

Public Library News

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Volume 18 No 3
December 2012



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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our final issue for 2012. It is jam-packed with all your fabulous stories and photos. You can read all about Write around the Murray; eBooks at Coffs Harbour; outreach programs (and some great ads!) at Wagga Wagga; the Voce n Ale Festival at Lane Cove; RFID at Bankstown; and so much more. Thank you to our wonderful contributors and public library staff.

VICTORIA ANDERSON
Editor



Public Library News is produced by Public Library Services, State Library of New South Wales, Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW 2000

Tel: 02 9273 1526
Fax: 02 9273 1244
Email: vanderson@sl.nsw.gov.au

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Front cover image:
The Vintage Allsorts at Liverpool
(see story page 27)

Write around the Murray

Albury's Write around the Murray 2012 was once again a wonderful celebration of reading, writing and storytelling with many highlights from 60 events provided over 5 days in September) to 3500 festival attendees. The festival is managed by the Albury LibraryMuseum team with the LibraryMuseum operating as the festival hub.

WAM 2012 opened to 180 students and visitors at the Albury LibraryMuseum with a warm welcome from Wiradjuri elder Nancy Rooke and the launch of two great community art collaborations, *The Reading Pod*, a grant funded National Year of Reading public art work and *Zachary Smitch and the photo*, which involved 9 small primary schools in an author led collaborative storytelling and animation project. The spellbound attention of the young students and their gleeful participation in the workshops that followed set the tone for a festival that truly stimulated, surprised and delighted festival audiences.



THE READING POD

Doug MacLeod, Anne Spudvilas, Meme McDonald, Jane Caro, Tony Wilson and Randa Abdel-Fattah challenged and inspired 965 student participants in the schools program and equally inspired and informed the audience throughout the main festival program. Doug interviewed fellow comedian and writer Fiona O'Loughlin, drawing her out about some moving and hilarious stories from *Me of the Never Never*. A snippet of their axed TV pilot *Life at the Top*, co-starring William McInnes alongside Fiona, was a special treat. Speaking at the Literary Lunch, Fiona showed just what a skilful storyteller she is.

Jane Caro, Festival Keynote speaker, gave a powerful address at the Festival Dinner citing examples and drawing parallels between the control

of information and public knowledge from the 15th century to now, while comic performers Flange and Nora and The Secret Sandwiches, lightened the tone. Jane engaged with writer and media commentator, Tony Wilson, in a very timely and lively discussion on the pros, cons and power of twitter and other new media.

Inside Publishing panelists gave a dynamic and informative discussion about publishing, technological change, the work of literary agents and editors, and the pros and cons of *Fifty Shades of Grey* at a time when booksellers struggle to stay relevant. The discussion was rich and diverse with the Belonging and Identity panel exploring themes of body image, cultures within cultures, and the confusion and complexity of 'Australian-ness'.

Local writer Beverley Lello showed what an outstanding talent she is, emerging as the AlburyCity Short Story Award winner two years running. Her story, *So Thin*, was selected as one of the 12 best stories of 180 entries from all over Australia, by two independent judges. Final selection of winners from the shortlist was made by highly respected author Carmel Bird.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive from participants in workshops with Carmel and other established writers, poets and artists who shared their skills. The editing workshop was described as being of university quality while young writers in Randa Abdel Fattah's Saturday morning workshop wished the 1.5 hour workshop was longer.

Writers Charlotte Wood and Elliot Perlman gave fascinating insights into their writing as ABC's First Tuesday BookClub regular, Jason Steger, once again hosted the Big Book Clubs with warmth, charm and generosity. And for those who like feeding their stomachs as well as their minds, celebrity chef, Tobie Puttock, hit the mark when he *cooked like an Italian* at Albury's community wood fired oven.

The Festival team were exhausted but exhilarated at the Festival conclusion. In its 6th year the festival again had excellent local media coverage and a very positive evaluation from participants, including audience and presenters. WAM attendance grows steadily each year, with a 15% increase from 2011. It is now an eagerly awaited community cultural event.

CARINA CLEMENT
Albury Libraries

Digital Library pilot project

Earlier this year the Library was successfully awarded a Library Development Grant towards a Digital Library pilot project. The précis of the project is three-fold: to provide access to a suite of online literacy and numeracy tools, provide access to downloadable eBooks and eAudiobooks, and provide a collection of pre-loaded genre fiction and non-fiction eReaders for loan.

To this end we secured subscriptions to Mango Languages and Transparent Languages Online; Issues in English 2 and Road to IELTS; In2era and BusyThings. We also took up subscriptions for the Wheelers ePlatform and One Click Digital, providing access to downloadable eBooks and eAudiobooks respectively.

Further to this we bought 12 Sony eReader Touch devices and created genre collections of eBooks from both paid-for titles (DRM-protected and DRM-free) and free Gutenberg titles. Each eReader has been allocated a particular genre and so far we have six of these eReaders circulating (Science Fiction, Romance, Paranormal/Horror, Biography/Non-Fiction, Fantasy, and Crime/Mystery). The remaining genres (Contemporary, Action/Thriller, Westerns/War/Military, Australian/Indigenous/Short Stories, Historical/Family Sagas, and Young Adult) should become available over the coming weeks. Staff time in purchasing titles and preparing the eReaders for loan has been unexpectedly intensive. Specific details of each eReader, titles bought, where from, what genre, and so on are all collated on a simple spreadsheet. We use calibre-ebook.com to store the metadata of each title and simplify the transfer of titles to the individual eReaders. It also allows for a 'master copy' which is used for refreshing each eReader when it is returned from loan. A number of Adobe IDs have been created to manage the various DRM protected titles bought across the number of devices.

In conjunction with these resources we have been running a series of information and training sessions with the public. From Internet literacy classes, literacy and numeracy sessions, to eReader basics, and how to use both Wheelers and One Click Digital, these sessions have proved to be popular with our clients and generated increased interest in and use of the various resources. We have experienced a small number of user-generated queries in using Wheelers and One Click Digital which have all been successfully resolved. We have also provided personal assistance to any patron who has queried how to use Wheelers, One Click Digital or their own eReaders.

This project has been a steep learning curve for all staff concerned. The public interest in eBooks and eReaders has meant we have spent valuable staff time exploring various devices (Kindle, Kobo, Sony Touch, eBook Reader, and iPad) in order to appreciate the vagaries of these devices and how they use and suit our resources. Being able to share our experiences with our patrons and help trouble-shoot their particular issues has proved rewarding.

We collect online resource usage statistics and loan statistics of the eReaders, eBook and eAudiobook collections using a simple spreadsheet. It is early stages yet but we look forward to reviewing this project at the end of 12 months to assess its success.

—
CATHERINE JOHNSTON
Coffs Harbour City Libraries

REaDTeMber

In Parkes Shire we celebrated literacy by renaming September REaDTEMBER, and what a brilliant month it was! Northparkes' sponsorship of this literacy month ensured its amazing success, specifically we were able to bring Dr. Matthew Finch to Parkes to hold a range of writing workshops, and creative writing and story telling sessions.

A range of events, specifically for children 0 to 5, primary and high school students and their families, took place, including

- Story sessions for 3 - 5 years (Storytime and PyjamaRama)
- Story sessions for 0 -5 years (Rhyme Time and Rocket Man)
- Creative writing workshops (Mysteries Underground)
- Blogging workshops
- Literature video workshops and competitions
- School holiday literacy activities (Mysteries Underground, Fruit Ninja, Angry Birds & Werewolves)
- Literacy license competition

The benefits to the community were numerous. REaDTEMBER:

- Built upon the work of the Birth to Kindergarten program, continuing to highlight the need to read, sing and talk to your child from birth.
- Built upon the work of Parkes Shire Library, continuing to highlight the joys of reading.
- Provided young children with the opportunity to attend extra special story time events.
- Provided activities for young adults to attend that are relevant to their life.
- Provided an activity for dads to help them interact in a new and different way with their babies.
- Helped promote the National Year of Reading and its messages of literacy.

We know REaDTEMBER was a great success: we had more visitors through the doors compared to August 2012 and September 2011; we loaned more items compared to August 2012 and September 2011; we joined up 104 new members (and increased by 3.2% the number of children under 12 years as members). In addition, we held an extra 12 story sessions - nine at Parkes, one at Trundle and, two at Tullamore; and an extra eight workshops and school visits - six at Parkes and one each at Trundle and Tullamore. All of the workshops were booked out and the visits were successful. Our 6pm PyjamaRama sessions were so popular we have had many requests to keep it as a regular event. And very special, we now have a new reading mascot - The Lady Bug.

Quote of the event from a Mum; *It was such a long time home in the car. The girls didn't shut up about how great the day was.* The girls had attended Dr. Matt Finch's Underground Mysteries session.

—
SHELLIE BUCKLE
Parkes Library



/01



/02



/03

01 DADS AT PLAY
02 LADY BUG READER
03 GET READING AT PARKES

National Year of Reading

ALBURY

At Albury Library Museum a mixed group of aspiring authors and family history sleuths were entertained and given useful advice on recording their thoughts, memories and research. Hazel Edwards, better known of course as a children's writer and author of the iconic book *There's a hippopotamus on my roof eating cake*, gave a presentation based on her book *Writing a non-boring family history* to 25 very interested people. Tips were given on recognising first who our audience or readers are to be, and then select the writing style most appropriate. Techniques were discussed on how to avoid boring the reader, starting with developing a catchy title that is relevant yet intriguing.

Hazel's wide experience in writing and speaking to very varied audiences enabled her to help make even a very hesitant writer feel confident in using their own creativity to produce a work that will be appreciated by others and remain as a valuable resource for their descendants. Hazel is clearly passionate about literacy, writing and storytelling for all ages.

We would like to give our thanks to the State Library of NSW for organising the workshop as part of the 2012 National Year of Reading.

CAROLE WHITBOURN
Albury Libraries



HAZEL EDWARDS

CANTERBURY

It's been a bumper three months of author talks at Campsie Library. Local poet, Hopeton Gray shared some of his unique poetry and John McDermott talked about how best to age and live well. Richard Glover entertained the audience with stories from his books and radio program. Indira Naidoo inspired us with her experiences of growing vegetables on her balcony. Robin de Crespigny moved us with her award winning story of Ali al Jenabi, Iraqi refugee and people smuggler. All of these wonderful author talks were well attended.

Campsie Library held an interesting and lively panel discussion on the future of print and the rise of eBooks. Our panelists, a reader, an author and a technology professional, shared their thoughts on publishing and reading eBooks as well as some of the challenges libraries face with Digital Rights Management. There were also demonstrations of eBook readers.

To follow up from the inspiring Indira Naidoo, Campsie Library held a *Gardening in small spaces* workshop where over 20 participants learnt how to grow plants and vegetables in any space that they have available to them. It was very successful and the library hopes to hold more of these talks. It fitted in perfectly with September's theme for the National Year of Reading, Grow. It was great to be able to link Indira Naidoo's book and author visit, with a more practical session of how to go about growing plants. All the participants were very engaged and learnt many new skills.

PAULA PFOEFFER
Canterbury Library

COOMA

Throughout May to August this year Cooma Library celebrated the NYR with the theme 'Reading Food', with real flavours and home cooking, in a packed line up of picnics and parties, displays, storytimes, special quests and school visits. 'Reading Food' gave patrons and local school students a taste of food literacy, highlighting the benefits of reading food labels, choosing healthy food options and sharing ideas on how to make lunch boxes, treats and party foods using additive-free products.



INDIRA NAIDOO

The library formed partnerships with the local health promotion officer from NSW Community Health, the Community Garden, the Multicultural Group and local school teachers to really cook up a storm of activity throughout these months. Teachers from a local school teamed up with library staff to take advantage of Cooma's monthly sheep sale and organised an excursion to include the saleyards, library and community garden in a 'Paddock to Plate' extravaganza. Over seventy Stage 1 children regaled staff with stories of smells, poo and dust after their visit to the sheep sale, before having a terrific storytime and some 'Fork to Plate' activities. Library staff and local preschoolers had lots of fun making paper mache snake lollies. These snakes were used in the library to display and highlight the colours and additives contained in food and which countries around the world have banned them for human consumption.

Other activities included:

- A multicultural lunchbox show & tell picnic held at the local community garden. The photos and recipes from the day are being produced into NYR bookmarks
- Nearly 200 preschool and primary school-aged children visited the library in three days for excursions, storytime and food related activities, including a game of fruit and vegetable celebrity heads inspired by Jackie French's *Pamela loves pears*
- Members of the local Multicultural Group were special guests at the library's regular Preschool Storytime session, captivating children and staff with wondrous tales of elves, fairies and blueberry-laden Swiss forests
- A demonstration children's birthday party, where kids and parents got to enjoy additive-free party treats like build your own nachos and take home recipes including kangaroo 'poo'!
- Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution Day was celebrated in the library with traditional homemade scones and jam (made by staff) and cream. Patrons were encouraged to come dressed up as Jamie for the day and prizes were given to the best dressed! Some of our multicultural patrons shared delicious foodie treats as well.

The activities culminated with a visit from additive-free food author Melanie Avery, who spoke about the hazards of additives in food to library patrons, as they

enjoyed morning tea cooked from her books by library staff. She continued her tour with a visit to a local young parents' group, talked to several classes of high school students and then launched a local school's cookbook.

If you would like the recipes and resources that inspired these activities, check out Tegan Benfell's *Additive Free Kids Parties*, Melanie Avery's *Let's Party! Additive Free!* and their respective websites.

KATH FREIHAUT
Monaro Regional Libraries

LIVERPOOL

The National Year of Reading's theme for September was GROW, and Liverpool City Library celebrated this year's Adult Learners' Week by holding a Marathon Reading Competition for migrant students. The aims of the competition were: to encourage students to read, to help them grow into confident readers, and to become members of a community of life-long readers.

Liverpool City Library designated 4 - 5 September as Reading Days. Trolleys of easy readers were wheeled into classrooms where English conversation classes were being held. Students had the opportunity to browse through the collections and do their own selections. They took what they had selected to their seats and started reading. After reading ten titles, they filled in an entry form listing the titles of the books they had read. They then placed this entry form in the ballot box. There was no limit to the number of entries they submitted. As an encouragement, prizes were given to the three participants who read the most. But there were also prizes for those whose entry forms were randomly picked from the box during the raffle draw held on the second day of the competition.

Everyone who participated in the Reading Marathon enjoyed the spirit of friendship that permeated throughout the two days. One student in particular said that participating in the Reading Marathon has resulted in her reading more books. Another student said that he did not realise how much he could learn from just reading and getting so much joy out of it.

CARMEL MARTIN
Liverpool City Library

Creative partnerships at Lane Cove

During 2012 Lane Cove Library joined with Lane Cove ALIVE and Lane Cove Council to plan a new festival. Voce-n-Ale, a play on words, is an anagram of Lane Cove. It was decided to link the Voce-n-Ale Festival to the National Year of Reading. Voce-n-Ale, a celebration of voice, word, song, poetry and photography was held from Friday 19 October to Friday 26 October. The Festival was co-ordinated by Lane Cove ALIVE, a local leadership group that promotes village revitalisation through social, cultural, environmental and economic sustainability. A series of planning meetings were held in the library, attended by Lane Cove ALIVE representatives, key Library staff, Council's Community Development Officer - Ageing and Disability, the Director of Gallery Lane Cove, and representatives from local musical groups.

The Festival was marketed by a number of methods. Lane Cove ALIVE set up Facebook and Twitter accounts; Lane Cove ALIVE, Gallery Lane Cove, Council and the Library created posters and flyers and distributed information via eNewsletters; there was an article about the launch event in the *North Shore Times* and events appeared in *The Village Observer* and *Lane Cove Seniors Connection* newsletters. Library and Council events were funded internally while local businesses were approached to provide sponsorship for other events. The festival was launched in the Lane Cove Plaza by Cr Scott Bennison, Mayor of Lane Cove. The evening included performances by local school choirs and a specially formed Loud Community Choir, and some of the entries from the Lane Cove Business Limerick competition were previewed. Lane Cove's Town Crier

then led the audience to Gallery Lane Cove for the launch of *The Word is Out*, a specially commissioned outdoor photographic exhibition and Lane Cove in an Instant, an installation of phone photos and poetic texts by Richard Tipping and Chris Mansell.

The Library events included screenings of *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* and Dr Seuss' *the Lorax*; a workshop by Manga artist David Lovegrove; Late 'n' Lively @ Lane Cove Library which saw African drumming, Bollywood dancing and ukulele lessons take over the library; and the launch of the Library's *Poets in Residence Poetry Anthology*. Other Voce-n-Ale events included a Young Buskers competition in Lane Cove Plaza and an Instagram photographic workshop. The finale took place in the Junior Library with ABC personality James Valentine acting as MC. The winners of the Business Limericks competition were announced and there were performances by soloists, choirs, tap dancers and young buskers. Photos and text from the Lane Cove in an Instant were projected in the Storytime room. It is hoped the festival will become an annual event with the program organised by Lane Cove ALIVE, Community Services staff, Library staff and cultural organisations.

A Lane Cove Library Limerick
*If you're wanting to borrow a book,
 Or download a book to your Nook,
 If you love DVDs,
 Or the latest CDs,
 Lane Cove Library's the place you should look!*

JILLIAN YAU
 Lane Cove Library

Lane Cove Library's *Poets in Residence Anthology 2012* was launched on Thursday 25 October by the Mayor of Lane Cove, Councillor Scott Bennison.

The Poets in Residence Writing Group came about after a series of writing workshops held at the Library. The poetry workshop was conducted by well known local author, Jeni Mawter. Several people who attended the workshop suggested the Library might consider facilitating a writing group in the Library, particularly for poetry. Hence the Poets in Residence group was born, and meets every two months. Library staff touch base with the group at the beginning of each meeting and discuss what the group is hoping to achieve at that particular meeting. The group is self governed and each meeting someone is elected Chairperson. The group share their poetry, discuss ideas and issues and set themselves themes to explore and write about. One of their suggestions was the possibility of a poetry display or perhaps the ability to share their poetry with the wider community in the format of a publication.

The publication became a possibility after the Library successfully submitted an application for \$4,000 from Council's Sustainable Community funding. When the group met to discuss the publication project, they were advised that the anthology must be based around sustainability – environmental, economic, social or cultural. The sustainability theme was a condition of the funding. The *Poets in Residence Anthology 2012* contains the works of ten poets and includes 30 poems. The poems explore issues related to the community, the environment, depression, social exclusion and



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- 01 AFRICAN DRUMMING
- 02 UKULELE WORKSHOP
- 03 BOLLYWOOD AT LANE COVE
- 04 MAYOR BENNISON (FAR LEFT) WITH POETS AND LIBRARY STAFF
- 05 LIBRARY MANAGER JENNIFER BICE WITH MAYOR BENNISON

understanding of social issues. The group started off with six members in April 2011, and now has 22 members; and the publication has sparked interest about developing another Writer's in Residence program.

KAREN MITCHELL
 Lane Cove Library



/01



/02



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Reaching out at Wagga Wagga



/01



/02



/03

- 01 GOOD WILL DAY AT WAGGA
- 02 HENTY FIELD DAY
- 03 BREAST CANCER TALK

New partnerships have led to new books, new members and great fun! The Good Will Day in August was a partnership with the South West Slopes Law Society and Wagga Wagga City Library. President of the Society, Maggie Orman, has become a regular presenter of legal talks for the library and she provided participants with the opportunity for brief one on one sessions after the formal talk. What a fabulous free service.

Going to the Henty Field Days was my favourite, fun thing to do to spread the word about Finding Legal Answers at your local library. Henty Field Days is a huge event in our region where a town literally appears in the middle of paddocks. The Wagga Wagga Cooperative Legal Service Delivery (CLSD) group, of which I became aware at my first LIAC Forum, consists of a large group of legal service providers including Legal Aid, family support services, gambling counsellors, tenants' advice services and many others. This year we all got together and had a tent in a prime position providing brochures and promotional materials for our various services. The resources flew out of the tent.

Our most recent partnership is with the Wagga Breast Cancer Group and for Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October we held an interactive, fun filled session launching our new breast cancer books and videos. The funds for the resources were donated by another local community group, Sunrise Wagga Rotary Club. Local McGrath Breast Care Nurse, Sue Munro, made the awareness-raising session an event to remember with lots of activities for the participants to enjoy. Don't you love this age of social media where our promotional activities on Facebook led to a tweet directly from the McGrath Foundation sending their best wishes for the event. (Our Facebook account is linked to our Twitter account).

With the construction of our new Community Learning Space underway we are developing many new partnerships for even more diverse programming. With events like the Multicultural Street Festival directly outside the library last weekend and the upcoming Farmers Market and Library Book Sale, Wagga Wagga City Library is expanding its role as a vibrant, community hub. Public libraries are definitely fun filled places to work. On any day you may be handling baby crocodiles or snakes, taking up the sword for fencing lessons or even congregating at the local pub enjoying Poetry Slam. Still not convinced? Go to the Waggawiz channel on YouTube and watch our latest video *We Believe in Reading*.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/waggawiz>

MARGOT LUMLEY
Wagga Wagga City Library

POETRY AT THE PUB

Wagga Wagga City Library proudly presented the Wagga regional finals heat of the Australian Poetry Slam 2012 at local pub, the Home Tavern Hotel. Nine poets, hip-hop artists and wordsmiths performed to an appreciative crowd of 70 people. The performances ranged from cutting comments on socio-political issues, to beautifully crafted worlds and landscapes, to the downright cheeky and humorous. The event enabled local artists to perform their original work with the winner and runner-up given the opportunity to face a live audience at the NSW state final in Sydney. This is the fifth annual event and was sponsored by the Friends of the Library who provide financial assistance to the travel costs of the two local winners to travel to the state finals.

JESSICA BROWN
Wagga Wagga City Library

TV CAMPAIGN

It's not quite Saatchi and Saatchi or Gruen transfer quality, but you might be surprised how easy it was to develop an ongoing television advertising campaign for Wagga Wagga City Library. The brief: to promote one of council's busiest facilities to the library's non-user audience and to build on the 17.8% increase in door traffic (191,904) last financial year. Library staff had already developed a loyal following through successful posts on Facebook and Twitter, a monthly radio spot, and a regular full page column in the local newspaper every second Saturday. But where were the other audiences we were trying to reach? Free to air television. A great medium for clear concise messages with local images and the library tagline *It's your library* in every advertisement.

The process - after meeting with the two regional commercial TV stations and interviewing designers we settled on a local company called Treestump and selected Prime TV as the host station. The library's services and programs were broken into basic themes across two 30 second commercials and five 15 second commercials. Professional voiceovers and images were changed in each ad to promote a lively and upbeat message to reach the diverse groups in our community. The ads were road tested along the way to see if they were on track. The production costs were covered in the programming budget in the previous financial year, and the Friends of the Library paid for the air time in the first three week campaign in October. The original plan was to create a commercial for the National Year of Reading campaign but we decided on a more sustainable approach so that the commercials would remain relevant across the next 12 to 18 months.

The outcome: did the campaign work? The seven commercials were shown across all timeslots in the initial campaign. It is early days but there have many been new members saying they saw the ad and that's why they wanted to join the library. The commercials are owned by the library and can be aired on any television station. Some of them are also on the library's website and Facebook pages. The ads will be rescheduled throughout the year and the template format means that we can drop in new messages and images to keep them fresh and to encourage the community to check out the best free service in town. After all *It's your library!*

CLAIRE CAMPBELL
Wagga Wagga City Library

What's new at Bankstown

Borrowing from Bankstown City Council's branch libraries is set to become even faster with the introduction of the latest Smart Tag technology from FE Technologies. Library members don't need to wait for a librarian to check materials out for them; so long queues will be a thing of the past. The libraries are now using the Smart Library Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system and people can simply do it themselves at the self serve kiosks we have installed at Panania, Padstow, Greenacre and Bankstown libraries. The patron self check out computer will issue a receipt and also allow for DVDs to be unlocked after being borrowed. Patrons will also see a notification for items they have reserved and which are waiting to be collected. As a result of these changes, library staff are able to spend more time helping people find the answers to their assignment questions, provide the best resources for homework, locate the latest great read, and help with Roving Reference service using the team iPads. Library users have noticed already that they can borrow several library items at the same time so the loan process is much faster than waiting for library staff to scan the barcode of each item one at a time. Returns have been improved as the libraries have installed secure patron smart returns service – the system is activated by placing items against the returns faceplate, so borrowers can return all their items at once, into the secure returns bin. The Smart Library Returns service will automatically return the items from the patron card at the point of return, rather than having to wait for staff to become available to process individual returns. Patrons have found that their DVDs have been returned off their library card by the time they come to borrow at the self check kiosk.

The stock conversion to RFID Smart tags started with Chester Hill Library in July and was completed at Bankstown in October. While a limited RFID system is installed at Bankstown for testing by staff and patrons, the full installation will be undertaken in the new Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre due for completion in July 2013 with a five bin automatic sorter and a secure overnight returns service. The Chester Hill refurbished library will also be RFID enabled as it undergoes refurbishment.

The self-service extends to smart shelves for the collection of reservations so borrowers can also place a reservation via the library online catalogue, receive an automatic notification and collect from the smart shelves in no time at all. On top of these improvements, residents will no longer be affected by the temporary closure of libraries for stocktake; as items will be able to be scanned while they are on the shelves with a hand-held inventory reader.

Library staff at Greenacre Library used an iPad to make a video on how to use the patrons' self check kiosks as a training tool for library staff and are working on a video for patrons as well.

Work is expected to start on the \$1.4 million redevelopment of Chester Hill Library in January 2013 for a six month building project. The current facility was built in 1958 as an L-shaped building, and later expanded in 1979 and 2003. In 1979 the internal courtyard was created and in 2003 a parents' room and accessible toilet were added to the main building. As a result of an increased demand for more efficient and better services, together with maintenance problems due to the age of the building, Council has decided to refurbish and extend the facility. The objectives of the project are: to increase the library floor space to cope with growing local community demand; to create four new group study rooms that can be reconfigured into two larger meeting rooms; provide a new children's library area, additional public computers and a new amenities area. The original courtyard which has been problematic to maintain satisfactorily will be upgraded and sustainable maintenance practices developed for this area, together with a new air-conditioning unit and new roof. ESD measures include photovoltaic cells, additional rainwater tanks, improved performance lighting and new and more efficient air-conditioning. A temporary library service will be provided from the Chester Hill Community Centre from 21 January 2013.

Bankstown's thousands of library patrons now have the opportunity to download the hottest music for free straight to their smartphones. Library patrons can download three free music tracks every week. All patrons need is their library card and PIN to set up a free account to access around three million MP3 songs from the Sony Music Catalogue. These are free to keep and free of Digital Rights Management restrictions because the library has already purchased these rights. If patrons have an Apple device (iPhone/iPad/iTouch), they will be able to download the eMusic Freegal App by doing a search for Freegal Music in the App Store. For patrons with an Android phone or tablet, they will be able to search for Freegal Music in the Google Play store. Freegal is Bankstown City Council's partner in providing the downloadable digital music service from the library eServices portal at www.library.bankstown.nsw.gov.au

Our Mayor has been particularly supporting of the virtual library and is a keen user of our eAudio and eMusic services.

ROBYN OWENS
Bankstown Library

Book Week 2012

BANKSTOWN

More than 3,700 children from 50 primary schools attended the 21 invitation-only author/illustrator talks at Bankstown libraries. Well known Australian children's author/illustrators, Jacqueline Harvey, Frances Watts, Moya Simons, James Roy, Wayne Harris, Jo Oliver and Lisa Shannahan visited Bankstown, Chester Hill, Greenacre, Padstow or Panania libraries.

Book Week raises awareness of the high quality of Australian children's literature and promotes reading and literacy in Bankstown schools. Identified as a major event in the 2012-2013 Library Business Plan for children's and youth services, Children's Book Week provides an ideal opportunity to promote library services and collections, awareness of quality children's literature, as well as encouraging reading in the Bankstown community during the whole month of August.

To celebrate Children's Book Week, children from primary schools located across the Bankstown local government area were invited to attend author/illustrator talks at their local library. Schools were also offered the option of having the author or illustrator visit their school with a library staff member. Each session provided children with the unique opportunity to meet and interact with an Australian children's author or illustrator.

In addition, library staff visited local primary schools to promote Children's Book Week. Addressing students at school assemblies was an ideal opportunity to promote the shortlisted books and competitions, and inform children of the library's services and resources. Most importantly, primary schools not within walking distance to the library were able to participate in Book Week activities. The official Book Week runs for one week, however in order to accommodate the large range of activities and participants, Bankstown Libraries run their Book Week celebrations over a three week period.

The class visits were opened to older primary school children this year, based on feedback received from the children's staff and team leaders. Some of the branches chose to cater for a larger range of age groups up to year 5, while others only catered to kindergarten. The guessing competitions and schools competition were once again very popular with many entries being received and a presentation of prizes by the Mayor well attended.

Four staff members attended the Pre-Book Week Extravaganza held at the State Library of NSW in June 2012, and came back with resources and

presentation ideas for our own library service. Bankstown library also played an active part on the organisation committee for the Pre-Book Week Extravaganza, as well as presenting ideas on the day.

ROBYN OWENS
Bankstown Library

BATHURST

The Walker Books Bear came along to Bathurst Library as part of our Children's Book Week Celebrations for 2012. We had both school groups and public groups attend special storytime sessions throughout the week. The sessions included readings of the CBCA shortlist as well as a few Walker and 'Bear themed stories. We also took the children on a Bear Hunt and then they each had a chance to meet Walker Bear himself. Throughout the week we had 500 children and parents attend sessions. Our local books store, BooksPlus ABC Centre, sponsored our sessions covering Walker Bear's transport costs and supplying prizes for a colouring competition.

NATALIE CONN
Bathurst Library

HORNSBY

Anyone visiting Hornsby Library on Saturday 25th August would have been in for a big surprise. No, it wasn't the Teddy Bears Picnic but it was our Gala Day where the library stayed open until 7pm in celebration of Reading Hour and the end of Book Week. Children were invited to come as their favourite book character and Library staff got into the mood by dressing as characters from Alice in Wonderland.

The fun started at 4pm with a demonstration by students from Kumon and an opportunity for parents and children to come in and settle down with their chosen books. At 5pm there was a concert, *And the winner is...* based around the Book Week winning titles and at 6pm staff brought out refreshments and people settled in for Reading Hour. Between 4pm and 7pm we had over 600 people through the door and those who weren't participating in the activities were able to browse the shelves and borrow as usual. Lucky draw prizes were drawn every hour for book vouchers and the overall prize of an ereader. Exhausted staff and parents left the library after a fabulous afternoon and evening of reading and entertainment.

CYNTHIA METHVEN
Hornsby Library



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01 WALKER BEAR AT
BATHURST
02 ALICE IN HORNSBY!



/01



/02

01 THE WILD THINGS AT KU RING GAI
02 BOOK WEEK TEAM AT MAITLAND

KU RING GAI

Our always exciting annual Book Week performance in August drew classes of children from Gordon East Public School, Ravenswood School for girls, Gordon West Public School, Warrawee Public School, Highfields Preparatory and Kindergarten School, K U Bradfield Park Children's Centre and Gordon Community Preschool. The children who attended these sessions held across the branches were entertained with stories, puppet theatre and games based on short listed CBCA titles - *Bus called Heaven, Hug, No Bears and Come Down Cat*. It was a lively and interactive show where friendly bears, prowling cats, staff in pyjamas and adventurous Vikings came to play! We had a lot of fun and we look forward to an extended three weeks of celebration in 2013 due to increased demand.

SHOBA ABRAHAM
Ku-ring-gai Library

MAITLAND

Inspired by attendance at the State Library NSW Book Week Extravaganza, Maitland City Library formed a Book Week team combining 2 branch staff and 2 Programs team staff. The Book Week team prepared two presentations using the Shortlisted CBCA books, one aimed at K to 3, and one for years 4 to 6.

The team brought *Rudie Nudie, Come Down Cat, Dream of the Thylacine* and *No Bears* to life. They encouraged audience participation through the use of actions, signs, questions and competitions. In the case of *No Bears*, they even recreated the story, complete with princess, bear and monster!

The Book Week team delivered their performances in branch libraries and at local schools to thunderous applause and positive feedback. There were 17 performances overall, to a total of 1710 delighted children, teachers and parents. The Book Week team must have made a lasting impression, as staff are still being recognised for their performances months later.

The team are already planning creative activities and adaptations for next year's theme *Read across the universe*. Bring on Book Week 2013!

REBECCA LANE
Maitland City Library

PARRAMATTA

Constitution Hill Branch Library hosted Book Week on Tuesday 21 August 2012. 160 children from Toongabbie East Primary School, Toongabbie Public School and our regular Storytime children joined us for the Book Week interactive storytime presentation.

The Last Viking, saw a Viking fight his way through the crowd; everyone hugged each other while reading *The Runaway Hug*; a bear was not allowed into the library when we read *No Bears* and a cat purrrred her way into the library when the staff read *Come down Cat*.

The 160 children all sang *We Are The Champions* while having a great time listening, singing and laughing to their favourite Book Week titles. A big thankyou to our children's staff - Anne, Snjezana, Hiba and Minh - you are all very talented and you are all CHAMPIONS!!!

JO BERTONCELJ, NADA ANTOUN & ZHORIK TERRAZZOLO
Constitution Hill Library

Children's Book Week at Parramatta City Library saw the travelling Book Week Children's team visit every branch bringing characters alive from the CBCA Early Childhood Shortlist for 2012. Paint Parra REAd mascot RedSee the Readasaurus was there to remind kids about reading and early literacy as well as to sing and read to children. Kids were enthralled as the children's librarians enacted scenes from *The Last Viking*; didn't want to give back their very last hug while listening to *The runaway hug*, and anxiously curious about whether the cat would ever come down from the roof (*Come down, cat!*). They jumped and laughed and giggled with *Rudie Nudie* and the floating bubbles.

Deborah Abela wowed us with her funny stories, taking us on a journey of reading and writing. The children were enthused and all were super excited to get writing and reading themselves. She relived experiences with her Grandma who saw ghosts to her pre-writing days working on children's TV. Her enigmatic character resonated well with the students and they all had a blast. All the children were also thrilled by the goodies bag. Teachers commented that this year's program was outstanding and were keen to be involved in more from the library. Parramatta Public, St Patricks Primary School and Rose Hill Public School students enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

HIBA KANJ
Parramatta City Library

QUEANBEYAN

The new three storey Queanbeyan Library opened its doors for the first time to celebrate Children's Book Week with several local sporting champions making guest appearances each day. Nearly 2000 local pre-school and Infants' year children walked or travelled by bus for an hour long session of stories and games in our large Activity Room which occupies the whole lower level of the library building. They particularly enjoyed spelling their names in a race around the alphabetical red carpet tiles.

All the local schools were invited to create a banner depicting our CHAMPIONS READ theme. These were attached to our Activity Room windows facing outwards to the car park and pathway to make a colourful, eye-catching display for everyone visiting the new library.

Some children were fortunate to attend the session with local champion, Megan Still, who won a gold medal for rowing at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games. Megan presented one of our sessions to the children from the Queanbeyan School which she once attended. Her youngest child, who attends the school was in one of these sessions and all the children really enjoyed competing against Megan in several novelty games and looking at her Olympic medal and the Olympic torch which she carried for the subsequent Olympics.

Each child received an original ten page Champions Read activity magazine and bookmark designed by library staff. They also received a fruity Olympic ring lolly from our book cauldron to enjoy during their return to school.

A lively, enjoyable time was had by all!!

LYNETTE SEBBENS
Queanbeyan Library

SHOALHAVEN

Our super talented staff entertained infants and preschoolers from Nowra with our all-singing, all-dancing Readers Theatre. We also went on the road, visiting local and outlying schools with our Readers' Theatre Roadshow. This is not only a really fun thing to do, but it's also a great service to those schools that simply can't afford a bus into town.

Primary students were involved in our Fun & Fiction and Books & More sessions. Students from years three to six played Book Week games in our library stadium. This year, we played lots of new games (thanks to the Book Week Extravaganza) and had loads of fun.

This year, to tie in with our theme, a Champions Morning was held to celebrate some of our local sporting champions. Year six students listened to 96 year old Master's Games swimmer Jack Mathieson, Los Angeles Olympians Merv Bennett and Karen Higginson, Oceania Judo Champion Tinka Easton, and Blind Lawn Bowls Champion Deb Waddell talk about their achievements and what it takes to be a champion.

What an amazing week - with over 1300 kids visiting the library to share a love of books and reading. We truly are the Champions!

JESSICA GREEN
Shoalhaven Libraries

SUTHERLAND

This year Sutherland Shire Libraries launched Book Week using the theme Champions Read. Colin Best and Mark Taufua, first grade rugby league players from the Cronulla Sharks came to our Monday night storytime. Mark read the winning early childhood title *The Runaway Hug* and with two minutes preparation time read the story brilliantly. Colin Best was challenged with the task of reading *Rudie Nudie*, he held it together and read beautifully whilst a cheeky *Rudie Nudie* pranced around him! Check out the photos on our Flickr site: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/suthlib>.

About 75 kids and parents came to see the players and welcomed them with a great rendition of the Cronulla Sharks song. It was a great night and we hope that the Cronulla Sharks will be happy to visit us again.

MELINDA MCNAUGHTON
Sutherland Shire Libraries



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03 MEGAN AND MEDAL
04 SHARKS READ!

01 CHAMPIONS READ!
02 WARRAWONG
READING CHAMPIONS

WOLLONDILLY

In celebration of Children's Book Week, staff from Wollondilly Library and Information Service took their *Book Week Fun and Games* to twelve schools and 2277 students throughout the Wollondilly Shire.

Students and teachers alike were entertained with skits from the shortlisted books:

- *Come Down, Cat!* By Sonia Hartnett and Lucia Masciullo,
- *No Bears* by Meg McKinlay and Leila Rudge, and
- *Rudie Nudie* by Emma Quay.

They also learnt all about the shortlisted books by playing games such as *What's in the Bus* based on *A Bus called Heaven* by Bob Graham: translated ancient Rune script based on *The Last Viking* by Norman Jorgensen and James Foley, and created their very own Through the Golden Door stories, which we have published on our website, to celebrate *The Golden Door* by Emily Rodda.

GEORGINA KONSTANTA
Wollondilly Library and Information Service



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WOLLONGONG

This year's Book Week was an amazing time for staff and children at Wollongong City Libraries. Branches started the week with some fantastic displays to draw children into the fabulous world of reading. This year our libraries held many activities and a reading competition. We invited several guest speakers and performers to celebrate a very special NYOR 2012 Book Week.

Toddlers and pre-schoolers enjoyed a Bilingual Storytime, with stories and songs in Mandarin and English, and special Book Week storytimes were held at all library locations. Staff and children dressed up as their favourite book characters and children had the opportunity to pose for a photo on Olympic style podiums holding their favourite Book Week title. Staff entertained visiting school classes with activities related to the short listed titles and this year's theme Champions Read.

Visitors during the week included award winning Illawarra author Bill Condon whose book *A straight line to my heart* was one of this years CBCA short listed titles. Bill spoke at Thirroul library to members of the community and local high school students.

Wollongong Botanic Gardens' Theatre in a Barrow visited with performances of two of their shows *Bill and Ben and the Talking Tree* and *The Botanical Mechanicals* throughout the week.

Poet and author Steven Herrick visited Warrawong Library to speak to a group of primary school students.

Children who visited the various activities during the week were given a promotional library bag packed with information, balloons and activities that extended the book week experience. Over 2,250 children attended across seven library locations during the week. The highlight for all was engaging with the children and watching their delight as the stories unfolded.

PETA MOSS
Wollongong

In the Libraries

WHAT'S ON AT COFFS HARBOUR

We've been busy with system upgrades, a swag of public events and activities and working on a strategic plan for our library service, which included a community survey and several workshops with various stakeholder groups. Over 760 people completed the survey, which provided valuable feedback for the project. We're now beginning implementation of the recommendations.

We ran an anime workshop in Youth Week, engaged a local community theatre group to perform readings on Shakespeare Day and had author talks by Bronwyn Rodden, Karly Lane and Katherine Howell. Law week events included sessions for Legal Studies students, with speakers from the various sectors of law and justice, and a community information session by a local lawyer on neighbours and the law ... always a popular topic! Library Week was celebrated with a special evening with fantasy writer Ian Irvine, who also judged our youth writing competition with the winners announced on the night. Our National Simultaneous Storytime event at Coffs Harbour Library was well attended and we also promoted our services via a stall at the local city centre growers' market. One of our team members, Judy Atkinson, coordinated what has now become a tradition - celebrating Library Technicians' Day with breakfast at one of our local cafes. Lots of library staff in the local area had a great morning at the Coffs Harbour Surf Club Café.

ENZO ACCADIA
Coffs Harbour

DISPLAY TIME!

Multiple display areas, plain walls, open spaces, glass display cabinets and a long central corridor can be challenging when organising displays within a library. However, staff at Swansea Library have been able to overcome these challenges with forward planning and establishing close working relationships with local residents, community groups, and organisations.

Close partnership with Tenison Apartments Aged Care Facility has resulted in Swansea Library being host to numerous colourful displays including Christmas artworks; What you mean to me; Mothers; and Nonsense Rhymes, to name but a few, all created by the aged residents with guidance from their Lifestyle Coordinator.



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A plain white wall in a large open area at the back of the library has been transformed into a mini art gallery. A local artist, who is also an avid reader, has kindly allowed Swansea Library to display a selection of her artworks. As book covers have inspired many of these paintings, they have formed a delightful backdrop for National Year of Reading activities.

Swansea Men's Shed and Newcastle Embroiderers Guild have continued a yearly tradition of utilising our glass display cabinets to showcase the wonderful handiwork of their members. In addition, one of our Library Assistants, affectionately known as Nana Sue, has delighted adults and children alike with her rotating display of curiosities in the glass display cabinet near the front of the library.

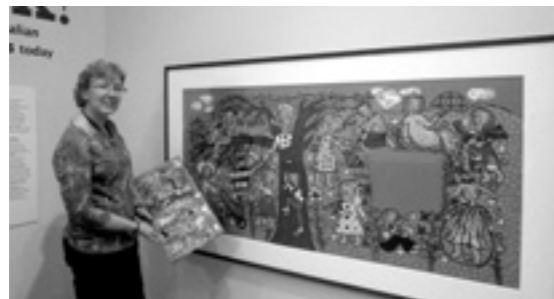
Other displays we have hosted have been totem poles created by young people for Lake Macquarie Youth Week Humanities Festival; Museum in a Box, an interactive display provided by the Australian Museum; and a pirate display created by two students who are currently undertaking Certificate III in Library and Information Science through Newcastle TAFE.

NATALIE KOZARY
Lake Macquarie City Library

01 BREAKFAST TIME
02 LAW WEEK AT
COFFS HARBOUR

In the Libraries

01 LOOK! AT MURWILLUMBAH
02 GIZMO GROTTTO



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ART GALLERY AND LIBRARY COLLABORATION

Look! The art of Australian picture books today, a touring exhibition created by the State Library of Victoria, came to the Tweed River Art Gallery in August and September this year. The exhibition consisted of 112 artworks, sketches and draft illustrations from Australian artists and illustrators such as Bob Graham, Ann James, Shaun Tan and Graeme Base. The exhibition opened on 17 August and ran until 29 September. As well as the artworks on display, which were hung at a lower level so that the children could appreciate them, the gallery also had a reading corner with all of the featured books, where parents and children could sit and read.

Anouk Beck, Public Programs Curator at the gallery, approached Murwillumbah Library staff to see if there was a way that the public library could be involved in this project. This was a great opportunity to create a partnership between two different Tweed Shire Council cultural program areas. The library came on board by providing two storytime sessions in the gallery foyer, reading books

that were featured in the exhibition and conducting a related craft activity. The first session was aimed at preschoolers whilst the second session was held in the school holidays to appeal to the older children.

The program was well received by all who participated, and the library's experience in running previous literacy programs will be utilised in further community partnerships. Murwillumbah library staff look forward to working with the Tweed River Art Gallery on future projects with perhaps the library having more involvement and greater input during the planning stage.

LINDA BELL
Murwillumbah Library

GIZMO GROTTTO

After the public libraries' conference at Port Stephens, one thing that I took back to my library was the idea of a technology corner for staff. As an older member of library staff I frequently saw how younger staff so naturally and instinctively use their iPhones, smartphones and iPods. I come from a time when libraries had catalogue cards and typewriters, and PCs were a thing of the future (as one of my lecturers once commented) and yes, I am dating myself! I was almost resigned to letting all this technology pass me by, but this was my opportunity to keep up ... sort of.

I was really 'buzzed' by this idea. As a person who is not tech-savvy, I felt challenged by the opportunity to use the 'new' technology, and keen to give it a go. Fortunately, my Library Manager also embraced the idea and so the Gizmo Grotto (named for the Gremlin) was born. We have a nice little nook in the workroom that was just right for the project. After enlisting 20 year old staff member, Rohan, as our resident 'techguru', we went shopping. Off to the local computer store - *we'll have an ipod, an eReader, an ipad, two android tablets* - this is fun. We brought our goodies back and then things really began to happen.

The 'grotto' is used for practising downloading audio and eBooks, learning how to use the NSW.net statewide databases, and just for playing with the new technology. Things were a little slow to start with, but we now roster staff to this area for an hour a week, allowing them time to experiment and learn. I'm impressed by the way staff have embraced this opportunity with Rohan acting as hands-on tutor as required.

It has taken some time for some people to 'warm' to the technology, but we are getting there and it's now not quite so intimidating if a member of the public comes in to the library seeking assistance in how to log on to the library's wireless connection, borrow ebooks or whatever.

BETH HALL
Bathurst Library

BEGA KNITTED GARDEN

The Bega Valley was blooming in September to celebrate the National Year of Reading's theme of 'grow'. Based on a concept from the Natty Knitters of Griffith, we had a knitted garden growing in each of the Shire's libraries. A knitted garden is a garden display made of knitted, crocheted or felted flowers, plants or other garden elements. Each of the libraries developed their own distinctive garden. The community at Bermagui Library wanted to create a sea garden which fitted in perfectly with their coastal location; the Bega community knitted a more traditional flower garden, complete with a knitted apple tree; Eden created a garden party and the Merimbula library community crafted a garden wall hanging and a hanging Octopus's Garden.

Everyone was welcome to add knitted, crocheted or even felted creations to the gardens at their local library and library staff made the most of the opportunity to promote resources on knitting, crocheting and felting.

Planning for the knitted gardens started a few months in advance with visits to local craft groups to stimulate community interest. All the craft groups were very enthusiastic and it gave them an opportunity to promote themselves as well.

LINDA ALBERTSON
Bega Valley Shire Library

WRAP UP

This year saw more novice and experienced knitters join the Lalor Park Branch Library Knitting Group, which meets on Mondays during the winter months to knit squares for the 702 ABC Radio *t*, in support of Wrap With Love. The Wrap with Love organisation creates colourful wraps for communities in need around the world and Lalor Park Knitting Group's 2012 contribution was 86 colourful blankets. The increased participation and productivity of the group

was 20% higher than last year. The group celebrated their achievements at a meeting on 30 July where participants indulged in morning tea and received a certificate and gift.

DHARSHINI PERERA
Blacktown City Libraries

NEWS FROM BLAND

Bland Shire Libraries Knit and Natter program commenced in April 2012 and has grown to be a very successful program. The aim was to promote the library to a group of people that would not generally use the library service; to encourage social knitting in the library, and at the same time introduce them to the resources and other programs that we provide. It has worked extremely well and the group has gone from meeting for one hour once a fortnight to meeting for a full day once a fortnight. We have continued with the same formula of bringing out relevant books, DVDs and magazines that would appeal to the group as well as providing tea and coffee.

The group has involved itself with the Wrap with Love program; and two of the members have already raced ahead and knitted complete rugs. The group has enough squares to complete another two rugs for Wrap with Love. The community has been very generous and even those that don't attend the group, have been knitting squares and dropping off donations of wool. The group is knitting for other charities and their next major project is to knit a rug that can be used by a local charity as a Christmas raffle prize.

The third weekend in October, West Wyalong was transformed from a country town to a cosmopolitan French city! A range of events was held over the weekend and the library was fortunate to secure Mary Moody, who ran a writing workshop on the Saturday morning. Mary kept the audience enthralled, discussing her life story as well as giving practical tips of how to get started on the writing journey. It was a great turn out, with a mixture of teenagers wanting to become authors as well as the more mature who were curious to start on a new journey.

JOANNE RUSSO
Bland Shire Library



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/04



/05

03 SEA GARDEN AT BERMIE

04 TEA PARTY AT EDEN

05 WRAP AT BLACKTOWN

In the Libraries

WYONG NEWS

Wyong Shire introduced RFID to its branches in June this year. This is a very important step in our move towards a concierge format of library service that involves removing staff from behind the desk and having them out and about helping our patrons. Prior to its introduction all branches had to undergo a major weeding of stock (no point tagging items that should be deselected anyway!) as well as minor refurbishments to ensure the self checkouts (or loans stations as we prefer to call them) and security gates fitted in smoothly.

We also had a media push to highlight the fact the technology was there to assist our customers to make their library visits as seamless as possible. Of course, there have been glitches, as with the introduction of any new technology, but we have an overall service wide uptake rate of approximately 70% of loans at the loans stations. And it is still very early days! Staff are 'out and about' meeting customers and helping them with their information needs. We have been touched by the number of people who did not want to use the machines for fear of library staff losing their positions, but upon reassurances that that was not the case, even the most ardent Luddite has come around!

We were fortunate to have Gail Davis from NSW State Records talk at Tuggerah Library during Family History Week. Gail's discussion on 'Using Probate, Wills and Coroner's Records in your Family History Research' was not only informative but fascinating. Her knowledge is amazing and her enthusiasm for records and research is contagious. As usual we had to turn many people away and the event was booked out in advance.

Self professed genealogy blogger and speaker Jill Ball spoke to library patrons about how they could use social media in their family history research. The use of Facebook, Twitter, blogging and Flickr can not only connect you with other likeminded researchers but can put your family story out there. We had enormous interest in this subject and many people who had been sceptical at first left the talk full of enthusiasm and wondering how social media can enhance their world!

Wyong Shire subscribes to the *Find my Past* database which can be accessed at any branch. Emma Kelly from *Find my Past* ventured to Toukley Library to discuss how to use the Australian version of this ever growing database as well as reveal what records are planned to be released over the next 12 months. All participants agreed they discovered many new things about the database they had not previously

known and were happy to swap research stories when the talk was ended.

Warren Fahey is a cultural historian, author and performer who came to Tuggerah Library in August. Warren's stories deal with the Australian identity from convict times to present day. He can also sing up a storm! Patrons came out of the event full of praise for this event.

Keith Whelan returned to Tuggerah Library for another one of his successful 'What's the craic?' talks on all things Ireland. This time he brought a troop of Irish dancers and a three piece band accompanied them as they jiggged their way around the library. Morning tea of home made soda bread and a display of authentic Irish items as well as a selection of Irish books, films and music for loan made the event a great success.

Our free Centrelink financial seminars continued with Toukley Library holding 'Understanding your Pension'. These seminars are very successful and are always well attended. Staff had to squeeze extra chairs into the meeting room as more people turned up on the day, but everyone said it was very informative and that more seminars are required.

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Wyong Shire Library Service

CITY TO SURF



Staff from Wollondilly Library and Information Service helped to spread the word and highlight the National Year of Reading by participating in the City to Surf 2012. Wearing their commemorative NYR t-shirts the team completed the race in two hours and 28 minutes.

GEORGINA KONSTANTA
Wollondilly Library and Information Service

Fantastic effort, guys! Editor

PINNING HISTORY AT CESSNOCK

Cessnock City Library has begun adding photographs from our Local History Collection to Historypin. The library has been working hard to digitise our collection of historically significant photographs, and currently have over 1350 added to our online catalogue. We have been looking for ways to increase the visibility of these photos and felt that Historypin was a natural choice. So far we have created two collections focusing on the beautiful old buildings of the area. These collections include our two local hospitals, and our numerous old hotels dating back to the late 1800s and early 1900s. Historypin also allows us to show a then and now view by overlaying our historical photos with current Google StreetViews. We are hoping that the increased exposure will encourage people to bring in photos of the area that they may have so that we can digitise them and preserve them for the future. Historypin also allows people to add any information that they know about the photographs, and hopefully fill in some blanks for the library.

ANDREW POWELL
Cessnock Library

TEN GREATEST

After much anticipation Great Lakes Library announced their Ten Greatest Australian Books of All Time (and the Three Greatest Children's Books of All Time) at a gala evening in September. Around 60 people attended, with good representation from local book clubs. A panel, comprising the editor of the local paper, a local book shop owner, a long-term book club member and reader and I, had pre-read all the titles and discussed them as they were reviewed. It's fair to say that there was a good amount of excitement as each title was revealed and plenty of healthy debate over the entries. When the dust selected and the thousands of votes had been tallied the winners were:

Children's/Youth

1. *Possum Magic* by Mem Fox (a runaway winner)
2. *The Magic Pudding* by Norman Lindsay
3. *Tomorrow When the War Began* by John Marsden
4. *Snugglepot and Cuddlepie* by May Gibbs

And yes, like Douglas Adam's five-book trilogy we did squeeze four books into the top three! This was because all four were way ahead of the rest of the pack and there was only a vote or two between third and fourth.

Adults

1. *Cloudstreet* by Tim Winton (by a fair margin)
2. *The Harp in the South* by Ruth Park
3. *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak
4. *A Fortunate Life* by A.B. Facey
5. *My Brilliant Career* by Miles Franklin
6. *Secret River* by Kate Grenville
7. *My Place* by Sally Morgan
8. *For the Term of His Natural Life* by Marcus Clarke
9. *Picnic at Hanging Rock* by Joan Lindsay
10. *The Thornbirds* by Colleen McCullough

There were many lessons we've learned along the way to make this sort of thing a success but this article is long enough already. If you are interested in finding out any more please contact us directly. And if you're unsure whether to do something like this - don't be. It's a bundle of fun, the community love it and if it was easy to do one annually it would be my number one choice for an adult event every time.

CHRIS JONES
Great Lakes Library

NEWS FROM GREAT LAKES

In conjunction with planning a makeover of our front-of-library area (thanks to a grant from the State Library) Forster Library has also undergone a fairly dramatic workroom facelift - the first since we opened our doors over twenty years ago (and workroom furniture and design has come a long way since then). We've now got new carpet, new system furniture and a totally new arrangement for staff desks. Next time you're up our way check out the new layout. Not only has it made the place look a million dollars and improved workflow efficiencies it actually makes the workroom feel bigger. We are hoping to create the same sort of TARDIS effect in the public space next.

Sometimes you just have to wonder what makes one event successful and another a flop. Our minimum benchmark is about thirty people; any less and we start to question whether or not we should be heading down this track. Nowadays we're a bit coy about author talks, unless they've got a good following, or another organisation is partnering with us. But just recently, we discovered a sure-fire hit. Start with a local author, who is well respected in the community. Second, add in a smaller community that truly values their own, and third, make the story a fascinating one. In September the staff at Tea Gardens Library held an author talk by local

In the Libraries

doctor, Kooshyar Karimi. Dr Karimi had written a book, entitled *I Confess: Revelations in Exile*. In it he tells about his experience of being kidnapped by the Islamic Intelligence Service and being forced to choose between spying on his own people or being tortured to death. So how did it go? Bear in mind that we are working with a population of about 3,000 people and that we offered no more than a seat and an hour or so of Doctor Karimi's time to talk about his experiences. 50 seemed like a good starting point and we would have been happy with that. As time approached we decided to be a bit more optimistic and planned for up to 100. In the end staff stopped counting at 180. We ran out of seats and people were sprawled on the footpath! It was the biggest stand-alone author talk we have ever put on and an absolute thrill to be part of.

So, keep it local, keep it notable, keep it interesting, tap into the smaller communities and then stand back and wait for the crowds.

Ever thought about holding a trivia night for the library? Probably at least half of you will shudder at the thought, but with the right players involved it can be highly successful, a great night, raise some funds and give you plenty of profile in the community. We now hold two trivia nights a year, one at Forster and one at Tea Gardens. Both draw really good crowds. Now, a trivia night can be a fair bit of work if you're doing it on your own but this is where our wonderful Friends group, FOGLLS, comes into the mix. The FOGLLS develop the questions, do the marking on the night, help set up, promote the event, and source the prizes. Essentially, it is their event and all we really need to do is supply an MC (me), a sound system, a spot in the newsletter and on the website and a bit of last minute labour. It's really not that much effort. I think we've been running these trivia nights for over ten years now and FOGLLS have pretty much come up with a winning combination. If you're interested in any tips on how make sure the participants have a great night (and I've been to my share of trivia nights that were turgid affairs) then drop us a line.

CHRIS JONES
Great Lakes Library



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LIZ HARFULL

We celebrated the National Year of Reading and the National Year of the Farmer at the Tumut Library with award winning author Liz Harfull. Liz presented an afternoon session on her new book, *Women of the Land*, which hit the national bestseller list for non-fiction shortly after its launch earlier this year. It was a fascinating insight into how Liz was asked by Allen & Unwin publishers to write the book and how she went about finding, selecting and researching the stories included. Among the eight women from across Australia featured in the book is Tumut Shire beef cattle producer, Susie Chisholm. Susie was raised in the eastern suburbs of Sydney, after her mother died when she was only a small child. *She married a lawyer and raised three children, then she met and fell passionately in love with a Northern Territory cattleman, said Liz. They ended up marrying and setting up a cattle enterprise near Adelong, but only a few years later Tony died of cancer. In her grief, Susie threw herself into the farm and today is recognised as one of Australia's top cattle producers, producing elite Angus cattle. It is both a great love story and a story of enormous courage and determination.*

The afternoon tea discussion period provided the ideal opportunity for those who attended to regale Liz with various country tales from their own lives. Liz finished the afternoon with a number of local stories and contacts to follow up on for her research. She is currently working on a follow-up to the best-seller, as well as a national version of *The Blue Ribbon Cookbook*, which will include stories and recipes from prize-winning country show cooks in NSW.

KRISTIN TWOMEY
Tumut Library



/02

WRITERS AT LAKE MAC

Julie Goodwin, Australia's first MasterChef entertained us with anecdotes about her time on the reality TV show, life after MasterChef and juggling the roles of mother, wife, cook, author and public speaker and the writing of her cookbooks *Our Family Table* and *The Heart of the Home*. Library Section Manager, Jo Smith, said there are many avid home chefs in our community and cookbooks are popular at Lake libraries. *It is not surprising that this event is booked out quickly*, Ms Smith said. *With views of Lake Macquarie, Toronto Library was the ideal location for a high tea. Everyone enjoyed a great afternoon hearing how Julie realised her dreams of making cooking her career.*

High tea was part of Lake Macquarie City Library's National Year of Reading program, which aims to create awareness of the importance of reading skills for everyday life and promote the joy of reading. This event proved popular with non-library users and was a great opportunity to offer something other than traditional author talks to get these people through our doors. Previous surveys by the library indicated that non-library users would visit the library for an event that interested them and this certainly proved true with the event booked out weeks in advance.

Australia's most recognised trainer, TV personality and author Michelle Bridges, inspired and motivated us to get moving when she spoke at Charlestown Library in August. This productive author has



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written six books including *The No Excuses Cookbook* and *Losing the Last 5 Kilos*, as well as writing newspaper and magazine columns. Held as part of Lake Macquarie City Library's joint National Year of Reading program with Newcastle Region Library her visit has been our most popular, with 100 tickets booking out within hours; a tribute to social media. This event was a great way to attract non-library users with most people attending not library members. We held a library members draw for those attending to win a signed copy of her book and to give incentive for people to become a member on the day. Michelle discussed why she wrote her books, the process involved, and how her books can help people achieve their fitness goals.

Award-winning local poet, Jean Kent's new poetry collection, *Travelling with the Wrong Phrasebooks* was launched at Toronto Library in September. *Travelling with the Wrong Phrasebooks* was completed in Paris in 2011 while she was living at the Australia Council's Keesing Studio in the Cite Internationale des Arts (The Australia Council offers scholarships for residencies at the Keesing Studio to foster excellence in writing by providing individual writers with a supportive environment for professional development, research and creative risk-taking). The collection contains poems set in Paris, Lithuania and Lake Macquarie.

RACHEL MALLABY
Lake Macquarie City Library

01 L TO R: KRISTIN,
LIZ AND SUSIE
02 JULIE GOODWIN
03 MICHELLE BRIDGES
04 JEAN KENT

In the Libraries

01 MATTHEW REILLY
02 VIRTUAL BOOKSHELF



/01

CONVERSATION WITH MATTHEW REILLY

Leichhardt Library Service continues to offer free author talks to the community. One of our more recent author talks was with bestselling author Matthew Reilly on 16th October 2012.

Matthew had the crowd of 75 enthralled from his first words. Not only is a great author, he is also charismatic, entertaining, humorous and passionate about what he does and his fans. Matthew spoke for an hour and to the delight of all who attended, signed books and posed for photos for another hour. We had so many great comments from the attendees including those who hadn't yet enjoyed a Matthew Reilly novel such as this one from a library patron *While I am not a reader of his books (although I might be converted now), my nephews enjoyed it immensely. It was a real treat.*

SELINA BRECKENRIDGE
Leichhardt Library Service

RIVERLIGHTS

Riverlights, Maitland's first ever multicultural festival, brought together many cultures for a day filled with fantastic food, entertainment and activities, culminating in handmade lanterns floating on the Hunter River. Maitland City Library staff played an important role in the success of the festival. Staff coordinated the Language Lounge, where festival goers were encouraged to take a break in an outdoor lounge room to learn basic phrases in languages such as Tamil, Macedonian, Filipino, French, Spanish and German, and also hosted Lantern Making Workshops for the young (and young at heart) eager to be part of the festival. Riverlights was a fantastic opportunity to establish connections with local language groups and show case the range of multicultural resources available through Maitland City Library. It was a day of celebration enjoyed by all.

REBECCA LANE
Maitland City Library



/02

VIRTUAL LIBRARY

Leichhardt Library catalogue can now be browsed as a virtual shelf. This virtual library can be searched by classification or by call number. The virtual library encompasses the entire library catalogue; indicating availability and the option to reserve the item electronically from within the virtual library. Check it out at: <http://www.catalogue.lmc.nsw.gov.au/auwebopac>

MARILYN TAYLOR
Leichhardt Library

WHAT'S NEW @ CLARENCE REGIONAL LIBRARY?

Jessie Cole and Lisa Walker launched their debut books across the region in September, both discussing their individual writing processes, to enthusiastic audiences. Both Jessie and Lisa are local, with Jessie growing up in an isolated valley in Northern NSW and living a bush childhood of creek swimming and barefoot free-range adventuring. As a child she travelled widely with her family, backpacking throughout Asia and Europe. In 2009 she was awarded a HarperCollins Varuna Award for Manuscript Development, leading to the publication of her first novel *Darkness on the Edge of Town*. Lisa's first novel was published by HarperCollins in January 2012. *Liar Bird* may not be the first romantic comedy about feral pigs but it could be the first to also feature a philosopher frog! Lisa has worked as a wilderness guide, igloo builder, tertiary lecturer and community relations officer for the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Other authors visiting included Sharyn Munro, who came to Bellingen library on Friday 7 September to promote her new book *Rich Land, Wasteland:*



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03 SHARYN'S BOOK
04 PETER WATT
05 CHOOSING THE BOOKS

How Coal is Killing Australia; and spiritual teacher, author and clinical psychotherapist, Sharon Snir who gives regular local and international seminars and workshops. Sharon has written three books: *The 12 Levels of Being*; *Looking for Lionel- How I lost and found my Mother through Dementia*; and *The little Book of Everyday Miracles*. Sharon also visited Bellingen Library in September.

Peter Watt, Australia's answer to Wilbur Smith, according to his publicity, visited Bellingen and Grafton Libraries in October launching his new book *Beyond the Horizon* as part of the Get Reading, 50 Books You Can't Put Down Campaign. Peter Watt has spent time as a soldier, article clerk, prawn trawler deckhand, builder's labourer, pipe layer, real estate salesman, private investigator, police sergeant and advisor to the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary. He speaks, reads and writes Vietnamese and Pidgin. He lives locally in Maclean, on the Clarence River in northern New South Wales, and the Clarence Regional Library was excited to be able to highlight a local author to their community.

We held an ABC Open Blogging Workshop at Bellingen Library in October. Blogging is a relatively new but seriously busy form of communication. It's a fast, friendly form of writing about real life events. The two sessions looked at a few popular blogs to see what this whole phenomenon is all about and attendees were assisted in writing their own blog through a series of writing exercises and techniques. At the end of the sessions participants had the opportunity to write a short blog for ABC Open's blogging project, *500 Words*.

The Regional Library ran a series of Local Studies and Family History training sessions through June and July with local Clarence Valley historian Nola Mackey. The purpose was to train volunteers and staff in the use of the various resources available at the Regional Headquarters Local Studies and Family History room, so they may be better informed and feel more comfortable when assisting visitors.

Ancestry.com was launched with great enthusiasm across the Regional service in September. Ancestry Library Edition (ALE) is ideal for the family historian or the social historian, providing the most genealogical information available on-line, with more than 5 billion names in over 4,000 collections. It offers a wide and diverse variety of unique content to help users trace their family lineage or access historical records that have previously not been available online. It is continuously expanding with new content added every business day.

The Lifelong Learning database was also introduced to the community during Adult Learners week in the first week in September. The Lifelong Learning Service, operated through yourtutor.com.au, allows Clarence Regional Library members free assistance from real people, online. The service connects library members to an Australian expert for help with:

- Job application and resume skills;
- Writing skills at work
- Online search and library skills
- Speeches and public speaking advice
- Essential maths at home and work
- Grammar, punctuation and writing skills for ESL learners

In the Libraries

01 COURTNEY COLLINS
02 GENIE MUSTER



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The online service is staffed by hundreds of experts between 3pm and 10pm on weekdays to help with literacy and numeracy skills and to provide people who are looking for work with assistance to create a great resume and cover letter.

Community Book Selection events were held in Bellingen and Grafton Libraries in September and November. Library members were invited to choose resources for the library as part of the National Year of Reading campaign. The participants were able to reserve the titles they chose and be the first to borrow them once they had been processed. This was the first time this type of event was undertaken at Clarence Regional Library, and with 40 happy participants attending, we have decided to make this an annual event in each library with next year's dates already in the calendar.

In partnership with NSW Office of Environment & Heritage and Department of Premier and Cabinet, Clarence Valley libraries have 16 Save Power Kits for loan. Each kit contains a Power-Mate Lite (to measure power output of devices), two thermometers, a stopwatch and worksheets to help

learn more about the power you use and how to reduce your power bills.

And as part of the Home Secure Project, Clarence Valley Libraries have ten Property Marking Kits for loan. Each kit contains a hand-held engraver and guidelines for marking and keeping records of personal property.

KATHRYN BREWARD
Clarence Valley Council

COURTNEY COLLINS IN COOLAMON

Courtney Collins, the author of *The Burial*, gave a very inspirational talk to the Coolamon community in October. *The Burial* tells the story of legendary Australian bushranger, Jessie Hickman. Courtney spoke of her moving adventure and the experiences she endured whilst writing her first novel. Her journey of writing and researching her book and then having it finally published impressed us all. We concluded the session with morning tea and book sales and signing. Finally, thanks must go to the Riverina Regional Library Outreach Services team for cocoordinating the visit.

HELEN MCLOUGHLIN
Coolamon Library

THE NEW MUSTER

Hot on the heels of the now famous Deni Ute Muster came the first ever Deni Genealogy Muster. The muster, which was organised by our wonderful genealogy folks, was held at the Deni RSL Club. With 48 exhibitor stands, ten keynote speakers, a digital photography workshop and over 280 visitors enjoying all it had to offer, the muster was considered a resounding success by all involved! Alan Phillips from Gould Books even went so far as to say, *The Deni Muster was one of the best events of its kind we have exhibited at*. The exhibitors gathered at the library on the Thursday night for welcome drinks and nibbles; an opportunity to meet each other and exchange information and ideas, which was appreciated by all, as was the warm welcome to our beautiful town by the Mayor, Lindsay Renwick.

The Deniliquin Genealogy Society, which is based at the Central Murray Regional Library at Deniliquin, was delighted with the response to the muster. The group provides a weekly research service to our customers and now boasts a membership of over 60, a 300% increase since finding their new home at the

library two years ago. Val Hardman and her merry band of volunteers worked tirelessly to pull this fabulous event together and our congratulations go to them. We appreciate the value they bring to our library service.

SUSAN SODING & KIM TATTAM
Deniliquin Library

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Spring 2012 saw Kincumber Library bloom with the inaugural *Spring has Sprung* Gardening Workshop at Kincumber Library. Designed to engage and connect the community, Kincumber Library worked with the local hardware store and Yates to provide a practical workshop for library customers and aspiring green thumbs. The booked out event was held in the library courtyard with the sun shining and bright spring flowers and garden equipment on display. Guest speakers included the local Mitre 10's chief gardening expert as well as a Yates specialist, who led a talk and answered a multitude of questions from the captivated audience. A quiz was also conducted with prizes awarded, ensuring there were springtime smiles all round.

The library's collection of gardening titles was showcased and many were borrowed. Customers were able to gather reference information on gardening subjects of all kinds. Like minded people were brought together and so successful was the connection that the Kincumber Gardening Club was formed. Finally, ties with local business were strengthened through the showcasing of local products with the prospect of a joint venture to beautify Kincumber Library's own garden. The event proved to be a great success as it tapped into all the key areas that make the public library such an important cornerstone of the community.

BENJAMIN HARTLEY
Gosford City Council



SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

NEWSPAPER PARTNERSHIP

During the National Year of Reading the Hawkesbury Library Service negotiated a partnership deal with one of our local papers, *The Hawkesbury Courier*. Each week we supplied copy for a half page feature about books and reading. The column provided book recommendations and reviews as well an opportunity to promote our local NYR events. Over the past months the columns have covered book recommendations on the NYR monthly themes, featured authors and readers' reviews on a variety of genres. To encourage readers to submit their recommendations, a prize was given to one lucky reviewer each month. We have had positive feedback from both our reviewers and the newspaper readers.

SONIA WARD
Hawkesbury Library Service

In the Libraries

History week 2012

BLAND

Our History Week presentation, *The lost clothes behind Australia's First Court Case* took the people of West Wyalong on a trip back to 1787, to revisit Australia's first court case. Andrew Tink, political biographer, former long-standing politician and member of the Library Council of NSW, visited West Wyalong and delivered the presentation. Andrew's story was fascinating because it was not simply a story about Australian politics but the story of the underdog who took on the establishment and won. The story was riveting and it certainly kept the crowd entertained. We were fortunate to have been chosen by the Speaker Connect program run by the History Council of New South Wales to host this History Week event.

The library also partnered with the local historical society and held the presentation in the original Court House. It certainly added to the ambiance of the occasion and was also a positive way to partner with the local history group.

JOANNE RUSSO
Bland Shire Library

CAMPBELLTOWN

Campbelltown City Library celebrated History Week 2012 with an exhibition of historical photographs and garments as well as a talk by a fashion expert from the University of Technology Sydney. Reflecting this year's theme of *Threads: they wore what?*, the library demonstrated how fashion has changed over the years- both locally and nationally.

Our display of old photographs provided a look at the various uniforms worn by Campbelltown people over the years. These ranged from work to sporting uniforms to school and military or uniforms for ceremonial purposes. One particular photograph of champion local tennis player Rose Payten in action in the early 1900s showed her dressed more like she was attending a wedding!

A number of original garments were borrowed from the Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society. These included an 1884 camisole, women's underwear from the late nineteenth century, a 1970s brown denim suit and a 1970s suit with yellow jacket and checked flared trousers! As one could imagine, this drew many comments and giggles from observers

as well as looks of bewilderment from the younger generation!

An entertaining and captivating talk was given by fashion expert Vicki Karaminas from the School of Design at the University of Technology. Vicki spoke about men's fashion in Australia from colonial times. She described the styles from each period, the influences on that style and used examples through illustrations and photographs in her presentation. Her talk sparked an interesting discussion amongst the audience as they reminisced over the strange and wonderful articles of clothing they remembered their fathers wearing.

ANDREW ALLEN
Campbelltown City Library

KIAMA

Kiama Public Library adopted the 2012 NSW History Week theme 'Threads' for our annual photographic competition and exhibition. We wanted to evoke a sense of belonging – the threads that connect us to our community... the beach, school, friends, home, a sports group, a craft group... we wanted photographers to unpick the meaning!!! The library was also looking to further develop the collection of local photographs and build a picture of the Kiama region in 2012.

The theme, Threads, aimed to capture great images of the municipality and ensure that this moment in time was captured for the collection and the future. Participants were invited to photograph someone or something in the municipality, in context. The photographs were judged by the Kiama-Shellharbour Camera Club (winning entries and highly commended), the Mayor of Kiama, Sandra McCarthy (the Mayor's Choice Award) and also a special Kiama Library Staff Selection Award, judged by the Library Staff. The competition has been generously supported by Friends of Kiama Library who donated the prizes. A special launch and award of prizes was held and all entries were exhibited at the Library.

SHARON JONES
Kiama Library



THE VINTAGE ALLSORTS

LIVERPOOL

At Liverpool we hosted the fabulous talents of Pia Andersen of Vintage Allsorts, and the Go-Gettes, to provide us with a roving fashion parade of the 1960s and 1970s. There were plenty of oohs and ahhs as the models came out in their beautiful outfits. We had some wonderful vintage fashion stalls, and unique bargains were to be had. To top off the day we had the Go-gettes provide us with some go-go dance lessons. It was a very skilled production by Pia, highly recommended for a professional fun event, where you are left with striking memories.

JO MORRIS
Liverpool Library

SINGLETON

Singleton Historical Society (SHS) and Singleton Public Library partnered to celebrate History Week 2012 with the History Week theme *Threads They Wore What?!* We decided to celebrate the magic of bygone eras, concentrating on balls, dances and weddings. Once we had our theme we approached the community and as usual Singleton did not let us down. We were inundated with regal hats, silken gloves, delicate jewellery, family photos and the most beautiful handcrafted gowns with vintages ranging from 1900 to the 1980s. All were on loan from local families each with a unique story to tell.

We mounted an exhibition in the foyer utilising five display cases. We then set to, creating a special textile display in our large lockable meeting room. For this we used mannequins to showcase the outfits with a short history accompanying each one. The event was an outstanding success with crowds arriving each day to wonder and reminisce over days past. Local school students came along for a guided exhibition tour and they loved the outfits (well, maybe the boys not so much!). We received great media coverage and the entire event was a wonderful example of the Singleton community working together to showcase our unique heritage.

SHARON MUIR
Singleton Public Library



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- 01 NOT GUILTY YOUR HONOUR!
- 02 THEY WORE WHAT?
- 03 MAYOR MCCARTHY AND WINNER, DIANNE RECH

In the Libraries



/01



/02



MRS GODDARD USES THE HILLS HOIST IN HER KENSINGTON YARD, 1955, AUSTRALIAN PHOTOGRAPHIC AGENCY, STATE LIBRARY OF NSW



/03

UPPER HUNTER

During History Week 2012, Scone Library of the Upper Hunter Shire Libraries invited costumier, Kerry Hagan to be our special guest at a display of clothes from yesteryear. Kerry Hagan had been making medieval and theatrical costumes for a very long time. When she and her husband decided to retire and settle at Stewart's Brook, Barrington Top, Kerry donated her collection of books on costume design, fabric and textiles to the three high schools in our area for use by Design and Technology students doing costume design and fabric/textile subjects. The collection was duly launched as The Kerry Hagan Collection on Costume Design by the Mayor of Scone Cllr Lee Watts.

Kerry spoke about the costumes and fashion of the Tudor and Edwardian eras. She had also brought with her the costumes she had designed and they were part of the display which drew a lot of interest from visitors, especially a male doublet which was heavily embroidered with detachable sleeves. We also had collaborated with the Scone & District Historical Society to have their collection of clothes included in the display. This included a coat belonging (supposedly) to King George IV, and there were examples of clothes pre and post the era of the corset and whalebone stitchery. These included a couple of flapper dresses and formal suit (Jacket and skirt), lacy night attire, baby clothes and gloves. A sumptuous afternoon tea was served. All who attended had a most interesting and enjoyable time and many went away thankful that we can wear whatever we want without restrictions, in more ways than one.

ELIZABETH WALTER
Upper Hunter Shire Libraries

WOLLONGONG

Wollongong City Libraries hosted a number of successful events during History Week 2012.

Thanks to the History Council of New South Wales Speaker Connect Program, the library was able to have Dr Tanya Evans, Lecturer at Macquarie University's Modern History Department as the speaker for our main History Week event at Wollongong Central Library on Friday 14 September. Her topic was "The use of memory and material culture in the history of the family in Colonial Australia". This was a fascinating talk which explored women's material culture using quilts, clothing and dolls as examples of how meaning is embodied in objects. Her talk reflected the aim of History Week, by demonstrating that history is exciting, relevant and all around us.

Local family historian Terry Bugg also gave talks at Dapto and Thirroul District libraries, during History Week. Terry introduced potential genealogists to the resources held at Wollongong City Library, and explained how these resources can assist with family history research. Terry is currently the President of the Illawarra Family History Group, and has many years of experience in family history research and a vast knowledge of local history and families. He is one of a band of regular volunteers at Wollongong Central Library who assists with family history enquiries every week.

EILEEN SMITH
Wollongong City Libraries

HISTORY WEEK 2013: PICTURE THIS

History Week 2013 will be held 7-15 September.

Driving humanity; reflecting change; imagining reality. In the image conscious 21st century, photographs shape the world. How has the development of the visual changed, informed and sculpted society? How do historians use art and photography to inform their research? Who were the original mad men of the advertising industry? Who were our image makers? People have long manipulated their images and all cultures have created their view of the world through visual representations. History Week 2013 will bring the past into view through the frame of images.

Want to be involved? There are three ways to participate in History Week 2013:

- create your own event;
- host a speaker; or
- be a speaker during History Week.

Once again in 2013 the History Council of NSW, in partnership with the Royal Australian Historical Society, is offering member organizations, including libraries, in regional and suburban NSW the opportunity to receive speakers during History Week. The speakers will be selected for their ability to deliver exciting and thought provoking talks that illuminate our theme. By reaching out to local and regional communities we hope to expand our audiences and increase interest in history.

As a hosting organisation you will be able to select from a list of speakers available in your area. We will provide you with flyers, media releases and publicity support to assist in promoting the event, as well as covering the cost of the speaker and their travel arrangements. In return you will provide your venue and refreshments to attendees free of charge.

The talks will be filmed (to be arranged by the History Council of NSW) and published on our website. This is a chance to:

- Bring a high quality and entertaining speaker to your audiences.
- Raise the profile of your library - the online coverage of your event will promote your venue and locality.
- Benefit from publicity and marketing support from the History Council of NSW.

Applications to participate in History Week 2013 will open in February and close 30 May 2013. Once we have received your application it will be assessed against the criteria and you will be notified of the outcome by May 2013.

History Week is made possible through the support of its partners including the State Library of NSW, Historic Houses Trust and the Royal Australian Historical Society. For more information go to <http://historycouncilnsw.org.au/history-week/>

ZOE POLLOCK
Executive Officer
History Council of NSW

In the Libraries

01 BOOK BUSKING
IN MOSMAN
02 WALANGARI
AT MOSMAN



/01

INDIGENOUS LITERACY DAY

Australia may well be considered the lucky country when it comes to education and literacy levels but for many Indigenous Australians this is far from true. There is an enormous gap in literacy levels between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians with the gap being even wider for remote Indigenous communities. The Indigenous Literacy Foundation aims to support Indigenous Australians by providing access to books and literacy resources to help narrow the divide and increase the opportunities for Indigenous Australians that many of us take for granted.

In 2012 alone the foundation has raised \$340000 for Indigenous literacy and donated 85000 books to 230 remote communities. This year Mosman Library decided to hop on board and support this important cause. Together with Pages & Pages bookshop in Mosman, staff went book busking on September 5, Indigenous Literacy Day which is the Foundation's major fundraising day. Seated outside the bookshop on Military Rd, the busiest street in Mosman, we took turns reading from some of our favourite books for twenty minutes each. Competing with cars, trucks and the road works was a challenge but nothing a bit of voice projection couldn't handle. Despite the din we managed to raise important funds and also awareness of this seldom acknowledged issue.

That evening back at the library, with the book busking behind us, we opened the doors for an evening of Indigenous storytelling. Walangari Kartawarra an Australian Aboriginal elder from Alice Springs captivated the audience with music and entertaining stories from the world's oldest living culture. With entrance by a gold coin donation the evening managed to raise some extra money to top up our book busking efforts during the day.



/02

The Indigenous Literacy Foundation believes Indigenous Australians should have the same educational, employment and social opportunities as all Australians and we do too. Whilst the organisation is making a big difference there is still a long way to go before Indigenous children living in remote regions are enjoying the same privileges as non-Indigenous children.

MERILYN PORTER
Mosman Library

HUNTER HOMELESS CONNECT DAY

Newcastle Library staff attended Hunter Homeless Connect Day (HHCD) at Broadmeadow PCYC in August this year. The event was hosted by Newcastle and Hunter Homelessness Interagency Network (NNHIN). Our aim was to spread the word about the wonderful free services we provide and the benefits of joining and visiting the library. The HHCD is an annual event for people of the Hunter region who are within the homeless spectrum, including individuals and families unable to find rental accommodation, people sleeping rough, using refuges, or staying with a series of relatives and friends, known as couch hopping. It is a one-stop-shop of services and support, including help with accommodation, financial problems, issues experienced by families and young people, and a health centre. People can access free food and clothing, haircuts, toiletries etc.

Library services were highlighted and giveaways included *Find Legal Answers* and druginfo@yourlibrary handouts and show bags and some good quality library discards and donations. We told them about storytime and other early literacy programs, and our free access to internet, computers and training and membership. We did some storytelling, and handed out balloons, stickers and water bottles.

While many of the participants were already library members, others were surprised by the services and resources public libraries offer, especially the free internet. The free ex-library books were extremely popular and we hope to build on this aspect of our presence next year.

Networking with other agencies was a bonus for us. We raised awareness of our relevance by emphasising that public libraries are often a hub for homeless people, that we are an excellent place to distribute information and keen to tailor programs to assist people. Our presence was well supported by the organisers, with feedback from other agencies and participants leading the organisers to acknowledge that *the guests also require some of the more edifying services and not all ... are on the bottom level of Maslow, even if we think they are.*

KIERAN O'DONOGHUE AND NATASHA AYAZ
Newcastle Region Library

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Stanton Library decided to acknowledge Mental health Month's theme of 'Celebrate, connect, grow' with a series of workshops and talks designed to encourage everyone to think about their own wellbeing. A local fitness and personal training company offered to present two talks focussing on staying fit and strong after fifty, and general health and nutrition. A speaker from Alzheimer's Australia also presented a session about memory and ageing, aiming to alleviate ageing worries and provide strategies to help brain health. In addition, we

hosted popular workshops on creative meditation, tai chi and qi gong for mental health. It was a very full month, but well worth it for the positive feedback and great attendance by people wanting to try out something new. The best part about this program was that we had to pay only one of our presenters a nominal fee for their time. The remainder of the sessions were presented by associations and local businesses who donated their knowledge and expertise.

KATE STEWART
Stanton Library

OR PROMOTION

When you walk into the Library as a customer, it is not immediately obvious what databases and online resources are available. When you are browsing the shelves for information, you may not be aware that the very fact you are seeking is sitting in cyberspace just a few keystrokes away. One way of addressing this issue has been a promotional campaign placed amongst our book collection, called the Online Resources, or OR, campaign. A series of signs, resembling the large spine of a book, have been shelved with the books alerting our customers to the vast range of online resources that are available to them. Subject specific signage has been created to sit within the relevant Dewey areas of the collection. A QR code sits in the bottom left hand corner of the signage, allowing customers with mobile devices able to read the code, to access the list of e-resources from wherever they may be in the Library. Over the next few months we will be interested to see what kind of statistics we receive regarding the usage of the QR codes.

LIZ PARKER
Willoughby City Library

MULTICULTURAL CANTERBURY

Our multicultural programs continue to be popular with our diverse community. Adult Learners Week was celebrated with a job seeker and resume writing workshop at both Lakemba and Campsie Libraries. Information talks in community languages were held on topics such as Caring for your heart, Gambling help and How the carbon price will impact on you, all in Chinese. Every year on the fifteenth day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar, when the moon is at its maximum brightness for the entire year, the Chinese celebrate the Moon festival. This year Campsie Library held a celebration of that special day with traditional dance and music performances as well as festival foods such as moon cakes. Over 100 people attended this enjoyable morning of celebrations.

PAULA PFOEFFER
City of Canterbury Library



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01 OR PROMOTION
02 MOON FESTIVAL

Children's News

CHAMPIONS READ!

A community event celebrating reading and sports in Blacktown City on Saturday 25 August saw youngsters and the young at heart enjoy a range of literacy and sporting activities, including author talks, interactive displays, come & try sports clinics, storytelling, poetry slam, tea leaf reading, mascot race and Reading Hour. Former Rugby Union International and renowned author Peter FitzSimons and TV personality and author Indira Naidoo were among the many champions of literacy and sport that joined in the celebration. The event was hosted by Blacktown City Libraries and Blacktown International Sportspark to mark the National Year of Reading and Blacktown City's Family Sportsfest.

Champions Read! was held at the Blacktown International Sportspark, Eastern Road, Rooty Hill on a warm winter's day and the event ran from 12.30pm to 3pm with over a thousand people participating. The day was launched by the Blacktown City Mayor, Alan Pendleton and Peter FitzSimons, followed by a mascot race which saw Rooby Roo, the Paint Blacktown REaD mascot, compete with a host of other literacy and sporting mascots from the local area. The Blacktown City Reading Hour was a highlight of the day with the Mayor of Blacktown City, authors, sporting heroes, councillors, community leaders and library members reading aloud in English and several community languages. Blacktown has a culturally and linguistically diverse population with over 184 countries and 164 languages represented within the community. The reading material showcased in the Reading Hour reflected our diversity, individual passions and interests with varying degrees of expertise from beginner level to the more seasoned readers opting to share the books they love. There were sixteen readers who participated in the reading relay, using the microphone as their baton.

The program in the Author's Tent included talks by Peter FitzSimons, Steven Cannane, Indira Naidoo, Kylie Ofiu and Ben Wood. The young kids were enthralled by a variety of sporting come & try clinics including AFL, fencing and soccer as well as listening to the stories in the storytelling tent; and



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everyone enjoyed the Poetry Slam and a different kind of reading through the art of tea leaf reading. Champions Read! brought together many fans of sporting and literacy in a celebration that offered a wide variety of opportunities to engage, enjoy and be entertained.

DHARSHINI PERERA
Blacktown City Libraries

PROMOTING ONLINE RESOURCES

Coffs Harbour City Library recently completed a very successful drive to promote our online services to Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6) primary school students. We prefer to get the schools to bring their students in to one of our three branches to conduct the information sessions as we feel that this breaks down barriers for the kids that aren't familiar with using the library.

The biggest challenge we faced in organising the students to come in to the library was making sure the invitations got to the relevant teachers at the schools. Initially we sent an appealing looking full-colour invitation to the schools via email and hard copy in the mail, then the hard work began ... making follow-up phone calls to ensure that the information gets to the relevant teachers at each school! It can be quite hard sometimes convincing school receptionists to give out the email addresses of the right teachers. But perseverance pays off and eventually (after repeated phone calls) I got to actually speak to most of the Stage 3 teachers in our LGA. I found that at least half of these had not seen the invitation at all and gave me their direct email addresses because they were interested.

- 01 PETER FITZSIMONS
- 02 THE RACE OF THE MASCOTS
- 03 CLASS VISIT WITH SKYE



/03

I found that in order to get the schools here we had to be really flexible with times (as their schedules are already so full – even right from the beginning of first term). I had a two week block set aside to conduct the visits but found, to accommodate the school's needs, I conducted most of the sessions outside of this block. Once I had each booking in place I sent confirmation to the school along with a PDF version of our membership form and member guide for the teachers to distribute to the students, the idea being that the school could collect these and we could have their memberships ready for them to use on the day of their session.

Once I got the kids here, I ran them through the 40 minutes or so of presentation that I had prepared, including selected resources for school projects; *Britannica Online* (student edition), a live demonstration of YourTutor (online tutoring service) and a selection of junior reference resources to show. This left enough time for questions and a quick tour of the library with the session being about an hour all up.

I found the initial reaction from students and teachers towards Britannica and YourTutor in particular, were really positive with most saying they wanted to use the resources straight away. This, I think, is why it's so valuable to have something in place for the students to join up before the sessions; if they get to use the resources while they have that initial enthusiasm they will be more likely to become regular users.

Over the two months following the class visits our YourTutor usage statistics for Years 5 and 6 rose dramatically (by nearly 2000%) and *Britannica*

Online usage statistics tripled (although we can't separate Years 5 and 6 usage from general usage with these stats). In the end we had a total of 610 students come through the library (in 23 classes) over a three month period with the majority coming in two separate fortnight blocks. Due to these great results, we will continue to use and refine this model for future class visits.

SKYE RAVENSCROFT
Coffs Harbour

COFFS NEWS

Well known children's author Deborah Abela visited the region last month, with a full day of workshops and talks at Coffs Harbour City Library. The writing workshops provided the opportunity for 70 children to benefit from Deborah's knowledge and expertise. An additional evening talk by Deb, provided the opportunity for people to hear her advice about the writing process, including tips and practical information about how to get work published. Many children have approached the library to borrow Deb's stories as a direct result of the workshops. We were fortunate to have the company of such a vibrant, generous enthusiastic author. What a great example, and a wonderful NSW National Year of Reading ambassador.

What better way to promote the library than an on stage version of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, involving 30 children in the telling of the story! Such an opportunity came our way as part of the Coffs Harbour Kids Day Out, during Child Protection Week. Held under the bluest of skies, over 300 children attended the fun day at the North Coast Regional Botanic Garden. With the Wonkey Donkey, Edward the Emu and Duck Rabbit as support acts, the children listened intently, and were keen participants, joining in the telling of the stories.

The library staff had a storytime tent operating throughout the day, and we handed out National Year of Reading stickers to 260 kids! As part of our NYR promotions, we welcomed this opportunity to join with other service providers in providing school holiday activities for the community.

If the future of our nation can be judged by the enthusiasm and imagination shown by children as they created Lego structures, then we are in good hands! What a blast to see so many families rock up to the libraries during the school holidays to make the most of the 40 kilos of Lego at their

Children's News



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01 LEGO DOGGO
02 THE NORTH EAST
ZONE CHILDREN'S
GROUP

disposal. All sessions were well attended, and the ongoing displays maintained at the three library branches the following week sparked the interest of the community. Whilst families are tuned into the activities and services we provide for their children, it was great to be able to show the wider community just how talented our junior members can be. As an incentive to "Leave the Lego behind", children could enter their library card number into a lucky draw to win a Lego Pack. Used as a mini membership drive, we were pleased with the 56 new junior memberships that resulted from the promotion.

It was with pleasure that the Public Libraries NSW North East Zone welcomed Kate O'Grady from the State Library of NSW to our 6th annual children's services meeting, held at Coffs Harbour recently. The meeting was coupled with an informative training session, conducted by Network OOSH. With a focus on how to engage with 9 to 14 year olds, the training provided us with strategies and information to support our involvement with this age group in the library setting. The staff involved with Children's Services in the NE Zone made the most of the opportunity to share resources, inspirations and ideas. It is through opportunities such as this, that we can provide support, and learn from each other's experiences. Thank you so much to everyone for participating, and we look forward to continued information sharing throughout the year.

CATHERINE JOHNSTON
Coffs Harbour Library

It was Storytime all day at Coffs Harbour Regional Botanic Gardens for the Japanese Festival of Children's Day. The 200 Koinobori carp flags gifted to Council from our sister city, Sasebo, brought the gardens to life for the duration of the festival, and we were pleased to be out and about in perfect sunny weather to participate.

The Japanese Children's Festival is held annually, and our storytelling tent is a welcome component, with many parents taking the chance for a break from the activities of the day while the little ones listen to stories. The festival is an opportunity to promote the library's services to members of the community, and inform them of the resources we have available.

We were part of Jean Genies again this year - what a great idea to have the jeans sponsored by authors. We were fortunate to be included in the tour of Michael Gerard Bauer's jeans. We used Michael's books as the inspiration for our designs. One leg sported a very colourful running man, and the other depicted a whale - tied in with *Don't call me Ishmael!* and our own local whale watching. We invited the children to pop into the library after school to help us decorate them. With many little creative minds at work, we had a most enjoyable afternoon; with each child taking home their own beautifully decorated jeans as well.

Congratulations to Claire Stuckey and Sharon Drayton and their band of helpers who have kept this project going over the years.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar gets healthy! It was very wet and rainy, so rather than being out in the city streets we relocated to the adjacent shopping centre.

Despite the weather and location, our outreach storytime during the Easter holidays was a huge success. With *The Very hungry Caterpillar* as our linchpin, we developed an activity for children to identify everyday foods and sometime foods, as part of a collaborative healthy eating promotion. Local health services staff promoted the *Go4fun and Munch & Move* programs, and the morning tea table was loaded with fruit from the local Coffs Growers Market.

Following the reading of the book, and lots of discussion about the eating habits of caterpillars, the children were keen to share their knowledge. We had large cutouts of all the foods eaten by the very hungry caterpillar, and the children categorised them and we displayed them on the shopping centre wall. The day was busy and exciting, and it was very rewarding to be part of this collaborative activity, with the opportunity to support our local health professionals reach out to the community.

Check out the Switched on Coffs website to watch a video about what went on:

<http://www.switchedoncoffs.tv/engage/storytime>

JUDY ATKINSON
Coffs Harbour

HOLIDAYS AT BLAND

Another successful school holiday program was run by Bland Shire Library. Activities were provided on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons titled Open craft cupboard, Pots and plants, Sand craft and Cooking up a storm. The Open Cupboard craft afternoon was free, and was a good opportunity to clean out our craft cupboard and use up all the bits and pieces. A total of 17 children aged between 5 and 12 years attended. Chaos reigned for a while as the children had to use their imagination and create their own masterpieces. All ended well and everyone went home with some great work.

We had a good line up again of children at the Pots and plants activity, with 21 attending. We had Leon and Jeremy from the Bland Shire Council Parks and Gardens lending a hand with the activity and giving advice on how to care for young seedlings. The children painted a terracotta pot and planted a marigold. Eleven children attended the sand craft activity which consisted of making a picture out of different coloured sand. The numbers may have been low, but the effort was big! Renowned local chef Donna Warren certainly cooked up a storm with 16 eager children. A flower pot with edible flowers was created out of marshmallows and chocolate and luckily with little mess. Donna had come up with the idea that morning and everybody was impressed, although not many of the flowers made it home to show family members as they were consumed not long after they were made.

LIZ FORD
Bland Shire Library

01 HEALTHY EATING
AT COFFS
02 POTS AND PLANTS

Children's News

PAINT BANKSTOWN READ

The development of pre- and early literacy skills is vital for educational attainment in later life. In Bankstown, with its culturally diverse population, where parents and children may have had interrupted schooling, it is especially important to help the community develop literacy skills and practices. The library is working with community partners in developing Paint Bankstown REaD – an early literacy initiative which seeks to embed early literacy practices in the community. This is also an imitative during the 2012 National Year of Reading and helps extend the reach of the library into the community and coordinate children's groups within the area. Many of you will be familiar with the Paint the town REaD concept. It was started in the NSW town of Parkes by a school principal, Rhonda Braine, concerned about the academic achievements at her school. She realised that it did not matter how much effort she and her teachers put into their pupils, as literacy practices need to start from a much earlier age. She also realised that the whole community needed to be involved to make early literacy a community norm. So, Paint the town REaD has spread around New South Wales, and has now reached Bankstown.

Bankstown City Council and Bankstown Community Resource Group (BCRG) have joined together to help coordinate early literacy activities. These two groups have worked together previously in developing the book *Bongo's Big Day Out*. This invaluable resource features a monkey called Bongo at various local sites including the railway station, the pool, the library and the park. Bongo has become the mascot for Paint Bankstown REaD representing early literacy in the area. BCRG have commissioned a Bongo costume that will be available for groups (such as play groups, or ante-natal groups, or at the immunisation clinic) to borrow to further promote Bongo and literacy.

The first event under the Paint Bankstown REaD banner was held to coincide with National Simultaneous Storytime and included story-telling corners, bush dancing and craft. The Library held

a reading tent at a NAIDOC event in Paul Keating Park and a Reading Hour activity at each location on 25 August as part of the National Year of Reading program and the branded Paint Bankstown REaD program. On October 23 there was a community reading day held at the local leisure centre which involved parents and children from across the community. The Library is working with TAFE students to take storytelling to Bankstown's Immunisation Clinic and there are plans to develop links throughout the community with local businesses, interest groups and schools.

ROBYN OWENS
Bankstown Library

BATHURST NEWS

This spring our school holiday programs sold out two weeks before the holidays had even started! We had a great mix of fun activities for children including Fabulous Felt Pins, Model Planes, Gamez Arena, Jewellery Trees, Fairy Fiesta of Wands & Wings, Babushka Dolls, and a Harry Potter Hogwarts Quiz. The favourite program was the Babushka Dolls; we had wooden dolls and the children decorated them with paint, sequins and jewels. Closely followed by the Fairy Fiesta where we made gorgeous wings and wands to match. Over the course of the two weeks we had 142 children come to our workshops, which were a great success and much fun was had by all...including staff!!!

Ted Prior's beloved children's book character, Grug, came to inspect Bathurst Library! He surprised the children with a special visit at the end of each story session. We read lots of Grug stories as well as some favourite Australian ones such as *Possum Magic*, *Goldilocks the sulphur crested Cockatoo*, and *There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Mozzie*. We pulled out our dance moves for *Wash Your Face with Orange Juice*, *Home Among the Gum Trees*, and *Australian Animal Dance*, and Grug arrived dancing Gangnam style which the children loved! Over all we had 405 children and parents attend the sessions.

NATALIE CONN
Bathurst Library



/01

WYONG NEWS

September school holidays saw the seaside come to Wyong Shire Libraries. We made fish bowls, origami boats and jellyfish windsocks. A sheet of sea themed puzzles and games was given to the participants to continue the fun at home. All sea craft workshops were booked out and a couple of extra sessions had to be arranged to accommodate the demand. Obviously everyone is looking forward to summertime!

Tuggerah and Lake Haven Libraries hosted a stuffed bear sleepover. It was fun to see what those naughty teddies and other favourites did in the library at night. Our fairy photographer snapped shots of them in the return chute, sticking their heads into the photocopier, playing on the computers and of course, reading a bedtime story. Then they tucked themselves into bed and covered themselves with their blankies made especially for the occasion by their owners. Whilst we had stressed to parents not to leave the 'best bear' we did have one young patron who howled so much at the thought of leaving his furry friend behind that it had to be retrieved – luckily before closing time!

Information Services and Children's staff have been visiting local schools to promote our electronic resources and to encourage students to use them rather than Google. We cover search strategies, how to tackle assignments as well as general homework help and the use of the databases. This has resulted in an increase in our database usage statistics, so that is the best feedback we could have received.

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Wyong Shire Library Service



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NICK BLAND

In celebration of the Get Reading! campaign for the National Year of Reading, Wollondilly Library and Information Service held a very special storytime event with Nick Bland, award winning author of *The Very Cranky Bear*. All participants enjoyed listening to Nick read his stories, draw some illustrations and sign his books. Students, parents and staff all enjoyed the opportunity to meet a real life published author and were delighted to spend storytime with Nick.

GEORGINA KONSTANTA
Wollondilly Library and Information Service

KU-RING-GAI LIBRARY CHILDREN'S DESK

During the Olympics we had the flames burning brightly in our libraries with the in-house pentathlon challenge. All children who completed the five tasks of reading a storybook, reading an information book, listening to an audio book/watching a DVD, finding out facts using World Book Online and telling us their favourite reading spot, received a free reservation and went into the lucky draw (a \$30.00 gift voucher from Book Review). Adam Lipscomb, the excited winner took home the prize as well as the silver torch - which we are sure has taken pride of place in his room!

The fun-o-meter was on a high at our libraries with a score of school holiday programs. Strategy skills (combined with heaps of laughter) came into play during the board game sessions, pyjama story time came alive with night time tales, Bungawitta play dough fun got the creative juices flowing, bird feeders were the tweets of town during nature craft and we had the kids going on a library treasure hunt which was based on Alison Lester's book *Are we there yet*. And of course our well-received outsourced programs included *TV or no TV* by Mic Conway and *Super sleuths: escape of the monkey*.

SHOBA ABRAHAM
Ku-ring-gai Library



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01 GRUG UNPLUGGED!
02 BATHURST
BABUSHKAS



/03



/04

01 SLEEPOVER BEARS
02 STORYTIME
WITH NICK
03 LIBRARY OLYMPICS
04 PLAY DOH FUN

Children's News

LOOK!

In July the *Look! The Art of Australian Picture Books Today* exhibition came to the Sutherland Shire for six weeks. It was exhibited at Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre. Created by the State Library of Victoria, Look! includes 112 artworks by leading Australian illustrators including Shaun Tan, Graeme Base, Bob Graham, Gregory Rogers, Ann James, Leigh Hobbs, Ron Brooks and Frané Lessac.

Sutherland Shire Libraries partnered with Hazelhurst to celebrate the National Year of Reading and were involved with two programs during the Exhibition. One program was a series of storytimes. On the launch of the exhibition we ran a storytime showcasing some of the books in the exhibition.

As it ran through the school holidays we also held four interactive storytimes at the gallery. A total of 375 kids and many more parents enjoyed the storytimes and we were amazed by the number of people who visited the library in the following days to borrow books from the exhibition.

The second program was a fantastic opportunity to showcase two talented people represented in the exhibition. Author Libby Hathorn and illustrator Bruce Whatley came and spoke to students from local schools; and their talks were complemented by a tour of the exhibition, an activity with Hazelhurst staff and an interactive talk and activity with library staff. The library had gained permission from Bruce to talk about his left handed drawing studies and based an interesting activity around this. In total 240 students enjoyed this program and feedback from teachers and students was positive.

This joint venture with Hazelhurst was a wonderful way for the library to celebrate the National Year of Reading and enhance the joy to be gained from reading and literature. The library has been fortunate to receive funding from local club, The Tradies, and we acknowledge this funding in helping Libby and Bruce to attend.

During the September /October holidays Susanne Gervay, author and a NSW National Year of Reading Ambassador, entertained a group of kids with tales of writing her books. She focused on the Jack books and her latest *Ship in the Field*. Susanne was entertaining and the way in which she described her family experiences and how she uses them in her books was most interesting. We put her books on display and they were all borrowed at the completion of her talk. Susanne took time to sign bookmarks, talk to the kids



LOOK!

and gave each child a music CD to take home with them. Her generosity and passion for writing were evident and it is easy to understand why her books on social justice issues are so popular.

MELINDA MCNAUGHTON
Sutherland Shire Libraries

TONY BONES

A quick tip if you're planning any events - consider Tony Bones. They put on a remarkable professional show that they tied into a Book Week theme. Local schools and children loved them, and we've learned not to try and host their show in the library. You'll attract high numbers and it can be hard to accommodate in most libraries. It can also be a bit tricky to get high attendance levels on your own turf, so far better to arrange for a local school to be the venue. Of course, it's also important for the library to be recognised for its coordinating role; otherwise the reason for doing it at all becomes a little less obvious! As far as costing goes that's between you, the schools and Tony Bones to arrange. You may want to subsidise the event and share costs with the school, go it alone, or let the schools handle that side of the show. They are very popular, so think about putting them in your event kitbag.

CHRIS JONES
Great Lakes Library



READING IN THE PARK AT WARREN

WARREN ANNUAL READING DAY

On Monday 17th September Warren was a hive of activity with the first ever Paint the Town REaD being held in Warren. All the business houses were suitably decorated in red with the main street of Warren decorated with large red bows and layers of red crepe paper. Our main event was stories in the park which was attended by 200 children from schools, pre-schools, day care centres and library story time participants all dressed in red. We also had Warren senior citizens as our special guests. The day was officially opened by Mayor Rex Wilson and attended by Warren Shire Council General Manager, Ashley Wielinga and Shire Councillor Julian Campbell AM. Special guest story teller Chris Crisp, Director of the Warren Pre School, and Paint the Town REaD representative, Judi Unger, kept the children enthralled with stories and songs. The Warren Reading Bug, just back from a visit to Canberra came along too! Afternoon entertainment included a visit by the Warren Reading Bug to the Little Possums day-care centre for a special story time, followed by the reading bug visiting the businesses in Warren who had been so generous with their support. The entire community of Warren is looking forward to next year's event.

PAM KELLY
Warren Library

PARRAMATTA NEWS

Constitution Hill Branch Library held its NYR Reading Hour in the morning of Saturday 25th August 2012. Library staff formed a partnership with Manoja Sundaranathan from Kumon Toongabbie; and liaised with her to promote Reading Hour to her students. We told all our borrowers and we had 35 children and 25 adults in attendance, with 19 new registrations for the library. Manoja organised for her group to attend the library and her students read stories to other children and adults in the library. The partnership was extremely successful. The children were given packs, which contained a short story, pencil, library registration forms and bookmarks. Everyone enjoyed the stories and the morning tea afterwards.

JO BERTONCELJ, NADA ANTOUN,
& **ZHORIK TERRAZZOLO**
Constitution Hill Library

CHESS AT PARRA

There is something special about chess: to succeed all you need is practice, and Parramatta City Library chess competition participants proved to be real chess kings. Ten players turned up on the day and their ages varied from 12 to 18. The participants played against each other to win prizes and certificates issued by the library's newly formed chess club. The competition was a fantastic show of skill and demonstrated the teenagers' ability to play the world's most famous board game. Check mate.

ALI HUSSEIN
Parramatta City Library

FORENSIC SCIENCE

To celebrate National Science Week, Ermington Library staff organised two free Forensic Science workshops, one during the day and one at night, in a bid to promote interest in science and to create a greater awareness of science in the community. A total of 150 participants of all ages attended these free workshops. Our guest speaker, a member of the Granville Police's Crimes Department, gave an excellent talk on his work as a forensic scientist, and performed some hands-on experiments.

This workshop sought to shed some light on the intriguing field of forensics, exploring some of the basic techniques involved in criminal investigations.

Children's News

For those lovers of Sherlock Holmes and Poirot, this was an opportunity to get an insider's understanding of the old art of detective work. However, we learned that while fingerprinting and character studies are still in use, the modern world of detecting and forensics is hugely dependent on technologies such as DNA testing, facial recognition and chemical analysers to identify suspects. Attendees were also treated to the practical aspects of collecting evidence, and their importance in reaching decisions in court.

With a focus on science, that marvellous discovery of Watson, Crick and Franklin, DNA, was delved into further, and we learned that samples of blood, saliva, even hair could be used to identify individuals. The inner detective of audience members was awakened by the presentation, and at the end, we were able to ask questions to Mr Monek about his work. The presentation fulfilled its aim of awakening in our patrons a desire to know more, and in doing so, promoted our library as a source of that most valuable of resources, knowledge.

GARGI MALLIK
Ermington Branch Library

PAINT PARRA REaD

Granville Library held a Paint Parra REaD reading day attended by over 80 children. Kids from Granville Public School's pre-school, Just for Kids Pre-School, playgroup children from The Hills Holroyd Parramatta Migrant Resource Centre and our regular story time children, had a wonderful REaD morning. Each guest reader was excellent, and delivered the message of the importance of reading to children before they start school. Most of the parents and children were wearing red and they understood the aim of the event.

Our Reading Ambassador, Ursula Dubosarsky kicked off the day with her new book *Too Many Elephants in this House* and another story *The terrible PLOP*. She's a great storyteller and got the attention of all the children; they were so excited because they could help her by acting as the stories' characters.

Then with RedSee (our Paint Parra REaD mascot) directing, all the children moved to our community room to listen to a story about waste and rubbish presented by Cleanaway. Parramatta Fire Brigade officers, all dressed up, read the book *Fire Engine* to the children, and (very exciting) in the middle of the reading they had to leave because there was an emergency! Julie the Coordinator of Granville South



REDSEE AT GRANVILLE

and East Public Schools gently calmed kids with her pretty necklace craft and story. Finally Little Bo Peep wandered in looking for her sheep. Little Bo Peep read *Where is the green sheep* to the children and showed them stories on her iPad. She displayed some of the library's community language books and eResources, and performed some magic tricks. We ended up shaking RedSee's hands and walking back to the library for their morning tea. All the children got a goody bag from the library and a balloon sheep dog to take home.

AMAL, LESLEY, LOUISA, SAMANTHA
Granville Library

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS IN GRANVILLE

We started with Graham Davis King, storyteller and didgeridoo artist. Both children and parents loved his stories and performance, as well as the dot painting afterwards.

Our T-shirt painting was extremely popular and very crowded. More than 50 kids and parents came to create some unique shirts, dresses and even pillowslips! It was a lot of fun and a fantastic day for all. Parents told us later that their children loved their work so much and slept with them still on.

The last activity was our wonderful Granlympic Games. Children participated in three different country groups, and parents acted as umpires, scorers and coaches. After the competitions - beanbag tossing, book stacking and balloon racing - each child won a medal for their very first Granlympic Games. We received nothing but positive response from the participants, and ended the day with a closing ceremony and celebration party.

All up we had over 150 attendances for school holiday activities.

AMAL, LESLEY, LOUISA, SAMANTHA
Granville Library

PAINT PARRA READ AT GUILDFORD

Lots of children came to enjoy the day, which started with a speech on the importance of reading, singing and interacting with children from birth to 5 years. After some nursery rhymes, Little Bo Peep wandered over looking for her sheep and read *Where is the Green Sheep* by Mem Fox on her iPad (and even found time to spruik our eResources!). She then gave out some posters and performed some magic tricks before we moved on to the next reading area. Bo Peep herded the kids into the Tom Collins Room where Pat Clarke did a reading of her book, *The Magic Forest of Goonoo*. All the kids loved passing around Pat's stuffed toys and puppets.

We then went on a trek to the Westpac bank on Guildford Road where Sabir Choudhury, the bank manager, explained to the children about the bank and read *Jasper's Beanstalk*, by Nick Butterworth. Each child received a piggy bank, a pencil and an eraser.

Finally, we all ended up back in the library where staff member John read *Monster* by Andrew Daddo. The children then had lunch and we drew the lucky door prize (a Dymocks book voucher) which was won by a child from the pre-school. All of the children got a gift bag and a balloon sheep dog as they left the building.

DEAN MCDOWELL
Guildford Branch Library

HALLOWEEN

Children's activities at Parramatta City Library were a huge hit in October, with a fully booked Halloween craft program. Children had a scream putting together a dangly Halloween Spooky Skeleton with top hat and bow tie. Parents and grandparents were also getting involved and expressed interest in similar fun activities in the future.

HIBA KANJ
Parramatta City Library



LITTLE BO PEEP AT GUILDFORD

CONSTITUTION HILL HOLIDAYS

School holiday activities in September/October were a huge success. We kicked the school holidays off with Games Day activities for young adults. 12 young adults enjoyed the day playing games such as chess, Monopoly, Connect 4 and Battleship, while munching on popcorn, chips, lollies and coke.

We held a Nature's Recyclers Workshop brought to us by Transpacific Cleanaway. 35 children and 16 adults came along to this workshop about recycling and general waste needs. The children met some hungry worms that help us to recycle our organic waste. This was a practical workshop and it showed the children and their parents how to set up their own compost bins and worm farms at home.

26 children come to the library to make their own stained glass frames. The kids made their own decorative cardboard stained glass frame in the shape of a bird, butterfly or fish. They enjoyed doing this colourful craft and could not wait to get home to hang them on their windows!

Many thanks to all the staff who help out during the busy school holiday time at Constitution Hill Branch Library.

**JO BERTONCELJ, NADA ANTOUN,
BARBARA CIAGLO & ZHORIK TERRAZZOLO**
Constitution Hill Library

Children's News



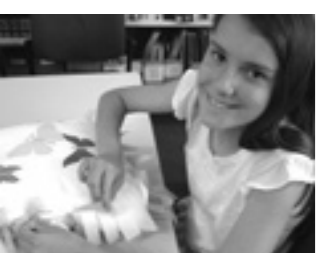
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/05

- 01 LILY WEBB WITH HER BEAUTIFUL BAG
- 02 MONTY AT LAKE MAC
- 03 CRAZY CASTLES
- 04 COMFY CUSHIONS

DESIGN A LIBRARY BAG

The Tumut Library received a \$500 grant from Public Libraries Australia as part of the National Year of Reading for the school holiday activity Design a Library Bag. This grant was combined with funds from Tumut Shire Council to purchase the start-up material for the program which included white woven cotton library bags printed with the NYR and Tumut Shire logos, and craft supplies.

The program attracted an attendance of 80 children, run over three days at two different libraries in the Shire. In addition to these school holiday programs, the Tumut Library also distributed Library bags to local holiday care centres. This was to ensure that as many children as possible were able to take part in the holiday program.

The response from children who attended was extremely positive and their parents, who found it to be both an enjoyable and worthwhile program for the children to be a part of, reinforced this. It promoted library use and literacy through a craft medium.

As a result of the holiday program's success, the Design a Library Bag activity was also presented at a number of local childcare and school centres as well as at Elderly Daycare. In all some 300 library bags have been designed and are in use. What was meant to be a one off holiday program has now morphed into an ongoing library activity. The Tumut Library still has several Design a Library Bag sessions to deliver in 2012 and interest has been shown to extend the activity into 2013.

KRISTIN TWOMEY
Tumut Library

CAMPBIE NEWS

Book Week was again a highlight of the calendar with over 1500 local primary school students attending classes held by our wonderful library staff. Performances of *That's not a Daffodil*, *No Bears* and *Come Down Cat*, wooed the students and there was a special guest appearance from last year's Noni the Pony. The Reading Hour was also celebrated with Kumon and special guest, Nadia Wheatley. Nadia read from her book *Playground* and inspired young readers to keep reading. Indigenous Literacy Day was celebrated with a special guest appearance by local MP and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Linda Burney MP. Ms Burney read a number of stories, along with our Mayor, to a group of pre schoolers and talked about why reading is important. The library held a fundraiser book sale for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

PAULA PFOEFFER
City of Canterbury Library

NYR FOR CHILDREN

Lake Macquarie City Library hosted some of Australia's most popular children's authors as part of our joint National Year of Reading program with Newcastle Region Library.

Australian children's laureate and multi-talented performer, Boori Monty Pryor, enthralled students with a participatory program of dance, didgeridoo, body-painting, and Dreamtime stories from his book *Shake a Leg*, which was awarded the Prime Minister's Literary Award for Children's Fiction in 2011. Monty also shared personal stories from his childhood, and explained the process of writing his award-winning books with Meme McDonald. The students were thoroughly entertained and inspired by Morris Gleitzman's humour and passion for books and writing at his talks to schools. As one of Australia's most popular authors, Morris needed no introduction! His sessions were extremely popular with over 600 students attending. Artist and author of the popular characters Old Tom, Horrible Harriet and Mr Chicken, Leigh Hobbs encouraged budding illustrators with his hands-on sessions at Belmont Library. Students were stepped through the process of drawing each of his popular characters and then given the opportunity to show off their work to the creator himself.

RACHEL MALLABY
Lake Macquarie City Library

HOLIDAYS AT COBAR

Lots of fun was had during the September school holidays at Cobar Shire & TAFE Library. Holiday craft at the library is always a big favourite with kids (and staff) and September was no exception! Kids of all ages had fun making chocolate crackles, friendship bracelets, crazy castles, comfy cushions, Mexican bird rattles and rocky road slice.

JANE FLORANCE
Cobar Shire & TAFE Library

WAGGA WAGGA NEWS

Crocodile Encounters introduced primary school-aged students to some of Australia's varied and unique reptiles and amphibians. The event was organised by Children's Librarian, Sharon Smith, from Riverina Regional Library. Over 40 people attended the event, which provided the kids with a great opportunity to see, touch and learn about Australia's amazing lizards, pythons, turtles and crocodiles. The students learnt about the value of biodiversity and the importance of conservation while touching a... crocodile!

JESSICA BROWN
Wagga Wagga City Library

Wagga Wagga City Library was very excited to receive an author visit (thanks to the State Library's National Year of Reading author tours program). We have had fabulous children's author, Deborah Abela before and were so thrilled she could make the trip again. 150 local school children attended the library over two sessions where Deb entertained them while teaching them about the writing process and encouraging them to find their own stories. Deb's enthusiasm and dynamic personality had the students enthralled from start to finish. They came away not only wanting to read all her cool books, but having learnt about story telling as well. It was wonderful to see students keen to contribute ideas and to share their own stories. They had an awesome day at the library! A big thank-you to the State Library of New South Wales for making it possible.

AMY HEAP
Wagga Wagga City Library

SHELVEIT

When my boss asked me to do a Children's Blog for the library, I was horrified. I had never looked at blogs before, let alone contributed to one or (worse) to be the sole contributor! I know my way around a computer okay, and I have learned the basics over the years at work or in my various degrees, but I am not what you would call a Hi-Tech person.

I do love my job as Children's Librarian, however, and I have been told that I am creative and have a huge imagination. I also love to research and have lots of ideas. Such things are not in the too hard basket for me. My colleague, Amie, however, is not only arty but runs the Local History Blog at our library, so she helped me set up the basic structure

of the Children's Blog. *Shelveit* was an obvious name; what was not so obvious was the audience that I was aiming for. At first, we thought just children. Then we had ideas for parents, carers and teachers. Then other librarians (particularly children's and youth library workers) started to look at it. I wanted it to be eye catching and purple. Purple – apart from being my favourite colour – is a good neutral colour, i.e. not favouring boys or girls. It is also a happy colour.

Once Amie set up the skeleton (or framework) for me, I set about trying to be brilliant. Well, sort of. I learned how to do links to websites which would be useful for our target audience, to children's movies and book reviews, programs and special events that were happening in our libraries, profiles on our Children's Staff, photos of various things going on in the library, puzzles, games, recipes, crafts, etc, plus the words to our Baby Bounce and Wiggle and Jiggle songs. I also did reading lists and put up the winners of our writing competition. I add jokes and limericks and whatever else I can find, and there are funny photos and trivia.

Gradually, our audience is building. Judging by the comments, they are all ages and from all walks of life. I have learned how to insert animated gifs, embed videos and a variety of other computer related stuff. For someone who was a borderline Luddite, I am doing okay. It is actually an interesting change of pace for me now. Literature, programs with the kids and creating flyers and posters are still my favourite things but being able to add working on the blog to my repertoire is a very cool thing.

So, a word to those who are afraid....don't be. If someone like me who enjoys making telephones for kids out of two cans and a piece of string can do it, then so can you!

Have a look at *Shelveit* at <http://shelveit.wordpress.com/> and good luck with your own blog!

KAREN JOHNSON
Leichhardt Library

Children's News



CIRCUS SKILLS

CLARENCE REGIONAL NEWS

July School Holidays saw Illustrator David Legge visiting the regional library service with rave reviews from all who attended his sessions. He visited nine libraries over four days from Macksville in the south to Iluka in the north.

The September school holidays were successful across the region with some new activities in the libraries – Circus Skills and TheatreSports. A local registered community coach taught the children how to juggle, use hula hoops, diabolos and many other circus tricks. The children enjoyed the spontaneity and improvisation of the TheatreSports and are looking forward to it being delivered next holidays.

Other activities included badge making in Bellingen, Urunga and Dorrigo, Pyjama Storytime in Bellingen and Urunga, Mandala craft and French Knitting at Iluka, and Dungeon and Dragons gaming and surrealism workshops in Grafton Library.

Born two days before Christmas in 1963, David Legge has been making up for mingy combined Christmas/birthday presents ever since by winning as many awards as he can! His first picture book, *Bamboozled*, received the signal honour of being voted an Honour book in the 1995 CBC awards and won the KOALA and YABBA awards the following year. Children and adults alike love his sense of humour and brilliant use of colour. Graduating as a Bachelor of Arts in 1986, David worked as an illustrator in London for three years before coming to live in Australia in 1989. He first achieved recognition with his book cover designs including the Nancy Drew series, Margaret Clark's *Hair-Raiser* series and jackets for works by authors such as Lilith Norman, Victor Kelleher and Colin Thiele. Following the success of *Bamboozled*, which has now sold over 100,000 copies worldwide, David published *Rise and Shine* (1997), *Tom Goes to Kindergarten* (with Margaret Wild, 2000) and *Baby Boomsticks* (also with Margaret Wild, 2003). David has also collaborated with author Frances Watts on three picture books. The first collaboration, *Kisses for Daddy*, became an Honour Book in the 2006 CBCA Book of the Year, Early Childhood category. *Parsley Rabbit's Book About Books* won the 2008 CBCA Eve Pownall Award for Information Books, and *Captain Crabclaw's Crew* (2009) is the third book from this creative partnership.

David's school visits are enormously popular. As one teacher said following his visit: The students] were completely engaged, impressed and awed ... David was so refreshing a personality, a delightful

person who touched many at a deeper level.

Feedback from David's school visits:

Wonderful, relaxed sessions. David was great with all the different stages/ages of children.

A great motivator to the children to write and draw.

Very positive - they thought his drawing ideas GREAT!

The teachers thoroughly enjoyed David's sessions and thought that he provided some great ideas and engaged the children.

KATHRYN BREWARD
Clarence Valley Council

ART GALLERY AND LIBRARY COME TOGETHER

Look! The art of Australian picture books today, a touring exhibition created by the State Library of Victoria, came to the Tweed River Art Gallery in August and September this year. The exhibition consisted of 112 artworks, sketches and draft illustrations from Australian artists and illustrators such as Bob Graham, Ann James, Shaun Tan and Graeme Base.

The exhibition opened on 17 August and ran until 29 September. As well as the artworks on display, which were hung at a lower level so that the children could appreciate them, the gallery also had a reading corner with all of the featured books where parents and children could sit and read.

Anouk Beck, Public Programs Curator at the gallery, approached library staff to see if there was a way that the public library could be involved in this project. This was a great opportunity to open a partnership between two Tweed Shire cultural program areas. The library came on board and provided storytime sessions in the gallery foyer, reading books that were featured in the exhibition and conducting a related craft activity. The first session was aimed at preschoolers whilst the second session was held in the school holidays to appeal to the older children.

The program was well received by all who participated; the library's experience in running previous literacy programs is available to be utilised in further community partnerships. Murwillumbah library staff look forward to working with the Tweed River Art Gallery on future projects with perhaps the library having more involvement and greater input during the planning stage.

LINDA BELL
Murwillumbah Library

Young Adults Update

LIBRARY RESOURCES

Three Parramatta City Library staff presented information about Library programs and resources to a group of 35 Western Sydney teacher-librarians on 11 September at Northmead High School. Katherine Mitchell, Information Access Librarian, Anne Poole, Marketing & Promotions Officer and Nathan Turner, e-Resources Librarian, were invited to join the group for their annual conference and information day. The library staff spent an hour talking about the services offered by the Library to students and schools, including Homework Help, YourTutor Online and the library's wide range of e-resources aimed at K to 12s.

The presentation was very well-received, with comments including *very informative and professional, and when can we arrange to sign up our students?* The consensus amongst the teachers was that they would be making efforts to sign up their entire schools, and they asked for a form letter they could send home with students, together with application forms. Several invited the librarians to visit their schools to present to teachers and students, or announced their intention to attend the Library's hands-on *e-Resources for Teachers* session.

ANNE POOLE
Parramatta City Library

DRUG ACTION WEEK

During Drug Action Week the Albury LibraryMuseum exhibited a collection of photographs taken by local young people on the theme of *Looking After Your Mind*, a joint project between AlburyCity and the Albury Wodonga Community Alcohol and Drug Action Team (CDAT). During the exhibition the library used the opportunity to highlight the Drug Info@your library books and pamphlets. There was an official opening on 18 June 2012 with all the participants and their families invited. The launch included speeches from local dignitaries, and a young person providing acoustic background music and light refreshments.

This photography project is in its fourth year and each year a different group have been targeted including local high schools, kids at risk and local youth who use the youth café. The project has great

results, but with anything like this there have been a few challenges. Some of the images this year were confronting and strong showing young people with drug paraphernalia and as the display was in the main foyer area of the LibraryMuseum a risk assessment was undertaken and control mechanisms were put into place to prepare members of the public in regard to the content. This included the usage of signage, image positioning and putting the exhibition into context with the Drug Info collection being placed on a table at the front. Part of the exhibition was to include images being projected onto an external wall of the LibraryMuseum but this was cancelled as we felt the images could not be put into context.

The group of young people was kept informed of decisions and given a copy of the LibraryMuseum exhibition policy. If they take part again next year they will know our requirements at the start of the project rather than the end. Due to good communication with the local CDAT group, youth services and the youth group these challenges were accepted and we were able to continue with the exhibition, with added signage and a reduced version as the projection aspect did not happen.

2013 will see this project run again with the changes and increased input from LibraryMuseum staff.

MICHELLE HEAD
AlburyCity Library

HSC LOCK IN

Bland Shire library has continued to build on the success of last year's inaugural HSC Lockin. The library ran two sessions on a Wednesday night for the HSC kids. We provided the space, the HSC resources, access to Yourtutor and of course plenty of munchies. The space was large enough for those who wanted to pursue quiet study to do so, and those that wanted to work as a group were also catered for. Next year we are planning to expand the sessions to include Year 11 students and to start the HSC Lock in sessions from April. One thing that certainly will not change is providing pizza and drinks for all attendees!!

JOANNE RUSSO
Bland Shire Library

Young Adults Update



DIGITAL SPACE

THE SPACE DIGITAL STUDIOS

Throughout 2012, a room at Narellan Library has gradually transformed into an innovative public library facility. The space digital studios is a collection of three spaces – a technology workshop room with access to 20 laptops, the Design & Create Mac lab with 10 networked iMacs and Record & Mix, a professional sound proof room with mix deck, sound and video equipment. The space is coming to life with community learning workshops on technology of all kinds. TAFE outreach classes are held in the space for beginner and next step computer classes; and school holiday sessions for young people have included Claymation by DigiEd, online discovery, animation, podcasting, blogging and an apps workshop. Exciting community workshops in learning to use technology, software and social media, including Adobe Photoshop, Skype and a Facebook introduction are planned for the future.

Library staff are also excited about the developing partnership with our local Telstra shop. Telstra staff will soon help the library present workshops such as *Getting to know your smartphone* and *What can I do with an iPad?*, just for starters. The possibilities for providing help with troubleshooting and engaging sessions to add to community technology learning are wide and varied.

Over the coming months, the library will begin to offer a program of sessions for all ages in many areas of technology. Some planned workshops include Google SketchUp for teens, Technology Taster Sessions for Seniors and many more. This program will help lead our community into the digital future. A mobile set of techy stuff has been created which holds iPads, flip cameras, digital cameras, eBook readers and more for our community to try out. The space will also host sound recording workshops, held with professional sound engineers, to open up access to recording possibilities for local musicians.

The space digital studios will develop as an interesting extension of our traditional library services. With monitors that project onto the floor, a surround sound system and several media players, the library is able to showcase all forms of media created in the space. This has been a great way to promote the digital creations of the attendees at our workshops, especially young people.

To find out more, visit our Google Site, which is our temporary website as we await a full Council website update: <https://sites.google.com/site/thespacedigitalstudios/>

KIM WHITE
Camden Council Library Service

AFTER SCHOOL, WHAT'S NEXT

Traditionally public libraries have been very supportive of HSC students and those intending on going to university. Multiple programs and collections exist to do just this. But what about those students who didn't attain their required ATAR or for whom university isn't the right path? For some time I have been wanting to run an event at my library that would be of benefit to students who are looking at alternative post HSC education options, or to enter into the workforce immediately, but I wasn't sure how to go about it.

In early 2012 I was invited to attend a local high school's Beacon Foundation launch (<http://www.beaconfoundation.net/>) where I was very fortunate to meet the capable Tania Smith from Sydney Business and Education Partnerships. We discussed how we would like to run a night for students that provided information on career and education options other than university. A few weeks later planning began in earnest. We established which industries we would like to be represented, and we agreed that the event would have to be for both parents and school students aged from 15 to 18 years.

Tania contacted numerous industry reps and we were fortunate enough to have 18 people commit to the event from 11 different companies and industries. We contacted local high schools, posted to message boards, advertised in the offices and stores of several of the industry representatives as well as on <http://www.nationalskillsweek.com.au/> and even managed to time the event to fall during National Skills Week 2012.

On Wednesday 29 August 22 students and parents attended the session. It was a great night with fantastic feedback given by industry representatives, parents and students. A panel of five (nursing, radio, retail, film and hospitality/coffee) spoke for five to eight minutes each about their industry, what they loved about it, how to enter the field, and what paths the students could follow with future employment.

After the formal session, students and parents were free to wander around the room and speak with the representatives one-to-one and ask any questions they might have.

While this was happening I spoke to several parents and students about the benefits of Mycareermatch, an online career and resume service which Randwick City Library Service subscribes to. Apart from the opportunity to ask questions in a one-to-one manner with an industry specialist, the highlight of the evening was probably the coffee making demonstration from Toby's Estate - *A hot 'proper' coffee is just what you need on a cold night*, was heard from one participant. The extremely positive response from all who attended has resulted in both Sydney BEP and Randwick City Library Service looking to make this a permanent annual event on our calendars.

SAM SHEPPEARD-BOROS
Randwick City Library Service

PARRAMATTA NEWS

Parramatta held a Manga drawing workshop by Pop Up Parramatta. Local artist Matt Lin from Goblin Designs, had the kids creating two characters for their manga script and incorporating them with dialogue into a one page comic strip. All the children were given a copy of Matt Lin's newest comic novel *The Chronicles of Fish Boy and Squid Girl* to take home. We followed the manga event with our Anime Movie night, including popcorn and treats.

Randa Abdel Fattah's held an interactive author talk for young people, teachers, and parents. Randa described her writing journey including her motivation as a young Muslim woman who wanted to change perceptions and challenge stereotypes. Her talk was both informative and inspiring as she took us on a journey from her teenage years growing up wearing the hijab (or veil) through her career as a young solicitor and to parenthood, each experience inspiring her various stories.

HIBA KANJ
Parramatta City Library



BARISTA AND FANS

HUNGER GAMES

Hunger Games fans were treated to a Hunger Games Survival Night at Tamworth Library during the September/October school holidays. The mixed demographic of readers and movie goers brought out young people from ages 12 through to 18 years, with an even number of boys and girls. The evening centred around trivia based on *The Hunger Games*, Suzanne Collins's hit YA dystopian novel. The group was divided into four districts (teams), just as the citizens of Panem in the book are split, with each team renaming their district.

What followed were four grueling rounds of multiple choice trivia led by library staff members. Some questions were easier than others evoking scoffs (What is Katniss named after?) and smirks (In which district do Katniss, Peeta and Gale live?). Others were tricky, causing some participants to freeze in their tracks (What is the colour of Buttercup the cat?) and struggling to remember minute details (What items do the sponsors send to Katniss?).

The highlight of the evening came when the groups were challenged to test their shelter building survival skills and create the tallest tower using only a bag of marshmallows and tooth picks. A lot of strategy and planning went into this. The exercise ended with a massive rush of adrenalin as they attempted to make the structures stand up, with the winning team's strategy being to squash all their marshmallows together in a big messy mound.

Young Adults Update

01 SURVIVAL SHELTER
02 CAN YOU SURVIVE?
03 READ ON: LIVE ON



/01



/02



/03

After each round, the scores were tallied and announced. It was an extremely close battle, with many districts within just a few points of each other throughout the rounds. At the end of the night however there was only one triumphant winner; ironically it was the district renamed May the odds be ever in your favour! The winning team was rewarded with the honour of first grab into a lucky dip of prizes, with all attendees going home with a little token for participation.

The Hunger Games Survival Night not only combined recreation with reading and information literacy, but encouraged social interaction amongst young people, fostering a sense of belonging and community connection. This will likely feature on the library's events calendar again when *Catching Fire* hits cinemas in 2013.

KATEY ALLWELL
Tamworth Library

THE PAPER SCULPTORS

Rockdale City Library ran two paper sculpting workshops for teenagers during Youth Week 2012. The participants used old books, and by folding and cutting created small artworks. The participants became very interested in exploring the paper sculpting process further and the Library convened a number of meetings for the Paper Sculptors. They collaborated under the under the guidance of local artist Kelly Pearce to create an installation using old books from Rockdale City Library. The installation work celebrates the National Year of Reading.

Over a period of two months a number of workshops were held to complete all aspects of the installation. Activities included book folding, paper designs and assembling of the installation as well as contributing to a manifesto, entitled Read on, Live on. Over two months 16 hands have folded cut and creased 200 books and 30000 pages to create this book installation. The books for this sculpture were collected from local libraries, books that were no longer used, damaged or unwanted.

The project was designed to bring new life to the books and return them from their humble beginnings as an organic form back into the majestic structure of the totem representing the trees from which it originated.

Each book had its own story to tell, just like the makers of this work, folding pages, telling stories and sharing experiences and working together to create something bigger. The sculpture is on display in the library foyer and has attracted many positive comments.

HEIKE OHRMANN
Rockdale City Library



HARRY POTTER

Wollongong City Library celebrated Harry Potter's birthday on 31 July. Young adults were officially invited to The Leaky Cauldron (library theatre) to celebrate. We showcased our new eResources collections and presented a movie matinee followed by trivia. Young adults tasted Butterbeer, Bertie Bott's Every Flavour Beans, joined a Hogwarts House via the sorting hat and competed for house points and prizes. Participants enjoyed seeing Harry Potter displays and Harry Potter memorabilia.

The event created quite a bit of excitement. Young adults excitedly arrived at the library dressed to impress for the movie *Deathly Hallows part 2*. After the movie finished the Library provided pizza, drinks, and famous edible snitches and cockroach clusters. Participants were then sorted into houses and took their places in the Great Hall for the beginning of the trivia quiz. Eight teams of eight faced off in the ultimate Harry Potter Trivia based on the books. Every 2nd round was a bonus round where if you had the quickest answer you received a great prize courtesy of Warner Bros Harry Potter. Eight chairs were secretly marked with the Dark Mark and those seated in these chairs had the opportunity to spin the Chocolate wheel to see what flavour Bertie Bott they would eat to win themselves a prize. Major prizes were given to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd placed teams.

The night was a great success, and in the near future we plan to run another as we were booked out in the first week of advertising. Two months on and we are still getting positive feedback on the event. We are now planning a *Lord of the Rings* event along similar lines.



01 HARRY AT WOLLONGONG
02 STUDY TIME AT CLARENCE

This event was well promoted in our libraries but the greatest impact came from our Facebook friends talking about it and getting teams together. The excitement generated on Facebook was extra special.

LAURA GOMES
Wollongong City Library

CLARENCE YA

HSC Collections were made available at all our libraries just in time for students to review for their HSC exams. Excel Study guides on each HSC subject have been provided for students to borrow for study. A brochure outlining the Services for HSC Students was also made available across the region for the first time.

Our first weekend-long Dungeons & Dragons campaign was held during the July school holidays. This proved as popular as the single day delves, with both teens and adults taking part. It is particularly encouraging to welcome back each holidays, some library users who are home from Uni.

Dungeons and Dragons happens at Grafton Library each school holidays.

KATHRYN BREWARD
Clarence Valley Council

WHAT A PARTNERSHIP

STOMP, the all engaging Australian Army Band based at Kapooka, presented a musical workshop for primary-aged children in Wagga Wagga during the September school holidays. This partnership between the Defence Force and Riverina Regional Library resulted in workshops at Culcairn and Wagga Wagga Libraries.

In touch with the State Library

The Wagga Wagga workshop featured a percussion display from the STOMP team using a number of different items such as bins and saucepans and they showed how noise could become music. The Kapooka soldiers handed out pots, pans and large mixing spoons to the crowd of 120 children and parents. They also used a common wheelie bin for a bass, metal bin lids as cymbals and two metal bins for drums. Everyone played some basic rhythm patterns, made their own percussion instruments with numerous articles and performed an orchestral piece together.

The biggest applause from the crowd came when the band launched into a set piece that involved lots of crossing-tapping with bin lids followed by the drummers walking around the crowd while keeping in time and sounding great! The response from the crowd was one that filled the air with cheers and excitement, with many staying back after the performance. The library's spring school holiday program was a great success; from the crashing metal bin lids parade echoing through the library to kick off STOMP to quieter activities like Xbox, craft and table games. And then there was a live crocodile show – but that's another story.

DAMIEN FERGUSON
Wagga Wagga City Library

SCHOOLS ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Schools Engagement Program has proven to be another successful addition to the outreach services provided by Willoughby City Library Services. The program aims to promote Willoughby Library Services and online resources within high schools in the LGA. In the past, school groups have had to come to the Library to access information. This program takes Library services to the schools and demonstrates how a wide variety of online resources can be used efficiently and effectively by the schools. Students are also shown students how they can access the online resources outside the classroom for improved homework research; and teaching staff how to update their own professional development.

The Service Delivery Librarian and Children's/ Youth Services Librarian initially met with the school librarians of two local High Schools, St Pius X College and Chatswood High School, to discuss how Willoughby might complement services and resources already offered in their school libraries. Both schools were particularly interested in their students having access to the EBSCOhost Integrated Search because of its ability to search the Library Catalogue and a range of 13 databases simultaneously with a Google-style results display that also links to thousands of journal and newspaper articles not accessible via Google searches.

As a result of the meetings, Willoughby Library staff were invited to make a number of presentations to school staff and students. The session for Chatswood High staff received such positive feedback they arranged for the Library to deliver presentations and supported lab sessions to all year 9, 10 and 11 students. In preparation for the workshops, Library membership applications were distributed to the school librarians so that students who were not already library members could join and Library cards were ready to be handed out on the day. A How to DL flier was also created to promote the service and provide simple access instructions.

The success of the program has been demonstrated in the increased usage of the databases – with total search statistics jumping from 7500 to over 56000 across quarterly reports (a staggering increase of 646.66%). The enthusiasm and positive feedback has clearly raised the profile of Willoughby Library Service with teachers and students at both schools. Networking for future demonstrations is already underway with more schools, and throughout 2012 all high schools within the Willoughby LGA will be contacted as the program is rolled out and develops.

LIZ PARKER
Willoughby City Library



ENGAGING COMMUNITIES AROUND COLLECTIONS ONLINE

The State Library of NSW has taken up the challenge of adopting social media tools to deliver library services. More and more people around Australia use social media tools like Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, etc. and there are many opportunities for libraries to share collections and conversations in these spaces. Social media tools are free to use, although they do require regular care and feeding to maintain them.

The first tool the Innovation Project at the State Library embraced is Historypin.com, an online map that allows photographs to be pinned on the location where they were taken. Members of the community can then add their own stories to the pictures, create 'then and now' shots and upload video and sound clips. You can find the State Library's Historypin Channel at <http://www.historypin.com/channels/view/11686538/> with more than 600 pictures from across NSW, including some trips down memory lane around the Sydney CBD. Historypin is a great tool for public libraries to use to build their own local historical walking tours as it has free apps available for smart phones.

The State Library is also participating in the state-wide Wikipedia project along with the public library network and will be using other tools like Pinterest and YouTube as well.

For more information about the project please contact Mylee Joseph at mjoseph@sl.nsw.gov.au or follow our progress on the eRecords blog <http://blog.sl.nsw.gov.au/erecords/>

MYLEE JOSEPH
Innovation Project

Seniors News



HEALTH TALKS AT RANDWICK

ASK THE EXPERT

Throughout 2012 Randwick City Library Service ran a successful health program for seniors at its central library. These talks were sponsored by Walsh's Pharmacy who located the expert and covered the cost of the speakers. Under the banner of "Ask the Expert: health talks for seniors" the library offered four sessions on health issues of interest to this target group. The four sessions provided were:

- What you should know about Oral Care with expert Kurt Dean from Maroubra Dental;
- Natural Vision Improvement with Satya Prem;
- Medicines-what to take and how to take them safely with pharmacist Richard Walsh; and
- How to stay in your home longer: supports and gadgets with guest speaker Margaret Dwight, Manager, Eastern Sydney Service Centre, Home Care Service NSW, Ageing Disability and Home Care and Department of Family and Community Services.

Each session concluded with a question and answer session in which members of the audience were able to ask the expert about their own specific health concerns.

Walsh's Pharmacy are happy to continue next year with new topics including Exercise for strength and flexibility, Nutrition for good health and Mental health: how to keep your mind active.

JANE MOFFATT
Randwick City Library Service

DEMENTIA AWARENESS

In recognition of Mental Health week, Ermington Library hosted a Dementia Awareness Seminar on the 9th of October. The aim of this seminar was to raise awareness and understanding of dementia. This free seminar was presented by Sharon Snir, a spiritual teacher, author and clinical psychotherapist who holds regular local and international seminars and workshops. Twenty three people attended this seminar. We attribute this good turn out to our tireless promotion and a media release in the Parramatta Advertiser.

During her talk, Sharon gave a brief overview of dementia, its causes and also the various types. Whilst Alzheimers disease was noted to be the most common cause, it was interesting to learn about childhood dementias, often genetic conditions (albeit rare) causing the same devastating symptoms in children as young as nine. Crucially, attendees learned about practical aspects of dealing with people with dementia, including managing the fluctuating moods and shows of aggression that often accompany this condition. Sharon painted a pathos-filled portrait of the dementia sufferer, as well as the trials and tribulations of the family members, who have to endure unremitting hardships to ensure care is appropriately given, while dealing with behavioural issues, and all the while combating feelings of guilt, mental exhaustion, and grief at the loss of a loved one. People with dementia, Sharon explained, often become a shadow of their former selves, losing all personality to this nightmarish disease.

Sharon also shared the experiences of her family's journey with her mother, who suffered from dementia. In so doing, she gave an intimate flavour to this medical and social condition, and personalised a depersonalising disease. She also pointed out the valuable resources available such as social supports, respite, counselling and services to ease the workload and provide an extra pair of hands when needed most.

This seminar was one of the most emotionally charged presentations I had witnessed; the skill of



LILY OEN WITH ONE OF HER MANY TALENTED PUPILS

the speaker in creating empathy in her audience was exemplary, and as a result, many were in tears, particularly during a reading of Sharon's novel about her mother, *Looking for Lionel - How I Lost and Found my Mother through Dementia*.

She brought along copies of three of her recently published books for sale. Many people bought her books on the day with her autograph in them. During the question time Sharon was happy to answer further queries that people had. This event was a resounding success, and it was heartening to know that a talk on Dementia (a thoroughly unfashionable, unappealing disease in today's ageist society) could have had such a response. It seems that the reality of these diseases is dawning on many people as our communities grow older, and as it is only with knowledge and understanding that we can fight it, I feel reassured that a few more members of the public have now feel more enlightened.

GARGI MALLIK
Ermington Branch Library

SENIORS' ART CLASS

Randwick City Library Service holds two weekly art classes for seniors in Bowen Library. The classes are conducted by talented artist and teacher, Lily Oen, who generously volunteers her time. These students went the next step in September this year, by holding an exhibition of their work at the Tapp Gallery in Darlinghurst. The week long exhibition was opened by Professor Michael Feneley AM on 4 September in what was a wonderful event attended by more than 100 invited guests. I was on hand to welcome guests and introduce Lily Oen to those in the room who hadn't yet met this inspirational woman. The exhibition showed what an amazing depth of talent there is among our seniors. It was fabulous and we hope it is only the first of many for this group. In November, the group took an art excursion to Centennial Park.

JANE MOFFATT
Randwick City Library Service



BOOK BUSKING
IN MOSMAN FOR
INDIGENOUS LITERACY
DAY (SEE STORY PAGE 29)

IN THE STATE LIBRARY GALLERIES

Time in Motion: 50 years of the Australian Ballet

Exhibition Galleries
Until 10 February 2013

Time in Motion celebrates the enduring style, strength and passion of The Australian Ballet and its creative output over the last fifty years. Drawn from Arts Centre Melbourne's Performing Arts Collection and The Australian Ballet's archives, the exhibition features photographs, film, designs and costumes.

Flashback: 160 Years of Australian Fashion Photos

Level 1, Macquarie Street
Until April 2013

The glamorous story of Australian fashion photography is revealed through an exquisite collection of 39 beautiful and iconic images from the Library's collection.

The Greatest Wonder of the World

Exhibition Galleries
23 February to 12 May 2013

View 100 extraordinary images of 19th century Australia from the State Library's world-renowned Holtermann collection.

COMING SOON

ALIA New Librarians' Symposium

10 – 11 February 2013
Brisbane
<http://newlibrarianssymposium.com/>

Information online

12 - 15 February 2013
Brisbane
<http://www.information-online.com.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

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