colourful and creative badges and watched the stunning new release Anime movie *Oblivion Island*. We had a whopping 17 young adults attend between the ages 12-16.

HIBA KANJ
Parramatta City Library

GAME OF THRONES

With the words *Trivia is Coming* emblazoned on our promotional banners and with the aim of attracting a host of young adults, Warringah Library Service embarked for Westeros in mid-January. Dressed in costumes conjured from items found at local Vinnies and armed with the wisdom and stories of those who had ventured before us, staff gathered in the Great Hall (Multifunction Room) of Warringah Mall Library to run our first Trivia Night for some time.

The content focus was George R R Martin's *Game of Thrones*, Book One from the series *A Song of Ice and Fire*. Mindful of the nature of the books and the popular HBO television series, we decided on an age restriction of 15+. On the night the majority of attendees were between 16 and 25.

In addition to promotion on the library's website and print material in the library, the Warringah Council's Youth Services section had advertised on their Facebook page and the local paper, *The Manly Daily*, had included an article in the preceding week. The event ran for two hours on a Thursday night to fit in with regular library opening hours. The attendees were organised into six teams representing major Houses of Westeros and challenged each other with admirable zeal and an impressive detailed knowledge of the material. The room was decorated with Westeros posters and a golden crown and Iron Throne made tantalisingly ready for the winner.

The night was all about the trivia: the questions were divided into two segments with a short break in between (and still they wanted more!) Although our tables spilled out of the Multifunction Room which opens into the Children's area, regular clientele appeared unfazed by the activities including



GAME OF THRONES



GAME OF THRONES

paper plane throwing competitions held while answer sheets were being marked. Popcorn was in continuous supply.

The evening was rated a great success by both staff and attendees. There was the fun of dressing up, an evening out with friends and the chance to win some prizes. There was also the acknowledged enjoyment of simply sharing a brilliant fantasy saga. Our thanks to George R R Martin.

LYNDALL STRETEN
Warringah Library Service

MARRICKVILLE YOUTH

Across January 2013, youth participated in a range of events at Marrickville Library and History Services, including design a safety pin bracelet, and a stencil art session. A music production workshop where teens were able to record, mix and produce their own



MANGA KEY RING AT SHELLHARBOUR

music track, with the expertise of music industry expert, Vuli Mkwanzani, was completely booked out. Teen chocolate fiends were lured to the chocoholics workshop where they created a range of yummy chocolates in moulds with a variety of fillings. Quite a sweet way to end the school holidays!

TANYA HO
Marrickville Library and History Services

HSC EVENTS

Parramatta City Library has a record of providing high quality student programs and resources to the student community. To strive to provide further support we decided to schedule HSC programs to start in January this year. The new schedule enabled the students to get a head start on their studies.

January's free programs were HSC English Belonging Topic Area, Physics-Module 2, Chemistry Module 2, 2 Unit Mathematics Revision, Year 11 and Overview of Year 12 and Economics: Update on the Australian Economy. All of these lectures were well attended by HSC students eager to get back into the study mode.

Presenters of the programs are from a range of backgrounds; authors such as Peter Skryznecki and Cameron Nunn who are also experienced teachers, young university students, and experienced tutors who have excelled in their own HSC and achieved outstanding results. These young tutors have recent

knowledge of exam experience and offer insight and technique to HSC students.

The popularity of the new schedule has been reflected in the number of students in attendance.

KATHERINE MITCHELL
Parramatta City Library

MAG

Young people from 12 to 17 years old are having a great time with the very popular manga and anime group, MAG, which meets and creates every second Wednesday at 6pm at Warilla Library. Lovers of anime and manga share tips on developing their art, share ideas, watch anime films and use and check out the library's great collection of manga books and anime and DVDs, or just chat with other fans. Group members frequently dress as their favourite characters, and most carry distinctive backpacks designed in their genre of choice. The group was begun by David Green, Children's and Youth Librarian, and has become largely self managed under David's continued guidance, with members deciding among themselves on future activities, such as their recent tea party, when the table groaned with all the goodies the group brought.

DIANE CRANSON
Shellharbour City Libraries.

Young Adults Update



ZOMBIES AT
TULLAMORE

ZOMBIES AT TULLAMORE

On November 9, 2012, the rural town of Tullamore experienced a library event like no other. During a storytelling visit by British writer and educator Dr. Matt Finch, students across the age range from 8 to 18 visited Tullamore's public library for what they thought would be a writing workshop. Arriving to find the library vandalised, the students suspected a gimmick. Did you fake-vandalise the library? they asked. Is this going to be some kind of murder mystery game or something? Before they could be answered, a low moan rose from the street outside. Children ran to the library doors. Approaching the building from all angles was a zombie horde. This was no gimmick. The students now faced a desperate battle for survival. With only the library books at their disposal and two reporters from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation looking on...would they survive?

Here is a summary of the day but you can read the full story at: <http://love2read2012.wordpress.com/2012/11/28/night-of-the-reading-dead/> <http://www.libraryasincubatorproject.org/?p=8939>

- 32 children were barricaded in the town library while local volunteers dressed as zombies besieged the building.
- Students had to research survival techniques and plan an escape from the zombie uprising. The local fire service provided support, delivering food crates and guiding the children to a 'safe zone' within the school at the end of the day.
- Students dressed up as zombies to escape, walking through the horde of 'zombies' in disguise.
- The day's activities were followed up with a week of in-depth writing sessions at Tullamore Central School.
- There was extensive media coverage online and via ABC Central West Radio.

This program required a lot of communication and coordination with not only library and school staff, but with emergency services, volunteers, etc. With so much pressure on community organisations and their budgets, events like the zombie uprising offer a great opportunity for different services to come together and achieve their individual goals. In Tullamore, the fire service got to engage the community with an awareness of the need to be prepared for natural disasters; the library got to raise its profile in the community and demonstrate its relevance as a creative and alternative space of learning; and the school's students followed up with a week of rich learning activities based on the dramatic zombie experience.

In Tullamore we were lucky to have a great core group of organisers, including staff from the county library service and the local school. We also had a tremendous amount of community goodwill earned through previous literacy activities, such as blogging and book trailer workshops.

Literacy should be a privilege of every human being on this planet. If we have to resort to drastic measures like a zombie siege to make it happen... so be it! A very special thank you to Dr. Matt Finch for providing the material for this feature. Read more about Matt and his work on his website: <http://matthewfinch.me/about/>

In touch with the State Library

MILES FRANKLIN LITERARY AWARD

Library users across NSW are being encouraged to take an active part in this year's Miles Franklin Literary Award and get reading to support Australian literature. The Trust Company, as trustee of the Award launched the 2013 prize with a challenge to Australia to read at least one book from the longlist which was announced at the end of March. The full list of books can be viewed at www.milesfranklin.com.au/challenge.

The Miles of Reading Challenge is encouraging Australians to pick up a book and support Australian literature. The challenge is supported by last year's winner Anna Funder, the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund and *Griffith REVIEW*. *Griffith REVIEW* will be providing exclusive online reviews of the longlisted novels by some of Australia's most high profile authors, right up to the winner's announcement on 19 June in Canberra. There will also be interactive discussion forums at the revamped website and live chats. There will also be reading notes and information on the novels and their authors available to help readers; and the Challenge will be promoted throughout Australia's library networks.

The Miles of Reading Challenge is part of The Trust Company's vision to engage a broader audience and promote discussion for Australia's most prestigious literary prize and what it stands for. *My Brilliant Career* author Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin left the residue of her estate to establish the award in 1954. Celebrating Australian character and creativity, the Award was established to support authors for the advancement, improvement and betterment of Australian literature

The prize has been awarded to some of Australia's greatest literary names including Patrick White, Tim Winton and Thea Astley. Last year's winner of the prize was Anna Funder for her novel, *All That I Am*. 2013 sees the prize increase in value from \$50,000 to \$60,000 to further support authors and their craft. As part of the program to expand and engage Australians, The Trust Company has launched Miles



MILES FRANKLIN

Franklin on twitter (@_milesfranklin) and continues its campaign to the Government for the prize, and other iconic awards, to be eligible for tax free status.

The shortlist will be announced at a public event on 30 April at the State Library of New South Wales, and the winner will be announced at the National Library of Australia in Canberra on 19 June.

Join the debate at

Twitter: @_milesfranklin

Website: <http://www.milesfranklin.com.au/challenge>

JANE RYAN
Scholarship & awards manager
The Trust Company

In touch with the State Library



SYDNEY GAZETTE AND NSW ADVERTISER

NSW NEWSPAPERS AT THE STATE LIBRARY OF NSW

The State Library of New South Wales aims to acquire, preserve, provide access to and eventually, digitise all NSW newspapers. 2,025 newspapers published in NSW are held in the State Library's collection including 334 current titles. Sixty-six NSW newspaper titles have been digitised and are accessible through Trove. These include Australia's first newspaper, the *Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser* and the *Sydney Morning Herald* up to 1954. The first issues funded by the Digital Excellence Program went live on Trove on 15 February: **The Cessnock Eagle and South Maitland Recorder** is now available at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/10616464> and another four titles went live this week.

We anticipate that more than 1.5 million pages representing an additional 80 newspaper titles will be accessible online by July 2013. NSW newspapers currently online can be accessed via Trove at <http://www.trove.nla.gov.au> and there is a listing of the titles already digitised.

HOW THIS HAS COME ABOUT

The State Library of New South Wales has this year received funding of \$22.4 million from the NSW Government to support the Library's Digital Excellence Project including a major collection digitisation program. A key part of the program is the digitisation of NSW newspapers, starting with those whose publication period includes World War 1. Six million pages of historic New South Wales newspapers will be digitised and delivered online through Trove in the first four years of the project through collaboration between the State Library and the National Library of Australia.

Although this welcome funding is a very large amount of money, it will only enable us to digitise and make available about 10% of the State Library's newspaper holdings over the four year period. We will aim to progressively include the remaining titles but this will take time and further funding. Digitisation of titles required more urgently can be expedited if additional funding can be found locally through for example, grants or sponsorship.

NEW RELEASES

To keep tabs on forthcoming titles check the listing on the New Titles Coming page of the National Library's website. The digitisation of newspaper titles funded by the State Library and the Government of NSW is indicated by the wording, **State Library of New South Wales Digital Excellence Project**.

NEXT STEPS

As these newspapers are digitised, public libraries, historical societies and members of communities across the state will rejoice at the enhanced access and people will enjoy the opportunity to contribute through text-correction with their own local newspapers. State Library staff members have committed to create a 'stub' entry on Wikipedia for each newly digitised title. This will provide opportunities for newspaper historians to use their references to flesh the entries out and give community members another way to access the valuable content.

This significant initiative will produce a rich chronicle of our shared cultural past that will be accessible to all from the city to the bush. The State Library has provided a template press release for use by public libraries in their local areas and will advise public libraries as new titles become available online.

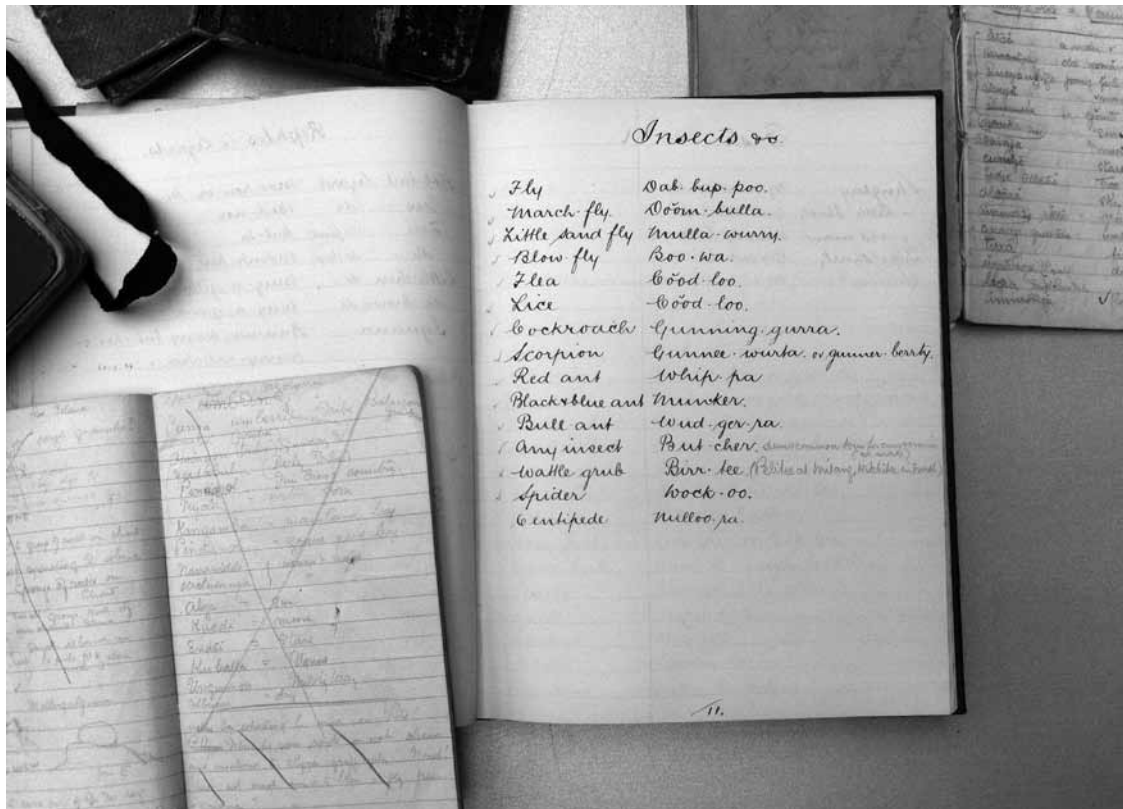
JERELYNN BROWN
Manager, Collection Services
State Library of New South Wales

NEW RESEARCH GUIDES

The Original Materials Branch has launched three new research guides on the Library's website. There are now guides to our manuscripts, pictures and maps collections. Each brief, up-to-date guide presents simple and practical content, illustrated with images from the collections.

These have been designed to support Library clients find and use our unique collection items. The guides are structured into several pages for ease of navigation and they can be browsed via the tabs across the top of the page. The websites are built using the popular and free LibGuides software, developed by Springshare.

We have included tips on how to search and locate items using the SLNSW online catalogues. The guides also link clients to information about how to use the



A HIDDEN GEM (PHOTO COURTESY OF MELISSA JACKSON)

Insects &c.

✓ Fly	Dak. bup. poo.
✓ March fly	Doom. kulla.
✓ Kittle and fly	Mulla-wunny.
✓ Blow fly	Boo-wa.
✓ Flea	Woo-loo.
✓ Lice	Woo-loo.
✓ Cockroach	Ginning-gurra.
✓ Scorpion	Gumna-wurta. or gumna-borby.
✓ Red ant	Whip-pa
✓ Black & blue ant	Murker.
✓ Bull ant	Wud-gor-pa
✓ Any insect	Put-cher.
✓ Wattle grub	Burr-tee. (Wattle grub)
✓ Spider	Wock-oo.
✓ Centipede	Mullo-pa.

collection, including onsite and electronic access, obtaining digital copies of items for personal use or publishing, and copyright. New acquisitions and recently digitised items are showcased and the guides will be regularly updated with latest news. Further research guides are in planning for production, including one for the photographic collections. You can register to receive email alerts when new guides are published. All State Library guides are formatted to be compatible with mobile devices.

You can find the research guides at:

Guide to the Manuscript collection

<<http://guides.sl.nsw.gov.au/manuscripts?hs=a>>

Guide to the Pictures collection

<<http://guides.sl.nsw.gov.au/picturescollections?hs=a>>

Guide to the Maps collection

<<http://guides.sl.nsw.gov.au/maps?hs=a>>

LAUREN MCCUNNIE
Original Materials Branch

HIDDEN GEMS

The State Library of New South Wales is delighted to welcome you to participate in *HIDDEN GEMS: The role of Libraries and Archives in Cultural Revitalisation*. The event will be hosted by the Library on 26-27 August 2013 and sponsored by the IFLA SIG

on Indigenous Matters and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library, Information and Resource Network (ATSILIRN).

The main objective of the Symposium is to initiate a conversation about the role of libraries and archives in the revival of Indigenous languages. This Symposium will provide a space where experiences and knowledge at an International level can be shared among Indigenous people, professionals and institutions. The complete program of the Symposium will be available in the State Library, IFLA and ATSILIRN websites in the next few weeks. In the meanwhile questions and applications can be addressed to the Indigenous Services Librarian at the State Library of New South Wales, Melissa Jackson, email: mjackson@sl.nsw.gov.au or to me, email: mgalassi@sl.nsw.gov.au

MONICA GALASSI
Event Coordinator, Indigenous Librarians Symposium
State Library of New South Wales

Seniors News

SENIORS NEWS

Woollahra Library & Information Service hosts several social events each year for Special Clients' Services members and their carers. In early December, an end of year Festive fun morning tea was hosted at Council Chambers, with buses from Holdsworth Community Centre and four care centres transporting members and some additional care centre residents to the event. The 60 attendees were entertained by jazz vocalist Susan Gai Dowling with keyboard accompanist.

On Library Lovers' Day, Jane Austen expert Susannah Fullarton spoke engagingly about her new book *Happily ever after: celebrating Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice* –and of course the favourite couple, Elizabeth Barrett and Mr Darcy. Mayor of Woollahra, Councillor Andrew Petrie welcomed guests to this special morning tea, where traditional Valentine's Day decorations and cupcakes decorated with hearts contributed to the romance theme. Gifts of heart shaped chocolates attached to Woollahra Library's new genre bookmarks distributed by Library Manager Vicki Munro were well received by guests. Enthusiastic positive feedback about these morning teas was provided by many attendees, and further such events are planned in the future.

Volunteer support for the Special Clients' Service continues, with several volunteers delivering resources to Home Library members, and a book buddy who both selects and delivers resources. A computer/techno buddy visits two clients on a regular fortnightly basis, and other members occasionally as requested. Volunteers are also sharing skills with each other. In February one of the volunteers conducted a training session for fellow volunteers about new technologies and their functionality.

PAT MOORE
Woollahra Library

HOME LIBRARY SERVICE PROMOTION

The Home Library Service promotional package, *Bringing the Library to You*, was launched in March 2012, with Her Excellency the Governor of NSW Marie Bashir attending. Funded by a grant from the State Library of NSW, the promotional package included a DVD; generic posters; magnifiers; and flyers and bookmarks in English, Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Italian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

In December 2012, remaining funds from the grant were spent on magnifying bookmarks, and ninety nine public libraries across NSW received 2000 bookmarks each. The bookmarks were to be distributed to existing Home Library Service customers, and also to promote the service to potential customers. Much positive feedback has been received from NSW public library staff:

Many thanks for the magnifying sheets - very useful.

Thank you for the supplies of magnifying bookmarks which we received recently at Hawkesbury Library. We shall pass them on to relevant staff for distribution and will continue to promote home library services to our community.

Took one home for my mum to use. Size and shape are good for reading paper and books i.e. flat surfaces.

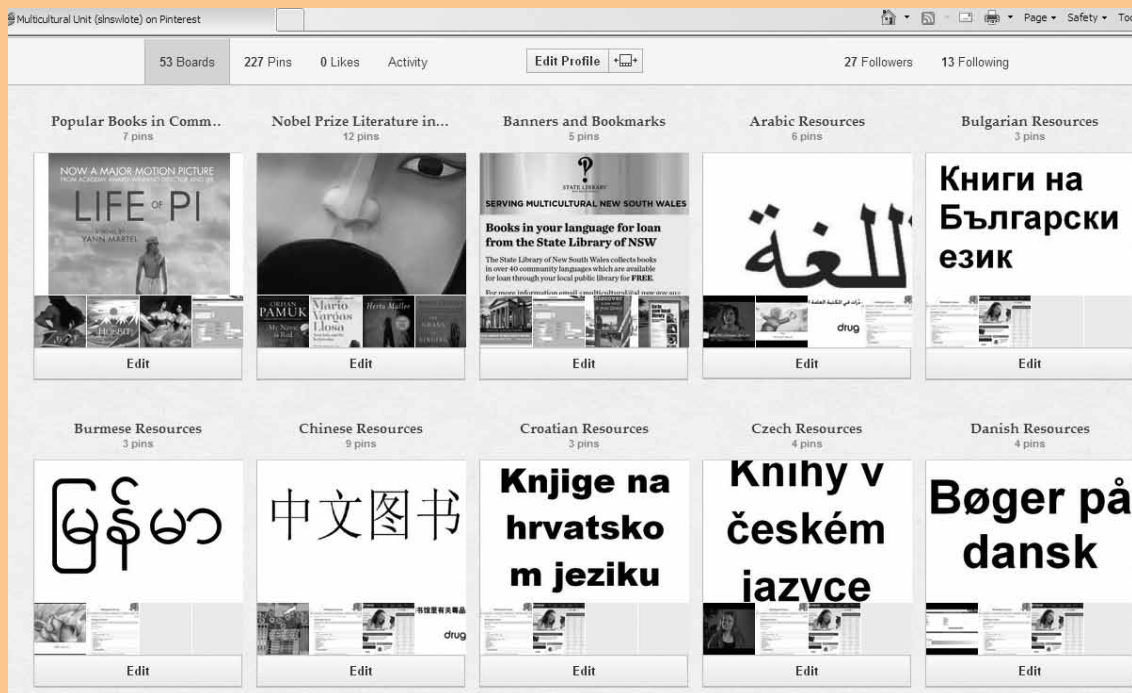
This is a fantastic present and will be well appreciated by our home library people.

Some to the front counter to advertise us. Some to various agencies to promote our service And Some to older members of staff (like me)!

They are really well designed. It will be a pleasure to hand these out on behalf of the Home Library Service.

TANYA HO
Marrickville Library and History Services

Multicultural News



MULTICULTURAL PINTEREST

MULTICULTURAL UNIT ON PINTEREST

The Multicultural Unit has recently set up an account on Pinterest <<http://pinterest.com/slswlote/>> as an alternative way to provide information about our service. We have set up a board for each language that we support, each cover picture says 'Books in [language]' so it is easily identifiable to a person looking for resources in their own language. We will pin information relating to specific languages in those boards, but will also create some combined boards to highlight particular aspects of the collections. You can already see that we are working on a board of Nobel Prize winning authors and their works that can be found in the Multicultural Collection, as well as a board of Popular and Classical Books in Community Languages, such as the *Life of Pi*, *Anna Karenina*

and the *Fifty Shades of Grey* series. It's very much a work in progress where we will continue to add new information on a regular basis. If there is anything you'd like to see on there as well, email me on adawson@sl.nsw.gov.au or the team on mcbulkloans@sl.nsw.gov.au.

MC BULK LOANS E-LIST

Has a new staff member started working with your multicultural bulk loans? Let us and know and we will add them to the mcbulkloans e-list so that they can keep up with information relating to the multicultural bulk loan service. Email me on adawson@sl.nsw.gov.au

ABBY DAWSON
Coordinator, Multicultural Bulk Loans
Public Library Services

Multicultural News



DIWALI AT EPPING

DIWALI MUUBAARAK!

Epping library held a bilingual story time in English and Hindi on 12 November 2012 to commemorate Diwali, the Indian Festival of Lights. Staff and two volunteers were dressed in Indian finery while the children's area were decorated with lots of Diyas (lamps made of paper and cellophane) and a colourful Rangoli was drawn at the library foyer to mark the occasion. Many young children and their parents were dressed in bright colours to attend this special story time where they were regaled with the story of Diwali and how the festival was celebrated by Indians throughout the world. The 57 children also enjoyed singing songs and reciting words in Hindi and English. Lots of photos were taken of the event with parents and children saying how much fun they had learning about another culture.

STELLA TAY
Epping Branch Library

MYLANGUAGE UPDATE

MYLANGUAGE, TWELVE MONTHS ON

The redeveloped MyLanguage website <www.mylanguage.gov.au> was launched at the FECCA conference in August 2011 by Mr Hieu Van Le, Lieutenant Governor of South Australia and Chairman of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission. At the launch he said; *What we have in MyLanguage is perhaps one of the most valuable tools for living that newly arrived Australians can get their hands on today. It provides a whole suite of important pieces of information - and in more than 65 languages. If you've just settled here, if your English is still developing, and if you're looking to find your feet in a rather unfamiliar place, then this is the website for you.*

MyLanguage truly reflects Australia's position as one of the most multicultural countries on earth and seeks to simplify access to important online information resources for a culturally and linguistically diverse population.

MYLANGUAGE CONFERENCE 2012

The second national MyLanguage Conference 2012 was a major event hosted by the State Library of Queensland in Brisbane, in partnership with Public

Libraries South Australia and the State Libraries of New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and Libraries ACT. The theme of the conference was *MyLanguage - Connecting, Collaborating, Creating* and it focused on exploring digital futures for multicultural Australia, in particular ways of connecting communities, successful collaborations and creating digital opportunities. The papers and discussion notes from the conference can be found at <www.mylanguage.gov.au/conference/conference2012/13-conference/97-my-language-conference-presentations-2012.html>

LUNAR NEW YEAR

To celebrate the Lunar New Year, a range of events for adults, children and youth were organised at Marrickville Library and History Services. In keeping with the Year of the Snake, a tai chi demonstration included moves emulating a snake and showed how tai chi can improve one's health and flexibility. Some customers joined in the fun and tried out some tai chi moves themselves! After light refreshments, children decorated snakes as part of a craft workshop while teens painted a Chinese lantern.

TANYA HO
Marrickville Library and History Services

WILBUR

Wilbur written by Phil Cummings and illustrated by Amanda Graham, is a children's book produced in partnership with MyLanguage and the Little

Big Book Club, and was a National Year of Reading project aimed at celebrating reading for all communities. Suitable for children aged 0 to 5 years it is the first multilingual children's picture book of its kind to be produced in Australia. *Wilbur* is available online in 14 different languages including Somali, Tamil, Burmese, Persian- Farsi, Dinka, Hindi, Khmer, Nuer, Amharic, Chinese, Arabic, Vietnamese, French and English. *Wilbur* is also available on Youtube at <<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL46E6BDE19A814C3E>>

BRENDAN FITZGERALD
Chief Executive Officer My Language
State Library of Victoria

ENGLISH CONVERSATION GROUP

The Lane Cove English Conversation Group is run by the Crows Nest Community Centre and meets weekly in the Lane Cove Seniors Centre. Contact between the library and the Conversation group organiser was made at a meeting of the Lane Cove Cultural Diversity Advisory Group. The Conversation Group, including a volunteer tutor, subsequently visited the Library to look at its literacy resources.

In one of the Library's training rooms, the group was shown how to use recently acquired eResources - *AMES Learn English Online* and the *Transparent Languages Online* as well as the *Bookan Chinese* magazines resource. As homework, the tutor asked the group to go on the AMES website and to discuss it at their next meeting. Other relevant websites such as MyLanguage and the *Find Legal Answers* were also demonstrated.

The Group was then shown the Community Language Collection and the different sections of the Literacy Collection including books, DVDs, CDs, easy readers, graphic novels and audiobook kits. Library staff also explained terms such as dictionary and thesaurus. Volunteer tutors in Lane Cove are encouraged to recommend titles for inclusion in the Literacy collection.

JILLIAN YAU
Lane Cove Library



/02

- 01 TAI CHI AT MARRICKVILLE
- 02 TAI CHI AT MARRICKVILLE



/01



LION DANCES AT EASTWOOD (SEE STORY PAGE 2)

IN THE STATE LIBRARY GALLERIES

World Press Photo

Galleries

29 June to 28 July

Check out the world's best photojournalism from 2012, including the work of Australian photographers Daniel Berhulak and Chris McGrath from Getty Images. The winners of the 56th World Press Photo Contest were selected from over 100,000 images entered.

Sydney Morning Herald Photos1440

Galleries

29 June to 28 July

See an amazing showcase of the best published and unpublished works by *Sydney Morning Herald* photographers.

Amaze: The Michael Crouch Gallery

Visit our new Amaze: The Michael Crouch Gallery and experience some of the most iconic, beautiful and quirky items from the Library's extraordinary collections.

This contemporary space will see surprising and little known stories revealed as displays are renewed on a regular basis. The permanent gallery is a stunning addition to the Library's suite of inspiring exhibition spaces.

The Amaze Gallery has been made possible through the generous support of Michael Crouch AO.

NEW WAYS TO EXPERIENCE THE COLLECTIONS

Curio, our innovative new mobile app, will transform the way you experience our exhibitions and the Mitchell Library. Bring your smart phone or tablet to download the free app, or borrow one of ours when you arrive.

Check the website for details

<CURIO.SL.NSW.GOV.AU>

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 2013 issue	21 June 2013
December 2013 issue	18 October 2013
April 2014 issue	28 February 2014