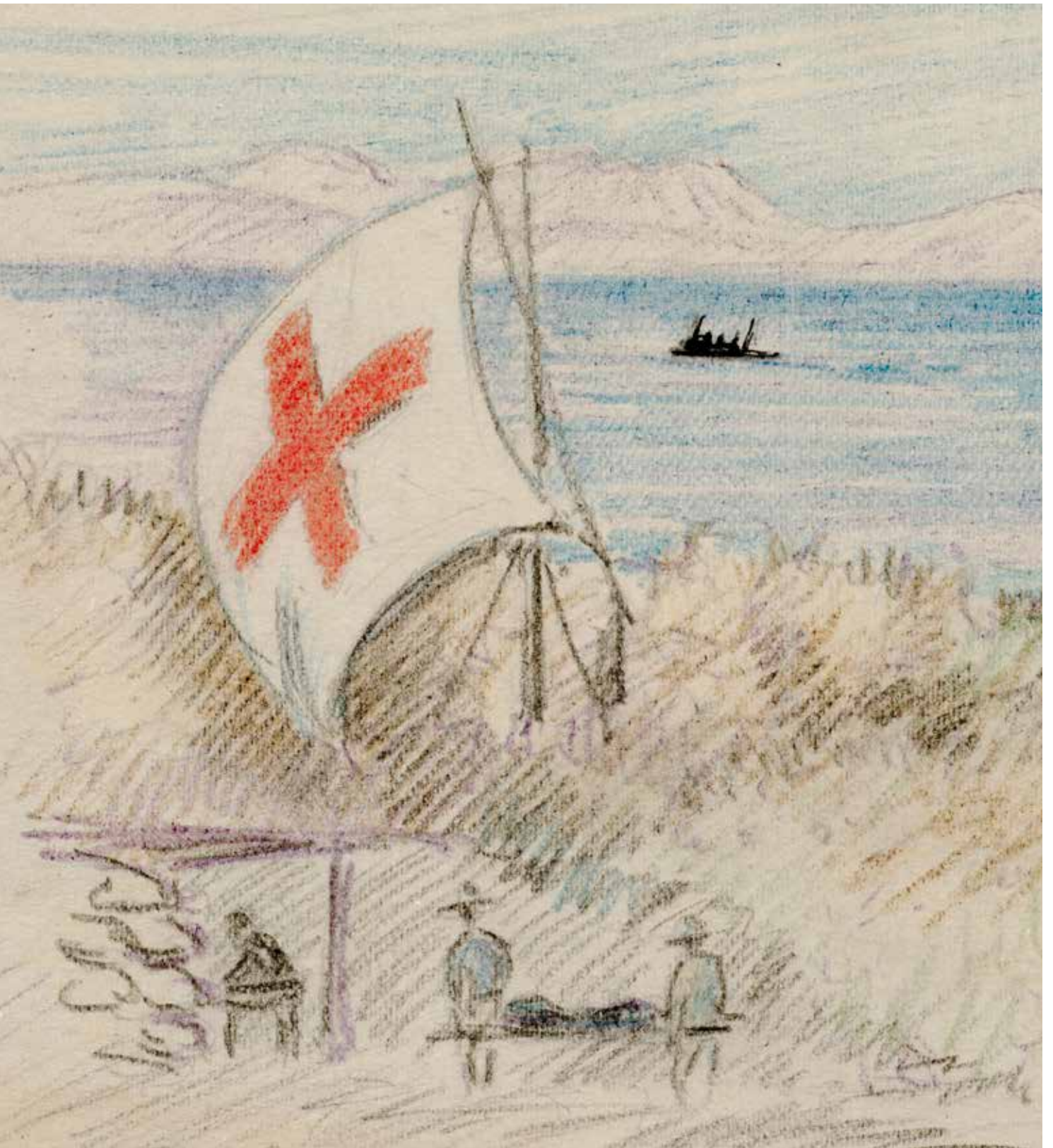


Public Library News

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Volume 19 No 3
December 2013



STATE LIBRARY®
NEW SOUTH WALES



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State Library of NSW,
Call Number: PXE 703
(see WWI Commemoration program, page 1)

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our final issue for 2013. It is filled with many wonderful events, stories, ideas and photos. Our cover feature for this issue - War Stories, Our Stories, Your Stories - lets you know how you can be part of the State Library's WWI commemoration program.

For this issue we have created a Public Library News Pinterest Board as another way of sharing the wonderful stories from public libraries across New South Wales - in colour! Please take a look at <https://www.pinterest.com/slnewsp/>



Thank you to all our wonderful contributors and public library staff.

PHILIPPA SCARF
Editor

CALL FOR PAPERS

The State Library of NSW is calling for papers to *Libraries for the People, the 11th Forum on Australian Library History, marking the 75th anniversary of the NSW Library Act, 1939*. The Forum will be held in Sydney on 18-19 November 2014.

Contributions from public library managers and staff, past and present, as well as from students are particularly welcome.

Full papers: Abstracts (up to 200 words) of proposed papers should be sent to co-conveners, Dr David J Jones (email: librarydoctor@gmail.com) and Anne Doherty (email anne.doherty@sl.nsw.gov.au) by 14 February 2014.

'Snapshots' ideas for short contributions, around the theme of 'a picture is worth a thousand words' are also welcome. Contributors will present a single image and have 5-10 minutes to speak. 'Snapshots' proposals are also required by 14 February 2014.

Invitations to present will be issued by mid-March 2014. See www.sl.nsw.gov.au/services/public-libraries/professional_development_events/library_history_forum.html for further information.



War Stories, Our Stories, Your Stories

WWI COMMEMORATION PROGRAM

With increasing talk and attention being turned to the centenary of the First World War, you may be wondering how the State Library will be using our rich collections to commemorate the Australian experiences of war. We are also very keen to hear what's being planned in your local library, community and region.

World War I was a defining moment in Australian history. Many celebrated our participation as a sign of national maturity; but it was also a time of overwhelming grief and loss. To document the war to end all wars, the State Library began collecting, from 1918, the personal stories of soldiers – their diaries, letters, photographs and drawings – the war as they actually lived it.

This amazing collection – including some 1140 volumes of diaries written by over 500 servicemen and women – is supported by newspapers, photographs, maps and ephemera. The Library's collections are some of the richest, but also the least known records of the Australian experience of WWI.

Through 2014 to 2019 the library will take its collections, on line and on tour to tell our stories, and to listen to stories from the community. At the heart of our commemorations will be our diaries, completely digitised, transcribed and available online. Along with onsite exhibitions, we are building a strong web presence with a new interface to encourage exploration and discovery across our diverse WWI collections.

WE'D LOVE YOUR LIBRARY TO BE INVOLVED!

The public library network is an important link into the community for the Library's WWI commemoration program.

We are keen to know more about our diarists, many of whom we know very little about – and we're hoping public libraries can help us to spread the word.

The fully searchable list of the WWI diarists in our collection is available at <www.sl.nsw.gov.au/ww1> Each diarist will have a dedicated page, where the community can upload relevant images, multimedia or stories to add to our records, or get in touch to tell us more.

Perhaps your suburb, town or region has a local WWI hero that you can cross reference against the list? Please encourage your library users, schools and communities to have a look. Remember to share your successes and interesting finds with us!



"2149 GEO. GRIFFIN, D COY.
53RD BATTALION, A.I.F."
FROM J. I. MARSHALL
SKETCHES, PHOTOGRAPHS
AND NEWSCUTTINGS

LOOK OUT FOR AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR OUR REGIONAL TOURING PROGRAM

Our visit could coincide with events being planned in your region over the next couple of years – for example the start of a recruitment march – or to bring the original diary of one of the men or women who lived in the area before or after they went to war.

To get the best out of the Library's visit to your region, we recommend libraries collaborate with other organisations to host all three events on offer: a Curator talk with an original diary or WWI item; a practical workshop on preserving personal history collections with Library Preservation expert; and a professional workshop for teachers highlighting WWI resource materials based on our incredible collections.

Early next year the Library will send out an expression of interest to public libraries, RSLs, museums, galleries and historical societies for our regional touring program which will commence in late 2014.

- 01 THE COLLECTED DIARIES OF ARCHIBALD BARWICK
- 02 DIGITISING ITEMS FROM THE WWI COLLECTIONS

Check the list of diarist names – these may list the diary of a local son or daughter whose descendants still live in the area and will be excited to be connected with their history.

MAKING MORE OF OUR WWI COLLECTIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Through the Digital Excellence program funded by the NSW Government, we are now fast-tracking the large-scale digitisation of the Library’s extensive WWI content, making more of this content easily accessible and freely available to the public. This includes diaries, maps, posters and ephemera – approximately 100, 000 digitised pages in total.

Through the Digital Excellence Program the State Library has embarked on a special project to expand its digitisation of NSW newspapers. The emphasis of this has been to digitise newspapers published during the WWI years to support the commemoration activities.

As titles are digitised they are made available via Trove – the NLA’s collection search interface. To date this program has funded over 100 titles currently in Trove, with a predominance of NSW regional newspaper titles and includes the iconic Sydney Mail.

For a full list of State Library of NSW titles available on Trove visit <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/titles>

A **WWI Research Guide** has been developed to help clients navigate the ever increasing collections <http://guides.sl.nsw.gov.au/wwi-and-australia>



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IF YOU’RE PLANNING SOMETHING ... LET US KNOW!

We’re keen to know what’s being planned throughout the regional network to commemorate WWI. If you have information about upcoming events on your website we’ll link to it from our website - www.sl.nsw.gov.au/ww1

Inside History magazine is coordinating an online resource that allows you to list and share information about WWI projects, www.worldwaronlink.com.au/ due to go live in December 2013.

ANZAC CENTENARY LOCAL GRANTS

The Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program is providing up to \$125,000 to each Federal Member of Parliament (MP) to support projects in their electorate commemorating the First World War. Funding is available from 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014 for projects and events that directly commemorate the involvement, service and sacrifice of servicemen and women in WWI. For example, commemorative events for military anniversaries, enlistments or events, building new or restoring WWI memorials, interpretive displays or school projects. Full guidelines and the application form are available here www.anzaccenatary.gov.au/grants/index.htm

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Keep an eye on our website, and in Public Library News, for updates about the program. As the centenary date gets closer, we’ll release more information about the program.

For more information about the Library’s WWI program contact Brooke Hutchison, WWI Program Coordinator, brooke.hutchison@sl.nsw.gov.au or contact your PLS consultant.

eLending and Digital Library seminar

Over the past five years, the digital content offered by public libraries has evolved from predominantly eJournal based collections to encompass an increasingly diverse range of material including ebooks, online streamed music and video collections. The surge of community interest in ebooks has created exciting new opportunities for libraries to deliver traditional services in new ways. Today, many of our customers own smartphones and tablet devices that allow them to access our online services and download content whenever and wherever they are.

Yet despite community interest in ebooks, libraries have encountered a number of obstacles: from sourcing content under sustainable terms and conditions to impediments that hamper the integration of ebooks into the library's regular online discovery platform. This has prompted innovation and advocacy initiatives from the library profession resulting in library initiated eContent management solutions; deep catalogue integration APIs from mainstream aggregators; eReader loaning schemes and technology literacy classes; new partnerships with emerging publishing streams; and, influencing major publishers to provide digital content for eLending.

In September, NSW.net hosted the eLending and Digital Library seminar at the State Library of NSW to explore ebooks with a focus on the opportunities and challenges of managing digital collections in public libraries.

If you missed this thought provoking seminar you can view the presentations via the NSW.net website. The NSW.net blogpost has an overview of presenters and links to presentation recordings <www.nswnet.net/blog/nswnet-elending-and-digital-library>

James LaRue, Director of the Douglas County Libraries gave the keynote presentation: *From Gatekeeper to Gardener: Creative Destruction and the Library*. You can read his blog at <http://jaslarue.blogspot.com.au/>

Below is an extract from James LaRue's blog about his recent visit to Sydney.

Back from the land Down Under – Monday September 23

I've just returned from a week in Sydney, Australia. While there, I spoke to some 130 public librarians, mainly about the Douglas County Libraries model for managing ebooks.

Librarians are good people. Everywhere I go, I find colleagues who are smart, funny, and deeply passionate about the twin values of our profession: intellectual freedom and privacy. I like them. I think that our respective countries are right to trust librarians (because it's clear

that they do). We're good stewards of public funds, and providing personalized quality service is part of our DNA.

In fact, there is far more about Australian and US public libraries that is similar, than dissimilar.

- We share a similar model of service. By far the biggest use of our libraries is for circulating materials.
- Our most powerful recruitment tool - and perhaps our key contribution to our respective nations - remains the children's storytime. New parents understand implicitly what librarians make explicit: early and frequent exposure to stories makes for bright and literate families.
- All of our libraries have people in them. Big or little, libraries generate traffic.
- We have clearly emerged as prime space not only for quiet reading and study, but also for access to technology. As in the US, Australians are moving from public PCs to wireless mobile connections. But they expect libraries to be connected. And I would say that public technology looks pretty good: new machines, big pipes for data, modern interfaces to our resources.
- Beyond that, the service model seems to change slowly. While libraries in both our countries are noisier and more popular than they were a generation ago, they still mostly look and work as they did 30 years ago. There are two significant barriers to vital public investment: first is the persistent meme that the Internet has made libraries obsolete; second, libraries compete against other municipal services (mainly roads, as I gather fire and police are a state service) for public resources. All of the public libraries in Sydney belong to "councils" - like our municipal libraries. Even within a major metropolitan area like Sydney, these councils subdivide the population into regions. Councils are funded by taxes - "rates" to them - and libraries compete for general funds. This parallels the library environment throughout much of America, where libraries simply fail to achieve sufficient aggregate size to marshal the resources necessary to retool.
- Marketing in both countries tends to focus on growing public awareness and use. Our publicity does little to generate messages of excitement, orientation to the future, the vitality of our contribution to our communities and the lives within them - in short, we still haven't got the knack of growing SUPPORT.
- State library staff - the good people working for the New South Wales State Library - are fabulous. Their interest and enthusiasm for our profession, their dedication to their many constituents, reminds me of the similar passion of the state library staff in the US. State libraries remain a vital part of our intellectual infrastructure.

More prosaically, the same Big Five publishers, the same two or three distributors, the same handful of library automation vendors, dominate both of our library markets. That means that our friends Down Under are grappling with the same market lockout, unresponsiveness, and lagging integration that US librarians face.

But it's also clear that librarians pay attention to each other. Experiments in Singapore, the Netherlands, and even Colorado are closely tracked. We're sharing what we learn, and just may be discovering that by growing our own technical expertise (a problem for both of us), and being just a little bolder in the market, is bound to be both more productive, and more fun, than passively adapting to change.

I should also say that Sydney is just a wonderful place to visit. I spent hours strolling along the magnificent and utterly beguiling harbor, walking through magnificent parks and gardens, and even checking out a museum or tour. Public transportation is plentiful, the food was fantastic, and the people were open and friendly. I hope to go back sometime. I'm deeply grateful that Ross Balharrie, Services Delivery Coordinator for the State Library of New South Wales, and others invited me down to spend some time with them.

NSW.NET eLENDING PORTAL

The aim of the portal is to provide a collaborative space for sharing and discussing developments in emerging digital content formats: ebooks, eAudio, streaming and downloadable music and video content. Comment fields are provided at the bottom of each page and public library staff are encouraged to discuss issues and share their thoughts. The portal can also be utilised for sharing documentation created for promotion, training (staff and public) and general client information. The discussions that occur in the portal will guide the future direction of research and portal content.

The information in this portal will be updated regularly to ensure accuracy. To keep abreast of changes we suggest you subscribe to the eLending Portal Newsletter at <www.nswnet.net/elending-portal>

Registered members of the NSW.net website can sign in to the eLending portal using their existing username and account details. If you are employed in a NSW public library and do not have an existing account please register online at <www.nswnet.net/user/register>.

The Library Listening Post

LIBRARY INTERCEPT SURVEY: A LESSON IN STAFF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

This year, seven NSW public libraries and the Institute for Innovation in Business and Social Research (IIBSoR), University of Wollongong (UOW) undertook a qualitative customer survey project to understand factors that encourage repeat library visitation and determine areas for improvement. The comprehensive project began in May 2012 and concluded in February 2013.

Previous Hurstville City Library Museum & Gallery (LMG) surveys indicated that customers were satisfied with our services and wanted 'more of everything'. However in 2011, visitor numbers and circulation data for Hurstville were in slight decline and budget restrictions hampered the 'more of everything' philosophy. Meaningful and distinctly different data was required to develop strategies to improve access to collections and increase repeat visits.

Considering that other libraries might have similar experiences we invited all public libraries in NSW to participate in the survey project. Seven libraries confirmed participation - Auburn, Fairfield, Hurstville, Lake Macquarie, Marrickville, Penrith and Waverley.

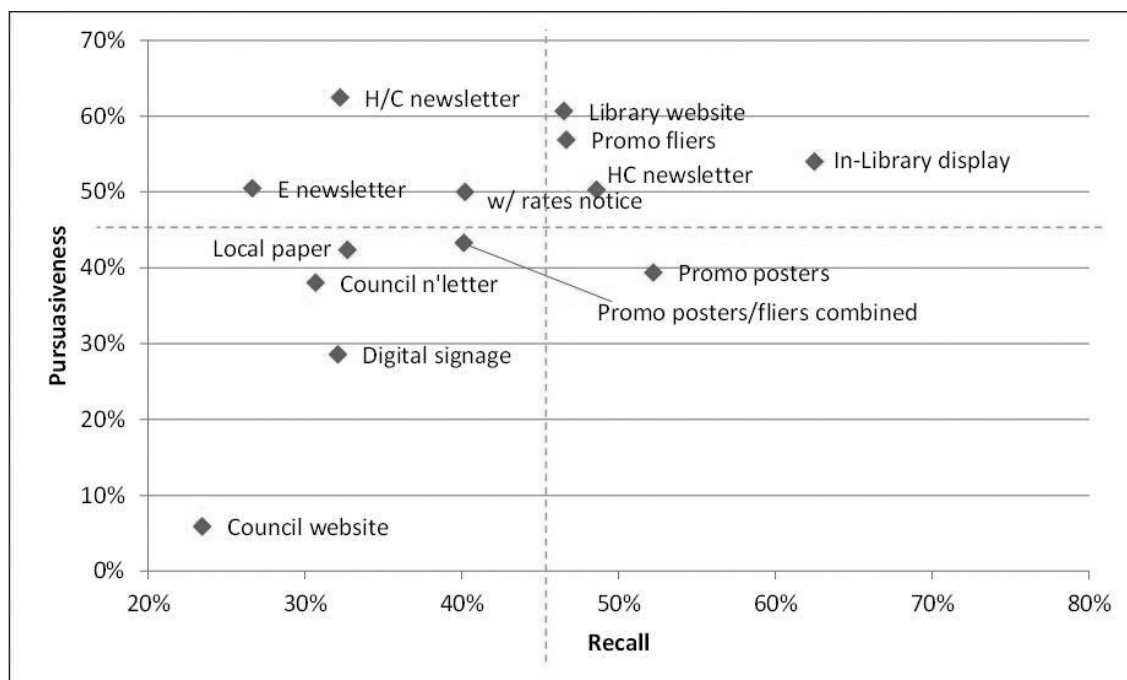
The purpose of the study was to capture the thoughts and experiences of customers via an onsite intercept survey conducted by staff. The survey also sought to understand the effectiveness of different approaches to promotion and advertising across the different library services.

Library representatives met in September to discuss project style, methods, data analysis and discuss a draft survey. With guidance from UOW, a narrative format was selected that focused on listening to responses to open questions, rather than forcing respondents through a barrage of rating or 'tick the box' questions. The survey aimed to collect data from a stratified sample of library users, including seniors, secondary school students and parents.

Representatives met again in October to finalise the survey, receive training in conducting interviews and recording data, and field test the survey at Hurstville and Penshurst libraries. Participating libraries indicated that being a part of the design and trial of the survey was a highly rewarding aspect of the project. Anecdotally we found the hands-on, participatory approach was a unique way to tackle survey research in public libraries.

As a result, survey questions subtly changed to reflect the learning process. For example, an initial question tested by staff in the pilot: 'Did

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS CHARTED BY VISIBILITY AND PERSUASIVENESS. THE SURVEY FOUND THAT IN-HOUSE LIBRARY DISPLAYS, LIBRARY WEBSITES, FLYERS AND HARDCOPY NEWSLETTERS WERE THE MOST EFFECTIVE MARKETING TOOLS CURRENTLY UTILISED BY PARTICIPATING LIBRARIES DUE TO THEIR VISIBILITY AND PERSUASIVENESS.



you find what you were looking for?' was found to unintentionally limit customer responses to collection issues. The question was revised to 'Did you get what you came for?' which allowed customers to comment on other areas of the library such as workspaces, ambience and technology. It became apparent that staff wanted a deeper and richer understanding of any extremes in satisfaction, so another question was added 'Reasons for delight/disappointment?'

Surveys were implemented and data entry completed by staff and volunteers between October and December. Some libraries organised exchanges for the interviewing process which allowed staff to visit other public libraries and experience how different customers relate to their local library. Conducting the surveys in-house was an excellent opportunity for staff to reflect on customer responses and establish direct dialogue with visitors. A challenge of this approach was releasing staff from regular duties to undertake the survey. Two months were initially allocated to data collection, but this was extended and finalised in three or four months, depending on the library.

All survey data was given to UOW for analysis and developed into a report summarising the findings which was discussed with representatives at a follow up meeting in May 2013. Following this a consolidated report allowing each Council to interpret its results against the other libraries was developed by UOW.

Some findings:

- One in 20 respondents across all libraries (5%) indicated that research was their main reason for visiting.
- The main reason for visiting (70%) was for collections. For the most part (62% of the total), this took the form of browsing a generic collection (only 4% were looking for a specific item).
- This confirms anecdotal evidence that there is a shift in usage patterns for public library collections. It also validates recent revisions of the Hurstville LMG collection development policy which focuses on recreational reading and browsing collections.

A typical 'tick a box' survey would be possible in a shorter timeframe, however, the inclusion of data from seven libraries, and the complexity of information analysed resulted in a more robust study. The final report provides tangible evidence for why customers visit library services and allows deep comparison of data between user segments and libraries.

Participating libraries discovered what our customers love and where we can improve. Additional outcomes included increased staff knowledge in survey creation, surveying techniques and implementation. As a follow up initiative Hurstville LMG staff are visiting libraries that demonstrated strength in areas where our services could improve. We hope to learn from our peers to ensure continuous improvement for our facilities.

For the full report, see our website: <http://lmg.hurstville.nsw.gov.au/LMG-Policies.html>

REBEKAH SCHULZ AND JESSICA ALLEN
Hurstville City Council

LIAC Centre of Excellence Award

The Law and Justice Foundation's annual *Justice Awards* recognise the contributions of individuals and organisations to improving access to justice in NSW. The *LIAC Centre of Excellence Award* recognises innovation and creative projects that increase community awareness of and access to LIAC.

The winners of this year's *LIAC Centre of Excellence Award*, presented by Dr Alex Byrne, State Librarian and Chief Executive, were Manly Library and Wagga Wagga City Library. Congratulations to Manly Library and Wagga Wagga City Library!

MANLY LIBRARY

Manly Library's service includes *Manly afloat*, a mobile library that operates at Manly Wharf each weekday morning from 7 to 9 am. For this year's Law Week, the mobile library was used to promote the *Find Legal Answers* service to commuters.

The mobile library vehicle, known as 'Bessie', suitably decorated with Law Week flags and posters, was used to display plain language books and pamphlets from the *Find Legal Answers* collections. A laptop was set up to demonstrate the *Find Legal Answers* website and free showbags were given away.

A significant commuter population uses Manly Wharf each day, with 29% of Manly council residents using public transport to travel to work (2011 Manly Community Profile), compared to 20% in greater Sydney. Added to this is a large commuter population from other local government areas.

This location provided an ideal opportunity to reach large numbers of people to raise awareness of the *Find Legal Answers* service. This strategy led to increased use of the plain language legal resources available in the library and to increased requests for legal information since Law Week.

The LIAC Centre of Excellence Award was presented to Vicki Smith Manager, Library Services, Anna Pearson and Unity Kerslake from Manly Library.

WAGGA WAGGA CITY LIBRARY

Wagga Wagga City Library's *Marketing to the max* strategy promotes the availability of plain language legal resources to the local community. The library uses a range of promotional tools throughout the year to keep their community informed, ranging from traditional media such as posters, flyers, badges, newsletters, local radio and local newspapers, to social media campaigns using Facebook, Twitter, the WaggaWiz YouTube channel and Pinterest.



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As well as the continuous marketing strategy, the library also reaches out to the community by holding Law Week events, participating in community events such as the Henty Field Days, and working in partnership with other local legal service providers such as the Family Law Pathways Network and the Cooperative Legal Service Delivery program.

This wide-ranging approach has led to increased awareness of the *Find Legal Answers* service among local residents and organisations.

The LIAC Centre of Excellence Award was presented to Claire Campbell, Manager, Wagga Wagga Library Services and Margot Lumley, Information Services Librarian, Wagga Wagga.

01 VICKI SMITH, ANNA PEARSON AND UNITY KERSLAKE, FROM MANLY LIBRARY AT THE AWARDS. PHOTOGRAPHS BY PHILIPPE FLATT.

02 CLAIRE CAMPBELL MANAGER WAGGA WAGGA LIBRARY SERVICES AT THE AWARDS. PHOTOGRAPHS BY PHILIPPE FLATT.

All the way with U3A

Singleton Library has just facilitated the setup of a U3A (University of the Third Age) operating, initially at least, out of the library. It's an exciting development with a lot of future upside with U3A currently the fastest growing educational institution in the country.

The genesis of the idea came out of the *Learning For All Conference* held last year at the State Library of Victoria and in particular an address by Ronan O'Beirne. I was at the time in the process of finalising the library's community engagement strategy. Singleton is blessed with a wonderful, open library building with a mixture of comfortable, intimate nooks and crannies, wide open event and children's spaces, as well as meeting rooms and computer training rooms. The building demands use as a social space and my inspirational Community Engagement Team work incredibly hard to facilitate this.

Ronan, the Director for Learning Development and Research at Bradford College in the UK reminded us that although libraries are increasingly seen as community meeting spaces, the fact remains that they were originally founded to assist learning, outside formal institutions, and that this is a key role that they must continue to fulfil.

I'd come across U3As in the past when my mother attended the Bathurst group, and she spoke very enthusiastically about the concept. The idea of facilitating the establishment of a U3A through offering the library as a free meeting place was appealing in a number of ways, not the least that it could impact on the door count and borrowing figures. The library could offer the space to comfortably house a group, at least in its initial stages. A U3A group is independent, organised by an elected management committee. It therefore also appealed as a self-sustaining partnership that could take minimal library staff time. Finally it appealed as a way of interacting closely with our local community, getting feedback on library services, programs and spaces, allowing us to engage on a meaningful level with our community.

My manager, Alex Mills, was very supportive of the idea, throwing in free printing, photocopying and assistance with advertising as well. The first step was contacting local U3A groups to learn more about the idea. They were enthusiastic in their support, sending promotional material including an excellent DVD featuring Henri Szeps and Noelene Brown.

I called a public meeting to discuss the idea, inviting representatives of existing U3A groups as well as securing the services of the Deputy Mayor of Singleton to add some weight to the proceedings. Before the meeting I promoted the concept through all available channels including talks at Rotary and Ladies Probus.

The meeting drew 25. There was certainly interest in the idea and feedback gained on possible courses... but no volunteers to lead them and only one to sit on a committee. Nevertheless the volunteer was excellent and together we decided the interest was such that we'd give the concept another go. We put together an introductory term of free courses from feedback gained from meeting attendees: current affairs, trivia, health and wellbeing and iPads. I put up my hand to lead trivia and current affairs, other staff ran the two sessions on iPads and my volunteer twisted an arm to lead wellbeing.

The courses ran through May and June and were well attended. We gained an enthusiastic group of advocates through attendees at these courses and so organised another meeting to formalise a Singleton U3A through the nomination of an interim management committee. This time it worked with eight women putting up their hands to sit on the committee and the ex-head of Ladies Probus putting up her hand to be President.

Term 3 courses were duly organised and presented and the committee is off and running. The group now has around 40 financial members. There are nine courses being advertised for term 4 - an increase of three on term 3. I'll still do current affairs, even though I'm not quite the U3A vintage yet. I've offered to sit on committee meetings as required, but not in an official capacity.

The enthusiasm for this concept and the obvious enjoyment gained by attendees has been quite infectious and has been the driver in pursuing this project to its successful completion. U3A really is about keeping fit mentally, physically and socially. It's a lot of fun and I think an excellent, mutually beneficial and sustainable community partnership for our library service.

ROB STEWART
Community Engagement Librarian
Singleton Library

Vale Temu

Dear colleagues across libraries in New South Wales,

It is with great sadness that I am informing you that our much loved friend and colleague at Canterbury Library, Temutisa Fainuu passed away in July after a very brave struggle with cancer.

Temu was an inspiration to everyone she worked with - colleague, mentor, friend, team leader and a consummate professional. She was involved with the Readers Advisory group and this area of librarianship was a great interest to her.

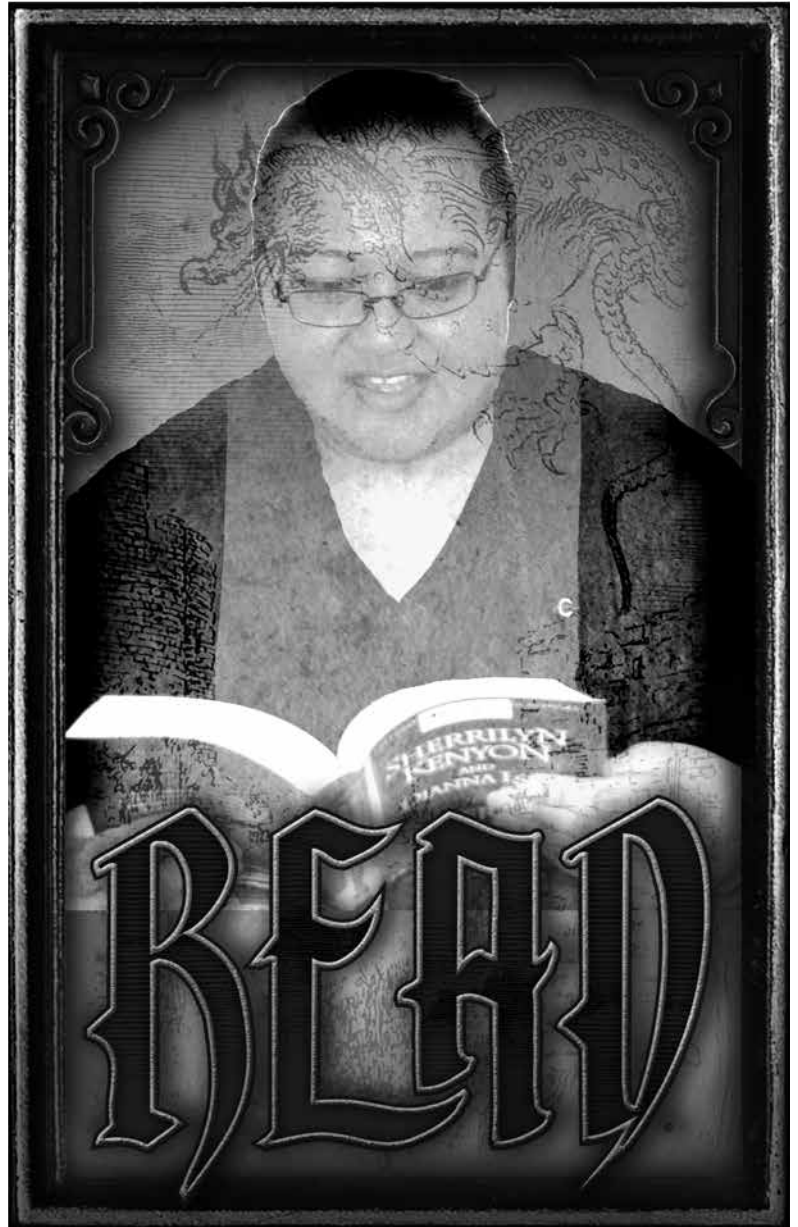
As Branch Librarian at Lakemba for a number of years she developed an ongoing relationship with the community and introduced programs such as a Youth Book Group. As Team Leader Information Services, she also made an impact on the community with training courses, information sessions, book groups and simply working on the Information Desk.

Temu was an ideas person. A creative soul, selfless, generous, funny and with a passion for life.

Adam Hills did a show in 2009 called *Inflatable*. It can be seen on YouTube - go to the 2 minute mark in part 4 (only 2 mins 20s long) for a story with the theme *Inflatable*. That's who and what Temu was - an inflator - someone who brought out the best in others and made them feel good.

Sadly missed, she lived a life that we could all learn something from.

MICHELLE SIMON
Canterbury City Library



TEMU CREATED THIS WONDERFUL POSTER FOR THE NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

Book Week 2013

MAITLAND

When I wrote last year about Book Week I said 'bring on Book Week 2013', and boy did we bring it! We expanded our Book Week team and increased the number of presentations to include a whole of school performance. These increases combined with the popularity of last year's program meant that we performed 31 shows to 3800 primary school, preschool and OOSH children in the Maitland LGA.

In keeping with the *Read across the universe* theme, the show incorporated some curious and comical aliens learning about books and reading from an astronaut, before exploring short listed titles as *Peggy*, *With Nan*, *The Terrible Suitcase*, *Topsy Turvy World*, *Pookie Aleera* and *Herman and Rosie*.

The kids engaged with and responded well to all the books, however *The Terrible Suitcase* was the resounding favourite amongst all ages. The Book Week team thoroughly enjoyed themselves, even signing autographs for star struck fans at some of the performances.

Thanks to the State Library for putting on the Book Week extravaganza, Anna Walker for allowing us to use her beautiful *Peggy* book trailer in our performance, and to Book Week team members Kelly Shankley-Price, Heather Shellsell, Jessica Thorley and Michelle Pala for their incredibly hard work at each and every performance. Here's to an even bigger 2014!

REBECCA LANE
Maitland City Library



MAITLAND CITY LIBRARY BOOK WEEK

MOSMAN

The Children's library staff organised a program of fun activities to celebrate Children's Book Week, including the 'Across the Universe' themed Book Week Competitions and visits from authors and special performers. Over 400 competition entries were displayed in the library creating an interesting and exciting extraterrestrial environment for staff and visitors.

Over 300 children visited the library for the various activities held during the week. Highlights included author of *Star Girl* and *Zac Power*, Louise Park who held workshops with various schools across a two day period, a presentation of prizes by the Mayor of Mosman, Cr Peter Abelson for the winners of the Children's Book Week competition and the fabulous Wake Up and Read show promoting the magic of books.

It was an enjoyable and fun filled Children's Book Week 2013 at the Mosman Library!!!

SIMIN REYHANIAN
Mosman Library

OBERON

Oberon Council Library marked 2013 Book Week with a community fun day. The event was organised with financial support from Kids & Communities who provided funding for a jumping castle for the under 5's which was very popular, children slid and bounced around amid squeals of fun. Face painting was another popular activity with lots of new faces appearing throughout the day. A craft table provided materials for all to make their very own spaceship to read around the universe with and stories were weird



CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2013, FROM RIGHT MAYOR OF MOSMAN, CR PETER ABELSON AND CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN SIMIN REYHANIAN



BOOK WEEK PHOTO SHOWS PARTICIPANTS ENJOYING THE GAMES

and wonderful. Local storyteller Ian Gordon told traditional fairy tales while some children preferred to play with indoor games. The local Rotary Club rounded out the day with a welcome sausage sizzle and all children received a book as a gift from Kids & Communities. An entertaining day was enjoyed by all.

EILAGH RURENGA
Oberon Council Library

CONSTITUTIONAL HILL BRANCH LIBRARY

Astral our Resident Astronaut was out of this world at Constitution Hill Branch Library. We had 60 kindergarten visitors from Toongabbie Public School come to visit the astronaut at the library. Commander Cameron read *The King of Space*, *The Terrible Suitcase*, *The Coat*, *Tanglewood* and the *Lyrebird* to the children. Together, they talked about the snapping crocodiles and the RRRRiiiiibbbiiitttt sounds of frogs, in *The Pros and Cons of being a Frog*.

Commander Cameron also dressed one child as an alien and fitted the other with a jet pack – all made of balloons of course! Everyone had a fabulous morning & the children all went back to school with packs from the library, which included a great activity book! The children were all keen to come back to the library soon.

JO BERTONCELJ, BRANCH LIBRARIAN
Constitution Hill Library

DUNDAS LIBRARY

Dundas Library celebrated Children's Book Week with the students of Yates Avenue Public School. Commander Cameron landed at Yates Avenue

Public School from outer space in her shiny space suit bringing the idea of reading and literacy. The message 'read across the universe' was brought to the eager audience through various book readings from the short listed books.

Commander Eireann started with Sophie's exciting journey from *Sophie Scott Goes South*. The younger children were excited hearing Eric's story from *Too Many Elephants in this House*. Then they learnt about the magical acts of the coat and the man, from the book *The Coat*. Lastly everyone was greatly entertained with the book *Pookie Aleera is not my Boyfriend*, then they listened to Constable Dawe's amusing talk on road safety.

AMBAR BANERJI
Dundas Library

WOLLONDILLY - READ ACROSS THE 'SHIRE'

Wollondilly Library & Information Service provides services to an area of approximately 2561 km². Operating out of one physical library building in the Picton township, the library uses a mobile library service to reach out to the wider community – the library comes to the people. In the same way, the library comes to the children during Book Week each year.

The Children & Young Adult's library assistant and myself, visited 14 schools throughout Wollondilly Shire during August, presenting the shortlisted books, promoting Book Week, and highlighting the importance of libraries and literacy.

Two different programs were presented – one targeting years K-2, the other, years 3-6. The presentations included readings, book reviews (talks), skits, games and quizzes. A writing activity titled 'Who or What is Pookie Aleera?' was conducted with years 3-6. The activity was based on the shortlisted book *Pookie Aleera Is Not My Boyfriend* by Steven Herrick. Each school built up a description of Pookie, the finished product being published on the library's website.

The presentations were tailored to the audience – some schools in our shire being small (the smallest has 39 children), and others quite large having up to 450 students. Two competitions were run in conjunction with the visits - a K-2 competition, 'Decorate Your Suitcase' (based on *The Terrible Suitcase*), and a 3-6 competition, 'Create a Crazy

Letterbox' (based on *Tom the Outback Mailman*). A colouring competition for preschoolers was also offered to visitors to the library. Over 450 entries were received, and the prizes awarded in each category were presented to the winners at their school assemblies.

We had such a wonderful time and we can't wait to do it all over again next year!

JULIE ABRAHAMS
Wollondilly Library & Information service

CANADA BAY LIBRARIES

The Children's team at Concord Library took Book Week to some of our local primary schools. The combination of stories, games and songs was a great hit with the children with the favourite game being What's in the suitcase? We were lucky enough to have a battered but much loved original Globite school case from the 'olden days.' The children reached into the school case (without peeking) and pulled out a prop relating to one of the Book Week winners. The class then had to guess the name of the book.

WENDY BANISTER
City of Canada Bay

LEETON LIBRARY

A Dr Who theme dominated the Leeton Library during Children's Book Week. Each session (25 in all) took the Leeton Shire preschool and infant classes on an adventure to find the Tardis in which all the Book Week books were located. We met each class on the footpath in front of the library and talked briefly about why they had come to the library and the Book Week theme. Using our imaginations (and bodies) we blasted our way to the international space station on the side verandah.

Upon arrival we viewed a plea for help via an interactive video from Dr Who who wanted our assistance to locate the lost Tardis. We then followed the stars through the library via a space tunnel (thank you to our local air conditioning business) and met an alien called Yup, (whose voice we were able to interpret using a clever app on our ipad,) K9 and then avoided a full size Dalek before locating the Tardis.

Once inside the children settled in to listen to a few stories and acted out a play with a space theme. This play was very loosely based on "The Great Big Enormous Turnip".



CELEBRATING BOOK WEEK AT CONCORD LIBRARY



INTERPRETING 'ALIEN SPEAK' BOOK WEEK AT LEETON

We really enjoyed the week. It took a lot of time and cardboard to organise but the children really got into the spirit of Dr Who and did a lot of laughing during the play. It was a very positive library experience for them all.

The primary school children had a different Book Week experience. Six hundred children from all Leeton shire schools packed the local basketball stadium to hear Stig Wemyss talk about Book Week and literacy as only Stig can. It was a tremendous success. The children again did a lot of laughing and participating and it was a very positive Book Week experience for them. Search for Stig on YouTube to see a brief video.

We tried employing the Dalek in the library after Book Week but unfortunately he proved to be pretty useless as you can see from the photo!

SANDRA WATSON
Leeton Shire Library

HOLROYD CITY COUNCIL LIBRARY

Once again we invited schools in the local area to attend special presentations in celebration of Book Week. Throughout the week (plus a few extra days) the Children's & Young Adults' team presented sessions of storytelling & activities, using a selection of this year's CBCA short listed books. The children enjoyed doing the chicken dance with 'Peggy', laughing at the silly elephants from 'Too many elephants in this house' and learning about 'The pros and cons of being a frog'.

Author Aaron Blabey entertained students from Years 5 and 6 on Wednesday 21 August. Aaron shared his favourite stories and illustrated some of his classic characters. The students had a fabulous time learning about the writing process, Aaron's inspirations and listening to his amusing stories.

KIRSTY PLUMRIDGE

Holroyd City Council Library Service

LAKE MACQUARIE

Top selling children's author Craig Smith visited Lake Macquarie City Library on his Australian tour to celebrate Children's Book Week. Craig performed three times at Swansea Library, and then two performances at the Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre.

Craig, best known for his book *The Wonky Donkey*, brought his books to life in a highly interactive performance that combined music and storytelling. Craig believes "it's vital to make reading fun whether it's through funny illustrations, cheeky rhymes and a rollicking rhythm". The New Zealand author entertained children with his songs and stories, and of course *The Wonky Donkey*.

The booked out sessions gave students an opportunity to enjoy a musical experience that links songs, words and stories. A fabulous way to illustrate that reading can be fun!

GILLIAN WILSON

Lake Macquarie City Council



AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR AARON BLABEY

GUYRA LIBRARY

Sophie Masson visited the Guyra Library during Book Week and kept about 40 primary school children enthralled for an hour as she talked about her life, her writing and where the ideas for her stories come from. Sophie also read to the children from her book “Two trickster tales from Russia” which was being published at the time.

BRONWEN CLARK
Library Manager

QUEANBEYAN CITY LIBRARY

Queanbeyan City Library staff used a colourful space-themed material and shiny rockets, stars, planets and aliens to suspended from the ceiling and windows to create a universe in their activity room. This was the backdrop for an hourly program of stories and games which 1500 local preschool and infants school children participated in during our annual Children’s Book Week event. Library staff brought in their own terrible suitcases (remember the Globite ones?!) and backpacks and these were used as part of the display and contained the award-winning books which were featured and read during each session.

All the local schools were invited to create banners depicting the *Read across the Universe* theme which were also on display boards in the children’s area in the main library for all to see. Teachers and children enjoyed our *Read across the Universe* game by answering questions, singing, reading tongue twisters and doing funny space dances in Gangnam style. Each child received an original activity magazine and bookmark designed by library staff and space lollies to enjoy during their return to school.



SOPHIE MASSON WITH STUDENTS AT GUYRA LIBRARY

At our monthly Book Buzz book club event children were entertained by award-winning author Emma Allen who read and signed personal copies of *The Terrible Suitcase*. They then designed and decorated book covers and suitcases as a craft activity.

LYNETTE SEBBENS
Queanbeyan City Library

GREATER HUME SHIRE

The Greater Hume Shire Libraries over the past eight years have provided funding for an author, illustrator or narrator to visit the Culcairn, Henty and Holbrook Libraries. The visits have not only been extremely entertaining and educational but have also provided a cultural experience for students.

This year as part of our Book Week celebrations, Australia’s most loved narrator of audio books for children and young adults, Stig Wemyss, visited Greater Hume Shire. Stig’s performances in libraries and schools around the country are notorious. Stig visited Culcairn, Henty, Holbrook, Jindera and Walla Walla and all schools in the shire were invited. Stig’s performances were tremendously entertaining with students thoroughly enjoying an hour of fun activities and taking part in performing chapters from a selection of Andy Griffith’s titles.

Stig promoted the wonderful world of technology encompassing e-audiobooks and ebooks available from the Riverina Regional Library. Follow-up visits to schools from library staff are currently underway, educating both staff and students on how to access and use the Riverina Regional Library eLibrary and Online Information.

SUSAN KANE
Henty Library



LIBRARY STAFF ABBIE GRANT, LYNETTE SEBBENS AND EMMA CIECHAN WITH AUTHOR EMMA ALLEN

In the Libraries

NEW RAYMOND TERRACE LIBRARY OPENS ITS DOORS

On Tuesday 3rd September more than 150 guests and dignitaries celebrated the opening of the new library facility in Raymond Terrace. Port Stephens Mayor, Cr Bruce MacKenzie was joined by the Hon. George Souris MP, Minister for the Arts and Dr Alex Byrne, State Librarian & Chief Executive, State Library of NSW as well as local member Mr Craig Baumann to cut the ribbon and officially launch the opening of the new library.

It was very exciting to finally be opening our new facility. The Raymond Terrace Library now offers more than three times the space of the previous building, the latest in technology as well as a large children's activity space, a study room, outdoor courtyard area and a coffee shop.

The work that has been done to transform the building into such a useable, modern library space is amazing and we are very proud to be offering such a great service and facility to the Raymond Terrace community.

The project was jointly funded by Port Stephens Council and the NSW State Government with \$200,000 allocated by the State Library of NSW through the Library Development Grants Program. The new Raymond Terrace Library officially opened its doors to the public on Wednesday 4 September.

KRIS ABBOTT
Port Stephens Library

THE FUTURE OF SHELLHARBOUR CITY LIBRARIES

Shellharbour City Libraries & Museum did intensive community consultation to assist in the development of their Shellharbour City Libraries & Museum Strategy 2023.

The four week intensive community engagement program was launched on 25 June with the tagline 'The future of Shellharbour City libraries is being placed in the hands of the community'. It was promoted as an opportunity for our residents to have input into a strategy that would map the future of the area's museum and library services. It was advertised through local media including local TV news and radio, as well as through Council's website, and the Libraries & Museum Facebook and Twitter pages. All material was branded with our Shellharbour City Libraries brand and our motto *Connect - Choice - Lifestyle*.

Consultation consisted of public focus groups at Warilla, Oak Flats and Albion Park libraries,



THE HON. GEORGE SOURIS MP, MAYOR, CR BRUCE MACKENZIE, MR CRAIG BAUMANN MP AND DR ALEX BYRNE CUTTING THE RIBBON AT THE NEW RAYMOND TERRACE LIBRARY

Shellharbour Village Exhibition Space (across the road from the Shellharbour Village library), Tongarra Museum and at local schools. There was an online survey and face to face surveys with shoppers at local shopping areas.

A total of 234 people actively participated in focus groups, answering the questions:

- How can we make our libraries the best? What could that include? What would that look like?
- Should we have a community driven space? Should our libraries be places of learning, play and creating, or should they be something else?
- Where (location) and when (hours) should we have them?

The focus groups ended with the community's aspirations for their libraries and museum, based on the thought 'One day my library will ...'

The online survey was completed by 332 people both independently and with staff assistance. The face to face surveys were conducted at shopping centres using the online survey with our iPads and 3G connections. A hard copy version of the survey was available for those who preferred and staff then entered these to the online survey. All the work of collating and analysing was done automatically.

Our strategy builds on our past achievements and new trends in libraries. It was developed using information from the community during the consultation, demographic analysis and research into best practice models. The draft was presented to Council on 17 September and subsequently exhibited for 28 days. The final strategy will be presented to Council on 18 November to seek Council's resolution to adopt the Strategy.

DIANE CRANSON
Shellharbour City Libraries

In the Libraries

RICHMOND-UPPER CLARENCE REGIONAL LIBRARY'S SENIOR LIBRARY ASSISTANT, CHERYL WALTERS AND REGIONAL LIBRARY MANAGER, GARY ELLEM WITH THE 2006 LIAC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



FAREWELL CHERYL

Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library's, Senior Library Assistant, Cheryl Walters has retired after 39 years dedicated and loyal service. Cheryl saw a lot of changes during her time at the library including automation, the internet, new libraries and new mobile libraries. Cheryl was also the Library's LIAC Co-ordinator and under her guidance the Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library won three LIAC Centre of Excellent Awards (2006, 2007 and 2010).

GARY ELLEM
Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library

SUTHERLAND SHIRE LIBRARIES

On Friday, 6 September I gave a presentation to staff from the State Library on *Digital Engagement in Public Libraries*. I wanted to make the point that I believe there is a difference between experimentation and engagement when libraries are using social media. If you don't measure the impact that your digital engagement activities are having (and I mean more than just counting Facebook likes) then how will you know if the time you spend is worth it? Libraries must give consideration to the reason they are engaging online and work out ways of measuring whether their efforts are providing a worthwhile return. Tweeting, Pinning and Sharing all take time that could be (and once was) spent doing other things and you want to make sure that the time spent is helping your library achieve its goals.

I also shared some of the ways that Sutherland Shire Libraries is engaging online along with how we measure the results. By measuring our activities we have learned that digital engagement works best when supported by in-person / in-library efforts. To

round out the talk there are some examples of outstanding digital engagement from other libraries.

Thanks to Marg Ludlow from the State Library, you can hear the talk. I was filmed while giving the presentation and Marg has kindly allowed me to take a copy of the video, to which I've added my slides, and you can find it on Vimeo at <http://vimeo.com/74691562>

MARTIN BOYCE
E-services librarian
Sutherland Shire Libraries

SHORELINK CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

The Shorelink Library Network is celebrating 30 years of service to the communities of Lane Cove, Manly, Mosman, North Sydney (Stanton) and Willoughby Councils in Sydney. Shorelink celebrated this milestone, and the launch of the new Aurora Library Management System, with a function at Lane Cove Library in September.

Shorelink libraries are open seven days per week and operate across 11 sites (5 central libraries and 6 branches). They lend more than 3 million items each year and 158,000 members have access to more than 830,000 book, non-book and eResource items.

Whilst the original vision for Shorelink was to share membership and bibliographic databases, enabling members to borrow from all libraries in the Network, during its 30 years of operation Shorelink has reaped the benefits of cooperation through sharing much more than just a library management system. The Network has cooperated on many projects which have improved service levels and delivered significant cost savings. These include the expansion of the telecommunications infrastructure to deliver Internet and wifi services, cooperative purchase of downloadable eResources and the introduction of a daily intra-Shorelink courier service. During the past 30 years, Shorelink has attracted \$199,000 in Library Development Grants for cooperative projects.

Further benefits delivered through the cooperative model include sharing of knowledge and expertise among the staff in the five libraries, the ability of each library to retain its autonomy while also having access to resources of all five libraries, an excellent inter-library loans service with 80% of inter-library loan requests satisfied within the network, and shared cataloguing. Member libraries also support each other during building works and renovations, as

borrowers have access to the resources and services of all the libraries.

Since 1983, Shorelink has implemented four Library Management Systems, most recently in June this year with the move to the Australian product AIT/Aurora. Over the 30 years, circulation has increased by more than 500,000 loans each year, the library collections have doubled in size, and the staff numbers in the Shorelink Office have oscillated between just one and two people at a time. The current Shorelink team, Coreen Lo and Richard Dong, provide excellent service to the five libraries.

At the recent celebration, Shorelink Chairperson, Councillor Adele Heasman (Manly Council) remarked that

‘Shorelink is widely recognised as an outstanding example of local government cooperation. Its longevity is testament to the vision and support of the five member Councils, who recognise that cooperation delivers both economic benefits and quality services. The Shorelink Libraries are vibrant, exciting places, providing a wide range of activities and lifelong learning opportunities for their communities’

Guest speaker, author Ceridwen Dovey commented further that

‘When I returned to Sydney four years ago the Library again became my refuge – a place that had old meaning and comfort for me, a beautiful place full of natural light where I could plug in my computer and sit at the tables that feel as if they are up in the treetops to work on my novel, take a break in the sunny upstairs courtyard and know that any book I needed to support my writing and research the lovely librarians would help me find, whatever it took, from the Shorelink network or beyond.’

JILL CUTHBERT

Secretary, Shorelink Library Network
 Manager Library Resources, Mosman Library

CHESTER HILL LIBRARY AND KNOWLEDGE CENTRE REOPENS FOR BUSINESS

After eight months rebuilding – a better, bigger and more modern Chester Hill Library and Knowledge Centre was officially opened by the Mayor, Cr Khal Asfour and attended by Frances Sims, Director Public Library and Learning Services representing the State Library of NSW.

Built in 1958 the Chester Hill Library was expanded in 1979 and 2003. As a result of an increased demand



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for more efficient and better quality services the building was further extended during 2013.

The refurbished library is more reflective of the community needs offering an increased floor area and new and improved building infrastructure. These include a new roof and public amenities, a dedicated children’s library, four group study rooms with smart board technology, an upgrade to the courtyard to be an all weather space, 12 public internet computers, patron self-loan system and secured overnight returns service, and digital signage providing information on council and library services at the front of the building.

Council engaged local artist Peter Day (based in Padstow) to design the stunning artwork for the library. The artwork is named ‘Frontispiece’ and aims to reflect how the sharing of information has changed our world and defined our civilization. Libraries continue the sharing of information and knowledge to local communities and ‘Frontispiece’ portrays this through a timeline, beginning with the first recorded form of communication and then progresses through the ages. ‘Frontispiece’ is a statement on the varied ways in which we communicate, referencing the interests of young and old, ethnic groups and the various user groups of the library. It is a reflection of the diversity of the people of Chester Hill.

The project was part funded by a State Library of NSW Library Development Grant.

ROBYN OWENS

Bankstown City Library and Information Service

- 01 MAYOR OF LANE COVE, CR DAVID BROOKS-HORN, SHORELINK CHAIRPERSON, CR ADELE HEASMAN AND GUEST SPEAKER AUTHOR CERIDWEN DOVEY CUTTING SHORELINK’S BIRTHDAY CAKE
- 02 THE NEW CHESTER HILL LIBRARY

In the Libraries

Blue Mountains City Library News

SUPPORTING LOCAL AUTHORS

Blue Mountains City Library has been pleased to host a range of author talk events promoting the work of many local authors. In July, local author and journalist Bianca Nogrady came to talk about her latest book *The End: The Human Experience of Death*. Joined by ABC TV's John Barron, Bianca sensitively and yet frankly discussed this often taboo subject. Her book examines death from a range of perspectives - scientific, religious, and personal- and seeks to explore what death really is and what it is like for those experiencing it personally, as well as for their loved ones.

Blue Mountains children's author Catherine Jinks also attended Katoomba Library in July to share with children from several of the local schools about her experiences as an author. Cathy talked in particular about the methods she used in researching and writing her latest series, *City of Orphans*.

In August, local resident and Holocaust survivor George Winston visited Katoomba Library to speak about his experiences. Captured in booklet form by personal historian and Blue Mountains Cultural Centre café poet-in-residence, Megan Wynne-Jones, *George's Story* is a wonderful example of gratitude in the midst of difficult and sometimes terrible circumstances.

Another local resident, Joy Ware, gave a presentation about her first book, *Altnachree: An Irish castle, a family, and a man with a passion*. Joy displayed a wonderful slideshow along with her talk showcasing some beautiful photos of Altnachree Castle in Ireland, amazing images showing original photographs alongside the re-touched versions Joy had commissioned, and original marriage register records.

BE AMAZED - AT YOUR (POP-UP) LIBRARY!

We are always looking for new ways to engage with our community - and especially for ways to reach non-library users with information about the wonderful collections, services, and events the library has to offer. That is why we have started the Blue Mountains Pop-Up Library: an innovative initiative which requires few resources in terms of staffing and budget, but makes a big impact.

The Blue Mountains Pop-Up Library has been popping up in unexpected places throughout the



BLUE MOUNTAINS POP UP LIBRARY

community, such as the local swimming pool, parks and the Wentworth Falls Lake (during Children's Bike Week activities). As well as offering a selection of good quality donations and withdrawn titles of children's and adult's books, magazines, and DVDs to passers-by (both members and non-members), library staff have the opportunity to chat with Pop-Up Library customers about the great things the library has on offer.

We have developed a flyer to hand out at our Pop-Up Library venues, highlighting the library collections, free wifi, author talks and children's activities. This is a great opportunity to sign up new members on the spot.

Feedback has been very positive so far, and we have already converted a few non-library users to new library members! We have combined the Pop-Up Library with social media promotion, which has also been very successful. In the lead-up to a Pop-Up Library event, we post clues with pictures to our Facebook and Twitter pages and ask people to guess where the Pop-Up will be appearing. When asked where the Pop-Up Library is heading next, staff recommend people 'like' us on Facebook to collect the clues. As well as being a fun and effective way to share this information, it also allows Blue Mountains City Library to continue to build exposure and community use of other library resources and events.

GETTING TECH SAVVY AT BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY LIBRARY

In October, Blue Mountains City Library launched their new technology group, *Tech Connect*. This group meet once a month to share answers (and questions!) about all things digital. Whether someone is a beginner wanting to learn the basics such as how to set up email, or a pro with a new digital device which they want to learn more about, or anything in between - no tech question is too big or small. Customers are encouraged to register their tech issue

in advance so that library staff can come prepared with answers to even the trickiest questions.

Our inaugural event was popular, with people coming along to ask a variety of questions about using an iPad, setting up an email account, using Facebook and Twitter, and protecting their privacy online. We also had two wonderful volunteers who came along to share their knowledge with others and help to answer the questions that came up. This helped to create a very relaxed and informal atmosphere, where people could chat in small groups or one-on-one, using their own device on the Library's Wifi or using the Library PCs. Most people attending said they would be back next month to learn even more!

ADRIANNA DEMMOCKS
Blue Mountains City Library

PICTURING HISTORY AT CAMDEN

The National Trust theme *Picture this* was celebrated by Camden Council Library Service through a program of events and exhibitions in partnership with the local historical and family history societies. The library was excited to host *Beach, bush and battlers* a photographic exhibition of iconic images by Jeff Carter on tour from the State Library of NSW which fitted perfectly with the theme. People were excited to see these large scale images in their own community. The library also invited the public to submit images of their place to go in an online exhibition titled *How do we see ourselves?* The inclusions both depicted Camden as a country town

and challenged this concept with imagery of rapid development and diversity.

The *Digitise you: precious photographs* day gave people an opportunity to bring in up to five photographs and have them digitised at high resolution taking them home on a USB to share with family, all for \$5. There were a number of wonderful images donated to the library and museum online website *Camden Images* as a result of encouraging people to bring their photographs out of the cupboard. Before or after digitising their images participants could view a slide show on preserving photos, look at the online photographic database and Flickr site, or peruse books on historic photos and digitisation hints. The Camden Museum invited a local talented photographer to speak at their monthly meeting providing further ideas and information about old photographs in a digital age.

Lots of laughter was generated as storytime children became *Mini-discoverers* placing their faces in stand up enlarged images of children from the past. Two evocative images of a boy and girl from original glass negatives were enlarged and holes cut around their faces so contemporary children could look through and have their photos taken. Parents enjoyed snapping photos on their phones and the images taken by the library were displayed to the delight of children and adults alike. The enlarged images will be able to be used in the museum for children to enjoy.

JO OLIVER
Camden Council Library Services

WALGETT LIBRARY

The Walgett Library extensions were officially opened on the 6th November 2013 by Ms Kirsten Thorpe, Coordinator Indigenous Unit, State Library of NSW.

Representatives from Moree, Brewarrina, and Walgett Shire Councils were in attendance as well as local dignitaries to view the new library space which has provided an additional area of 95 square metres for the expansion of library resources and undertaking of projects and initiatives for the community.

Walgett Mayor Bill Murray stated 'as with many remote areas libraries play a key role in positive engagement and are vital resources for our community. In recent years the Library and Community Development teams have worked closely together to provide a range of youth activities and workshops for the older residents of the Shire, these extensions add substantial capacity and amenity to



MINI-DISCOVERERS AT CAMDEN LIBRARY

In the Libraries

01 L-R: BILL MURRAY, KIRSTEN THORPE, DON RAMSLAND (UNVEILING OF PLAQUE)

02 KNIT AND NATTER KNITTING GROUP AT BLAND SHIRE LIBRARY



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engage in the many diverse programs our library staff has to offer our residents'.

Walgett Shire Council acknowledges the State Library of NSW for contributing towards this project (part funded by a Library Development Grant) which will assist greatly in promoting our library as a valuable community resource.

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL

Bland Shire Library

FRED HOLLOW'S EXHIBITION

The Fred Hollows Foundation travelling exhibition visited the Bland Shire Library in September. The exhibition documented the instrumental role Fred Hollow's work had in eye care and surgery in developing countries. The exhibition was very well received and helped to remind the community of the outstanding work Fred played in restoring sight amongst the world's poor.

HISTORY WEEK

The library was fortunate to secure a speaker this year with the History Council of NSW. Dr Lawrence Bamblett's talk, *Shifting the Rural Gaze*, presented the history and stories of a tiny indigenous rural community near Cowra using photos to tell the story. His story was compelling and certainly managed to challenge many expectations that we have of Indigenous history.

KNIT AND NATTER

The Knit and Natter group continues to grow and take on knitting challenges in the community. The latest projects have included knitting bears for the ambulance service, making baby clothes for preemie babies and of course making squares for *Wrapped with love*.

JOANNE RUSSO
Bland Shire Library

CANTERBURY COMMONS

City of Canterbury Library's new online encyclopedia, *Canterbury Commons*, was recently awarded a Highly Commended Award for Education, Interpretation and Community Engagement at the New South Wales National Trust Heritage Awards.

Canterbury Commons is an online wiki for community members to contribute their local knowledge and memories, provided by City of Canterbury Library Service. It represents a purposeful, research based project that engages the community in a new, vibrant manner. Through a process of data analysis, organisational process and adopting an integrated user centred methodology, it has aimed to implement best practice in every aspect.

Adopting this approach Canterbury Commons has been implemented alongside other activities and programs the library runs about community history including school talks and heritage events. For Heritage and History Weeks, the Canterbury Commons wiki was used as a platform to collectively build guides to researching houses, businesses and persons in research workshops that participants can refer to and update according to their findings. It also hosts online interactive versions of the exhibits from those events.

Canterbury Commons has been embraced because it engages the community in a new and exciting

way. It hosts exhibitions, videos, podcasts, maps, plaques, research guides and many other interactive features. The wiki format encourages collaboration and exploration of local knowledge. In this way, community history becomes a resource that is not solely the domain of archives and historians. This has been demonstrated by approximately 400 quality new articles added to the wiki by the public. Visit www.canterburycommons.net

JEREMY MACPHERSON
City of Canterbury Library

CANTERBURY CONNECTS: MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING CAMPAIGN

A two month campaign promoting mental health and wellbeing of community members commenced in Canterbury during September and October. The Library has been active in providing programs and exhibitions which promote the aims of the campaign. These have included: Tai Chi and laughter workshops; cryptic crosswords sessions to keep your mind active and a weekly beginner's yoga workshop.

An art exhibition with work created by people with a mental illness was also held. The work was part of an art therapy class which enabled people to express themselves. The Library has also hosted information sessions in Chinese for members of the community on mental health and wellbeing.

PAULA PFOEFFER
City of Canterbury Library



CANTERBURY ART EXHIBITION

Wyong News

LAUNCH OF eBRANCH

Wyong Mayor, Cr Doug Eaton officially launched our eBranch on 2 September 2013. Expanding on our existing eAudio and eMags we now provide access to ebooks and eFilms. Living in a large commuter area the initial uptake of ebooks has been very exciting. Staff have had to develop skills in problem solving with many different types of mobile devices but overall the experience has been extremely positive.

FAMILY HISTORY EVENTS

We have been fortunate to have some great family history talks this year. John Cann from State Records visited in August to discuss hospital and asylum records. This was a fascinating talk with really interesting and touching examples of how the system worked 'back then'.

As a result of questions from customers we invited Lorraine Turtle from Turtle Consolidated Services to talk about how to track down ancestors that landed or lived interstate. Lorraine gave some great advice and was able to assist some of our customers with their tricky questions.

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Wyong Shire Library Service

LOCAL AUTHORS

Kurri Kurri and Cessnock Libraries have always been keen supporters of literary based events; author talks, book discussion groups and writing workshops for all ages feature frequently on our calendar of events.

The library was excited to find that author and mentor Julie Simpson resided in the local area. A former program maker for ABC radio, Julie is the author of 'Idle Hour in the County of Hope', and has collaborated to publish 'Round Table Magic, a Workbook for Writing Groups'. She has presented at numerous Creative Writing Workshops in the Central Coast and Hunter Valley areas, including our library branches between 2010 and 2013.

Both Julie and the library staff agreed that it would be a wonderful thing for the participants, many of whom had not attempted to put pen to paper before, to see their work in print. After gathering the stories together, Julie set about the task of turning them into

In the Libraries

a workable document. I followed by proof reading, collating and printing the pages to turn them into a booklet. Extra staff members were happy to help with binding and organising the launch. Honestly...how hard could it be?

Sometime later, after agonising over punctuation, tense and poetic licence as well as wrestling with uncooperative printers and binding machines, we produced a document of which everyone involved could be proud. Some writers have gained a 'therapeutic pleasure', others have fulfilled a long held desire to see their work 'in print'. My favourite quote came from a 58 year old retired process worker who said "I could always tell a good story, but this is my first attempt at putting one on paper".

The launch was held at Kurri Library in September, and turned out to be quite an emotional experience for many writers. We sold out of copies immediately, and had to go to reprint, with many of the contributors buying multiple copies for their families.

We would definitely do this again, as having a tangible product at the end of a series of events has been wonderful for all concerned. It has been a learning process, but with the most pleasurable of results.

KAREN BRUCE
Kurri Kurri Branch Library

WELCOME FI EMBERTON

I took up the role of Manager, Libraries and Learning for the City of Sydney in August. I moved to Sydney after two years in New Zealand where I was Manager at Puke Ariki, a joint library, museum and tourist information centre and a network of five sites based around New Plymouth.

I was destined to be a librarian. Born in Chester, England but raised in Scotland where my mother was born (in a library!). On leaving Edinburgh University, I became a management trainee for Marks and Spencer specialising in food and wine and so New South Wales is an ideal location for me. I was drawn to public service as I believe strongly in making a difference to colleagues, the organisation and the community. I was a Librarian-in-Charge in East Lothian Council on the outskirts of Edinburgh where I got my first taste of team leadership, stock purchasing, recruitment and event planning. I even drove the mobile library.

In 1992 I grabbed the opportunity of a job swap in Queensland, afterwards migrating to Brisbane and becoming an Australian citizen. At a time of great change in Brisbane City, I was responsible for co-ordinations collections, lobbying for budget increases, introducing supplier selection and working in partnership with key organisations such as the University of Queensland. I worked on



LOCAL CESSNOCK AUTHORS

major promotional events including the inaugural 'One Book, One Brisbane'. It was also at this time, following a consultancy from John Stanley, that I began to integrate my retail skills across the 32 library sites, focusing on customer experience, displays, promotions and layouts.

After eight years in Brisbane, I was appointed Executive Director, Public Library Services for the State Library of Queensland where I supported the roll-out of Indigenous Knowledge Centres. In 2003 I started my own company, Embervision, working alongside John Stanley before branching out on my own in 2005. I travelled between Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Ireland, focusing on leadership development, RFID roll outs, culture change, business review, process improvement and motivational speaking. My work included a national project involving Welsh public and academic libraries, the House of Commons Information Services, Central St. Martin's Design School and working with over 40 local councils.

I am looking forward to taking the City of Sydney libraries to the next stage in their long history. I've just read a page-turner - a thesis by a local librarian, Neil Hinsch on the history of the City of Sydney libraries. Apparently in 1921, City of Sydney libraries attempted to reduce theft by introducing wicker gates. It resulted in not only an increase in theft but also a decrease in loans - accredited to the 'innovation' tying staff up and causing queues! I am keen to see modernisation - but it has to have a real benefit to the customer and improve life in the city. It's all about growing literacy, confidence with ICT, and opportunities for social contact and creativity.

FI EMBERTON
 Manager, Libraries and Learning for the City of Sydney

Greater Taree City Libraries

THE VALLEY COFFEE SPOT CAFÉ

How better to improve the ambience at your library than to have the aroma of freshly ground coffee meeting you at the door? The opening of The Valley Coffee Spot café at Taree Library has proved a huge success!

The Valley Coffee Spot is no ordinary café – but the result of a joint venture between Greater Taree City Council and local disability service provider, Valley



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Industries, to provide a training facility for people with disability. Indeed this landmark project has been a success story from the start as a shining example of how Council and community organisations can work together for the public benefit.

The Valley Coffee Spot provides employees and clients of Valley Industries the opportunity to learn valuable skills in food and beverage preparation and service in the café. The café is an innovative pathway to employment in the hospitality industry for people with a disability. With its focus on “fresh, green and local” and its reputation for “a great coffee”, The Valley Coffee Spot continues to grow in popularity and already attracts huge morning and lunchtime crowds. The café also caters for library events and other business functions.

The new café enhances the experience for library customers by offering coffee and food to enjoy in the library – an idea that received strong support in a library survey. The café is a unique initiative yielding great social outcomes and fits well with the library as a welcoming public space where people can meet, relax, browse or use the free wifi.

In May the Valley Coffee Spot was officially opened by the Premier of New South Wales, The Hon Barry O'Farrell, MP.

NEW FURNITURE @ TAREE LIBRARY

'We love it!' are the words that staff at Taree Library keep hearing from customers about our new furniture in response to the refurbishment made

- 01 MANAGER, LIBRARIES AND LEARNING FOR THE CITY OF SYDNEY, FI EMBERTON
- 02 CAFÉ TRAINEES MEET THE PREMIER, THE HON BARRY O'FARRELL MP, AT TAREE LIBRARY

In the Libraries



OUR WORDS, OUR STORIES PARTICIPANTS AT TAREE LIBRARY

possible through the Revitalising Regional Libraries funding.

The addition of 18 lounge chairs and over 30 ottomans has enhanced the community lounge room atmosphere of the library. The colourful and comfortable seating invites our library users to relax and enjoy their library experience – and they are certainly taking up that invitation – and staying longer!

**MARGIE WALLIS, LISA GREENWOOD
& DANIELLE OLD**
Greater Taree City Libraries

OUR WORDS OUR STORIES

Our Words, Our Stories is a community literacy project that provides an opportunity for Aboriginal people to write their stories about growing up in the Manning Valley. The aim of the program is for each participant to write a book with stories about their early life that they want to share with children in their community.

It is a grassroots program – the idea for it came from discussions about the importance of stories to the community, and how we need to acknowledge the lives and experiences of elders in our community.

The program is just one of the exciting programs Greater Taree City Libraries has developed in partnership with other local service providers under the Communities for Children initiative. Partners for this program are Child Care Services Taree & District (CCTSD), Mission Australia and North Coast TAFE. Mindy Avery, an Aboriginal family worker with CCTSD, is leading the program. Mindy recruited a starter group of six writers in Term 1, and word about the program spread very quickly. As a result we had seven more story writers join up in Terms 2 and 3.

The stories are being published as books which will be distributed to local playgroups, preschools, and schools. All participants in this program have the

chance to complete TAFE literacy units and receive completion certificates.

The first books are just back from the printers and they are fabulous! They are real books, telling real stories about real people in our community. We will be launching *Our Words Our Stories* books at Taree Library in December, and all the proud authors will be available for book-signing!

DEBBIE HORGAN
Greater Taree City Libraries

EN GARDE!

Stanton Library's Historical Services section regularly organises exhibitions and public programs to engage the local community in the history and heritage of North Sydney. Relevant State and National campaigns provide opportunities to promote our services to a wider audience, and to collaborate with colleagues from the broader community.

As part of the National Trust Heritage Festival theme 'Community Milestones' we created an exhibition with the Swords Club of Sydney to celebrate the centenary of the Club. *En Garde! 100 years of fencing with The Swords Club of Sydney* ran from April to October 2013 in the North Sydney Heritage Centre at Stanton. The Club is the oldest continually operating fencing club in Australia, now based at North Sydney Girls High School, Crows Nest. The exhibition explored the role of the Club in the development of fencing in Australia – from a genteel activity for the elite, to today's modern competitive sport, open to all. The display featured fencing equipment and ephemera, including historic and modern costumes and weapons, on loan from Club members and associates. *En Garde!* proved to be very popular with visitors, thanks to the immediate visual impact, lively personal stories and intriguing focus on a supposed minority sport.

Local children had an exciting opportunity to discover the art of swordplay for themselves at Stanton during the Heritage Festival. The *En Garde! Swordplay* workshop included weapon demonstrations and hands-on instruction for 9-15 year olds, under the careful guidance of the Swords Club's Head Coach Vivienne Tucker, assisted by some of the Club's young stars. The class helped the children to appreciate the skill and training behind the washbuckling scenes of their favourite films, and sparked their enthusiasm for the sport of fencing.

KELLY MITCHELL
Local History Librarian
Stanton Library

THE HILLS SHIRE LIBRARY SERVICE

It has been 10 years since the introduction of RFID at The Hills Shire Library Service and this year we are giving it an overhaul with new self check kiosks across the branches and a new automatic sorter at Castle Hill Library. Customers are already utilising the option to pay money they owe directly at the kiosks and are enjoying the increased borrowing speeds.

Staff have been busy promoting the library service and recently took up the opportunity to run pop up storytime sessions at the Orange Blossom Festival Pop Up Park. The strategic placement of our storytelling tent right near the jumping castle attracted many kids eager to listen to a story as they had a breather. Whilst the kids listened parents were told about the eResources that are now on offer and many were keen to see demos on the iPads.

As part of the 2013 Feast of Speakers programme the Library has played host to Tony Park, Robin de Crespigny, Rachael Treasure, Fiona McIntosh, Dr Ramesh Manocha and Pamela Burton along with a day of talks planned for November which will highlight self published books. Our customers love the chance to meet authors and always provide extremely positive feedback.

This year has also seen our Year One Frog Club get a revamp providing fresh incentives to encourage children in year one at school to read. This programme which started in 1999 has been updated to offer more substantial rewards for kids who borrow. Staff have received rave reviews from teachers, parents and frog club members alike. Membership was higher than previous years indicating that children still love being encouraged to read.

ERICA WORT
The Hills Shire Library Service



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HISTORY WEEK

This was the first year Oberon Council Library has participated in History Week. It was decided to feature the book *Plantation men* written by Col Roberts for the event. At the end of WWII, the residents of Oberon, high in the Central Tablelands of NSW, had little idea that their town was targeted as a site for a major new timber industry which would change the social and economic outlook of the town. The book preserves memories and experiences of the men who developed the industry and looks at the impact on the local community. During an evening event, verses celebrating Oberon district were read by local poets Bea and Don Norrie. The evening was well attended and wonderfully supported by Friends of Oberon Library who supplied an excellent supper.

EILAGH RURENGA
Oberon Council Library

READ, REVIEW & WIN

Mosman Library's Read, Review & Win Program has been running successfully for more than five years and encourages our readers to enter short book reviews and win some great prizes. The program is run over the summer and winter months each year and each week we draw a lucky winner from the reviews entered. Our awesome prize packs include book vouchers, candles, bags, jewellery, book marks and much more. Every review entered is posted online and pinned up in the library for borrowers to peruse for recommendations. This makes the program an excellent Reader's Advisory tool for us as well as fun and rewarding for our readers.

With an exciting new logo and bigger and better prizes the Read, Review & Win Program is an excellent way to engage with our reading community. This winter we threw in an even bigger incentive to enter with the grand prize of an eReader up for grabs.

- 01 POP UP STORYTIME AT THE HILLS SHIRE
- 02 HISTORY WEEK PRESENTERS DON AND BEA NORRIE WITH COL ROBERTS
- 03 EN GARDE! SWORDPLAY WORKSHOP AT STANTON LIBRARY



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WINNER OF READ,
REVIEW & WIN

Everyone who had written a review during the winter program was entered into the final draw and one lucky Mosman resident went home with the latest Kobo eReader, now armed and ready to download our free ebooks and magazines. Not bad for writing just a couple of sentences! Such a shame the staff can't enter!

MERILYN PORTER
Mosman Library

PINNING HISTORY

We have put Warringah on the Historypin map and it has been a rewarding experience in a number of ways. What is Historypin? Historypin is a website developed by the not-for-profit company We Are What We Do, in partnership with Google. It promotes an appreciation of history by enabling historic photographs, video and audio to be pinned to a map of the world at the location where they were recorded.

Last year we created a Warringah Library channel on Historypin and began adding photos from the Local Studies collection. A work experience student worked with us and we have pinned over 200 photos. A snap we pinned of the Dee Why Fire Brigade leaving their station in the 1930s was chosen as global 'Pin of the Day' in December last year. In the same week we were awarded 'Pinner of the Week' for our efforts.

To promote our Historypin channel and to add to our photograph collection we organised a photo sharing morning tea. It was advertised in the local newspaper and people brought their old photos of the local area, wrote down the stories of the photographs while we scanned their precious photos. We have now added these photos to our Historypin channel along with any reminiscences.

The article advertising our morning tea caught the attention of the chief at Dee Why Fire Station who had never seen our 'Pin of the Day' photograph of Dee Why Fire Brigade in the 1930s. He contacted us for a copy of the photo, as well as some photos of other local fire brigades in the early twentieth century, to display at the station.

We received some wonderful images from the morning tea, such as a photograph of a band of friends in full Edwardian dress walking along a bush track to Dee Why beach. The track is today a busy road lined with apartment blocks. On Historypin we can position this photo over a photo from Google Streetview of what the street looks like today. With the touch of a mouse one can fade between these images - from the present to a landscape over a century old!

Another treasure was an unusual photo of a quite derelict boarding house, called Orlando House, in what was known as Dee Why West. We had no information about the place. Within weeks of the morning tea a member of the community came in and mentioned Orlando House, we were able to show her our new photograph of the building and she wrote down her reminiscences about living there as a young migrant in the early 1950s. The local newspaper ran a story on the house calling for more information. In response we received several phone calls. A 93 year old resident told us about playing in Orlando House as a teenager in the 1930s. Another recalled fancy dress balls held there when it was a holiday residence in the 1940s.

Adding photographs to Historypin has increased access to our collection. It has also been the catalyst for further developing the collection, creating new connections with the community and gathering previously unrecorded snippets of local history.

ROSE CULLEN
Warringah Library Service

PLANNING WITH PINTEREST

Librarians are a collaborative group. We use mailing lists and attend conferences and meetings so we can share information about how to improve services to the community. Pinterest is a great tool in this capacity and provides an easy way to collaborate on projects. Earlier this year I created a Pinterest board to use as a collaborative workspace as part of a project team working on the creation of a new cultural hub at Belrose with the co-location of a new library and Glen Street Theatre redevelopment.

In a project where a team are gathering and sharing information, ideas, and images, a collaborative Pinterest board can store all the information in one place. Our Pinterest boards cover a range of topics including library design best practice, children's and young adult areas design, technology in libraries and digital collections marketing. Multiple people can be invited to pin to a board and staff can add pins. The boards have been an invaluable tool for sharing ideas with all project stakeholders such as staff from departments across Council to the general community as part of a series of 'Library Innovation' community engagement workshops. Pinterest is definitely worth considering for your next great collaborative project or library inspiration-sharing with your team! See www.pinterest.com/warrlib/

MEGAN TOLNAY
Warringah Council Library

Randwick City Library

CELEBRATING FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

Randwick City Library Service presented two quite different events to celebrate Family History Month this year.

Writing a Non-Boring Family History Workshop with Hazel Edwards OAM: over 40 participants were treated to a stimulating day with acclaimed author Hazel Edwards. Hazel shared her tips and advice on making a family history interesting, in a generous and engaging fashion. Participants raved about their enjoyment of this full day workshop, many deciding to rework their family history manuscripts based on Hazel's suggestions and constructive criticism. So expect some page turning family histories to emerge from the eastern suburbs of Sydney in the coming year. This was a great promotion for our library, our family history resources. Thank you Hazel!

During August, we also invited the then Mayor of Randwick, Cr Tony Bowen, to speak about his family history. The afternoon was a sell out. A standing room only audience was treated to a very moving and personal account of growing up in the Bowen family household. Tony's father, Lionel Bowen, was the youngest ever Mayor of Randwick and rose to be Deputy Prime Minister of Australia. The presentation was a perfect blend of family history research and personal anecdotes and had the audience both laughing and crying, appropriately supervised by Tony's mother Claire Bowen.

PICTURE THIS: ART DECO ARCHITECTURE

Randwick City Library's latest exhibition opened to rave reviews and is drawing visitors from across Sydney. Launched by the then Mayor of Randwick, Cr Tony Bowen, the exhibition was inspired by the work of local resident Alan Lloyd who has spent years documenting the Art Deco architecture of Randwick City. His images have been showcased in the exhibition along with many objects from the era loaned by local residents and the Randwick and District Historical Society. The local studies librarian organised two half day walks of Randwick and Coogee highlighting some of the best examples of Art Deco architecture along the way. Both walks were sold out. Self guided brochures for these walks have been included on the Council website to enable residents to complete the walks at their leisure.

GEORGINA KEEP
Randwick City Library Service



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HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, PRINCESS MARY OF DENMARK, VISITS MARGARET MARTIN LIBRARY

Their Royal Highnesses, Crown Princess Mary and Crown Prince Frederick of Denmark, visited Margaret Martin Library, Randwick on 26 October. The Crown Princess was there in her capacity as International Patron of the Alannah and Madeleine Foundation to promote the Foundation's eSmart initiatives which include eSmart Libraries and eSmart Homes. The Alannah and Madeleine Foundation is a national charity protecting children from violence and bullying and its devastating impacts. For more information on eSmart Libraries go to www.esmartlibraries.org.au

CHRISTINE HOWARD
Randwick City Library Service

OPEN LABS: DIGITAL MAGAZINE WORKSHOPS IN LINDFIELD

Are you ready to take the plunge into digital magazines? Yes, yes, yes replied our clients and so began the September blitz of *Zinio* at Lindfield Library.

Under the banner *Open labs: digital magazine workshops*, 12 sessions were run in our small branch library where clients brought in their own laptop, iPad, iPhone or android device. With a maximum of three clients per session, individual attention could be given for device specific queries. It was fascinating to watch and learn how the sessions provided an opportunity for all to share tech tips. It was a journey of discovery and joy for all attendees, especially when they found out the downloaded magazines had no due date. And, to add to their delight we also went down the musical lane with *Freegal!*

In the words of Agnes Gal, one of the participants of the workshop, 'It was very exciting and rewarding



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- 01 RANDWICK FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOP
- 02 THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, CROWN PRINCESS MARY AND CROWN PRINCE FREDERICK OF DENMARK WITH CHILDREN FROM ST IVES PUBLIC SCHOOL
- 03 MAYOR, CR TONY BOWEN LAUNCHING THE ART DECO ARCHITECTURE OF RANDWICK AND COOGEE EXHIBITION



OPENS LABS AT LINDFIELD

to be able to use another facility in the Library'. With the success of *Open Labs: digital magazine workshops* our future programs will include monthly technology inspired workshops that showcase our eResources.

SHOBA ABRAHAM
Lindfield Branch Librarian
Ku-ring-gai Library

SHARE THE STORY

Swansea Library 500 Words Writing Group meets every month to share their stories. The writing group is part of the ABC Open 500 Words Project where people submit true stories based on their life to be uploaded to the ABC Open site. It is a wonderful collaboration between ABC Open and Lake Macquarie City Library. Each month there is a new subject to write about, eg On the Job, Travel Tales, An Act of Rebellion and so on. The group at Swansea range in ages, but our most prolific contributor, Doug, is a spritely 96.

Doug is an integral part of the Swansea Library Family, and as an avid writer we have assisted him in research for a story many times. He has led the most remarkable life and has plenty of life stories to share with the 500 Words Writing Group, the local community and indeed Australia. Anthony Scully, the Hunter ABC Open Producer, met Doug and thought he would make a great subject for a video postcard, another section of ABC Open. He interviewed and videoed Doug over a period of time, and used Swansea Library and the 500 Words Writing group as a backdrop for the story.

The story and short film that emerged is beautiful and everyone involved is thrilled with how well it turned out, including ABC television as it will air on ABC 24 in October and November. It can be viewed at:

<https://open.abc.net.au/posts/doug-s-fabulous-century-in-500-words-or-less-20xd5mx>

I am grateful to the ABC and Anthony for their ongoing support and assistance, and to the wonderful members of the 500 Words Writing Group who so graciously share their lives with me each month. This sharing of stories within the community, I believe, are a key aspect to the heart and soul of libraries today.

CATHY SHAY
Swansea Library

Lake Macquarie City Libraries

JAYE FORD - AWARD WINNING SUSPENSE AUTHOR TALK

Jaye Ford visited Morisset and Edgeworth branches to talk about writing her latest novel *Blood Secret*, life as an author and how the Hunter will be placed on the international crime genre map!

Jaye's first book, *Beyond Fear*, was the highest selling crime novel in Australia in 2011 and won numerous awards. Jaye a former news and sports journalist lives in Lake Macquarie and writes full time. Her latest adrenaline charged psychological suspense novel *Blood Secret* is set on the shores of a fictional town based on the suburb of Wangi Wangi. Crime readers, budding novelists, book club members and locals that were curious about having a book written that was based in Lake Macquarie were all enthralled.

SUSAN DUNCAN AT BELMONT LIBRARY

Over 70 people were enchanted by Susan Duncan as she spoke about her life experiences and her writing. People travelled from all around the lake to take the opportunity to listen to her. Those who attended her discussion commented on how down to earth, amiable and how charismatic she was.

The Belmont Library staff presented a beautiful display, based on Susan's latest title *The Briny Cafe*. Susan herself was thrilled with the professional and life-like jetty display and had photos of herself taken in front of it. One attendee brought a letter written by Dorothea Mackeller to show Susan, who was genuinely amazed and thrilled - reading the entire letter out to the audience.

Feedback was outstanding - a congratulations was even forwarded from a member of the audience to the Newcastle Morning Herald. All had a wonderful time and are thrilled that Lake Macquarie has the opportunity to host such wonderful authors through the Get Reading! program.

A CONVERSATION WITH MICHAEL ROBOTHAM

One hundred people came to Charlestown Library in September to hear international crime-writer Michael Robotham discuss his latest release *Watching You* with avid crime reader Megan Buxton. Michael's ability to engage the audience was apparent, as he discussed his life stories and how his intriguing journey through journalism and researching skills have made his books so interesting.

Michael answered a wide range of questions from his audience, who were also extremely interested in his ghost writings as well as wanting to know more about his characters in his thrilling psychological novels. Michael toured with the Get Reading! program. Many books were sold, with Michael taking time when signing to speak individually to people which they all appreciated.

GILLIAN WILSON
Lake Macquarie City Council

Clarence Regional Libraries News

NEW GRAFTON LIBRARY UPDATE

The scaffolding has been removed and the new library is fast becoming an impressive presence overlooking Pound Street in the centre of Grafton. With handover towards the end of 2013 and an opening planned for early 2014, library staff and community members are buzzing in anticipation of this exciting new space.

As well as providing a new library facility complete with innovative learning and recreational collections and spaces, the building will house the 'backroom' operations of the Clarence Regional Library service. Functions such as technical services, collection management, IT and information services are currently occupying an old school building on the

other side of the river and all related staff are also looking forward to sharing the benefits of stronger involvement with customers and customer service staff. Watch this space for updates.

RFID IMPLEMENTATION

To compliment the new Grafton library, all branches of Clarence Regional Libraries have been busy tagging the collection of over 125,000 items in preparation for the conversion to RFID. The RFID supplier, FE Technologies, have been working with library staff to ensure this is a smooth transition and will result in all of the advantages of RFID being available to our customers. This will include DIY checkouts at the Grafton and Bellingen branches.

This initiative has been made possible by federal government funding for the new Grafton library, State Government Library Development Grant funding through the State Library, and funding from Bellingen Shire and Clarence Valley Councils who manage the library collection.

LOCAL HISTORY WEEK

Local History Week and National Family History Month were celebrated in all branches of the Clarence Regional Libraries. Bellingen and Urunga libraries hosted special presentations by a local historian and family history research specialist which the Clarence Valley libraries of Yamba, Iluka, Maclean and Grafton and the Mobile library offered 'unlock the secrets of your past' workshops. In these workshops library staff introduced Ancestry.com and the TROVE website for researching family history.

COMMUNITY BOOK BUYS

The ever successful Community Book Buys are again being offered at both Bellingen and Yamba libraries. These are opportunities for members of the community to spend some time browsing and selecting new books from a range of collections that

- 01 THE BELMONT LIBRARY STAFF'S DISPLAY, BASED ON SUSAN DUNCAN'S *THE BRINY CAFE*
- 02 VISITING AUTHOR MICHAEL ROBOTHAM
- 03 NEW GRAFTON LIBRARY TAKES SHAPE
- 04 UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF THE PAST AT GRAFTON LIBRARY - CELEBRATING FAMILY HISTORY MONTH



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- 01 A NEW BOOK CLUB FORMS AT BELLINGEN LIBRARY
- 02 GREAT COBAR BUSINESS AWARDS WINNERS

have been offered by a book supplier. The library members can choose the books they would like to see in their libraries and have reservations placed onto these titles immediately in anticipation of their addition to the library collection. Community Book Buys have proven to be an excellent way to enhance a positive attitude of community ownership towards the libraries as well as providing a very useful opportunity for dialogue between library collections staff, suppliers and the community.

WHEELERS

After a period of observing the developments in ebooks and consulting with other library services, Clarence Regional Libraries have followed on from the huge success of the Zinio emagazine subscription by adding the Wheelers ebook platform to our collections. This was seen as a cost effective means of entering this market and assessing the demand from our community, with an initial purchase of 250 titles. Promoted through media, in-house posters, website and social networking the response has proven to be very positive with over 80 borrowers downloading ebooks in the first month. This has led to the decision to double the number of titles and increase promotion. The collection has shown to be particularly useful to borrowers located near the smaller branches of Iluka and Dorrigo where they can now access e-titles while waiting for delivery of reserved print titles from the regional collection.

BOOK CLUBS

To increase awareness of the support that libraries can offer for those thinking of starting a book club and to those clubs that already exist, Clarence Regional Libraries have run 'tea and cake' get togethers in Bellingen, Yamba, Iluka and Maclean branches. These have been informal events where community members can talk to a library staff member about the benefits of book clubs registering with the libraries and be introduced to the useful resources that have been developed by the libraries to assist book clubs. Over 20 people attended the Bellingen event and at least one new book club was formed on the day. The information packages that Clarence Regional Libraries offer to book clubs are available at www.crl.nsw.gov.au/bookclubs

MARTY WILLIAMS
Clarence Regional Library



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COBAR AWARD

Cobar Shire & TAFE Library management and staff were honoured to be awarded the winner of the Government/Community Owned section of the 2013 Great Cobar Business Awards. The library received many nominations from the public for the excellent service and 2 staff members were also individually-nominated and recognised as providing outstanding customer service.

JANE SIERMANS
Cobar Shire & TAFE Library

PICTURE THIS! PICTURE COFFS HARBOUR

The theme of History Week 'Picture this!' was too good an opportunity to miss! Of course the library was going to have to promote *Picture Coffs Harbour* (PCH), our online pictorial history of the Coffs Harbour region.

Picture Coffs Harbour is a joint Library-Museum project so it made sense to join forces with the Coffs Harbour Regional Museum in promoting this fantastic resource. Terrie Beckhouse, the Museum

Coordinator was set the challenge of finding at least 30 unique photographic treasures from the collection – and rise to the challenge she did! The audience was enthralled to hear the stories and histories behind each image and learn aspects of the region’s history that they may not have previously known about. There was also an exhibition of these images on display within the library, which created quite a talking point at the end of the talk.

Enzo Accadia, Library Manager was involved in showing people the Picture Coffs Harbour website, tips and tricks for searching the catalogue, as well as how to order images from the collection. Part of Enzo’s session involved a ‘soft launch’ of our ‘Loaned photographs’ service where people can lend us their images to be digitised, added to our collection and then returned back into their safe keeping. Another interesting aspect of Enzo’s session was his demonstration of Historypin, which the library has recently started using to share its collection with a wider audience.

Overall a great collaborative effort with the Museum which went a long way in promoting Picture Coffs Harbour to our community...the fact that NBN News turned up to do a story on the event also helped!

LIZ THOMAS
Coffs Harbour City Library

LIVERPOOL KNITTERS

K2tog. That’s what we have called our knitting group. Our informal group meets on a regular basis and welcomes learner knitters as well as the well seasoned knitter. We encourage all members of the community to attend and share their knitting skills or learn new ones. Men are also invited to attend and experience the gentle art of knitting in a friendly and supportive group. So far we have one brave man who is knitting a beanie for his little boy. [The men who see us, all come over to have a look and we always encourage them to join us. It’s really lovely to look at everyone when they are deep in concentration, knitting and purling, dropping stitches, asking the experienced knitters to help them and generally having a great sit and knit session with like minded people.]

The group is working on a community project: Knitted Knockers.....yes, knitted prosthetic breasts for breast cancer survivors. We are donating the knitted treasures to the Oncology Unit of the

Liverpool Hospital and they are distributing to women who need them. One of the core notions in our group is to ensure that any community knitting projects stay in our community. [Everyone in the group is inspired and eager to work on a range knitting projects.] We are also working on trauma teddies and knitted square blankets for the RSPCA and Animal Welfare League. Our knitters range from mid twenties to one lady who is 86. The two hours dedicated for our group flashes past so quickly we just can’t wait for the next week. One of our members is having a baby, due in December and we are secretly knitting a few little things for her. [We’re not sure whether to knit pink or blue, so white is a good choice at the moment as well as bright and cheery greens and purples.] We are unstoppable!

We tend to be a bit noisy at times because we chat and laugh and forget that we aren’t at home. Never mind, that’s how we truly know that we are enjoying ourselves. We play with the wool and patterns and have been known to run upstairs to the knitting section and come back downstairs armed with loads of lovely knitting books! At home the group are checking the library hobbies databases for patterns. One thing we like to do is see what others are doing and exchange patterns and ideas. As the facilitator, I worry that I am having too much fun at work, please don’t tell anyone!

RHONDA DALEY
Liverpool City Library

BYGONE (TEA) TIMES

We hired a display of teapots from Bygone Beauties at Leura for one month for people and it proved to be one of our most popular. As part of the programs to support this we held both a High Tea by Bygone Beauties and a Tea leaf reading afternoon.

The Traditional English Tea (sometimes referred to as a High Tea) provided by Bygone Beauties was a very special event for us all. The cost was \$33.00 per person. Bookings and payments were handled by Bygone Beauties. The owner of Bygone Beauties, Maurice G Cooper OAM, shared with us some of his beautiful teapots from his collection which is considered to be one of the world’s largest private collection of teapots. Maurice also explained the history of the High Tea during the refreshments.

Reminiscent of decades past, the waiter in “Top Hat and Tails” served this decadent delight. Presented on a three-tier cake stand, this culinary



KNITTED ART BY
LIVERPOOL KNITTERS

In the Libraries



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- 01 MAURICE COOPER
OAM AND YOUNG
JOSH AS THE WAITER.
- 02 TEA LEAF READING
WITH LINDELL AND
KERRYANNE
- 03 TECH TIME AT
WAVERLEY LIBRARY
- 04 ACTOR HELEN
MOULDER
PERFORMING THE
SOLO PLAY, MISS
HAVISHAM
- 05 BELONGMENT
PORTRAIT
EXHIBITION AT
LEICHHARDT

interlude with finely rolled sandwiches (as done at the Ritz Hotel London) included ham & mustard sandwiches, cucumber sandwiches, an assortment of tea cakes and biscuits, topped off with baby scones, strawberry jam and fresh whipped cream. Tea or coffee was served in shimmering silver pots, delivered to tables on an elegantly decorated tray-mobile with a degree of "Pomp and Circumstance".

Tea Leaf Readings - another special treat for us at Liverpool was a talk on the Gentle Art of Tea Leaf Reading, by Lindell Barker-Revell of Tea-wise, with the opportunity for people to have their cups read following the talk.

Lindell shared with us the correct way to make a pot of tea - before the days of the teabag - with real tea! The best type of tea for tea leaf reading is a big leaf tea. Try and buy good quality large leaf tea and cups should be nice and round with no edges to trap the movement of the tea leaves as they 'dance around the cup'. Lindell, Kerry and Kerryanne impressed everyone on the day with their readings.

If this is your cup of tea, you will not be disappointed if you invite these lovely ladies to your library.

HISTORY WEEK

We were very fortunate to have Michelle Stoddart, Manager Preservation Sydney, National Preservation Projects Operations and Preservation from the National Archives of Australia visit us at Liverpool library.

The Fade to Grey...or yellow, red, or blue workshop was in conjunction with the exhibition, Max Dupain - On Assignment. The workshop looked at both printed digital images and the digital negative. Michelle was magnificent in communicating her vast amount of knowledge on this area, and I would highly recommend her.

JO MORRIS
Liverpool Library and Museum Services

MOUSING AROUND

Waverley Library's new Tech Time workshops are meeting a big demand in the local community for affordable tech training. But the public are not the only ones who benefit! The program also provides valuable learning experiences (and fun) for staff. Our public workshops are conducted by Waverley Library staff who volunteer to undergo training by the "Tech Program Team" - four staff members with IT and teaching experience. Once the trainers are ready, they practice their presentation skills on other staff members by running in-house workshops. This results in significant up-skilling for a large number of staff. It's a neat little solution for our training needs and everyone has a great time sharing their skills and clarifying the tech needs of staff and the community.

The first four public workshops in the Tech Time Project have been *Mousing around*; *Let's email!*; *Be my friend* :) and *Write On! Word 2007*. Through direct instruction, practice, videos, games and a touch of humour, familiarity with technology is built. The short 1.5 hour 'capsules' of information are designed to be as informative and enjoyable as possible and encourage independent learning so people can keep up with advances in technology. We are planning to expand the workshops and are busy selecting and scheduling from a long list of exciting possibilities for 2014.

NEW PEOPLE'S CHOICE CATEGORY

This year 'The Nib' Waverley Library Award for Literature included a *People's Choice* category. The public did not have to read all the shortlisted books, they could just vote for their favourite author, the book they thought most worthy, thought-provoking and timely, or the one they thought sounded most intriguing.

It was a big campaign and included a partnership with local media and the support of local independent book seller *Gertrude and Alice* who created a window display and collected the votes.

The Nib organiser reflected that the Nib had always had a high level of community involvement, extending back to beginnings when it grew out of an idea put forward by the Friends of Waverley Library. The People's Choice category was a fun and popular initiative. More details about this year's winners can be found on the award webpage at www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/nib

FRANCES MAHONY
Waverley Library



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MISS HAVISHAM

Hornsby Library recently embarked on a new venture when actor Helen Moulder came to perform her solo play in the library. Helen performs this play in libraries and community spaces and we were fortunate to be part of her latest metropolitan and regional tour.

Playing Miss Havisham is a story of a New Zealand woman, Claudia, who is auditioning to play the part of Miss Havisham (from *Great Expectations*) in a film and it is full of mystery, humour and pathos. Helen plays all the parts, including Claudia, her husband and the film maker with great versatility and credibility. She manages to intertwine quotes from the book with her thoughts and feelings about auditioning and the effects that is having on her life and relationships together with flashbacks to earlier episodes in her life. This is seamlessly illustrated with song, dance and of course Miss Havisham's wedding dress – a beautiful and ever changing creation. Patrons who took a chance on this event were thrilled and had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

It was the first time we had done this and we got very pleasing feedback. I would recommend Helen for any library who wanted to try this. She was fabulous and very professional.

CYNTHIA METHVEN
Hornsby Shire Council

ARE YOU IN THE PICTURE?

We have had a brilliant History Week this year 'Picture This!' gave us the opportunity to work locally with the work of an artist who engaged with the community on a deep level. In 2009 the Tony Dixon Legacy Research group received a local history grant to archive 200 portraits and protect and store a series of screen prints by Tony Dixon. Tony (of Lilyfield 1937-2007) drew portraits of people he met

from the community in Leichhardt. Some call him Leichhardt's Eternity Man, others 'a true Aussie Larrikin'.

Belongment is a word Tony coined, following his citizenship ceremony in 1996 at the Leichhardt Town Hall. The History Week exhibition epitomises Tony's apt expression of *belongment*, as portrayed in over 200 portraits, whacky cartoons and poems, short reflections on life and his exquisite banners. All were created in local spaces in the Leichhardt community and reflect its diversity and character. Tony was also a pivotal member of the Italian Welfare Craft Group which sold handicrafts for many years from a small 'shop' in Market Town.

The Opening Night attracted a warm and engaging crowd of 90 people as they wandered through the library to the wafting sounds of Nat King Cole taking in 179 portraits of all the people Tony drew. Many found loved ones drawn a decade ago, others saw people they knew well. And others were invited to identify the portraits that the Legacy group have not yet identified. It became apparent that Tony had many friends had touched so many people's lives and threaded a connection between them through his series of portraits and screen prints.

ROZELLE BRIDES - BALMAIN LIBRARY

At Balmain Library we showcased stunning glass plate negatives held by the State Library. Twelve images from a collection of hundreds have been digitized with plans to digitize the full collection.

The Sidney Riley Studios of Rozelle were professional wedding and children's photographers between 1939-1945. The dreamy images point to an era long gone but not forgotten. Full length portraits of wedding groups including brides in traditional full length gowns and 1940s knee length day dresses.

In the Libraries

Some of the bridal parties include men and women in World War II uniforms and have triggered memories for families who remember attending Sidney Riley Studios for children's and wedding photographs. A lady from Orange rang with dates and names of the Hamer family that who had married at the Balmain Methodist church and were then photographed at the Studios. Air raids were occurring at the time of the wedding and the family still holds memorabilia including the wedding dress, wedding gifts, furniture and wedding invitations. The Hamer family were a prominent family in Balmain during the mid-part of the last century. The exhibition attracted a lot of attention both locally and regionally.

BEALE'S PIANO FACTORY WALKING TOUR - ANNANDALE

Beale's Piano Factory was historically renowned as the largest piano factory in the British Empire.

As part of History Week we conducted the very popular walking tour of Beales Piano factory. The wonderful historic photographs from the local history collection illustrate the layout out and internal workings of what was the very successful Beale's Piano Factory which operated between 1902-1960s.

Beale and Company were the largest producer of pianos in Australia from the 1890s through to the early 1960s. The Beale company was established by Octavius Charles Beale in 1879 and did not begin manufacturing pianos in Australia until 1893. They later opened a large factory in Annandale in 1902 which was heralded in the Sydney Mail as 'a notable step in the march of industrial progress' (18/1/1902 p.166) and was opened by the then Prime Minister, Sir Edmund Barton.

The factory became Annandale's largest industry employing over 560 people at its peak containing an iron and steel foundry and veneer mill. The Beale Company prided itself on making Australian made pianos for Australian conditions, and to this end took out a patent in 1902 for a tuning pin locking system with a metal wrest plank that aimed to prevent the strings from going out of tune given the humidity and temperature fluctuations of the Australian climate. The company existed until the early 1960s having proudly made 99,000 pianos.

AMIE ZAR, LOCAL HISTORY
Leichhardt Library Service



BEALES PIANO FACTORY

BRUCE AULD LAUNCHES A TRAVELLER'S FLORA

'A rare specimen' is how Orange City Council Tourism Manager Glenn Mickle introduced author Bruce Auld in his witty and amusing opening to a crowd of more than 100 well-wishers at Orange City Library. He spoke of Bruce's love for plants and science and connected the book *A Traveller's Flora; A guide to familiar plants along roadsides, in fields and forgotten places* to a quote from Sir Joseph Banks linking Bruce, surfing and scientific observation.

Bruce explained how he chose plants to be included in the book stating they had to be conspicuous and identified by colour and size when observing the landscape. 'I've gone a bit into the botany and plant physiology, photosynthesis and respiration - not too much - to put you off, but enough to get you interested,' Bruce said. Local colour photos feature in the book as well as many taken during holiday trips.

AUTHOR TREVOR SHEARSTON INSPIRED BY BUSHRANGER BALLADS

Bushranger ballads inspired author Trevor Shearston to write his new book *Game* about the last days of legendary bushranger Ben Hall. Shearston, a former folk singer, top and tailed his author talk with heart felt renditions of songs The Streets of Forbes and The Death of Ben Hall before large crowds at Forbes and Orange City Libraries. He said the songs of anger and grief gave a poignant pathway into what the people thought of the bushrangers at the time.

Shearston spoke of spending time in the Central West standing in the places where Hall stood taking in the rural scenery for his novel. He also showed a piece of blue and white crockery found near

Hall's home that sat on his desk providing another emotional attachment to the story, read aloud a section from the book and answered questions from the appreciative audiences.

JASMINE VIDLER
Central West Libraries

BRING ARCHITECTS TO THE WEST

There were days people would say if you wanted to build a new home you would go to a builder but not an architect in the west, however this has gradually changed thanks to Parramatta City Library's initiative.

The library formed a partnership with the Australian Institute of Architects three years ago and introduced architects to Parramatta by running talks and exhibitions. In July this year, architects David Bennett and Nick Simitzis introduced a new concept to the audience - *Shaping Suburbia*, and its organisation that fosters new research and real world approaches to transform suburbia to be healthier and more sustainable.

Along with the talk was this year's architecture students' awards exhibition. Both programs were received very well by the community. Few events are planned in Parramatta during Sydney Architecture Festival and the library will host most events. Next year it will become a regular community learning program.

YAN ZHANG
Parramatta City Library

125 YEARS OF NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Parramatta City Library staff united to create a vibrant display celebrating 125 years of National Geographic Magazine, in response to a competition by Gale-Cengage. Staff across the library loaned cultural artefacts from around the world, representing National Geographic's work in every continent and country.

The large display included stacks of Geographic magazines dating over 45 years, as well as paper art made from ex-library copies. It attracted a great deal of attention from the public, with many visitors stopping to peruse the exhibits and try to identify their nationality.

The display was so popular that its duration was extended from a week to a full month, and future similar displays are planned. Library staff were very

enthusiastic about taking part in creating the display, and even more excited to discover that Parramatta Library won second place in the national competition.

NATHAN TURNER
Parramatta City Library

HENTY FIELD DAYS

I'm sure those of you from the rest of NSW are, on the whole, very sorry that you don't live in the Riverina. There is one reason that you can be thankful, however, and that is that your head is free from the Henty Machinery Field Days jingle – an insidious earworm! The Henty Machinery Field Days are southern Australia's biggest agricultural event, attracting around 60,000 people every year over three days. As well as an extraordinary amount of farm machinery, there are plenty of business, services, produce and lifestyle stalls. This year, the Riverina Regional Library set up a stall to promote public libraries and the joy of reading.

The wet weather rendered gumboots a necessity and we were very thankful not to be in a tent, but in the permanent Department of Primary Industries shed. We gave away colourful library bags, mobile library timetables, bookmarks and information about our many services. We read stories to kids, talked about books, ebooks and eAudio books and chatted to people about what their public library offers. It was a great way to meet people from across our large region and beyond. We enticed people to our stall with a 'guess the book' competition. We brought a copy of a book we thought would be almost universally known, cut it up and put it in a jar. Passersby read the cut up sentences and had to guess the title of the book. There were many people who confessed that they hadn't read a book in years and would never be



125 YEARS OF NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

In the Libraries



HENTY MACHINERY FIELD DAY

able to guess it, but when we pointed out the names - Charlie, Augustus Gloop, Mr Wonka – they got it!

Whenever we start talking with community members about everything that is available at their public library and from home, they are always surprised. The Henty Machinery Field Days were such a great opportunity to let people know all that they can access for free and we look forward to seeing more people in our branches, on our mobiles and using our eResources.

AMY HEAP
Riverina Regional Library

HEART AND SOUL

Over the past three months the Coolamon Library has held Coolamon *Heart and Soul* meetings which have been derived from a partnership developed with NERRCS (Northern Eastern Riverina Rural Counselling Services). Held monthly the purpose of the meetings is to bring members of the community together to share ideas, skills and knowledge, followed by morning tea.

One topic covered recently was 'Connecting with your Community' where the group discovered what is available in our community and the services it provides. Other topics covered were health issues such as a healthy heart, blood pressure and happy kidneys. This was facilitated by a local registered nurse who provided helpful tips and vital information.

Topics for discussion in upcoming months are 'Discovering your Colour and Style', 'Swapping Christmas Recipes' and an author visit. We hope to continue the strong partnership with NERRCS as the gatherings have been well supported and proven to be very popular.

HELEN MCLOUGHLIN
Coolamon Library

THE RISE OF THE BOOK CLUB KITS

Book Club groups are gaining momentum in Willoughby. The increasing popularity of our Book Club kits can be considered a runaway success if the empty kit shelves are anything to go by!

Over the last two years, with the opening of new libraries in Chatswood and Artarmon, the service has been extended to keep up with demand and Book Club kits are available across all our six branches at Willoughby City Library, with over 90 kits in circulation. We now have 79 registered Book Club groups with the library and there are eight Book and Movie Lovers Club groups who meet regularly at one of our libraries.

In order to borrow a kit, one member of a group must register with the library for a Book Club card, which allows them to borrow one kit at a time for six weeks. The six week loan period has proven very successful as this fits in well with the usual monthly meeting. Our standard kits, which have 10 copies of one title, are the most popular. We constantly add new kits to the collection throughout the year. Recent additions to the kits include *Life After Life* by Kate Atkinson and Michelle de Kretser's *Questions of Travel*. New releases are always in high demand, but classics such as Miles Franklin's *My Brilliant Career*, are also a favourite with the groups. Our themed kits, which offer several copies of different titles based around a theme such as *Chilling Nordic Crime*, *Food* or *Travel* provide groups with a bit of variety for their next discussion or are a good alternative when a group can't come to a consensus choosing one specific title.

The kits are rotated around the branches, allowing groups to access new titles on a regular basis. Each kit contains some basic tips on how to run a book club, an author profile, and a small selection of questions to get the conversation started. If the book has been adapted for film we also include one or two copies of the DVD in the kit for personal viewing. This adds a new dimension to discussion, and can be a life saver for those extra busy months when there may not be time to read the whole book, but a spare two hours is all you need to watch the DVD, and still actively contribute to the group's discussion.

The variety of titles, combined with the added extras, mean the kits cater to fledgling groups, as well as the well-established, and it's wonderful to see the joy of reading and the popularity of our Book Club Kits rising.

LIZ PARKER
Willoughby City Library

WILLOUGHBY AT WAR: A VOICE FROM THE FRONT

In the lead up to 2014 and the centenary of the commencement of World War I, Willoughby City Library local studies staff have been actively acquiring local war memorabilia. As a result of the generous donation of one local family, the library obtained a fascinating set of war diaries from the Western Front and used these as the basis of an exciting collaboration with local schools for Anzac Day 2013.

In early 2013 the family of Francis Channon donated a large box of World War I memorabilia to Willoughby library. Frank Channon lived in Edinburgh Road, Willoughby in 1915 when he enlisted at the age of 22 and subsequently served as a gunner with a Trench Mortar Battalion in France and Belgium, often at the front line.

In 1917, Frank sustained an injury and was evacuated spending the remainder of the war in hospital in England. Unlike many WWI diggers, Frank returned home and went on to live a long life. He remained in the Chatswood area and a number of his family still live here. He was an alderman on Willoughby Council from 1940 to 1944 and actively supported the families of those who didn't return.

The Channon family donation consisted of many photographs of the battle front, postcards, letters, shell casings, a slouch hat and Frank's diaries which recorded his activities and thoughts throughout his time at war - the daily terror of war, the loss of friends and comrades, premonition of his mother's death, the joy of letters from home and the celebration of Christmas at the front.

In collaboration with local schools, Willoughby Library staff selected excerpts of these diaries and a local actor in full digger's uniform presented the readings accompanied by an AV presentation of Frank's pictures in a performance entitled 'A voice from the Front'. This performance was used as the basis of subsequent class discussions on World War I and the significance of Anzac Day. There was also a performance for the general public in the library and we were delighted that so many of Frank's descendants were able to attend.

The enthusiastic response to 'A voice from the Front' was the catalyst for the library to successfully apply for a 2014 ANZAC Community Youth grant by NSW Department of Education and Communities.

The grant will enable an extension of such school-based activities to commemorate the centenary of the commencement of World War I and will also be used to develop a World War I memory box comprising documents and memorabilia relating to the all aspects of World War I in the context of the Willoughby local area.

There are 15 schools in the Willoughby LGA. The contents of the memory box would be available for use at these local primary and high schools and for use in library displays in the lead up to ANZAC Day and in support of the broader history curriculum. The contents will be curated in collaboration with teachers from the local area and build on the highly successful *Willoughby library schools engagement* program.

A digitised version of the memory box will also be available on the library website to increase access to the collection and as a permanent memorial to the fallen of Willoughby.

Students with relevant material would be encouraged to donate or lend the materials to the library for digitisation.

LIZ PARKER
Willoughby City



LOCAL ACTOR, DON SWONNELL, PRESENTS READINGS FROM THE WORLD WAR ONE DIARY OF A WILLOUGHBY RESIDENT

Children's News

READTEMBER

At Parkes Shire Library, September is REAdTEMBER - a month-long festival of storytelling events and literacy adventures for kids and adults. We believe libraries are a place for mess, noise, and play as well as books on shelves - and this year REAdTEMBER brought everything from cutting-edge digital art to Godzilla monsters into our building!

REAdTEMBER is made possible through sponsorship from Central West Credit Union, Northparkes Mine, and a grant from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR). Among other things, this funding enabled us to bring literacy guru Dr. Matt Finch back to Parkes for the month as REAdTEMBER's guest curator. Matt is a British writer who has worked around the world from the mountains of Peru to the streets of Brooklyn - most recently as adviser to Australasia's largest public library system in Auckland, New Zealand.

The centrepiece of REAdtember was a two-part role-playing adventure - in the first session, *Time Travel Detectives*, Parkes Shire students travelled back to the 1870s, wearing Victorian dress and working with performers to investigate a spooky mystery, based on the work of acclaimed Melbourne artist Peter Miller. Next, our school holiday activity *Big Box Battle* challenged kids and teens to close the same rift in the space-time continuum by creating robot costumes to duel Godzilla-like monsters in a knee-high cardboard city!

01 & 02 BIG BOX BATTLE



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Both events incorporated high quality literacy tasks with self-directed learning, creative expression - and boisterous physical activity!

REAdtember also saw us boost our usual story sessions to 5 times a week, including Rhyme Times, Storytimes, PyjamaRama evening sessions, and an extra special Tractor Tales country storytime on Saturdays. As if that wasn't enough, we launched a starter card allowing quick sign-ups and immediate loans to new library users, plus an internal marketing campaign which gave all Parkes Shire Council staff a library card and a personal invitation to come and visit us at their local branch.

TRACIE MAURO, SHELLIE BUCKLE, MATT FINCH
Parkes Shire Library

INGLEBURN OPEN DAY

On Saturday 21 September the Greg Percival Library at Ingleburn held an open day. The day was a resounding success and followed on from last year's successful open day at HJ Daley Library at Campbelltown.

The day featured various activities such as multilingual story times, performances by multicultural groups including music and dancing, performances from local schools and groups, face painting and balloon creations as well as visits from the Star Wars Group. A coffee cart and sausage sizzle from the local Lion's Club were on hand to ensure everyone was well nourished. The library ran a poster competition with the theme *Connecting Cultures at the Library*. Entries were displayed and judged on the day. The winning entry received a movie voucher.

A source of great amusement and fascination for the children were library staff dressing up as various cartoon characters and superheroes. These included Where's Wally, Cat in the Hat and Cat Woman. Not sure if the staff had more fun than the kids however!

The multilingual story times were also a hit with the children. The book *Where is the Green Sheep* was featured so one of our own staff dressed up as the green sheep. She had a presence throughout each story and eventually turned up fast asleep under a table!

The highlight of the day was the jumbo book sale. A total of around ten thousand books were included with a significant percentage sold at the end of the day. We were amazed, just as we were last year, at the amount of interest in the book sale and how much we were able to sell.

The day was a tremendous success and encouraged us to plan for another one soon!

ANDREW ALLEN
Campbelltown City Library

WHOSE BOTTOM?

Blacktown City Libraries' ever popular Baby Rhyme Time sessions are now available through online videos. Baby Rhyme Time is a structured monthly program that encourages talking, singing, rhyming, dancing and reading with children with 16 sessions across the five branch libraries each week. Due to the popularity and demand, a number of these sessions were filmed earlier this year to enable families, child care centres and small libraries to access the program anywhere, any time.

Baby Rhyme Time online videos were launched at the Max Webber Library, Blacktown on Monday 14 October with special guests Frances Sims, Director Public Library and Learning Services, State Library NSW and Jeannette Rowe, renowned author/illustrator of books for preschoolers. As part of the event, Jeanette Rowe launched her new book *Whose Bottom?* the latest addition to her bestselling series.

Whose Bottom?, flip the flap book is perfect for toddlers and preschoolers who are fascinated with animals and is sure to make them giggle as they lift the flap to reveal which animal is behind it.

The free online Baby Rhyme Time 30 minute videos are available on YouTube at www.youtube.com/user/BlacktownCityCouncil. There are a total of 11 videos with song files to assist with learning new songs and rhymes.

The song words of each monthly program can be downloaded from www.libraries.blacktown.nsw.gov.au/Children_and_Young_Adults/Children/Baby_Rhyme_Time

Children and parents everywhere can now join in the fun without leaving home and can even host their very own Baby Rhyme Time session with friends or playgroup.

DHARSHINI PERERA
Blacktown City Libraries

READING HOUR AT CANADA BAY LIBRARIES

Concord Library celebrated Reading Hour with a Princess, Pirates, Witches and Wizards morning of stories, craft and morning tea. Fifty children came dressed in their favourite clothes or as their favourite book character. We had a very special visit by Cinderella on her way to the ball!

WENDY BANISTER
City of Canada Bay

BIG BEET!

Bland Shire Library had a special storytelling session during the school holidays when local author, Lyn Ward, read her newly published children's book 'The Big Beet!' The session was for children 3 – 10 years of age. Over 40 children came to storytime and it was a treat for both young and old. Lyn, dressed up as a beetroot which was lots of fun for everyone. Following the book reading, Lyn also spoke about the writing process.

MAISY MOUSE

Maisy Mouse (author Lucy Cousins' beloved book character) paid a special visit to Bland Shire Library in October for a special preschool storytime. Over 50 children and their parents enjoyed the morning which included a number of Maisy stories, band practice (with instruments), gingerbread (mostly eating) and making a pair of famous Maisy ears. A fun time was had by all!

JOANNE RUSSO
Bland Shire Library

PIRATE PETE AND CRAFT

August school holidays saw the arrival of Pirate Pete at Tuggerah and Toukley Libraries. These shows filled up very quickly and were enjoyed by all of the young people who attended. The libraries were filled with pirate songs and much laughing and cheering. Everyone walked out wearing their Pirate Pete head band.

To complement Pirate Pete our other holiday activity was pirate craft. We made maps out of scratch board, decorated cloth bandanas, made a hook and played pin the treasure on the map and dug for treasure.

SUPERHERO NIGHT

Not content with Halloween we decided to host a Superhero Fun Night. We had Superhero games and craft, including design your own cape and incognito



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- 01 SHARON LEGERET FROM INGLEBURN LIBRARY DRESSES UP AS THE GREEN SHEEP
- 02 JEANNETTE ROWE WITH HER NEW BOOK
- 03 CINDERELLA VISITED READING HOUR AT CONCORD

Children's News

01 MICHELLE STUART,
YOUNG PEOPLES
SERVICES CO-
ORDINATOR AND
AVA-ROSE ROHRICH
AS CLEOPATRA
AT GOULBURN
MULWAREE LIBRARY

02 CREATING A COLLAGE
OF TANGLEWOOD

glasses. One little man even turned up as Astro Boy complete with red rocket shoes. Not to be outdone, our own staff were equally enthusiastic about the night with one even wearing his very own Batman suit – he ironed the ears especially for the occasion!

BOOK A DAY UPDATE

We reported the launch of our *Book a day* program in the last edition of PL News. We are delighted to report that 400 families have joined in the first 18 weeks of the program! This is almost half of our target of 1000 in the first year. This is thanks to all the promotions and hard work of the CYS Librarian, Jo Potter, council childcare centres and of course, our library staff.

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Wyong Shire Library Service

ANCIENT EGYPT

Goulburn Mulwaree Library celebrated all things Ancient Egyptian over the October school holidays. We were lucky enough to have Dr Eve Guerry from the Macquarie University come on board to run some programs. Dr Geurry specialises in Ancient Egyptian religion and hieroglyphs and has been on archaeological digs in Egypt as part of the Macquarie Theban Tombs project. Known as 'Dr Egypt', she inspired kids with her passion for Ancient Egypt through hands-on engagement with bones, artefacts, pottery and hieroglyphics. Participants solved



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archaeological mysteries and could handle artefacts from Egypt. The library also ran an Egyptian mask workshop and held an Egyptian animal inspired storytime for toddlers. It was a fantastic series of events, many children have been inspired to become archaeologists!

MICHELLE STUART
Goulburn Mulwaree Library

TALES BY TORCHLIGHT

Our 'Tales by torchlight' event was very successful. Although I didn't actually have time to count - approximately 40 adults and children attended with children ranging from about two to 12 years. Most children wore their pyjamas and brought torches. I had three volunteers helping with the program - two reading stories, one singing songs and all of us doing a readers theatre of the *Three Little Pigs*. All the books we read were Book Week shortlisted books and even though we had some older children (and the books were either picture books or early childhood) they all enjoyed listening to the stories and were very attentive.

One of the special things we did was a reading of *Tanglewood*. While the book was being read, I had four volunteers from the audience (two children and two parents) create a collage picture of *Tanglewood*. This worked very well. Feedback from all attendees was very positive and everyone had a great time.

SHARON JONES
Kiama Library

HOME MADE PLAY

Randwick City Library Service has a thriving Toy Library with a total of 2375 toys available for loan across its three branches, 1600 Toy Library members and 36,800 loans over the past year. The Randwick City Toy and Game Library caters for children six months to six years and also has family games to borrow.

The Toy Library also runs regular workshops for parents. We have *Play Workshops* for parents and their children 6-12 months, 12-18 months and 18-24 months. Our parent only weekend sessions *Know Your Child 2-4 years* and *Know Your Child 4-6 years* focus on play, behaviour management and getting ready for school.

Each workshop is organised by the library, run by an experienced early childhood educator and displays appropriate materials available for loan from the Toy Library, children and parenting collections. The workshops are free for Toy Library members and \$15 for non members and have been one way of attracting new members to the library.

In July this year we held a new parent only workshop called *Home Made Play*. This workshop explored ways to foster children's play, learning, creativity and imagination by using everyday things at home, outdoors and recycled materials that would be normally thrown away.

Toy Library staff collected a huge array of recyclable materials that were displayed at the workshop to give parents ideas of things to use. A pretend play shop was made out of large cardboard boxes and recycled food containers and packaging. A large tub filled with water and different recycled plastic food, drink, soap and storage containers gave parents ideas for water play.

We also displayed books on the theme of the workshop and included picture books such as *George Saves The World by Lunchtime* by Jo Readman, *Litterbug Doug* and *Michael Recycle* both by Ellie Bethel and *In The Bin* by Kellie Bollard and parents were encouraged to borrow. A few toys from the Toy Library that promoted recycling were included in the display- a green dollhouse and furniture, a garbage/recycling truck and a few games such as *What's Rubbish* and the *Recycling Game*.

Our early childhood educator, Antonia Folden introduced parents to 'Loose Parts Theory' -

essentially items and materials that children can move, adapt, control, change and manipulate within their play. Loose parts provide a high level of creativity and choice as there are endless ways children can use them. They are non-prescriptive and open-ended and foster in children the use of imagination, exploration and discovery, problem solving, strategy, trial and error, resilience, risk taking, persistence, teamwork, negotiation, balance and stability, pride.

An important part of the workshop was also a discussion on how we can give children information about reducing, reusing and recycling and what messages we want to convey to them about recycling and the environment.

The participants shared ideas on the kinds of things their children had made and done with loose parts and places such as 'Reverse Garbage' where they could access more recyclable materials for play. At the end of the workshop we encouraged parents to take home any of the items on display including all the recycled stuff we had been collecting for months prior to the workshop.

This workshop recognised that children not only benefit from toys when they play but also from many things available at home, outdoors and in nature. It complements our existing workshops and we hope to make it a permanent feature in our annual workshop program.

—
SHARON STERN
 Toy and Game Librarian
 Randwick City Library Service

SNAKES ALIVE

The Tumut and Batlow Libraries were transformed into interactive and hands-on learning environments when they hosted the Croc Encounters Show. Travelling from the Central Coast, Mark Richmond and his menagerie that included lizards, turtles, snakes and a crocodile, were set loose amongst the books bringing countless smiles and just as many squeals and gasps from the large crowd of youngsters (and eager parents) who gathered for the show.

The children were thrilled with the opportunity to get up close and personal with a variety of Australian reptiles and amphibians during the hours presentation. Children held the animals whilst learning the value of biodiversity and conservation and the importance of caring for our surroundings.

Whilst some in attendance were a tad squeamish and backed away, many more of those in attendance could wait for the opportunity to hold some of nature's treasures. Librarian in Charge, Kristin



MATERIALS USED IN THE HOMEMADE PLAY WORKSHOP

Children's News

Twomey, got very up close and personal with Crunch the Crocodile.

For more information on this fantastic presentation checkout www.crocodileencounters.com.au

KRISTIN TWOMEY
Tumut Shire Council

POPPY'S IPADS

In September, Holroyd City Council Library Service introduced a new collection of iPads for parents to borrow and use with their preschool children. 'Poppy's iPads', named after Poppy the Possum, our Paint Holroyd REaD mascot, allow parents the opportunity to explore touch screen technology with their preschool child for free.

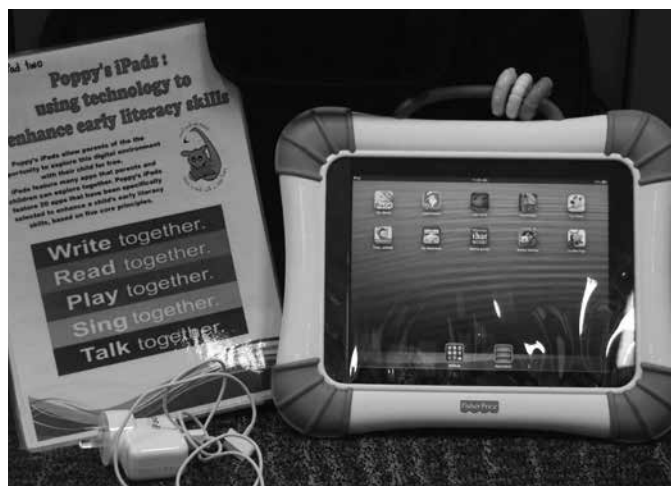
Poppy's iPads feature 20 apps that have been specifically selected to enhance a child's early literacy skills, based on five core principles – read together, write together, play together, sing together and talk together. The iPads are housed in preschool friendly 'Fisher Price' covers and are checked out for a three week loan period. All six iPads were quickly borrowed on launch day and have been on hold ever since, with parents finding the resource a great tool for sharing with their child.

KIRSTY PLUMRIDGE
Holroyd City Council Library Service

Naidoc Week Celebrations

Eastlakes Naidoc celebrations were held at Pelican Park Foreshore, Pelican. The library was one of 19 stallholders. The Naruta-Ka-Wa story quilt was set up on the grass and was used for storytime throughout the day. The Naruta-Ka-Wa story quilt was made by a local sewing group Na Ya Boo Larng – an unique project to strengthen Lake Macquarie Library's relationship with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. The library staff had a day of storytime and craft with the children making the own 'storytime quilt', gluing the coloured Aboriginal design paper on their quilt. It was a wonderful opportunity to promote library services and programs and many questions were answered on ebooks, internet, wireless, school holiday activities and loans to schools. The day was a huge success with around 170 children doing craft and a continuous amount of children listening to stories on our special storytime quilt.

TRACEY BANCROFT
Wangi Library / Windale Library



POPPY'S IPADS



STORYTIME QUILT

NAIDOC Week celebrations continued on the Toronto Foreshore - even though it was wet - it was a wonderful community day. Although making it difficult to set up and pack up, the wet weather actually brought people together as everyone braved the conditions. The Library stall gave out library bags and promotional give aways. The wet weather prevented the use of the beautiful Naruta-Ka-Wa story quilt and the associated craft, however there were plenty of opportunities to talk with people and promote the library.

SHERAH SCULLY
Lake Macquarie City Library
Toronto Library

Coffs Harbour Library

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK STORYTIME ACTIVITY

'Protecting children is everyone's business'
- Libraries play a pivotal role in providing opportunities for community connections and we were pleased to be a part of a fun and meaningful activity in recognition of Child Protection Week. Representatives from a range of local children's services were on hand to chat to families after storytime and distribute relevant information.

The session was attended by over 100 people, and it was exciting to see all the children participate in a simple activity to enhance their understanding of what it means to feel safe. The activity was based on the local story 'How the Kangaroos Stay Safe' developed by NAPCAN and the Kempsey Community, and was facilitated by Michelle Grant, a local Child Protection Counsellor.

SOPHIE MASSON WRITING WORKSHOPS

It was great to have the wonderful author Sophie Masson join us for some intensive writing workshops. This presented us with the opportunity to support children undertaking home schooling, as well as providing an extra curricular activity for some budding writers. The library was pleased to be able to foster this love of writing and hear some inspirational outcomes from the day. I'm sure the Year 11 and Year 12 students who attended the senior workshop will grow the knowledge they gained from Sophie's session. One of the students commented, 'Fantastic to have Sophie give up her time and give us some great advice on writing. I learnt that writing with emotion makes it so much more believable'.



SOPHIE MASSON JUNIOR WORKSHOP AT COFFS HARBOUR LIBRARY

NATIONAL MARINE SCIENCE CENTRE

Stephan Soule, Marine Biologist from the National Marine Science Centre (NMSC) based in Coffs Harbour, kept everyone enthralled as he explained about the life and times of the fascinating creatures that live on our coastline. The children had the opportunity to handle some living sea creatures and find out some interesting facts. With an extra 200 people through the door it certainly was a busy morning, with the staff on the circulation desk being kept very busy as many children borrowed books to extend their learning opportunity. I'm sure the NMSC Solitary Islands Aquarium saw a boost in attendance over the school holidays due to the hands-on experience at the library.

JUDY ATKINSON
Coffs Harbour City Library

WHAT CAME FIRST?

Waverley Library school holiday programs have been growing in diversity and fun. Our *Winter Magic* program was a sell out success, with the colder weather and darker days evoking a sense of mystery and enchantment appropriate for the theme. One of the major draw cards was a visit from *The Crazy Scientist* who used a range of everyday items to explore scientific concepts that would have, at first, appeared to be 'magic'. The crazy scientist also had an awesome hat!

In our Spring School Holiday Program we brought the wonder of new life to the library by hosting a collection of baby chickens! A hatchery was set up in the Children's Library for the whole two week period and library visitors were able to witness the growth and development of the young chickens from the egg stage, to fluffy chicks and then onto feathery adolescence. The chicks were a hit attracting attention from all over the community. Families, high school students, staff and seniors visited, smiled and adored them.

TOY LIBRARY SELF-CHECKOUT

North Ryde Library recently made their Toy Library collection available for self-checkout. Library staff has RFID tagged the 700 item collection, previously toys could only be issued by library staff at the front desk.

The successful transition to self-checkout was made possible by our previous efforts to ensure the collection was well operated and maintained. For instance, toys are counted at the desk as soon as they are returned. Caregivers are asked to stay while the

Children's News

MAXINE AT NORTH
RYDE LIBRARY CHECKING
OUT TOYS



pieces are counted, so if there is something amiss it can be resolved immediately. Counted and shelved toys can't be opened and played with in the library, except by a carer if they wish to see how the toy works. As being surrounded by toys without being able to play with them might be difficult for our young customers (and their carers!) we do provide one-piece toys in the Toy Library for play. The new self-checkout, as well as a recent increase in the total number of toys that can be borrowed, has proved popular with the littlies and their caregivers.

CHERIE GOLDSMITH
Team Manager North Ryde Library, Ryde Library Service

SNOWMEN AT GUNNEDAH LIBRARY

Snow was the theme for the school holiday and storytelling program in Gunnedah during May and June. We concentrated our storytelling efforts on the little township of Curlewis, some 18 kms from Gunnedah. Approximately 50 children attend the small school and there's also a preschool operating twice a week with ten children for each day. To revitalise this library (a series of specially built cupboards in the town hall) we had contacted the preschool and school and organised three storytelling sessions each Monday afternoon.

Two library staff attended on Monday and the activity after the storytelling was making papier-

mâché snowmen! To see if making snowmen was a feasible idea all the library staff – four plus one volunteer – made papier-mâché snowmen beforehand that were named, had a photo shoot for the local paper, and were solemnly transported to Curlewis branch library to act as examples and inspiration. They then had the starring role in the Gunnedah library display.

The afternoon was lots of fun with glue and torn up newspaper. During the first week of the holidays the 'bodies and heads' were made and left to dry, and during the second week, the snowmen were assembled and decorated with cotton wool donated by the Carroll Cotton Company, and other bling and glitter. Splitting the activity was a good way of ensuring that the children returned for the second week! Eleven children of all ages attended and were delighted by the snow stories, the photographs that decorated the library section, and their snowmen. The library staff swore never to do it again, as we decided at the end of the program we were definitely papier-mâchéd out!

At Gunnedah, the handicrafts sessions after the storytelling was much easier – with all the cotton wool we had, we were able to make polar bears, paper snowmen, snowflakes, and so on. The children had a great time, and there were plenty of favourable comments from the adults.

GLENDA MILLARD

Since 1983 Gunnedah has hosted the Dorothea Mackellar poetry awards, an Australia wide competition for school children that now attracts over 15,000 entries. The Mackellar family had land in the Gunnedah shire; Dorothea was a visitor to the homestead, and it is said that her iconic poem, *My country*, was inspired by the landscape in the shire.

One of the judges of the competition this year was award winning children's author Glenda Millard, who, despite a very busy schedule, managed to visit the library for an hour on a Friday afternoon and shared her passion for poetry and writing. We were hoping to set up a nice display of her books, but found, to our dismay, and her pleasure, that most of her books were out on loan!!

Happily she brought along a collection of her own books to read to the audience of children and parents who thoroughly enjoyed the stories, the talk and the afternoon tea which we offered. Glenda was kept busy answering questions, chatting to children and adults, and signing posters of her book covers that we were able to provide for the audience.

CHRISTINE BIRKETT
Gunnedah Shire Library

MORRIS GLEITZMAN

The first thing children's author Morris Gleitzman asked everyone during his talk to visiting schools and a second talk to the public on Friday afternoon at Orange City Library, was do you play soccer? And of course a lot of hands sprang up immediately. Morris, author of more than 30 books, was in Orange to launch his latest book titled *Extra Time*. It's about a young boy from a country town who takes on the world soccer stage with his little sister as his manager.

Morris read from his book, talked about writing and answered lots of questions for the audience in an entertaining way. 'I had a dream to be the next Ronaldo and earn big bucks each week for my soccer skills and I'd lie awake at night hoping my dream would come true. But there was one problem. I was really lousy at soccerand I had to let go of my soccer dreams. And that's partly why I wrote *Extra Time*,' Morris explained. 'I thought it would be interesting to write a story about a talented soccer star the ends up being rich and follow him through that journey and I was interested in writing about family.'

'I thought it might be interesting if another member of the family told the story. I thought following his dream may cost him things that are more important than money,' Morris said.

Children asked about his favourite books, characters, hobbies, where his ideas came from, how much he gets paid and how did he first get into writing and the surprising answer to that is Dolly Magazine. The event was supported by Collins Booksellers Orange and Morris very generously stayed beyond his planned visiting time to sign books and meet his fans.

JASMINE VIDLER
Reading and Writing Coordinator
Central West Libraries

NAIDOC WEEK AT DUNDAS LIBRARY

A fascinating NAIDOC Week event was organised by Dundas Library with Walangari Karntawarra, a multi-talented and award winning aboriginal artist. The event proved to be a very entertaining, educative and engaging. Walangiri, who is a well-known performer, entertained the kids and accompanying parents with dancing, painting & rhythmic music using the didgeridoo. The audience was captivated by Walangiri's innovative style.



/01

They learnt to recognise sounds of animals and birds, discovered traditional aboriginal signs and instruments, danced like a hawk and finally picked up inventive ways of painting with the hand, palms, fingers and brushes.

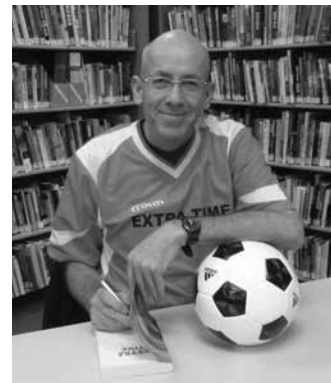
AMBAR BANERJI
Dundas Library

CHILDREN'S ABORIGINAL WEAVING WORKSHOPS

More than 27 children and their parents came to Constitution Hill Library to celebrate NAIDOC week with Local Darug artist Kerrie Kenton. Kerrie ran two free traditional Aboriginal Grass Weaving Workshops for the children.

The children were told a local Dreamtime story about dreams and protection and learnt that 'Budyari Ngami' means good dreams in the Wangal Language. The children discussed the story and then made a dream token to create good dreams and make bad dreams and problems go away.

JO BERTONCELJ
Constitution Hill Library



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01 GUNNEDAH SNOW PEOPLE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: MARTHA AND ARTHUR, SNOW CHILDREN CHLOE AND JACK IN THE FRONT, MR LIBROS READING LIBRARY LINES, MR WURZEL, AND MS SNOOTLY!

02 MORRIS IN SOCCER TOP SIGNING BOOKS

Young Adults Update



REANNA RECEIVING AN AWARD

AUBURN LIBRARY RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD

The way to unlock an online chamber of knowledge took a new turn for students in the Auburn LGA!

Last year Auburn City Library Services established an annual award to be presented each year to Auburn LGA High School students in the area of information research for years 10 and 11, as designated by the School Librarian at each High School.

The award was conducted in partnership with Lidcombe TAFE and proved so popular that this year all five high schools located within the Auburn area nominated their students to take part.

Most of the preparatory work was done by teacher-librarians who nominated two winning students from each participating school, based on their use of citations in their assignments, or their observed research skills.

The winning students were awarded a day's training at Lidcombe TAFE, which included advanced research skill training as well as database design and development training showing students how to create their own databases. The aim of these sessions is to maximise students' ability to successfully search information databases and cite

their results appropriately, for high school and in preparation for university.

The students also received a certificate from TAFE for the day's training and a diploma from Auburn City Council which can be presented at an awards night.

As a result of this event Auburn Library databases have been widely promoted and frequently used, high school students come to the library more often and in larger groups, encouraging their colleagues to join up.

Local TAFE also benefitted as the interest in the courses they offer increased as students became more aware of their local TAFE and its excellent facilities.

ANNETTA KUCHARSKA
Auburn Library

GAMING AT THE LIBRARY

Look out James Packer we are your competition! Blacktown City Libraries launched a Strategic Table Top Gaming Club to attract the young and the old into the best place in the city - their library!

Strategic table top gaming requires players to gather an army of miniature models, each of which has certain powers according to very carefully defined rules. The army is placed on the table top and terrain is added. Then the play starts with a roll of a number of dice, allowing players to dispatch enemies and win wars. The best known game is Warhammer, which has the all-powerful soldier of the future, known as the Librarian, whose battlecry is 'Knowledge is Power'. There are many more games, such as The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit, which are all from the Games Workshop. But it is more than a game; there is the artistic skill of painting models, learning rules, reading stories from the Black Library, and socialising with others.

There are several reasons why the Library wanted to support strategic gaming:

- Each game is storytelling in action
- There is no age limit; in fact it is wonderfully inter-generational and highly social
- While anyone can join, it is predominantly a male hobby and so we have found an activity that brings men to the library
- The players develop and use strategic thinking to win their battles



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- There is a high level of artistic skill involved in the creation of the game pieces

In the lead up to the launch we had a large display of miniature models in the library foyer and a number of demonstration games at the library where expert gamers talked to people about their hobby and showed them how to play. An article featuring our Club was in *White Dwarf*, the Games Workshop international magazine and the local shops promoted the Club on their Facebook pages and encouraged people to participate. On our launch day we had gaming tables, where local enthusiasts brought their gaming pieces and played. We also ran a series of workshops on painting and how to play the game. People were encouraged to sign up as volunteers to start and run the club at the library.

Now in its fifth month, the Club is called Blacktown Strategic Wargaming Club (BSW Club). It is run by volunteer enthusiasts who organise regular games fortnightly and work with library staff to promote activities. There are plans for competitions and ultimately the BSW Club will run a tournament, competing in games and painting miniature models. The Library will be working closely with the BSW Club, ensuring that they are promoting the library, working within our environments, observing Work Health and Safety obligations and following our code of conduct.

The outcome is an active social club, running a variety of events with members of the local

community, promoting gaming, promoting craft and resources within the library such as fiction and rule books, and more importantly promoting the library, as a place to be.

—
MARGARET REDRUP-MAY
 Blacktown City Libraries

KIAMA LIBRARY

Kiama Library launched its first ever HSC event in the form of a Lock In on Wednesday 9th October as part of the ongoing efforts to support local students in the lead-up and during the HSC exam period. Almost 30 local students were sequestered in the library for more than two hours studying under the tutelage of Jane Sherlock, an experienced HSC English exam marker. A code of conduct was enforced including mobile phone silence and strict volume levels; compliance was rewarded with free pizza, fruit and confectionery.

—
MICHAEL DALITZ
 Kiama Library

YOUTH SURVEY

In a move to determine how to better develop services, collections and facilities for youth in the Clarence Valley and the Bellingen Shire the Clarence Regional Libraries have asked 12-25 year olds to participate in a survey of young adults. Available

- 01 BLACKTOWN STRATEGIC WARGAMING CLUB - DANIEL MAY
- 02 HSC LOCK IN KIAMA LIBRARY

Young Adults Update



YOUNG ADVENTURERS AT THE D&D SESSION

online using SurveyMonkey and in print the survey ran for one month and asked for feedback relating to current library usage and for information on what youth would like to see offered by the libraries.

The survey was promoted through radio, newspapers and advertisements in all local secondary school newsletters. There has been an excellent response, possibly due to the offering of iPad prizes as an incentive. Questions were asked relating to collections, facilities, resources, programs and events and the information received will be analysed to form a strategy for future planning.

MARTY WILLIAMS
Clarence Regional Library

HEADING TO HIGH SCHOOL?

We decided to host a few events to encourage parents with year 6 students to come to the library to learn how to assist their child with homework in high school. We originally had hoped to run the event at three branches, however only one branch had any takers. We covered search strategies, databases, *yoututor*, Google advanced search, making the most out of Wikipedia, how to start your assignment and looking for books resources. We created a booklet and included our contact details. Whilst we were disappointed at the numbers (or lack thereof) we are

really keen to improve on this concept. We believe it is vital to have the parents involved and plan to run the sessions again at the beginning of the school year with more promotion.

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Wyong Shire Library Service

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS IN THE LIBRARY

A party of adventurers has invaded the library and they're battling trolls, slaying goblins, decapitating dragons and liberating villagers! Randwick City Library's first beginner Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) encounter for teens was during the October 2011 school holidays and 10 teens attended. The response was really encouraging so we initiated a monthly club; four to seven teens would arrive at the library once a month to play for two hours and they loved it, but an extended session during school holidays attracted double the regular numbers.

The format that works best at Randwick is a 'D&D Epic'. This six hour session held on one day of every school holidays for 12-25 year olds includes an introductory session of three hours for newer players, run a couple of days before the Epic works well. The Intro session is for players aged 11-18. It teaches total *noobs* the basic concepts of the game and also allows

them the opportunity to create their own character from scratch. Additionally it provides those who haven't played in a while a chance to refresh their skills (up to Level 3). Numbers are limited by space and the number of Dungeon Masters (DMs) available on the day.

At the D&D Epic the library provides morning and afternoon tea and a pizza lunch. There is a 'Play of the Day' prize per table at the end of the day. It's always a lot of fun to hear why someone has won a prize; the favourite so far was the 12 year old girl who received a prize for 'wilful destruction and blind slaughter of the enemy - mostly'.

Both events are extremely popular, during the last school holidays 29 players tried to book for the Intro (we could only accept 24) and 39 for the Epic (we could only take 32 players). Players came from as far away as Newtown, Annandale, North Sydney and even the Blue Mountains! The attendance at both our sessions tend to be 50-55% female, despite the perception that is an activity for boys.

The sheer enthusiasm from the players at these events is amazing. Both players and often their parents have asked about the possibility of a monthly club. A few wonderful DMs offered their time on a more regular basis so we're looking into it. Additionally a closed group, password protected online forum 'Gamers Corner' was created to allow players and DMs to share ideas and plans not only for D&D but for other games as well - it's a frequent hub of activity especially just prior to the school holiday events.

Overall Dungeons & Dragons is a great way to encourage storytelling, research skills, group work and cooperation in a fun environment. If you've probably got a lot of the materials in your back office collecting dust, it's time to make use of them.

SAM SBISA
Randwick City Library Service

YAKKA DAY

Career Links, in partnership with the Parental and Community Engagement (PaCE) program, present *Yakka Day Try A Skill* to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, parents and community from around the Hunter, with information about career and work areas.

This is the third year that Lake Macquarie City Library has attended this event. This year for the first time we included the hands on experience of the

CHATSWOOD LIBRARY



2013 HSC Seminars

DEMYSTIFYING THE HSC

Thursday 14 March 2013, 6-7.30pm

Presented by the Board of Studies
An explanation of HSC marking, scaling and the ATAR for year 11 and 12 students, and their parents.



SECRETS OF HSC SUCCESS

Thursday 4 April 2013, 4.30-6pm

Presented by Rowan Kunz
Rowan is the head coach at Art of Smart Education and author of *Secrets of HSC success revealed*.



HSC ANCIENT HISTORY

Wednesday 1 May 2013, 4.30-6.30pm

Presented by Bruce Dennett
Bruce Dennett is an HSC marker and the author of numerous textbooks.



HSC ENGLISH - AREA OF STUDY: BELONGING

Thursday 23 May 2013, 4.30-6pm

Presented by Lyndall Hough
Lyndall Hough is an experienced English teacher, HSC marker and study guide writer.



HSC STUDY STRATEGIES

Thursday 6 June 2013, 4.30-6pm

Presented by Fiana Stewart
An experienced HSC teacher will help you review and prepare for your exams.





Bookings essential,
book online at www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Library/





Willoughby City Library Services

Phone: 02 9777 7900 email: library@willoughby.nsw.gov.au
www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Library/

library puppet theatre which was a great hit and kept students from Hunter schools (Years 5, 6 through to year 12) thoroughly entertained and engaged. The library staff gave assistance to the students who performed *The Frog Prince* to enthusiastic audiences, creating a positive library experience. It was an opportunity to chat to the students about our role especially as storytellers and bringing stories alive to foster the love of books, stories and develop literacy skills. In addition to the theatre we gave away free library bags, book marks and diaries.

There was also a display of resources, books, DVDs available for loan at Lake Mac Libraries.

HSC SEMINARS 2013
POSTER

PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS December 2013 49

Young Adults Update

Using the puppet theatre proved to be a very successful way of promoting the library, and proved that storytelling is certainly alive and an extremely effective way of attracting children, even teens!!! The morning was very successful, encouraging and productive. Approximately 400 people attended the day, providing great feedback from community and organisations.

SHERAH SCULLY
Lake Macquarie City Library
Toronto Library

The place to be for the HSC

BLAND SHIRE

The library hosted another successful HSC lock-in September. The library was open exclusively for year 12 students and this year we had in addition to the service yourtutor, a couple of real life tutors who were able to assist the students on the night. Library staff were also there to assist and the library served pizza and soft drinks, and had plenty of lollies on hand. We will definitely be doing it again next year.

JOANNE RUSSO
Bland Shire Library

LANE COVE

This year Lane Cove Library held two HSC 'Lock-in' events. They were held on a Wednesday night when the library normally closes at 5.30pm and went until 8pm. The first event in Term Two included a relaxation session and was attended by about thirty students. The students were keen to have more 'HSC only' nights (actually requested one every week!) so a second one was planned for closer to the exams.

The next event was held the week before the HSC began and we were overwhelmed with bookings. The most effective publicity was having flyers next to the Wifi passwords as well as telling students as they booked study rooms. Over 100 students were spread throughout the library on the night.

The three Library staff on duty served pizzas and drinks and Synergy, the Lane Cove Youth Centre, provided goody bags of pens, chocolate, a stress ball and information from Beyond Blue. They were very grateful for our support and thanked us for opening the library especially for them during such an intensive study time leading up to the HSC exams.

HELEN ROURKE
Lane Cove Library

WAVERLEY LIBRARY

Waverley Library were very happy to welcome year 12 students to our annual HSC Study Lock-in. Now in its fourth year, participant numbers have swollen from 50 students in 2009 to a massive 130 this year with students from over 10 schools and colleges. Year 12 students were treated to exclusive, extended use of the Library from 9pm to midnight as well as free parking, study resources, food and drinks. On the evening, Waverley Library also hosted Mr Larry Grumley, Head of English at Catherine McAuley School, Westmead, to present a special lecture on *Belonging*. This was the last event on the HSC event calendar at Waverley Library following two other lectures organised as part of the Eastern Suburbs HSC Co-op which includes, Botany Bay, Randwick and Woollahra Councils.

FRANCES MAHONY
Waverley Library

WILLOUGHBY LIBRARY

Over the past eight years, Willoughby City Library has provided seminars to assist local students and their families undertake the HSC. The 2013 *Surviving the HSC* Seminar program consisted of five seminars, held between March and May, with three general information-based sessions – 'Demystifying the HSC', 'Secrets of HSC Success' and 'HSC Study Strategies', and two on specific subjects – 'Ancient History' and 'English Area of Study Belonging'.

The seminars are promoted with posters and flyers throughout the Library branches, particularly around the Young Adult area, study tables and group study rooms, and also distributed across Council's community centres. Details and online bookings are made available through the library webpage, Council's online Diary Dates, and advertised in various promotions such as e-newsletters and Council's Facebook page. A press release is sent out to local media, and the 15 local high schools are also emailed information about the program. Schools were a wonderful ally this year in helping to promote the seminars, with some teachers even organising for their classes to attend as a group.

Overall the seminars have been extremely well received by the students of the Willoughby area. Students and parents appreciate that the seminars are free and cover a range of topics. We gather feedback at the end of each session and ask students to rate the usefulness of the presentation, and whether they would attend similar presentations in



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future. Students also provide suggestions for topics, which are taken on board for future planning.

We are currently encouraging local high school students, particularly those about to begin their HSC year, to participate in an online survey *Have Your Say* accessed through our webpage, and tell us what topics they would like covered, and help us plan the next seminar program for 2014.

LIZ PARKER
Willoughby City Library

KIDS CRAFTERNOONS

Waverley Library introduced weekly Crafternoon sessions to our Tween's program in Term 4. Children made new friends and created amazing crafts under the guidance of Waverley staff member, Larissa Costa. A special project in November saw Larissa hand the reins to guest facilitator, artist Selena Smith that coincided with her *Papaver Rhoëas* exhibition Waverley Galleries. Selena worked with the children to make delicate paper poppies from discarded books and invited them to donate some of their poppies and words to her exhibition at the National Gallery in Canberra next year. Children loved having the chance to work directly with a professional artist and learnt all about the history and significance of the poppy in the lead up to Remembrance Day.

FRANCES MAHONY
Waverley Library

PHOTO BOOTH AT GRANVILLE LIBRARY

One hundred students from six western Sydney high schools gave two outstanding performances at Riverside Theatres in front of their families, schools principals and members of the community. The topics, ranging from dreams to psychological barriers, and what it means to be a young person in western Sydney today were all conceived by the students.

As part of Parramatta Now, ABCN commissioned local artists to create an engaging artwork (photo studio) inspired by the students' work. This photo studio was displayed at the Granville library. The photo studio was designed in the style of classic street portrait studios with three painted backdrops based on the students' scripts. They were described as Rapunzel, Time Machine and Wall. At the Granville library, patrons were given a chance to take photographs of themselves in front of their chosen backdrop. We focus on community engagement, literacy and access to the arts for young people - so the photo studio was perfect for our library.

KRUPALI TEVAR
Branch Librarian, Granville Librarian

MANGA ART WORKSHOP AT DUNDAS LIBRARY

During the September school holidays both Dundas and Guildford Libraries organised manga art workshops for the children and young adult members. Matt Lin, a well-known artist and illustrator, enthralled the young participants with his artistic skills. Matt started with simple ovals and circles and then helped the children to turn them into manga characters by adding eyes, arms, legs and wings. With simple lines the children added a frown, a smile and different moods to the characters.

Matthew displayed reproductions of his own work as stimulus material for the group in addition to the Manga magazines and books which were circulated. Robots were created from egg outlines by adding arms and legs. The workshop was run in a very democratic and relaxed way and there were some very impressive drawings made by some of the young adults during the workshop.

AMBAR BANERJI
Dundas Library
JOHN MCBEATTY
Guildford Library



/03

- 01 PHOTO STUDIO AT GRANVILLE LIBRARY
- 02 PARRAMATTA MANGA
- 03 PAPER POPPIES CREATED AT KIDS CRAFTERNOONS

In touch with the State Library



SHARING KNOWLEDGE
AT THE INTERNATIONAL
SYMPOSIUM *HIDDEN
GEMS*

LIBRARY HOSTS SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM: *HIDDEN GEMS*

The State Library hosted an international symposium *Hidden Gems: The role of libraries and archives in cultural revitalisation* on the 26 and 27 August 2013. The Symposium provided an opportunity for the library to bring together a group of people interested in language revitalization and the role that libraries and archives can play in assisting communities in this process.

Speakers and participants at the conference represented Indigenous peoples from Aotearoa New Zealand, the United States of America (USA) and Australia. Other participants included library and archive professionals, linguists, community and government workers and others keen to learn more about current projects occurring in this sector relating to Indigenous language revitalisation. A number of the national and state libraries, archives and cultural heritage institutions were also represented and provided updates on their programs

and services related to Indigenous languages. The speakers brought personal, professional and research perspectives on the role of libraries and archives in cultural revitalisation. Some highlights from the conference include:

Dr Michael Walsh started off the proceedings presenting on the research he has undertaken with the State Library of NSW in the Rio Tinto funded project, *Rediscovering Indigenous Languages*. Michael has spent considerable time researching and identifying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander word lists and vocabularies held within the State Library of NSW collection.

Darlyn Baldwin, of the Myaamia Tribe of Oklahoma, inspired participants by sharing his personal experiences of reclaiming his language in the USA. Accessing library and archive documentary materials spanning nearly 275 years, Daryl has been engaged in educational initiatives to bring the language back to life in his community. Similarly, Ray Kelly involved the audience in discussions about his research into historical documentation and language descriptions of NSW languages. Ray's research includes an analysis, or as Ray describes 'listening intently' to historic sound files deposited at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), Canberra.

Paul Diamond and Ariana Tikao, Māori specialists from the Alexander Turnbull Library, New Zealand, presented a session titled *Kia ora ai Te Reo Let the Language Live* where they outlined how the library is connecting its Māori language collections with interested communities. Ariana shared some of her tribal waiata (songs) that she has sourced through archival collections and revived for current and future generations. Professor Kimberly Christen, Washington State University USA, discussed the sharing Indigenous cultural heritage materials in her presentation *Opening Collections: Indigenous Keeping Places and the Ethics of Access*. The participants were introduced to possibilities offered by the Mukurtu content management system as a way to disseminate Indigenous materials and digitally repatriate content back to communities.

To conclude the sessions Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann, Chair of Linguistics and Endangered Languages at the University of Adelaide, spoke about the importance of diversity of languages in his paper *Speak Light: Why on earth should we reclaim dormant languages*. Workshops were held each day to encourage sharing of stories and perspectives from participants.

The success of the event was due to the contribution of speakers, workshop facilitators and participants, who took the time to learn, share and discuss this important topic over the two days. Thank you also to Steve Miller, Chair of the Gadigal Information Service, for his contribution to the event as Master of Ceremony.

To access some of the conversations that occurred through social media during *Hidden Gems* visit: <http://eventifier.com/event/hiddengems13/>

To access further information on the *Rediscovering Indigenous Languages* project visit: http://blog.sl.nsw.gov.au/indigenous_languages/

KIRSTEN THORPE
Coordinator, Indigenous Unit
State Library of New South Wales

REVITALISING THE MITCHELL READING ROOM

We are continuing the exciting process of revitalising the State Library of NSW – one of the great libraries of the world – by restoring the Mitchell Library Reading Room to its role as a magnificent public reading room in a landmark building.

The Mitchell Wing will be enlivened by opening up more of the historic Sydney icon to give visitors the opportunity to see items from the Library's unrivalled collections. At the same time readers will gain better access to the books and other materials of interest through delivery to one location, in a direct response to feedback.

In early December the Library's reference and printed materials will all be available solely from

the State Reference Library in the Macquarie Wing. Readers will no longer have to work across two reading rooms.

Special collections - manuscripts and rare books - will continue to be accessible in the Mitchell Library Reading Room as we re-establish the Scholars' Room, a dedicated place for research and scholarship.

Following the success of our *Amaze Gallery*, opened in April, we will progressively realise the vision of returning the Mitchell Library to the people of NSW as an accessible, vibrant public space. We will be opening more heritage spaces for those who study and research and for those who visit to examine items from our rich collections.

We look forward to announcing more of these exciting plans soon.....

COLLECTION SERVICES

The State Library has identified a number of contemporary issues as collecting priorities for the heritage collections. The library has now begun a collecting drive to acquire material within the following subject areas:

- Islam in New South Wales
- emerging Sydney suburbs
- immunisation debate
- coal seam gas mining

NSW public libraries are invited to help build the State Library's collection by donating material within these subject areas. We are seeking materials across all formats in both print and digital: books, ebooks, newspapers, newsletters, pamphlets, posters, and other ephemeral material. These publications are part of the cultural heritage of NSW and will be permanently preserved in the State Library of NSW to be made available to researchers and the community now and into the future.

ALEXANDER SUSSMAN
Coordinator, Collection Development & Acquisitions
State Library of New South Wales

Seniors News



EBOOK LAUNCH AT
PARKES SHIRE LIBRARY

TECH SAVVY SENIORS

Goulburn Mulwaree library has been holding regular training sessions for our Tech Savvy Seniors. This free program is funded by Telstra and aims to improve the digital literacy of older people in the Goulburn area. Considering that there are no nearby community colleges or other institutions providing affordable training in the basics of computer and internet use this has been a valuable and very popular opportunity for our older patrons.

Since August more than 100 seniors have attended 12 sessions on Saturday afternoons and learned what the internet is, how to do a web search, signed up for Gmail accounts and some have even taken a look around Facebook! Our seniors are learning how to buy things online, use video chat and avoid sending those spam chain emails on to everyone in their email address book – LOL! The popularity of the program has meant we have more than 80 people on our waiting list, and we are planning on running shorter sessions with smaller groups during the week so that everyone gets a chance to experience the fun and usefulness of the internet.

SUSAN MCILROY
Goulburn Mulwaree Library

TUESDAY DISCUSSION GROUP

We were recently invited to talk at the 'Tuesday Discussion Group', a long running group of retired professional women in the Wyong area. We were very excited to take along our newly purchased iPad, adaptor and projector and present our talk using the latest technology! It made demonstrating ebooks and emagazines far more interesting and generated much discussion among the group members.

MICHELLE GOLDSMITH
Wyong Shire Library Service

PARKES SHIRE LIBRARY

Peter Miller launched two of his new creations, *Spirit Box* and *Life Projector*, in an evening event at Parkes Shire Library. His high-tech digital art formed part of our digital literacy celebrations: these included a day launching our new ebook collection and helping the public to get started with their eReaders and iPads; a book trailer workshop run by Matt Finch at our local TAFE; and a Twitter workshop with Tosca Waerea, one of New Zealand's leading social media librarians.

TRACIE MAURO, SHELLIE BUCKLE, MATT FINCH
Parkes Shire Library

MANNING IN RHYME POETRY COMPETITION

An impressive number of entries were received throughout July and August for *The Manning in Rhyme* poetry competition presented by Greater Taree City Libraries and the Manning Valley Senior Citizens Association.

Manning in Rhyme was conceived by a representative from the Manning Valley Senior Citizens Association, to honour a late poet who lived in the Manning Valley. The competition attracted over 160 entries across the four categories, Under 12 years, Youth Award (12-24yrs), All Age and Seniors Award (over 60). The poetry competition provided the library with an opportunity to continue the focus on reading and writing that was generated throughout 2012 as part of the National Year of Reading.

Each category attracted a cash prize of \$100 and an Encouragement Award. All winners were presented with their prizes at an official function at Taree Library, where winners had the opportunity to read their winning pieces.

The Manning in Rhyme was a great example of how working in partnership with other organisations to present initiatives can increase access to untapped audiences and raise awareness of the fabulous things happening in public libraries!

DANIELLE OLD
Greater Taree City Libraries

STROKE AWARENESS

To kick off National Stroke Awareness Week (9-15 September) the Tumut Library hosted an information session and morning tea. The library received an extremely large turnout for the information session with a mix of young and old residents attending and educating themselves to be stroke aware.

The Library was fortunate to obtain the services of Stroke Foundation representative Tracey Hibbert for the morning. Tracey shared information packs provided by the Stroke Foundation and discussed the risks factors associated with stroke, recognising symptoms of stroke and how to care and attend to someone who has suffered from a stroke.

Incredibly stroke affects one in six people and the session advocated how to eliminated risk factors and

lower your risk of stroke. It was also an opportunity for members of the audience to share personal experiences and gain advice and direction on how to cope and manage with the ramifications of stroke.

As a result of the library session Tracey was able to make contact with several other organisations and groups within the region and organise similar information sessions, which only goes to aid the message further in our community.

KRISTIN TWOMEY
Tumut Shire Council

DOT AND THE KANGAROO

We all have a favourite story from our childhoods that fascinated us and provided memories that remain with us today. Being able to share those stories and memories makes them even more special. But sometimes, stories are forgotten, lose their appeal, or are simply overlooked as time and generations pass. In many ways, our role as library staff is to ensure those stories are not forgotten, and can be shared among the older and younger generations. With this in mind, staff at Swansea Library worked to bring two generations together to share a favourite story.

For the residents of Southern Cross Tenison Apartments, a local aged care facility, *Dot and the kangaroo* by Ethel Pedley, was one story that brought back wonderful childhood memories. With the creative skills of Kit, the Lifestyle Activities Officer, the story of Dot was adapted into a play, with the residents playing the characters from the story.

Students in Years 2 and 3 from Swansea Public School were invited to Swansea Library during Book Week for the performance of the play. Many of the students had never heard of Dot and the kangaroo, but they remained attentive throughout the duration of the play.

The students were joined by local residents, regular library users, staff and residents from two aged care facilities, as well as family and friends of the star performers. The audience of approximately 100 was captivated by the performance, and the successful combination of two generations ensured that many wonderful new memories were created.

NATALIE KOZARY
Swansea Library

Seniors News

ORAL HISTORY TRAINERS
TRISH LEVIDO AND
SANDRA BLAMEY
HOSTED A SUCCESSFUL
ORAL HISTORY SEMINAR
AND WORKSHOP AT
ORANGE CITY LIBRARY



CAPTURING MEMORIES

An Oral History Weekend Experience Seminar and Workshop has helped to inspire groups around the State to get working on their own oral history projects. Oral history has many applications in local and family history, heritage projects, museum exhibitions and history of institutions and associations, just to name a few.

The event was hosted by Orange City Library with support from the Oral History Association Australia NSW and their trainers Trish Levido and Sandra Blamey with funding from a Country Arts Support Program Grant.

Participants learnt interviewing tips, what interview questions to ask to help people share their life stories, how to choose a digital recorder, copying and storing of digital files and benefits of transcriptions. Trainer Trish Levido said it was 'a privilege to record a person's story in their own voice. It is an obligation that we record at the best possible standard to that the richness and integrity of the storytelling is captured. In order to produce archival quality recording, oral historians need ongoing practical training as the technology changes,' she said.

Sandra Blamey said 'imagine a world without memories. Oral historians become archivists – keepers of the stories of the community and its people. It's a challenge and a responsibility to be part of creating legacies for our children and grandchildren.'

The trainers were also impressed by the range of projects the participants were already involved with covering school counsellors to village founders, family histories and others who were keen to get started on an oral history project.

People travelled from Canberra, Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Oberon and the surrounding local district to join in the seminar and workshop. Orange has an active oral history group which meets at Orange City Library on the third Monday of the month at 10am.

JASMINE VIDLER
Central West Libraries

ADULT LEARNERS WEEK

There is one week each year that focuses on celebrating the learning journey of the adult members of our society: Adult Learners' Week, 1-8 September. During this week, Liverpool City Library holds several activities to showcase the positive outcomes of lifelong learning, such as good health, a happier and better outlook on life, improved self-confidence and enhanced self-worth.

This year, Liverpool Library had media personality Indira Naidoo kick starting the celebration with a presentation of her own learning experience on a topic which was very hands-on and of great benefit to everyone present: gardening. Indira's gardening experience was unique because she used a very confined space for this experiment - her balcony. She documented her journey in the book *The edible balcony, an urban farming cookbook*, a must-have reference tool for all gardening enthusiasts wanting to learn more about growing herbs and vegies in pots, on window sills and balconies.

During the week Judith Robinson, peer educator from the Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association (CPSA) spoke about diabetes awareness. Judith's talk focused on all aspects of diabetes including prevention such as nutrition and exercise. This topic proved to be very personal as some of those present were either affected or knew someone who had been diagnosed with diabetes.

Meet, Greet, Knit – was an invitation to all those passionate about knitting, or who just wanted to meet others who shared the same interest. Rhonda Daley, our affable e-services librarian, has successfully created a knitting group who meet every Thursday in the Library for a morning of learning, sharing and teaching others how to knit.

And for seniors more inclined toward technology, Liverpool Library offered some tasters on social media: Facebook and Skype. There were seniors who asked for and received lessons on Windows 8 and the use of tablets, iPads and smart phones.

The celebration of this special week concluded with library tours for students of Navitas College, a



school for adult migrants learning English, who were introduced to the resources and services available at their local libraries. This was another special week of events successfully celebrated at Liverpool City Library and we're looking at marking next year's Adult Learners' Week with a festival of learning.

CARMEL MARTIN
Liverpool City Library

HISTORY WEEK'S GENEALOGY WORKSHOP A WINNER

With the success of TV show's like *Who do you think you are?* as well as the ever growing amount of online genealogy resources available to the armchair researcher, investigating one's family history has never seemed so easy. However, keeping your search relevant and knowing just where to begin amongst the hundreds of databases and websites can be a tricky negotiation. These were issues that prevented many of our members from initiating or completing their family tree search. To try and unravel the maze of information, Waverley Library was happy to host Heather Garnsey, Executive Officer at the Society of

Australian Genealogists. Heather joined us earlier in the year and was such a popular and engaging speaker that we invited her back again. Through her two hour session, Heather guided participants through the best online resources and shared information about databases that can be used for free within the Library.

FRANCES MAHONY
Waverley Library

FASHION BRINGS MEMORIES TO LIFE FOR SENIORS

Lake Macquarie has presented two very successful fashion-history events in conjunction with Cavalcade of Fashion Inc.

In May more than 100 people enjoyed an entertaining fashion extravaganza at Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre. The parade, *Promenade to Patio*, highlighted fashions from 1910 to 1970 and included fascinating and often highly amusing anecdotes from the original owner's life. Audience members commented on how they remembered their mothers and great grandmothers wearing similar items. There were screams of delight and recognition

Seniors News

PORTRAIT DRAWING
DURING FAMILY HISTORY
MONTH AT PICTON
LIBRARY



when outrageous fashions from the 60s and 70s appeared on the runway.

The successful parade was followed by a themed talk, *Pioneers and Petticoats* at Lake Macquarie City Library's Toronto branch. An audience of 44 seniors experienced part of Cavalcade's fascinating collection of underwear.

Both events were presented as part of Lake Macquarie City Council's Seniors Program which has a focus on health, safety and wellbeing. The library partners with Council's Community Planning Department to present a wide range of sessions and activities throughout the City.

FIONA WATSON
Lake Macquarie City Library

Picton Library

NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

Picton Library hosted an array of activities for adults and seniors in celebration of National Family History Month. Workshops included how to research your family history and family tree, digitizing family photographs and memorabilia, scrapbooking a family album, a portrait drawing workshop, free

Picton Historical Society tours and much more.

Throughout the month patrons were also encouraged to contribute to a community family tree, where participants could leave their family photographs, along with a description, and display it on a tree in the library.

HISTORY WEEK

As part of History Week and in celebration of this year's theme of 'Picture This!', Picton Library hosted a *Speaker Connect* event. Dr Naomi Parry spoke on image collections, 'picture research' and the importance of keeping records of photographs as links to the past. Our second special guest, Alick Robertson, spoke about his first-hand experiences of the child migration scheme, growing up as a Barnardo boy and how photographs connected his past.

OUT-LOUD

Picton Library is hosting live book readings specifically for adults. Rex Harrison is the man behind the book, reading aloud from featured titles every month. It is a free event, on the last Friday of the month. Readings have included *The Alchemist*, *Red Dog*, *Bill the Bastard* and *The Kite Runner*.

CARMELINA NUNNARI
Picton Library

Multicultural News

Multicultural Cooperative

BULK PURCHASES

The Cooperative is always looking for opportunities to offer bulk purchasing and cooperative projects. The latest project offered to public libraries was a set of 2 books, including CDs, titled Giggly Times Giggly Rhymes by Richie Cotton. The Cooperative managed to offer these books to libraries at a 30% discount. This lovely set is a great tool for early literacy and children's programs.

In response to a community need for key information about Diabetes we worked with the Australian Diabetes Council to publish *Diabetes: What you need to know* in 17 languages. This comprehensive publication was offered to libraries to purchase for their collection and a total of 478 copies have been purchased.

2013 LOTE SELECTION DAYS

Once again LOTE selection days were held in July and August for libraries to purchase book and non book material in 7 languages. The orders selected started arriving at the State Library in August and it expected that all orders should be finalised by December 2013. The Cooperative is able to provide libraries with LOTE material in over 49 languages.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT (LGP)

In response to enquiries from public libraries re local government procurement please note that all purchases through the Cooperative are managed by the State Library of NSW in accordance with the State Government guidelines. We deal with the suppliers and purchase items on behalf of public libraries, councils then purchase items directly from the State Library at cost.

For any information about purchasing from the Multicultural Cooperative or for details or copies of the State Library LOTE Procurement Statement please contact me at the State Library, 9273 1540 or email shauna.miller@sl.nsw.gov.au.

SHAUNA MILLER
Multicultural Cooperative Coordinator

FREE AUDIOBOOKS IN SPANISH FOR NSW PUBLIC LIBRARIES

<http://sidney.blogs.cervantes.es/biblioteca-library/audiobooks/>


Working in partnership with the public library network and the State Library of NSW, The Instituto Cervantes is committed to facilitating community access to the Institute's resources.

The Instituto Cervantes Sydney is proud to announce the launching of a new collection of 180 audio-books available online. This project aims to increase access to Spanish literature.

This collection includes: unabridged MP3 files of

- classic literature
- contemporary novels
- literature for children

Each audio-book is identified by the image on the cover, title, author, file size and a summary of the contents, the name of the narrator, the total length of the file and a demonstration/sample.

	<p>Title/Título: El padre de Blancanieves Author/Autor: Belén Gopegui File size/Tamaño: 583.2 MB (1557 min.) Access-Acceso</p>
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How the library obtains log in details

The Instituto Cervantes Librarian, Maria Margariños (bibsyd@cervantes.es), will provide your library with 10 access codes and passwords that you can then give to your clients, and when you need more codes Maria will email them to you.

How your client will download an audio-book

- the client will use the username and password provide by their local public library to access the catalogue
- the client can download each book twice
- the client will be able to keep the item until they decide to delete it from their device.

The downloading time will depend on your internet provider, but the average time should be around one minute per 10 MB. Once the process has

Multicultural News

01 LAUNCH OF THE AFRICAN MULTIMEDIA COLLECTION AT BLACKTOWN CITY LIBRARIES

02 HARMONY DAY POSTER COMPETITION WINNERS ON DISPLAY AT CONCORD

been completed, you will be able to listen to it on your computer, burn it on a CD or transfer it to an MP3 device such as a mobile phone or any other MP3 player.

Detailed instructions will be emailed to libraries. Please contact me for further information oriana.acevedo@sl.nsw.gov.au.

ORIANA ACEVEDO
Multicultural Consultant
State Library of NSW

AFRICAN MULTIMEDIA COLLECTION

Over the past few years, the migration pattern has changed in the Blacktown LGA with the newest settlers arriving from African countries, including Sudan, Somalia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Congo and Zimbabwe. According to the 2011 census, Blacktown has become home to the largest African community in the Greater Sydney area. As a result, the library experienced increasing demands for resources from borrowers of this community.

In response, we initiated a project in 2012 to establish an African multimedia collection with strong African content and focus. The library consulted with the diverse African community; from community leaders to youth using the library, social workers and African leaders, and we asked the basic question of what would they like to see in their local library.

The library spent over \$24,000 to develop an African Multimedia collection which now includes over 500 DVDs, 200 music CDs, numerous material produced from government and non-government organisations. There are also books in the five major African languages in the Blacktown area; Amharic, Dinka, Somali, Swahili and Twe.

The collection was launched in April 2013 with an African night of rhythm, dance, music and delicious finger food to celebrate the collection with Council representation and speakers from the local African communities. The collection is circulating very well, with currently half the collection out on loan reflecting that this collection is being well received by the community.

MARGARET REDRUP-MAY
Blacktown City Libraries



/01



/02

HARMONY DAY WINNERS AT CONCORD LIBRARY

The Harmony Day Poster Competition is an annual initiative open to all primary and secondary students across NSW and ACT. Students were encouraged to visually articulate their interpretation of the 2013 theme – 'Together We Can'.

Concord Library is hosting an exhibition of the 2013 Harmony Day poster competition winners. The 42 posters from State and regional winners are displayed throughout the library. The posters are generating a lot of interest and positive comments about the amazing talents displayed by the young artists.

WENDY BANISTER
City of Canada Bay

CHINESE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Campsie Library celebrated the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival in September. The Mid-Autumn festival is one of the most important holidays in the Chinese calendar and is otherwise known as the Moon Festival.

Traditionally, farmers celebrate the end of the summer harvesting season and friends and family come together to admire the bright mid-autumn harvest moon and eat moon cakes of many different varieties.

The Library celebrated with traditional Chinese music, poetry and dance, with over 120 attendees. Poetry written by students of our Chinese Classical Poetry classes were presented in Chinese and English. Traditional Moon Cakes were also sampled. One of the poems read was called 'In Praise of Campsie Library':

[In praise to Campsie Library] by Liu Fuqi

The prosperity of Campsie library is due to its long time excellent service provided to the people of Canterbury City.

Now the opening of the Chinese poetry class will substantially benefit many overseas Chinese living in Sydney.

It has not only promoted the education of Chinese poetry and literature, but has also spread the spirit of multicultural harmony within our great nation Australia.

PAULA PFOEFFER
Library Coordinator, Client Services
City of Canterbury Library

CELEBRATING THE EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

Every September Waverley Library joins forces with the European Cultural Institutes to celebrate the European Day of Languages. This year the theme for the photographic competition for 9-12 year olds was 'Your favourite European food'. The entries looked so delicious that organisers regretted not stipulating that the dish be brought along for tasting!

Selected entrants were invited to a free digital design workshop where they digitally laid out their photographs and recipes. Prizes were awarded on the day for all their creative efforts and the colourful pages were later compiled into a recipe ebook and sent to the participants.

FRANCES MAHONY
Waverley Library



CHINESE POETRY READINGS AT CAMPSIE LIBRARY



THIS AWESOME HAT IS ALL PART OF THE FUN AT THE CRAZY SCIENTIST WORKSHOP AT WAVERLEY LIBRARY (SEE STORY PAGE 43)

IN THE STATE LIBRARY GALLERIES

Born to Concrete

Exhibition Galleries

Until 16 February 2014

Visual poetry from the collections of Heide Museum of Modern Art and the University of Queensland.

This exhibition examines the emergence of Concrete Poetry in Australia in the mid-1960s and its subsequent developments. Born to Concrete presents works from Heide Museum of Modern Art's extensive collection of Concrete Poetry. Augmenting this is a group of works from The University of Queensland Art Collection, featuring works created in the 1970s through to the present day.

Kings Cross 1970 to 1971: Photographs by Rennie Ellis

Exhibition Galleries

Until 2014

Explore the gritty underbelly of Sydney's Kings Cross during the 1970s through an evocative series of black and white images by renowned Australian photographer Rennie Ellis.

Kings Cross 1970 to 1971: Photographs by Rennie Ellis features 24 original prints from the State Library's unrivalled photographic collection.

Behind the Truth

Level 1, Macquarie Street building

Until 16 March 2014

Photographs present us with reality, or do they? Our initial reaction to photographic images often leans towards belief or trust that the picture tells a true, unbiased story. However photography's veracity has less to do with essential qualities of the medium than with what people think and say about it. The insistence on photographic objectivity derives from the early twentieth-century emergence of photojournalism and social documentary.

The images in this display are drawn from the collections of the State Library and question the role of truth in photography in different ways. They caution against the use of photographs as truthful historical resources without understanding the story behind the image.

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

April 2014 issue	28 February 2014
August 2014 issue	20 June 2014
December 2014 issue	17 October 2014