

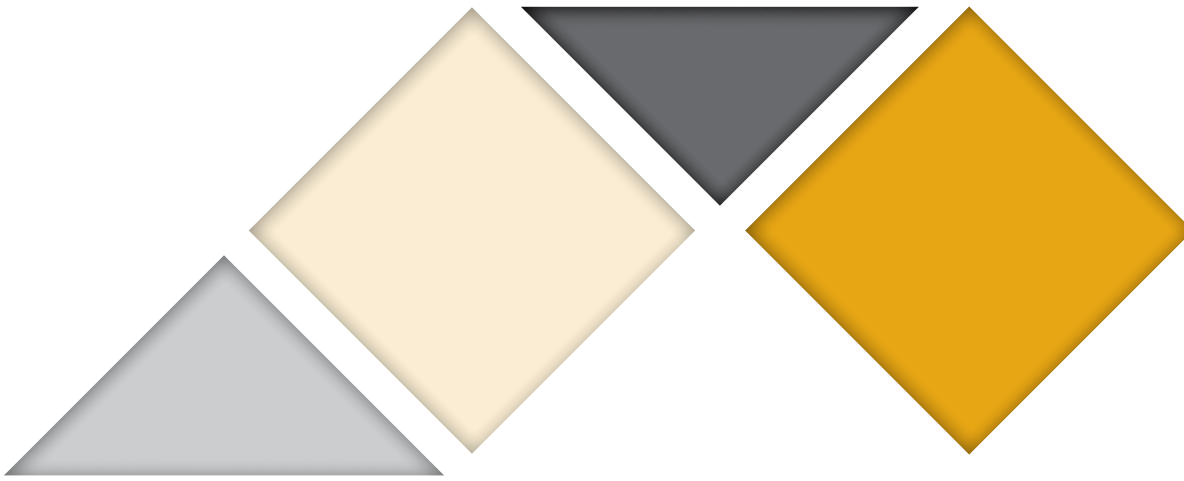
2017/18

ANNUAL  
REPORT



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# People

## Committee Membership 2017-2018

### **BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL**

Cr Scott Denton  
Mr Anton Franze, Director Corporate Services

### **CABONNE COUNCIL**

Cr Jenny Weaver  
Mr Luke Taberner, Director Finance and Corporate Services

### **COWRA SHIRE COUNCIL**

Cr Ruth Fagan, Chair  
Mr Graham Apthorpe, Director Corporate Services (July – December)  
Mr Michael Jones, Director Corporate Services (January – June)

### **FORBES SHIRE COUNCIL**

Cr Michele Herbert  
Mr Ian Prior, Director Corporate Services

### **ORANGE CITY COUNCIL**

Cr Joanne McRae  
Mr Scott Maunder, Director Community, Cultural and Recreational Services

### **EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

Mr Garry Styles, General Manager Orange City Council

### **MANAGER CENTRAL WEST LIBRARIES**

Ms Jan Richards AM



## Members of Staff

### ADMINISTRATION

Jan Richards AM, Manager Central West Libraries

Therese Kostitch, Administration Officer

Monica Engel, Administration Officer

Jasmine Vidler, Reading & Writing Coordinator

### TECHNICAL SERVICES

Ros Dorsman, Technical Services Librarian

Lyn Bugden, Senior Library Technician

Madonna French, Senior Library Assistant

Vicki Connor, Library Assistant

### BRANCH SERVICES

Victoria Prestwidge, Branch Services Librarian

Michael Vella, Senior Library Assistant

### BLAYNEY

Ruth Bingham, Branch Library Officer

### CANOWINDRA

Rossanne Holmes, Branch Library Officer

### COWRA

Caroline Eisenhauer, Branch Librarian

Ann Fricker, Library Assistant

### FORBES

Bronwyn Clark, Branch Librarian

### MANILDRA

Jeanette Davis, Branch Library Officer

### MOLONG

Margaret Lamerton, Branch Library Officer

### ORANGE

Sean Brady, Orange City Librarian

Peter Douglass, Local Studies Librarian

Julie-Anne Sykes, Librarian

Tammy Wilson, Library Technician

Rossanne Holmes, Senior Library Assistant

Michelle White, Library Assistant

Fiona Hawke, Library Assistant

### CASUAL AND RELIEF STAFF

Lynne Arnott, Sharon Barber, Linda Braithwaite, Robert Cleary, Sharon Denyer, Roslyn Dukes,

Julie Elliott, Emma Fleming,

Kathy Garland, Alexandra Gibb,

Frances Guinness, Lyn Gough,

Margaret Henry, Hanne Hoelass,

Robyn Isbester, Candice Iyer,

Jennifer Jones, Cecilia Lawler,

Trudi Mayfield, Sumara Meers,

Roxanne McCormack, Elizabeth Russ,

Rebekah Salmon, Maryanne Smith,

Jan Tonuri.

# Introduction



Jessica Coates helps us make sense of copyright



Rosalind Dorsman with her Life Membership award

During 2017-2018 Central West Libraries completed a number of major initiatives and built on the foundations of programs already in progress.

A highlight of the year was the NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Conference in September 2017 which was hosted by **ORANGE** City Library. This three day event attracted 320 delegates from across NSW and interstate, all passionate about family and local history. The program, exhibition, historical tours and social activities were universally praised by participants and staff from across the Library and our volunteers are to be commended for their enthusiasm and dedication in making this event possible.

The roll out of the RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) across all branch libraries begun last year was successfully completed. This included training all staff and introducing Library members to the technology. Take up by the community has been highest in **ORANGE** City Library where the self check units are more prominent due to the recent refurbishment. Work was undertaken with staff across the Library to ensure that use of the self-check units is maximised, freeing staff for value added services.

Work on equipping the community with the skills to access online information continued to be an important focus. Funding was received from the 'Be Connected' program to provide introductory internet training

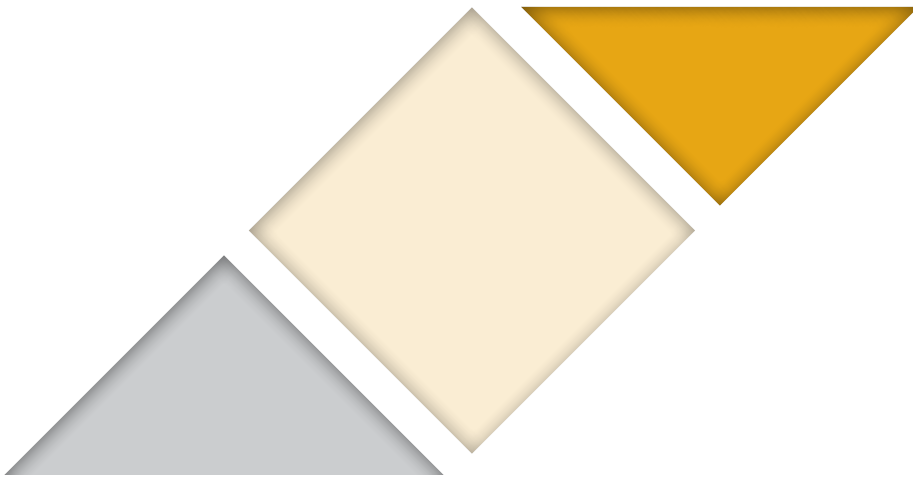
to older Australians across all CWL service points. An initiative of the Australian Government, this provides \$1,500 per branch for trainers and equipment. This builds on the Tech Savvy Seniors training previously offered at a number of our branches.

During the year we curated a number of professional development opportunities for staff in addition to those provided by external bodies. The ability to bring trainers to the region ensures maximum participation and engagement. Colleagues from adjacent public library services also participated.

Staff from the State Library of New South Wales (SLNSW) visited in May to familiarise staff from all service points with the Drug Info and Find Legal Answers programs and to explore the resources available at the State Library through their web site. This approach was a pilot by SLNSW and was evaluated highly. There was a focus on engaging newly employed, casual and relief staff in this process.

Copyright training was also offered in May to staff from across CWL and the wider library sector. This was provided by the Australian Libraries Copyright Committee and focussed on changes to the legislation and the exemptions that libraries have under the Act.

The Library and its member councils continued to be actively involved in the wider library and information community. Central West Libraries Technical Service Librarian,



Rosalind Dorsman, was awarded Life Membership of the NSW Public Libraries Association at the SWITCH Conference in November 2017. The Association confers Life Membership on those who have contributed to the public library network and Ros has been involved in the Association and its predecessors since its inception. We congratulate her on this recognition.

Staff from all service points participated in the IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) Global Vision discussion towards a united approach to library provision. This provided an opportunity for staff to think holistically about the future of libraries and was eagerly embraced. The CWL input was fed into the wider international discussion.

The Library continued to have a strong media presence with 18 print media articles and 13 stories in the electronic media. Topics included: Banjo Paterson Writing Awards, Readers and Writers Festival, STEAM (Science Technology, Engineering Arts and Maths), school holiday activities, author visits and the NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Conference.

During the year the Central West Libraries Committee met on a number of occasions to finalise the move from the joint agreement to the new service level agreements between Orange City Council and individual councils. The final meeting of the Central West Libraries Committee was held on 29 June 2018.

*Jan Richards AM*  
**MANAGER**  
**CENTRAL WEST LIBRARIES**



Central West Libraries staff participated in the global discussion around the future of libraries during August 2017.

## In 2017/18 we...



were open for 9,912 hours



had 210,494 people visit



lent 282,140 items to 34,143 members



offered 508 events attended by 8,197 people



hosted 32,482 internet sessions



recorded 132,149 visits to our home page



have 1,459 facebook followers

# Our spaces

## Provide safe, accessible, welcoming and connected spaces

Our libraries are welcoming spaces that remain central to service delivery in their respective communities. The recently refurbished branches in **ORANGE** and **FORBES** continue to attract praise while changes at **COWRA** have meant that the study room is receiving noticeably more use as a result of the re-locations which made collections more attractive. Library staff continued to work with **BLAYNEY** Shire Council on planning for the future through engagement with the Cultural Centre Working Group.

In May, Forbes Shire Council and Central West Libraries were recognised for the **FORBES** Library renovation project, which received the 2018 Forbes Medal at the Forbes Heritage Week Awards presentation night. The Library was one of several local building projects nominated for the medal, awarded annually to a person or organisation that makes an outstanding contribution to the environmental heritage of the Shire, or the understanding of that heritage. Forbes Council Health and Building Surveyor, Scott Brackenridge, accepted the medal on behalf of Forbes Shire Council and thanked Council's heritage advisor Mr Graeme Hall, Central West Libraries, Forbes Council staff and the local tradespeople who had all worked on the successful refurbishment undertaken in 2015.

Central West Libraries prides itself on providing an environment in which everyone is comfortable and accepted.

Several days during the week the **ORANGE** City Library is visited by residents of group homes, mental health institutions or by individuals with mental health disabilities. These members are accompanied by carers from organisations such as LiveBetter and Uniting Care.

**COWRA** Library is visited at least once a week, by young adults with special needs:

*This group has been coming to the Cowra Library since they were attending the Holman Place Special School. Back then, they came for Storytime and then in small groups to use our spaces for rest, relaxation and as an information source. Today they come in with their carer to use the computers, read the newspaper or just take time out to browse the books and then borrow some DVDs. As they have become more independent, their needs have changed but the Library has always been a safe and welcoming place for them to visit and we feel very proud of their patronage.*

Caroline Eisenhauer, Cowra





Throughout the year the residents of the Forbes House with No Steps made frequent visits to the Library to borrow and to take advantage of the Library's facilities to read, relax, and socialise. The younger residents enjoy having stories read aloud to their group and regularly attend Storytime to participate in the fun.

All branches of Central West Libraries welcome travellers and 'grey nomads' who regularly visit our libraries to access the internet and Wi-Fi facilities to stay in touch with family and friends as well as access online services such as

banking while they are away from home. Tubs of 'Travellers Tales' resources are available for those visitors who don't have membership rights. Many visitors are keen to find out a little bit more of the region's history or do some family history research.

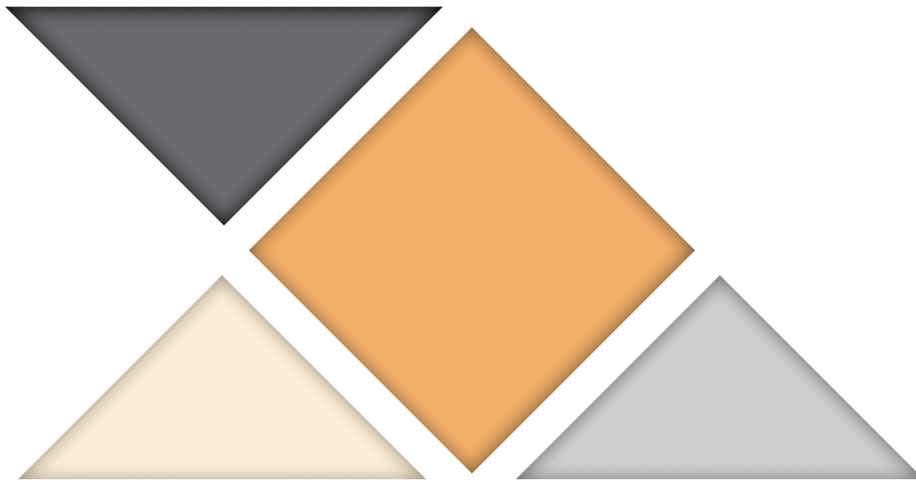
*Being situated on the main highway in the old railway station **MOLONG** Library attracts many travellers anxious to check out the railway station and to see what the building is being used for now. In May the Library welcomed railway buff Tony*

*who had been travelling and calling into various railway stations along the way. Tony first started working on steam trains in Darling Harbour. He worked with State Rail for 56 and a half years and worked his way up to become the number one guard on the NSW Railway.*

*Margaret Lamerton, Molong*



Visitors to Cowra Library using technology to stay in touch



## Deliver an innovative and accessible ‘virtual’ branch available 24/7

The Library’s online presence provides access to information and resources 24/7 and, as more collections are available on-line, increasingly meets our description of our ‘eighth branch’

During the year Central West Libraries continued to develop its high quality online collections that members could access from any internet enabled device. This aligns with our key aim to encourage members to “read, watch and listen” to a variety of resources when it will most suit their own lifestyle.

In January 2018, the Library launched access to the movie streaming service, Kanopy. This collection has a wide range of independent, international, classic and contemporary films that registered borrowers may download onto a smartphone or tablet and watch. The site has films in other languages, documentaries and a specially curated, separate children’s range.

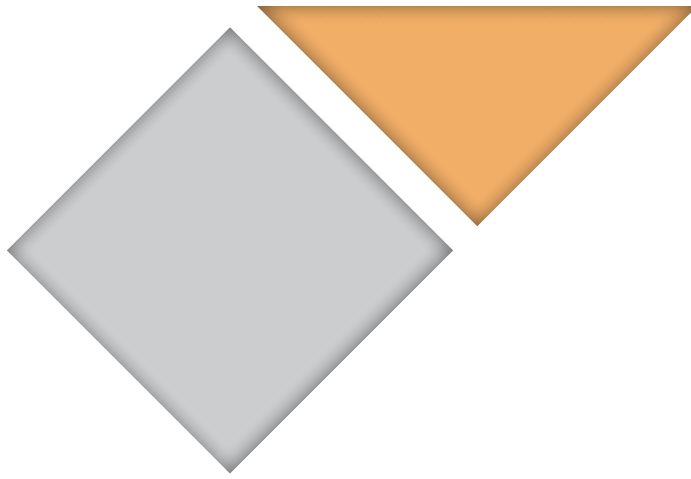
Reports for the first six months of the Library’s subscription show that almost half of the users are watching on a desktop computer. However, the trend is towards more people preferring to use their mobile phone or tablet as that gives more flexibility in where the movies might be viewed. The Australian films, *The Dressmaker* and *Jasper Jones*, both of which have been popular novels, were the most watched movies between January and June 2018.

An opportunity arose to join with ten other library services in the Central West Zone to create enhanced collections of eAudiobooks and eBooks that would be available to all members of the participating libraries. Consortia collections have a significant benefit to Central West Libraries as it facilitates access to more titles while keeping the cost of purchasing and managing the collection at a similar level as it was before the consortia was operating.

The first of these arrangements was with Bolinda Digital and the expanded BorrowBox offering went live in September 2017. There was an immediate increase of 28% in the number of titles available for loan. Compared with the previous year [2016 – 2017], by June 2018 usage had grown by 34% for eAudiobooks and 48% for eBooks. Both the total and the number of active users increased by 21% and 26% respectively.

Following the success of the BorrowBox consortia, negotiations were started with ten other libraries in the zone and another provider, Wavesound, to establish a joint collection of the RB Digital eAudiobook, eBook and eMagazine titles. This is expected to be available from August 2018.

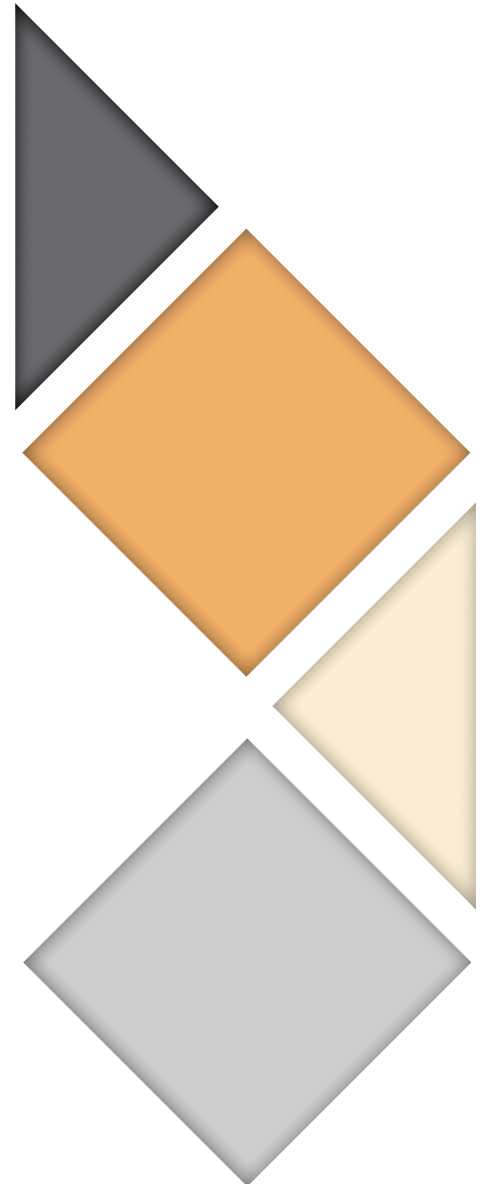
The Library’s social media presence is carefully curated to engage with our many target groups. Increasingly communication between Library staff and the community occurs via applications such as Facebook which allows for quick response and interaction.



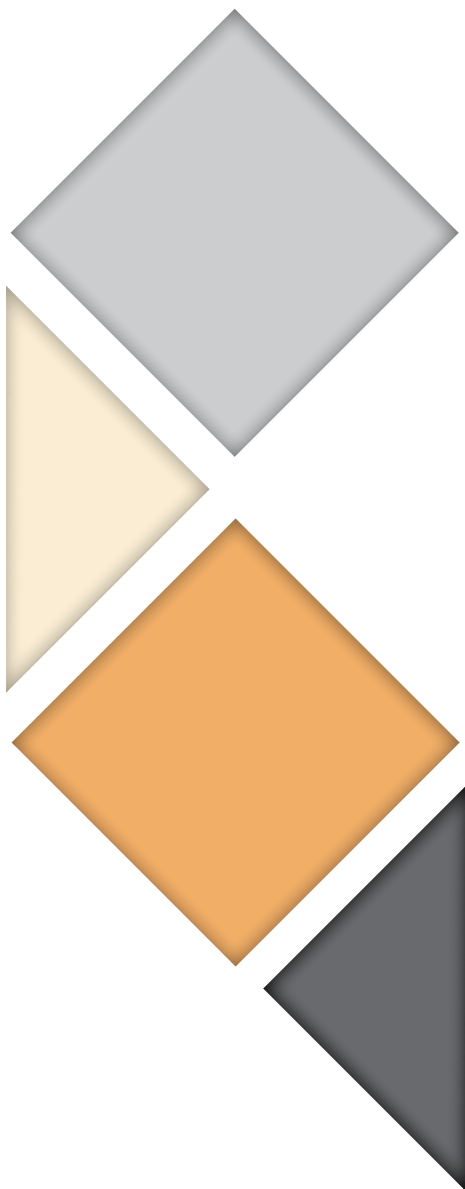
## Explore models for outreach services

The Library actively looks for ways in which to engage with the community and expand its reach outside of the physical buildings. This is achieved through a range of partnerships and participation in relevant events. On 30 August 2017 the Library participated in the 8th Annual **CANOWINDRA** Community Reading Day held at St Edwards Catholic Primary School. A special guest from the Library, mascot Freeda the Reader was a huge hit with the children in between the Storytime sessions conducted across eight different groups. Participants included students from St Edwards and the Canowindra Public School and children from the local preschool and local family day care.

*The Seniors Festival in February was marked in **MANILDRA** with a collection of books and information about health for seniors, complemented by a display of colorful balloons. Information covering activities and events for seniors in the local shires was also available. **MANILDRA** library provided a similar display in the adjacent Craft Cottage during their Cuppa for Seniors week.*  
*Jeanette Davis, Manildra*



Freeda the Reader is mobbed by fans at Canowindra



In March Central West Libraries was an exhibitor at the 'Wellness and Wellbeing Expo' for students at the Orange campus of Charles Sturt University. The display featured Library resources appropriate to the theme, including food and nutrition superfoods for exams, healthy foods fast, fitness, exercise and training and Books on Prescription resources for mental health. This year we highlighted Central West Libraries' online resources, eBooks/eAudiobooks, and in particular our video streaming service, Kanopy since relaxation/recreation is an essential element of Wellness and Wellbeing.

During the year the **FORBES** Home Library Service, 'Books on Wheels', celebrated 21 years of delivery to those members unable to visit the Library in person. This service is provided in partnership with the Forbes Home and Community Care (HACC) Neighbour Aid Service and offers a fortnightly delivery service to twenty five individuals.

Yarrowong Child Care Centre in Orange became the second early childhood facility to become a branch of Central West Libraries as part of the Child Care Centre pilot in February 2018. This initiative provides age relevant books that may be borrowed by children enrolled at the centres. The staff at the centres continued to promote the service to parents and carers. At 30 June 2018 there were 109 pre-school aged children members at the two centres; when the children graduate from

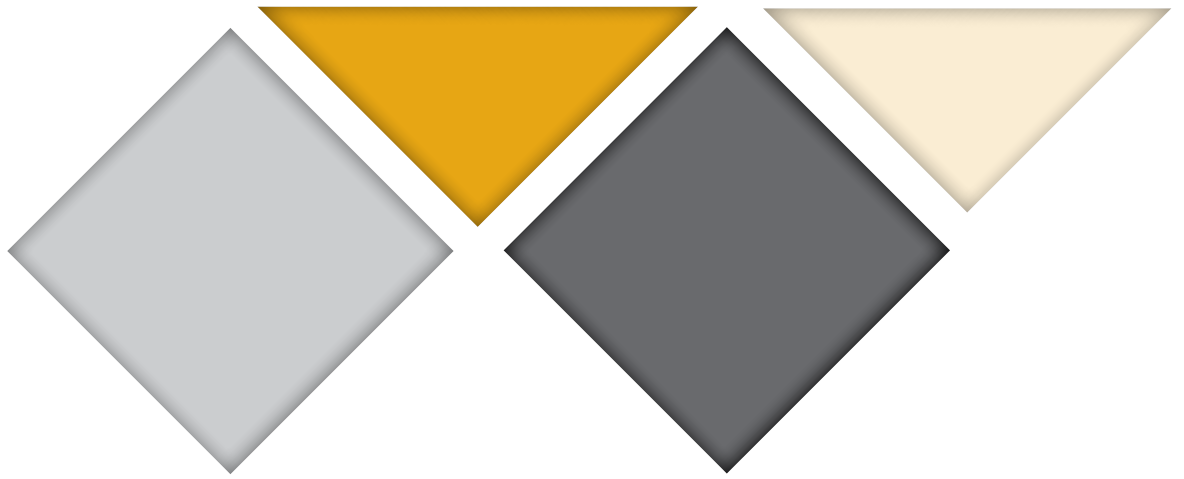
there they are eligible to transfer their membership to the **ORANGE** City Library.

Make Music Day on 21 June was celebrated across NSW with a livestreaming of Verdi's Requiem in selected libraries. **CANOWINDRA** Library was fortunate enough to be one of the regional locations selected to participate.

*This event was a collaboration between the State Library of New South Wales and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.*

*The event was held at Montrose House in Gaskill Street, just across the road from the Library and attracted 55 guests who braved the winter chill. The event was voted a huge success with the audience bursting into spontaneous applause at the end of the evening.*  
Rossanne Holmes, Canowindra





Tech Savvy Seniors class

# Collections

## Provide relevant and responsive collections

During the year all Central West Libraries' branches completed the re-labelling of their adult and junior non-fiction collections into 25 subject themed genres. Library members browsing the shelves or seeking a particular topic or title are able to see a brief description on the spine of the book that identifies the genre in which it resides. **FORBES, MANILDRA** and **ORANGE** libraries rearranged the stock on their shelves to reflect each genre collection. Clear shelf labelling has been used to direct members to the items they seek. The transition to this format provided an opportunity to evaluate the relevance and condition of the collections in each location.

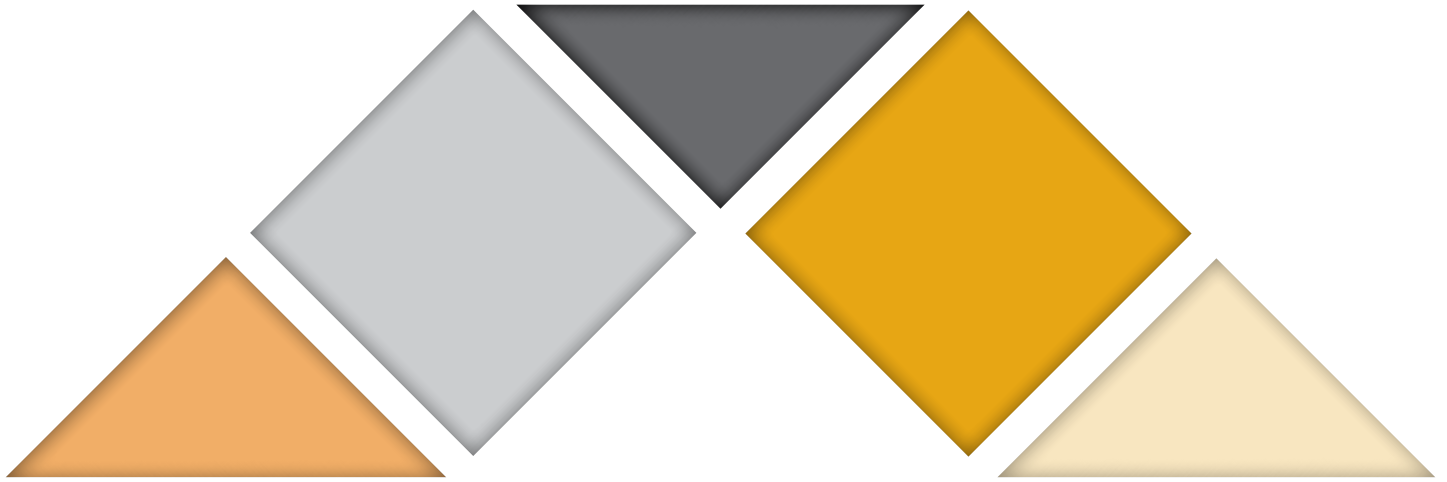
The Library actively supports the State Library of New South Wales' Indigenous Spaces in Library Places strategy through a number of initiatives. This has included having Aboriginal identified collections and developing Storytime programs. Caroline Eisenhauer, **COWRA** Branch Librarian shared this story:

*I think as a result of the changes and the relationships developed over time with the Aboriginal community in **COWRA**, the Library has been fortunate to have been approached by Wiradjuri Elder Neville "Chappy" Williams wishing to share his knowledge and informational resources. He has*

*been visiting us for some months now, sharing DVD footage of his time as an activist at the Lake Cowal mines, visits to the US as a representative of the Wiradjuri and his times at the Tent Embassy in Canberra. He has also shown anyone who took the time to view booklets and writings that he has collected over his life.*

*As oral traditions are very strong, he tries to talk to people. The Library has been a great meeting place for him and members of our community just to sit and talk informally. Each week finds him sitting around and if someone says 'giddy', he'll talk about anything Aboriginal. He has so much to offer and I feel very proud that he has chosen our place as a starting point to have those conversations that we all are hearing about. He is not loud or revengeful but just wants everyone to learn a little about the Aboriginal culture - its traditions and its peoples. **COWRA** Library staff have been able to give back to him by teaching him how to use the computer. A very happy collaboration.*

*Caroline Eisenhauer, Cowra*



In October Mr David Acheson representing the Galari-Lachlan Reconciliation Group, the Forbes Aboriginal & Community Working Party and the Forbes Wiradjuri Language Group donated a package of Wiradjuri language resources to the **FORBES** Library. The Wiradjuri Cultural Exchange resources were compiled and made available through a successful grant application to the Forbes Shire Council for the purpose of sharing Wiradjuri culture and knowledge with the local community.

In addition several staff have completed the foundation course in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural competence offered by TAFE NSW and have found that this has given the awareness and confidence on how to work collaboratively with the Indigenous community in delivering relevant and culturally sensitive services.



Mr David Acheson presents a package of Wiradjuri language resources to Forbes Library





## Equip the community with the skills to maximise our resources

The Library continued to use grant funding to offer training to assist seniors to better use the internet and online services. **COWRA** Library developed a program of small group classes to provide small group tuition at times, including outside the branch opening hours that best suited the Cowra community.

These sessions encouraged participants to become confident users of online services including those offered by Central West Libraries. In **ORANGE** 'Library on the Go' continued to be popular as a venue for seniors to develop confidence using mobile devices and online applications. Sessions covered safety online, acquaintance with devices and basic applications, and introduction to library services available online.

Staff at all branches provide individual assistance as required. At **MOLONG** Library support is provided at a wide range of people who visit: helping them set up email accounts, accessing information and websites, showing them how to download eBooks and eAudio, setting up mobiles, accessing FaceTime on their devices and with trouble shooting.

*In support of the Library's Find Legal Answers Toolkit, **ORANGE** City Library hosted a screening of Piano Forte in April. This is a video of a play developed to stimulate discussion around financial elder abuse, power of attorney and other legal issues. The Library was part of a pilot program to trial innovative education strategies around elder abuse and legal issues, and the screening was accompanied by discussions facilitated by Seniors Rights Service NSW's education manager Diana Bernard. The discussion panel included representatives from Legal Aid NSW, Centrelink and NSW Trustee & Guardian who explored a range of topics including wills, power of attorney and various decisions people might have to make as they get older. People who attended the sessions were able to feel more confident about planning and knowing where to go for assistance and the discussion panel helped clarify the legal issues that older Australians face. Michael Vella, Branch Services*

Programs were also developed to increase understanding and use of collection items aimed at younger members. In November 2017 **ORANGE** City Library launched a new initiative in collaboration with the Children's Discovery Museum with a focus on science. A set of science discovery kits was purchased and staff trained in the delivery of the program. The sessions were held over four weeks and replaced the usual Storytime events.

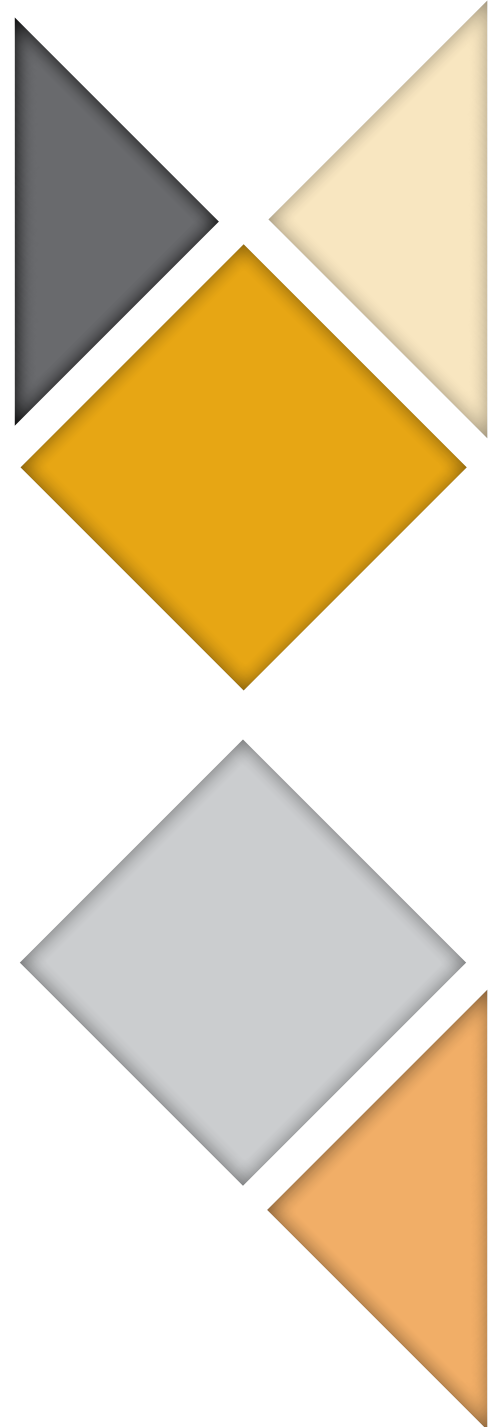
The online resource, Storybox Library was promoted to mothers and carers at **MANILDRA** Library during National Simultaneous Storytime in May.

In addition to visits by primary and secondary students the Library places great emphasis on introducing younger children to the resources available at our libraries. Throughout the year children from the Forbes Goodstart Early Learning Centre made regular visits to the **FORBES** Library for Storytime and bulk loans of books and to gather research material for projects undertaken back at the childcare centre. **MOLONG** Library held a couple of sessions this year in association with the Molong Pre-School to familiarise the children with libraries.





Children learn about science at Orange City Library





## Curate and create collections and content that record the stories and heritage of our region

Central West Libraries was one of four public libraries in New South Wales selected to participate in a pilot project to create a platform for oral histories to be uploaded to a website repository managed by the State Library of New South Wales. The working group was charged with testing and evaluating the selected platform, Amplify, using real examples of their oral histories. A feature of Amplify is its capacity to include computer generated transcripts of the audio files which may be corrected by users as they listen to the content. After the corrections have been verified transcripts may also be printed. The Library holds a collection of interviews of Email Limited staff recorded in 1995 and 1996 as part of the celebrations of 50 years of the factory's presence in Orange. This collection was ideal for inclusion in the Amplify project.

The Orange Family History Group newspaper indexing team of volunteers added 32,456 entries to the Library catalogue. Milestone events (births, deaths, marriages) published in the *Central Western Daily* from October 1945 to 2006 have been completed and notices from 2016 and 2017 were also added to the database. While this is an index of the Orange based newspaper, it includes reporting from a wider geographic area and so is useful for researchers from across the Library's footprint and beyond. At the end of June 2018, the index had 152,609 entries.

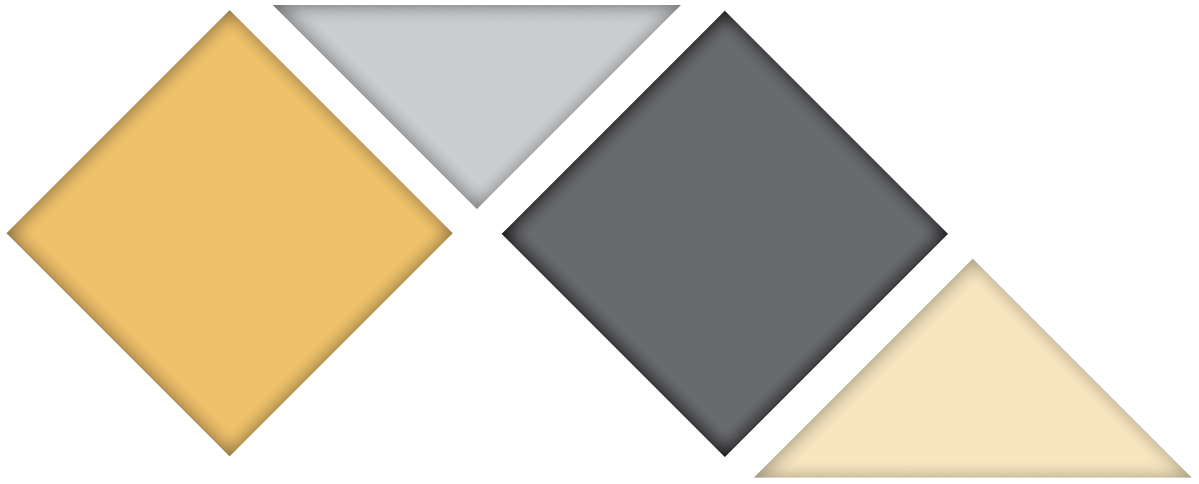
*Blayney Library hosted a book launch in November of 'Historic Homes of Millthorpe and District'. This book was produced to celebrate Millthorpe's sesqui-centenary in 2017 as a joint project of the Millthorpe Village Committee and the Millthorpe and District Historical Society. Those who attended this presentation gained an insight into the gathering of the history of each of the homes featured and the process of putting the book together. It contains 84 homes built between 1834 and 1934 and located within the 2798 postcode area. Homeowners provided their home's history with an old photograph or two and this is accompanied by a recent photograph of the home.*

*Ruth Bingham, Blayney*

In March, Orange City Library played host to the Orange Needlecraft Society celebrating their 50th year. On display were exquisite examples of embroidery contributed by members of the group including pieces from the earliest days of the Society.

Additional information was added to be the Centenary of World War I in Orange Blog and Wiki which records the stories

of the servicemen and women from across the district who played a part in the First World War. To commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba in October 2017 a screening of the movie *40,000 Horsemen* which was partially filmed in Orange was shown. The event included local footage of the making of the movie which was released in 1940.



Ruth Bingham and John Willing with *Historic Homes of Millthorpe and District* book at Blayney Library



## Family History Conference

In September 2017, Orange City Library hosted the NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Annual Conference, the premier event for genealogists across the State. The Orange Family History Group is a highly successful program administered by the Library and a significant number of people access the Library's genealogical collections in person and on-line.

Held between 21-24 September the Conference theme, Your family story: telling, recording and preserving reflected Orange's heritage as the home of a number of Australian writers including Banjo Paterson, Kenneth Slessor, Francis Webb and Gwen Meredith.

The program provided opportunities for keynote speakers, plenary sessions and workshops focussing on a wide range of topics including writing, publishing and e-publishing, use of social media, the inclusion of pictorial material, copyright, conservation and preservation. The rich research collections of the major archival repositories and the way in which these can be used by family historians was also explored.

The Conference was held across the city's cultural precinct and was an excellent example of collaboration between Council's cultural services. A total of 320 delegates attended the Conference over the 3 days of programming, a record number of delegates in this Conference's 33 year history. Delegates came from across NSW and the ACT with a number also attending from Queensland and Victoria.

An important component of this Conference is the Family Fair. This gives the wider community the opportunity to talk to members of other societies and to genealogy supply companies. Over 40 exhibitors took part in this event which was held in the Library, demonstrating the flexibility and adaptability of the new layout.

In addition to the Conference program, heritage tours were offered to delegates and their families. Walking tours of the Orange Cemetery and historic Byng Street were developed in partnership with the Orange and District Historical Society while a tour of Duntryleague followed by afternoon tea supported the Duntryleague Mansion Fund. Some delegates also took the opportunity to visit the Wentworth Main Mine which was opened especially for the occasion.

Feedback from delegates was extremely positive with 44% of delegates rating it as 'very high quality' and 42% as 'high quality'. Similarly the venue rated highly with 55% of delegates describing it as 'excellent' and a further 27% as 'very good'.

In the comments section delegates made particular mention of:

- The speakers with particular reference to keynote speaker, actor William McInnes
- The quality of the venue and ease of access
- The friendliness and professionalism of staff and volunteers
- The opportunity to attend a conference of this standard in a regional centre
- The conference organisation
- The catering, and in particular the CWA morning and afternoon teas
- The beauty of Orange and its obvious vibe



Jacqui Newling demonstrates cooking skills



Elizabeth Griffin conducts a tour of Orange Cemetery



Allison Campbell from Orange Regional Museum talks to delegates



Trudi Mayfield, Tammy Wilson, Jasmine Vidler and Peter Douglass ready to welcome guests



Members of the Orange Family History Group lead the way



Lunch in the sun



# Programs & activities

## Focus on family literacy as a key program area across the Central West Libraries footprint

The Library's family literacy programs are core to services for children aged 0-5 and their families and are delivered in accordance with the Early Literacy Framework and Strategy for Australian Public Libraries. They provide a strong foundation for social well-being and educational advancement and are often delivered in partnership with other agencies.

*The annual Forbes community Birth to Kinder Reading Down Town Day took place in August in conjunction with Book Week. The theme for 2017 was "Escape to Everywhere" and many would have liked to escape the wintery chill on the day, however the cold weather could not keep more than six hundred children dressed as their favourite storybook characters from attending activities held in Victoria Park, the Town Hall and the **FORBES** Library. Children from local schools and preschools participated with the support of family and friends, community groups, local businesses and the Forbes Council. An orderly succession of more than three hundred preschool and kindergarten children visited the library throughout the morning and were greeted by Freeda the Reader*

*the Central West Libraries Mascot and were regaled with entertaining story readings by Central West Libraries staff.*  
*Bronwyn Clark, Forbes.*

**MANILDRA** Library also marked Children's Book Week with staff visiting the preschool with a number of the prize winning books for the children to enjoy. Library information sheets were also distributed for the children to take home for their parents and care givers.

National Simultaneous Storytime continues to provide an opportunity to showcase the importance of reading aloud to children. In 2018 the selected book was *Hickory, Dickory Dash* by Tony Wilson and special Storytime sessions accompanied by a selection of other mouse themed books and a craft session were held in most branches. In **MOLONG** about 30 children from the local Preschool visited and enjoyed listening to the story, singing and colouring in.

Storytime was popular in all branches and is offered on a regular basis during school terms. After a long recess, Rhyme Time at **FORBES** Library made a welcome return in early 2018. Library staff, with the support of Forbes Birth to Kinder and the Schools as Community Centres (SaCC)



coordinator, host Rhyme Time sessions each fortnight during school term at the library. Two sessions are held on the day where infants and preschool aged children together with their parents and caregivers can enjoy listening to stories, singing nursery rhymes and playtime with musical instruments. On the alternate week the library hosts a Storytime

reading and craft session for preschool aged children and their families. In addition to the scheduled Storytime sessions at **ORANGE** City Library space has been made available for a home schooling group one morning a week to give them the opportunity to help their children become acquainted with the library space.

In January 2018 we supported the Chief Scientist's Storytime Pledge and encouraged the communities of the Central West to borrow a book and to read to a special child in your life.



Margaret Lamerton reads to pre-school children during National Simultaneous Storytime at Molong Library



## Facilitate, host and conduct enriching programs and activities which meet the needs of the community

Programs built around the joy of reading are core to our service delivery and encompass visiting authors, book launches, festivals, competitions and book discussion groups.

A great line up of new and experienced writers were in Orange for the Readers and Writers Festival on 21 and 22 July 2017 at the Hotel Canobolas. Guest speakers included author Amanda Hampson, *Better Reading's* Cheryl Akle, Miles Franklin Literary Award judge Richard Neville, new author Annette Janic, historian Catherine Bishop, ABC TV presenter and author Julia Baird, and Miles Franklin award winning author Sofie Laguna.

The Festival also included a day-long event with the History Council of NSW on historical storytelling, a memoir writing workshop with Amanda Hampson and the announcement of the Banjo Paterson Writing Award winners.

The Library places great emphasis on supporting local writers and providing a platform for them to launch and discuss their work. Central West local Alexandria Nagy gave her first author talk about her book *The Could Be Ring* at **ORANGE** City Library on Thursday 17 August at 5.30pm. Inspired by a true story, *The Could Be Ring* is a fiction romance novel about a boxer grappling to overcome his personal demons in the midst of the greatest time of his professional life.

Another local author, Kelly Rimmer, joined with Kim Kelly to talk about her latest book, *Before I Let You Go* in March. Kelly has sold over 600,000 digital copies of her previous four novels which have been translated into more than 20 languages.

In June author Julie Ankers returned to the Central West to talk about her latest book *Call Me Frank* at **ORANGE**, **COWRA** and **FORBES** libraries. It is a collection of 20 autobiographical stories of men over 50 telling it like it is at this stage of their lives. Amanda Hampson also visited **ORANGE** in June to speak about her latest novel, *The Yellow Villa*.

This year a Stamp Club started up in **COWRA** Library. With just a few members, it has been easy to accommodate them up on the Mayors Desk in the upper level of the Library. Here they can spread out their collections and albums and swap and converse each month. An added bonus is that if members need to research a country or history of anything to do with the featured stamps, they have a wealth of books and access to the internet to use at their fingertips.

*Outreach services are an effective way of promoting the library to the wider community to help make the library available to people who do not normally come into the library. **MOLONG** Library has done this in*

*one way by attending the Molong Exercise Group's yearly special morning tea held at the Molong Bowling Club. The people that belong to this group have been knitting squares all year for donation to the Wrap with Love charity. The **MOLONG** Library then transports these squares into Orange City Library and volunteers then sew them into blankets to be donated to those in need. It was a great opportunity for **MOLONG** Library to advertise itself and to be able to let people know what services and resources the library has available, to provide information on how to join and about when it is open.*

*Margaret Lamerton, Molong*

Knitting groups supporting Wrap with Love charity are also active in **CANOWINDRA**, **FORBES** and **ORANGE**. The Orange Purlers meet weekly to knit for this and other organisations. In 2017-2018 the combined number of rugs supplied to Wrap with Love from across our footprint was 550.

Activities and promotions are also rolled out Library wide to mark the major sectoral events. **MANILDRA** Library marked Library Lovers Day on 14 February:

*It was lots of fun this year with a display of love letters to the library*





Cowra Stamp Club members Linda Beaver, David Seymour-Covner and Carmel Trethewey.

*pinned to the wall. My favourite? 'A trip to the library is like visiting a good friend; warm and inviting with something to take home, my book'. Jeanette Davis, Manildra*

For the Reading Hour in September **ORANGE** City Library matched up readers with books in 'Speed Dating with a Book'.

*This event saw a diverse range of readers spend a short time with several books to see if they might discover one they would be happy share some time with. Literary themed mocktails were served*

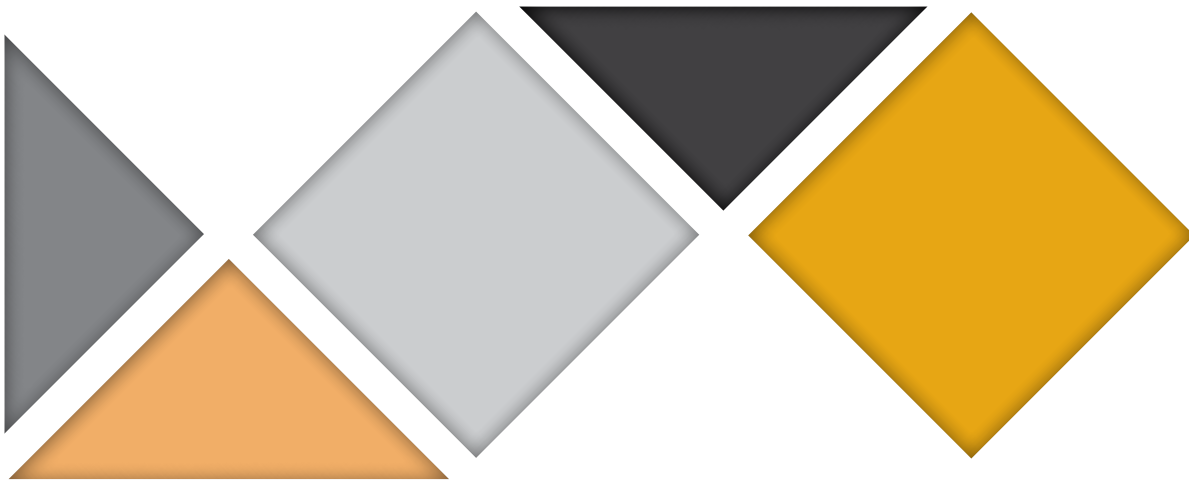
*keeping participants lubricated and the atmosphere partylike. Sean Brady, Orange.*

The focus on STEAM programs was increased across the Library. **ORANGE** City Library continued to deliver Code Club to children. These evening events use the popular software, Scratch, to develop skills in programming. Participants were able to create fun, engaging applications and learn some quite complicated programming concepts at the same time.

At the beginning of 2018 an additional program was introduced at Orange, BIG STEAM, aimed at young adults and adults

with a focus on coding, electronics, design and technology. Sessions centred around Arduino boards which developed into a robot arm building project. Participants included parents of children involved in Code Club and teachers looking to gain skills for their local code clubs.

**ORANGE** City Library also installed a vegetable garden as a new ongoing school holiday activity in autumn 2018. The first session attracted 27 participants who helped to plant vegetables and ornamentals in the raised garden beds outside the north windows. The resulting verdant space has greatly benefitted the outlook for that side of the library.



## Explore and develop collaborative opportunities for service and program delivery

The diversity of the services and programs offered by the Library are made possible through strong partnerships and cooperative ventures with the local community and other organisations. The Library's reputation as a safe, non-judgemental space is also reflected in some of these initiatives.

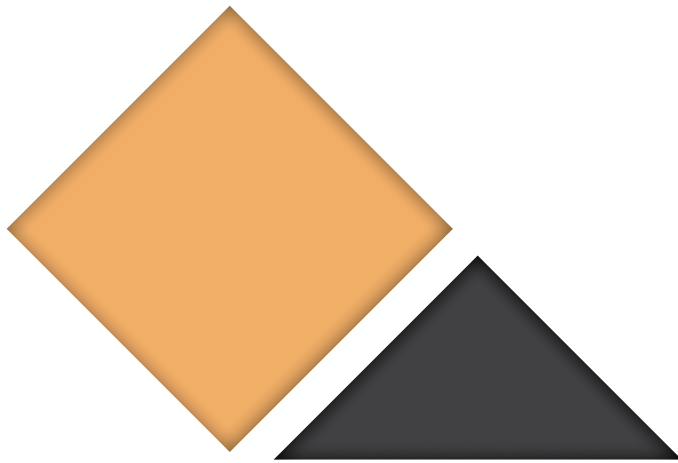
A representative from a road safety group has been using the **BLAYNEY** Library to meet with a young special needs client and assist them to gain the

knowledge of the road rules needed to obtain their learners drivers licence. This has included using the online access available to practice the Driver Knowledge Test questions.

In **COWRA** Employment Agencies have been utilising the small study areas and multi-purpose room for meetings and consultations with job seekers. The computers are used to give job seekers instruction and also show them how to apply for jobs in different online

environments. For older job seekers this is quite an experience. Some of them have then come back and sought assistance from Library Staff who have then been able to assist them with technology.

Over the past 12 months **ORANGE** City Library has provided space for the Smith Family to conduct interviews with applicants for grant and scholarship funding.



Our branch libraries are also used as spaces for exhibitions.

In **COWRA** the Library lends its space for other displays run by the adjacent Art Gallery. One feature event this year was the works of Central West illustrator Heather Vallance and author Margrete Lamond. Framed sketches for the book *The Sorry Tale of Fox and Bear* were on exhibition for a month.

**FORBES** Library provided assistance to members of the local Country Women's Association and Forbes primary school students in their annual NSW CWA Country of Study research projects and artwork display. During the month of July 2017 the Library hosted a display of information posters on Nepal created by the students, which proved to be a colourful and instructive exhibit at the library. Among the many exhibitions hosted by **ORANGE** City Library 'Snugglepote

and Cuddlepie' celebrating the work of artist May Gibb was especially popular. This was a partnership between the Library and the State Library of New South Wales. The exhibition was complemented by craft activities which allowed children to make a gum-leaf bookmark. The exhibition received wide praise from visitors young and old.

In April the **ORANGE** City Library worked with NSW Department of Family and Community Services to deliver the 'Tech Savvy Seniors Roadshow'. Members participated in two sessions at which they were shown techniques of using a computer and introduced to the Internet.

*They had a great time.*  
*Monica Engel, Tech Savvy trainer.*

## Banjo Paterson Writing Awards

The Readers and Writers Festival in July 2017 provided the backdrop to the announcement of the winners in the Banjo Paterson Awards. Winning entries are accessible via the Library's website.

### *Short Story*

1st Movement at the station  
John Scholz

2nd Quiet Child  
Carmel Lillis

3rd Discriminating Judgement  
Ruth McConnell

### *Open Poetry*

1st The Little Explorer's Diary  
Margaret Bradstock

2nd Romeo and Juliet  
Peter O'Shaughnessey

3rd The Tree of Antiquity  
Jacqui Merckenschlager

### *Bush Poetry*

1st The Novice and the Bard  
Max Merckenschlager

2nd Willy Wally Gully  
Will Moody

3rd The Race Napoleon Won  
Elizabeth Egan

### *ABC Children's Writing Awards:*

1st Arcane Intellect  
Toby Johnston

2nd Adieu, Thirteen  
Celine Ng

3rd A Cat's Secret  
Amy Robinson

# Statistical profile

Central West Libraries	2016/17	2017/18
Population – ABS Census 2011 & 2016 – Estimated Resident Population	85,803	84,864
Membership	31,852	34,143
Library visits	200,999	210,494
Activities, events & programs - number	428	508
Activities, events & programs - attendance	6,197	8,197
Circulation (Loans including renewals)	293,386	282,140
Renewals via Web OPAC	6,559	6,877
Reservations Placed (All)	18,386	18,332
Reservations placed via Web OPAC	6,136	6,160
Collection (Holdings)	185,525	186,994
Materials Purchased (Titles)	6556	8305
Average Price	\$40.79	\$41.35
Public internet use (including WiFi sessions)	50,804	32,482
Number of hits on the CWL home page	2,163,394	3,757,431
Number of visits to the CWL home page	81,435	132,149
Number of page views on the CWL home page	336,464	1,012,974

Note 1: Central West Libraries totals include statistics from the Administration Branch, Child Care Centres and digital collections which are not counted elsewhere.

Note 2: Central West Libraries Collection (Holdings) includes eAudiobooks and eBooks of which 36,152 are from the Gutenberg Project Collection. It excludes the newspaper index records (152,609 in 2017-2018).

Note 3: The Population figures for 2017 - 2018 are taken from the ABS Census of Population and Housing 2016. The 2016 – 2017 population figures for each LGA except Orange show

the 2015 – 2016 Estimated Resident Population as the census final figures were unavailable for these localities when the 2016 – 2017 Annual Report was prepared.

Both columns show the Estimated Residential Population in each area as extracted from the ABS Census statistics by .id the population experts.

Note 4: Library statistics for 2016 – 2017 are significantly affected by the closure of **ORANGE** City Library during refurbishment (January 27 – February 19) and the period when the security gates with counters were not fully operational (February 20 – April 9). The visit statistics have been estimated using March 2016 figures.

Blayney Library	2016/17	2017/18
Population	7,526	7,343
Membership	1,404	1,503
Library visits	5,068	4,511
Circulation (Loans)	10,500	9,580
Collection (Holdings)	10,112	10,392
Reservations Placed	343	314

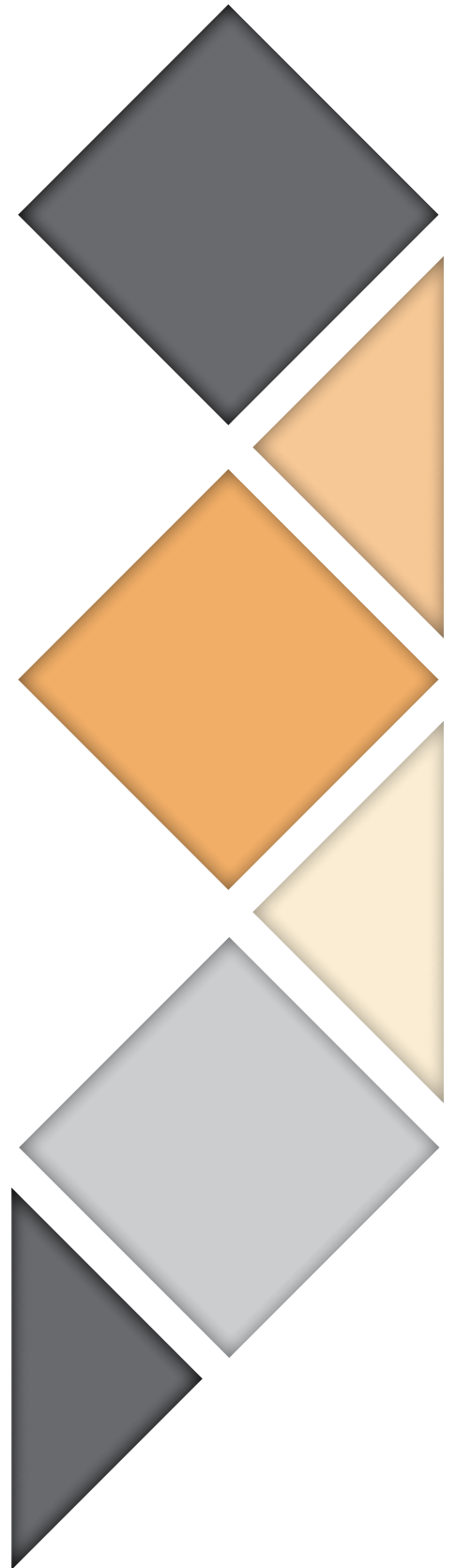
## Cabonne Libraries

Cabonne Totals	2016/17	2017/18
Population	13,718	13,577
Membership	1,785	1,876
Library visits	15,796	14,532
Circulation (Loans)	19,982	19,090
Collection (Holdings)	14,971	15,224
Reservations Placed	2,522	2,280

Canowindra Library	2016/17	2017/18
Population	793	820
Membership	5,539	5,587
Library visits	7,024	6,172
Circulation (Loans)	5,805	5,988
Collection (Holdings)	881	776
Reservations Placed	343	314

Manildra Library	2016/17	2017/18
Population	144	148
Membership	1,694	1,549
Library visits	2,096	1,899
Circulation (Loans)	2,992	3,077
Collection (Holdings)	187	138
Reservations Placed	343	314

Molong Library	2016/17	2017/18
Population	848	908
Membership	8,563	7,396
Library visits	10,862	11,019
Circulation (Loans)	6,174	6,159
Collection (Holdings)	1,454	1,366
Reservations Placed	343	314







Cowra Library	2016/17	2017/18
Population	12,673	12,659
Membership	4,530	4,806
Library visits	37,369	40,772
Circulation (Loans)	36,562	35,676
Collection (Holdings)	22,154	20,624
Reservations Placed**	1,900	2,191

Forbes Library	2016/17	2017/18
Population	10,502	9,817
Membership	2,669	2,802
Library visits	23,134	22,854
Circulation (Loans)	35,061	33,554
Collection (Holdings)	15,061	16,021
Reservations Placed**	3,211	2,639

Orange City Library	2016/17	2017/18
Population	41,384	41,468
Membership	21,383	23,005
Library visits	119,632	127,825
Circulation (Loans)	179,031	173,150
Collection (Holdings)	81,083	82,251
Reservations Placed**	3,227	3,921

Library statistics for **ORANGE** City Library in 2016 – 2017 are significantly affected by the closure during refurbishment (January 27 – February 19) and the period when the security gates with counters were not fully operational (February 20 – April 9). March 2016 figures have been used to estimate the number of visitors into **ORANGE** City Library.

Orange Estimated Resident Population 2017 (source .id profile) is 41,468.



Forbes Reading Down Town Day with Freeda and children from Forbes North Public School, August 2017.



Central West Libraries 2017/18 Annual Report

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