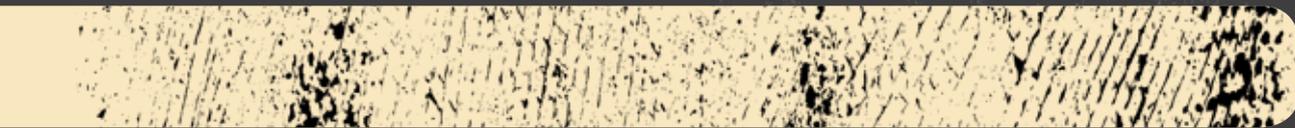
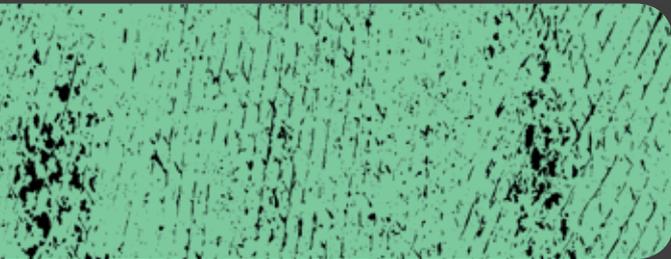


CENTRAL WEST LIBRARIES

2018-19

ANNUAL REPORT



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People



Long serving staff member Peter Douglass retired in August. Photographed with Jan Richards and Sean Brady

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, 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, Librarian (until August 2018)
Julie-Anne Sykes, Librarian
Alexandra Gibb, Librarian (from October 2018)
Tammy Atkinson, 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 Flemming, Kathy Garland, 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.

In 2018/19 we...



were open for 9,912
hours



had 202,791
people visit



lent 275,508 items to
36,331 members



offered 830 events
attended by 27,091
people



hosted 43,788
internet sessions



recorded 227,181 visits
to our home page



have 1,940
Facebook
followers

Introduction

From the 1 July 2018 the governance of Central West Libraries (CWL) changed from a Joint Agreement to a Service Level Agreement (SLA) model between individual Councils and Orange City Council. Under this arrangement the agreed requirements of the Councils have been met and reported on. Community Consultations were held with communities across all participating CWL Councils as part of the SLAs. Residents who were unable to attend had the option of responding to the same set of questions online. This input will be fed into the Library's new Strategic Plan which will be finalised in the second half of 2019.

During the year there was a large focus on digital literacy across all service points with a range of 'get online' training offered, especially to older members. This was funded by a number of agencies and there was the potential to customise the training to meet the needs of specific client groups and communities. Feedback from participants was extremely positive and as detailed in this report made a demonstrated skills impact.

A highlight of the year was the refurbishment of **Blayney** Library which occurred in May and June 2019. Works included new shelving, furniture, paint and carpet which resulted in a bright, welcoming and flexible environment. The Library's collections were re-arranged into genres as part of this process to give a bookshop look and feel to the space.

A rich and diverse program of events for children and young people was offered. These range from family literacy programs for 0-5 year olds to code club for young adults. The highlight of the year was a visit by Children's Laureate and Reading Hour Ambassador Morris Gleitzman who entertained sell-out audiences at **Cowra** and **Orange** in September with his special brand of humour. This was part of a wider visit to the Central West supported by funding from Charles Sturt University. Children in **Forbes** were treated to a visit by popular and award-winning children's author Ursula Dubosarsky during August.

Adult readers at all branches were treated to an exciting line up of visiting authors and the 4th Annual Readers and Writers Festival drew an audience from across the region.

The Library's role in collecting and conserving local information and stories continued to be an important service. In October 2018 **Orange** City Library hosted the statewide launch of Amplify an online tool which creates a platform through which to publish and transcribe oral history collections. CWL had been part of the pilot to roll this service out to NSW public libraries and had loaded the interviews collected as part of the 1996 Email (Westinghouse) Oral History Project onto the site.

Equipping staff with the skills to provide the highest possible service was supported by a Sparkle Customer Service Training in March. For some this was a 'resparkling' and for others an introduction to the philosophy. To ensure consistency across all our service points all permanent and casual staff were invited to participate with only two unable to attend.

In August 2019 staff member Peter Douglass retired after 36 years with Central West Libraries. Peter commenced work as a bookmobile driver then became a librarian working with children's programs, house bound members and later local studies. Peter had great familiarity with the CWL communities and played a key role in many initiatives over the years, particularly the refurbishment of most of our library buildings. We wish him well for the future.

Elizabeth Russ, a member of the Library team was named **Blayney** Citizen of the Year in January 2019 in recognition of the significant volunteer work she has undertaken in her community.

We were deeply saddened to learn of the untimely death of former **Cowra** Librarian, Libby Walsh. Libby was instrumental in moving Cowra Library into its current premises and continued to be a library volunteer and a strong advocate for Central West Libraries long after she retired.

Library staff were actively engaged in the wider library and information sector attending meetings of the NSW Public Libraries Association at a State and Zone level and coordinating several joint enterprises across multiple library services in the Central West.

Over the past 12 months CWL has continued to deliver a dynamic and responsive service to the many clients and communities across our footprint. Our libraries are dynamic and vibrant spaces which are open to everyone and through our 'virtual' library we are available 24/7. The Councils of **Blayney**, Cabonne, **Cowra**, **Forbes** and Orange and the CWL staff have much to celebrate.

JAN RICHARDS AM

Manager Central West Libraries



Our spaces

Provide safe, accessible, welcoming and connected spaces

Central West Libraries seven branches are physically all very different. What they have in common is a welcoming environment that meets the needs of their individual communities.

During May/June 2019 **Blayney** Library was closed for a period of six weeks to allow for a major refurbishment. This included the replacement of all shelving with wheeled shelves to allow for a more versatile space, new painting, carpet and comfortable furniture throughout the building. An increase in front-facing shelving allowed for more promotion of the collection.

The result has been a space that is not only versatile in its layout, adapting to the needs of the Library, with areas to sit and relax, while also being comfortable and pleasant to spend time in. The refurbished Library has been well received by members who have commented on the fresh modern welcoming look that the Library now has.

Mr Barry Peters, **Forbes** Library's most regular visitor, passed away on the weekend of 23 September 2018 after a short illness. Mr Peters, who celebrated his 80th birthday in May 2018, visited the library on an almost daily basis for decades to read the newspapers, scrutinise the Forbes Council business papers, conduct local history research and debate both local and world events with his friends and library visitors. In honour of his memory, the Peters family donated a comfortable armchair to the library which has been placed beside the fireplace where Barry could often be found while he was in residence at the library.

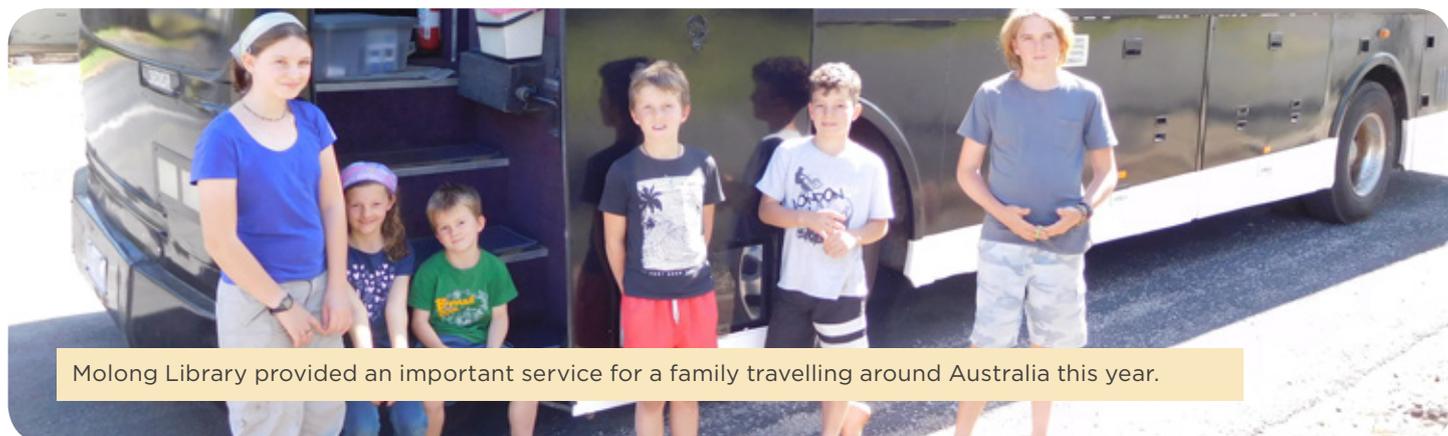
For people travelling either on their own or with children, public libraries can provide a unique service, providing free access to information, computer services and a safe place to congregate. During the year a family stayed at Molong Caravan Park for about 2 months and used **Molong** Library every day. There are 9 children in the family ranging in age from 2-16 years and they used the library's resources to

help with their home schooling and also for recreation. The older children accessed the computers for their science curriculum.

Once again **Orange** City Library played host to a class of six children while they were travelling with the carnivals in the city for the Orange Show during May. The children attended classes run by Distance Education from Dubbo. They set up in the Mary Elizabeth Byrnes Collection, had access to Wi-Fi and visited the Library for reading materials. This has become an annual occurrence and demonstrates the value of our libraries as community spaces.

During the year Library staff attended specially curated training to ensure the delivery of consistent, high level customer service. Most staff participated in Sparkle Customer Service Training in February. The course aimed to provide everyone with the skills to create positive service experiences, reduce stress and be more resourceful. The training included personal strategies, building rapport, customer greetings, active listening skills, how to present bad news and managing angry or distressed members. Staff were actively engaged in the training working in groups to discuss strategies, role play scenarios and problem-solve.

Central West Libraries staff also took part in a two-day Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) course at Orange TAFE in March. Staff learnt how to assist other adults who are experiencing a mental health crisis or developing a mental health problem, gain confidence in dealing with crisis, how to recognise symptoms and how to guide someone genuinely needing help in an appropriate direction. MHFA plays an important role in building community awareness and promoting a culture of well-being.



Molong Library provided an important service for a family travelling around Australia this year.

Our spaces

(continued)

Deliver an innovative and accessible virtual branch available 24/7

The Library's 'virtual' branch continues to grow in importance size and use. Increased emphasis has been placed on collaborative and consortia deals with other public library systems within the region to maximise the benefits and increase access.

Central West Libraries assisted the development of a consortia of six regional library services in order to offer a better range of eAudiobooks, eBooks and eMagazines to communities across the wider Central West region. The supplier partner, Wavesound Pty Ltd., created a Central West Zone collection published through rb digital to reflect the interests and needs described by the consortia members and conveniently accessible online via mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets. In response to user demand, the majority of titles are in an eAudiobook format.

In June 2019, the Central West Zone Consortia member libraries (Bathurst, Big Sky, Central West, Gunnedah, Lithgow, and Mid-Western) reviewed the service and reaffirmed a collection emphasis on eAudiobooks with a selection of eBooks and a representative range of eMagazines. Other library services in the Zone were invited to join the consortia to enjoy the benefits supported by collaborative participation.

The Library's growing social media presence is managed to engage with our many target audiences. Increasingly communication between Library staff and the community occurs via applications such as Facebook which allows for quick response and interaction. The Library's Instagram feed has proved very popular.

Explore models for outreach services

Central West Libraries' services extend beyond our physical buildings and our branches actively seek ways in which to engage with the community and expand our reach. This is often achieved through partnerships and participation in relevant events.

Each year in October during Mental Health Awareness Week, **Cowra** Library works with other community groups to support their services. This year the Library hosted a display of art works by a young man called Mark Anderson who is unable to place his art in mainstream art galleries. Mark found the ability to express himself with paint and crayon on paper and created a colourful diorama of images relevant to his experiences and struggles with mental health. Various other groups meet in the Library.

The Special Needs clients also visit **Cowra** Library weekly for leisure reading and time out from their daily routines. Live Better run a weekly Junior Craft group for pre-schoolers and their parents/carers during term time and the Library can provide the children's area for their use. The library provides a safe, secure environment and the privacy for consultations in the adjacent meeting room.

During April the Seniors Festival celebrated those aged over 60. **Manildra** Library was decorated with colourful balloons and on display was a collection of books and information about health for seniors. An information display covering activities and events for seniors in the local shires was also available. The library provided a similar display in the Craft Cottage during their Cuppa for Seniors Week.

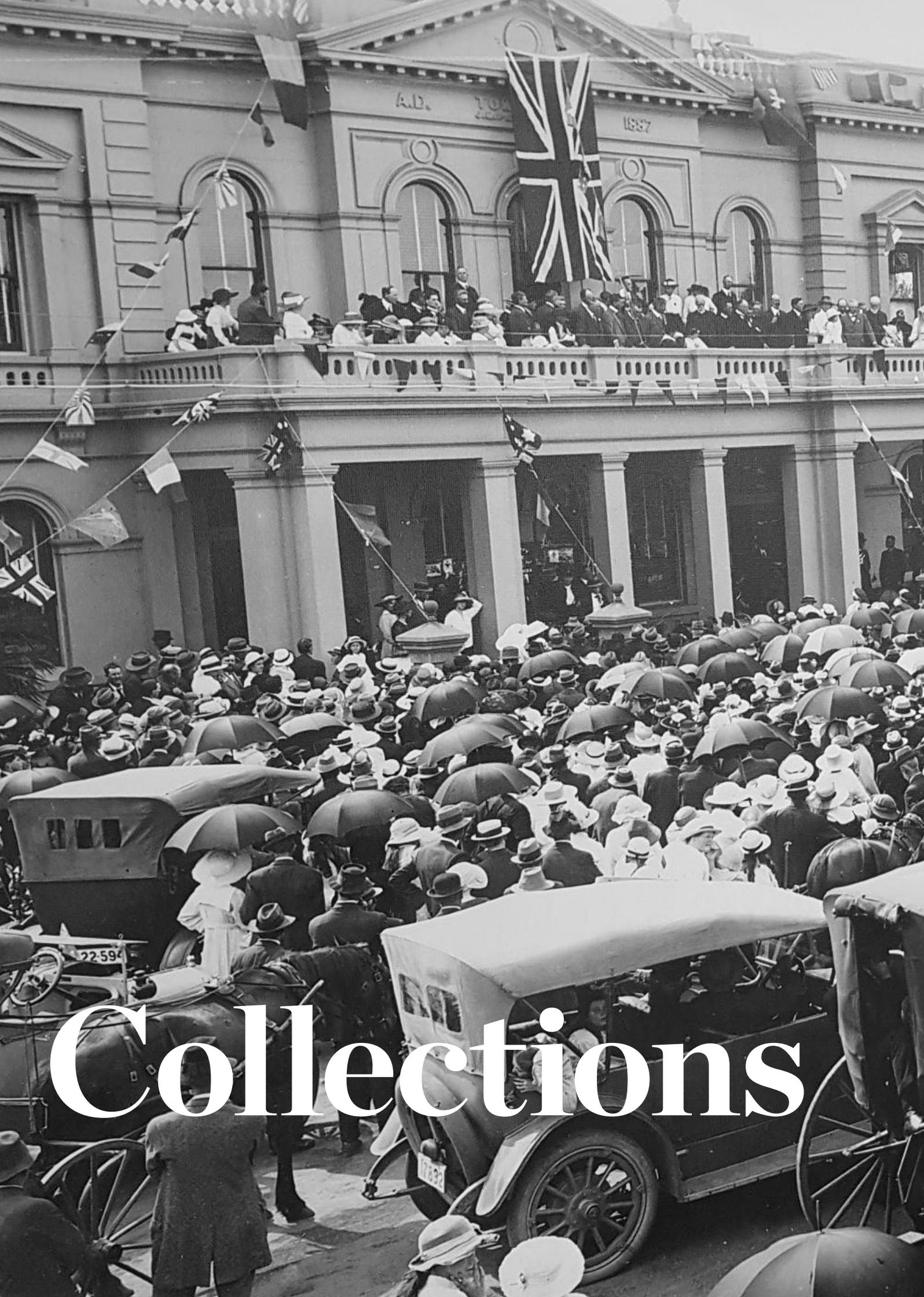
The 9th Annual **Canowindra** Community Reading Day was held at Canowindra Public Primary School on Thursday 23rd August 2018 with more than 140 students from Cabonne/ Blayney Family Day Care, Canowindra Pre-School, St Edward's Primary School, Canowindra High School and Canowindra Public School attending. There were many activities on offer for the students throughout the day from several community groups including the Central West Libraries. Freya Blackwood (the 2018 CBCA shortlist author/illustrator for picture book of the year - *The Great Rabbit Chase*) from **Orange**, delighted the children with a story and then went on to sketch and illustrate an image. Katrina Roe was the other visiting author. Katrina's new book, *Lily's Balloon*, has just been released by Wombat Books.

Spring Street Preschool and Early Education Centre became the third Orange City Council child care centre to join Central West Libraries as a branch. Children attending this and the Courallie Park and Yarrawong Centres may become library members and borrow from the collections that are selected for each location. Administrative staff at each centre manage the registration and circulation functions using the same Spydus Library Management System as other, more conventional, branches.

More than 200 children across the three centres are registered and their membership also enables siblings, parents and carers to enjoy using age specific books in their own homes. The initiative helps to redress the difficulty that some parents and carers may have to find the time to visit **Orange** City Library and provides high quality resources and a positive experience for all.



Participants in the Canowindra Community Reading Day



Collections

Provide relevant and responsive collections

One of the identified benefits of a regional library service is the ability to share and move collections between branches. Library staff constantly refine these processes to ensure the best outcomes for our members. During the first half of 2019 **Manildra** was the pilot library in a trial of a modification to the re-allocation process by which Branch Services selects and assigns non-fiction material to branch libraries.

In consultation with the **Manildra** Librarian, Branch Services' aim is to develop a systematic method of collection maintenance by following a predetermined delivery rota of genres. Knowing which genres to expect at each 6-weekly re-allocation delivery, the Librarian knows which genres to 'weed' in preparation for the intake of new-to-that-branch stock and hence the genres are noticeably 'refreshed'.

An important collection available in all CWL is Find Legal Answers delivered in partnership with the State Library of New South Wales. To support this during Law Week 2019 the Library hosted a Legal Aid seminar at the Amusu Theatre in Manildra, a short distance from the Manildra Library with capacity and facilities required for our presenters and audience.

Legal Aid Lawyer Jill Marshall and Carleen McConnell from Fair Trading co-presented this event focusing on the NDIS – How the Law can help if you're not happy with a decision or your provider, and, Scams – online, phone, face-to-face – how to protect yourself and your identity, and how the Law can help if you are scammed. The event was well attended. Attendees were welcomed by a delightful country morning tea.

Following their talks the presenters fielded lively questions from the engaged audience, which were interspersed with their anecdotes of frustrations with the NDIS and 'close-call' experiences with potential telephone scammers. Guests selected from a wide range of pamphlets on relevant Legal issues that were on display, and referrals and offers of assistance through Legal Aid and Fair Trading Orange were secured.

A day-long workshop titled Talking About Dying: Putting Things in Order was held at **Orange** City Library in August for people wanting to prepare for their later years. Speakers included representatives from NSW Trustee and Guardian, Department of Human Services, Penhall Funeral Directors, Orange Health Services, Need A Nerd, and financial and gambling counsellor. The booked out seminar gave helpful tips on how to plan for funerals, wills, powers of attorney, health directives and how to organise paperwork and technology footprint eg. Facebook, email and passwords.



Tech Savvy Seniors classes at Manildra

Collections

(continued)

Equip the community with the skills to maximise our resources

Grant funding for the Be Connected and Tech Savvy Seniors programs enabled the Library to deliver a variety of sessions to build the digital skills of older people living in our communities. Previous experience indicated that the most effective way to offer these programs was through short individual coaching on a topic of particular interest or need. Participants booked a half-hour session with Library staff who acted as a mentor and contact for future engagement. In summary there were 74 sessions in total with 318 participants.

Feedback from attendees was extremely positive and provided evidence that digital literacy remains a key function of Central West Libraries.

Try One Thing was the invitation in October when Get Online Week was rolled out across all the branches. From the 15th to the 19th of October presentations for seniors were held in every branch showcasing applications available on mobile devices. Presentations were delivered by **Orange** based staff with follow up sessions of Be Connected delivered by staff from individual branches or Orange. Using Skype for video calls, getting directions with Google Maps, video streaming with Kanopy, and cooking chocolate mud cakes from internet recipes were some of the applications presented.

Get Online Week was launched at **Orange** City Library by Mayor of Orange Reg Kidd who spoke about some of his favourite apps including the Bureau of Meteorology.



• This week, Shirley B was excited to tell me that she had successfully connected to the free Wi-Fi at the Yarn Market in Molong. She would not have felt confident to try this previously.

-Emma Flemming, mentor at **Molong**

• Joyce was keen to start doing some online shopping. We discussed online safety practices such as using secure and well-known sites, setting up a PayPal account, and ensuring any credit or debit cards have a low limit set.

-Bek Salmon, mentor at **Orange**

• We helped our mentees operate their iPhone, iPad, tablets and laptops and to navigate their email accounts, use the Microsoft suite of programs and provided guidance in searching the Net and accessing online material in various formats. Some of our trainees were also introduced to the Central West Libraries website and the range of online resources. Great interest was shown in the Bolinda Borrowbox audiobooks and Kanopy movies.

-Bronwyn Clark and Kathy Garland, mentors at **Forbes**



Storytime Pods

Children's services in **Orange**, **Blayney** and **Cowra** were complemented during the year through the introduction of Storytime Pods.

The Storytime Pod is a big hit with the younger generation at **Cowra** Library.

An electronic inclusion to the collection at the Cowra Library this year was a Storytime Pod. The local community wanted more frequent story times and we were able to respond in a modern way. Now children can experience story time every time they visit the Library. They don't need any assistance from staff in most cases, intuitively knowing how to use a touch screen to select stories. Story Box Library is one popular application that some had already experienced online from home via their library website.

Many parents and carers are satisfied that the brief time on screen is doing them no harm but giving a new literacy experience not available anywhere else. For some it is

time out for them too and we've noticed an increase in mums reclining on the sofa near the pod and reading their own books or having the time to choose a book just for themselves. A bonus lesson is children learning to share the Storytime Pod.

For smaller libraries like **Cowra**, the inclusion of this one piece of equipment has benefitted the community in so many ways. Where we cannot provide live story time sessions regularly - it can. It's exposing children and families to current technology and stories, demonstrating to the older generation that there is nothing to fear using it and providing a fun, positive experience all round. It's a treat to see young ones racing one another through the doors to get a turn on the Pod every day in order to listen to or read a story.

Caroline Eisenhauer
Cowra Branch Librarian



Collections

(continued)

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

Central West Libraries was one of four library services to be selected by the State Library of New South Wales to participate in a pilot project to instigate and evaluate their Amplify online tool which creates a platform through which to publish and transcribe oral history collections. While the project commenced in April 2018 with an exposition of the features and functions of Amplify, the preparation and loading of audio files occurred after significant improvements were made by the State Library Digital Project Team from July 2019.

CWL was fortunate in having a collection of interviews recorded between October 1995 and April 1996 with former employees from the Email whitegoods factory. These interviews had been converted into a digital format so that they were able to be loaded into Amplify accompanied by photographs of the interviewee where these were available. A total of 40 employees may be heard speaking about their personal and working life from the 1950s to the 1990s. As many of those interviewed had migrated from Europe to Orange, the audio files highlight their contribution to the local economy and culture.

Orange City Library hosted the statewide launch on 26 October 2018 at which Dr Lisa O’Sullivan, the then Executive Director, Public Libraries and Engagement, State library of New South Wales, Councillor Reg Kidd, Mayor of Orange and Central West Libraries Manager, Jan Richards, officiated.

Two of the original interviewees, Ryan Critchlow and Vic Byrne, as well as Elisabeth Edwards who managed the original interview team attended.

At the close of the pilot project period, it was recognised that Amplify was a valuable platform which the State Library would make available on application to other public libraries in New South Wales. The facility to enable transcriptions to be generated, viewed and printed from the audio files greatly

enhances the usefulness of oral histories and also invites individuals to edit the transcripts to improve their accuracy for other listeners.

The digitisation of the Orange newspaper, *The Leader*, was contracted to and completed by the Trove Outreach Digitisation Team at the National Library of Australia. This finished one component of Central West Libraries schedule, begun with the local newspapers published around the time of World War I, to make primary resources available online to anyone, anywhere.

Twenty-nine reels comprising over 36,000 pages were scanned and due to the poor quality of some of the original paper copies available to be microfilmed, the Digitisation Team had to undertake extra manual work to improve the readability of the uploaded images. The engagement of the National Library Team ensured that the quality assurance and consistency were of a high standard which would have been otherwise unachievable using Central West Libraries internal resources.

The Leader ceased publication after it was sold to Western Newspapers Pty Ltd in July 1945 and was succeeded by the *Central Western Daily* from October 1945.

The **Orange** Family History Group Newspaper Indexing Team reached a significant achievement during the year when they completed the retrospective indexing of “milestone events” published in the *Central Western Daily* from 1945 to date. Milestone events include births, marriages, deaths, probate and other personal public notices so that the index gives researchers a guide to where to find more information.

In recognition of the usefulness of the index to family historians, the indexing team has also recorded reports of special events, announcements and some articles relating to residents of Orange and surrounds.

At the end of July 2019, 165,996 entries had been added to the index since work began in 2009. This represents over 5,000 hours of volunteer's time and has created a resource that would have been otherwise unachievable.

The index, accessible through the CWL catalogue and website, sits beside the "born digital" editions of the Central Western Daily and becomes potentially more significant as publications increasingly limit their availability to all by setting up paywalls.

All CWL branches have assisted with research and mounted displays relating to the Centenary of World War I over the past five years. As the centenary period drew to a conclusion several events were arranged by our branches.

A display of poppies was created on the front lawn of the **Blayney** Library to honour the soldiers from the Blayney district who fought in WW1. Red poppies were used to signify those who fought and white poppies for those who lost their lives in battle.

In **Orange** several hundred people gathered in Anson Street outside the old Orange Town Hall on Sunday 11 November 2018 (now OCTEC) to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War.

For the original Armistice celebrations in November 1918 the Town Hall was decorated with Allied flags and bunting, vehicles lined the street and prominent citizens delivered rousing speeches from the balcony, while church ministers gave speeches of thanksgiving. The moment was captured

for posterity in a photograph which was included in an album presented to Presbyterian minister Reverend JC McDonald when he left Orange in 1919 and which is held in **Orange** City Library's collection.

To commemorate the centenary of Armistice there was a recreation of the events of November 1918. Those who attended came in period dress, the old Town Hall was decked out with Allied flags of the day, and the Orange District Antique Motor Club supplied a number of vintage vehicles.

The speeches were delivered from the balcony exactly as they were in 1918 and the City of Orange Brass Band played several hymns, including The Recessional and the national anthem of the day: God Save the King. At the conclusion of the ceremony participants were invited re-create the 1918 photograph.

The Armistice re-enactment was the final event in the commemorative program in Orange City Council's Centenary of World War I program which was coordinated by the Library since formed in 2011.





Technology & Science

Programs & activities

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

The Library's strong focus on family literacy programs is central to service delivery to children aged 0-5 and their families. They provide a strong foundation for social well-being and educational advancement and are often delivered in partnership with other agencies.

While regular story times form the backbone of our family literacy programs, National Simultaneous Storytime in May is a highlight of the year. In 2019 the selected book was *Alpacas with Maracas* by Matt Cosgrove and this provided much inspiration for innovative activities including a visit by alpaca father and son duo Apollo and Pemberton at **Orange**.

In **Forbes** an audience of enthusiastic members joined with thousands of other participants around the country having fun reading aloud the charming storybook. In **Molong** 65 children from Molong Early Learning Centre visited the library to listen to the story before singing and colouring-in their craft activity.

The annual **Forbes** community Birth to Kinder Reading Down Town Day was held in August 2018 in conjunction with Children's Book Week with the theme "Reading: Find Your Treasure". Several hundred children from local schools and preschools dressed as their favourite storybook characters participated in activities promoting the importance of early childhood literacy. Activities were held in Victoria Park, the Town Hall and the **Forbes** Library with the support of Forbes schools, community groups, local businesses, the Forbes Council and Central West Libraries. 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 CWL Mascot and were regaled with entertaining story readings by CWL staff from an assortment of books from the year's Children's Book Council of Australia Book Week selected books.

During August Ursula Dubosarsky, popular and award-winning children's author, visited the **Forbes** Library to meet local children and introduce them to her latest book *Leaf Stone Beetle* a gentle and charming tale about a leaf, a stone and a beetle whose lives are disrupted by a storm. A group of youngsters from the Forbes Goodstart Preschool enjoyed an entertaining story time with Ursula who read a selection of her stories chosen by the children from the library's collection and graciously answered the children's questions about their favourite books and how they are created.

A highlight of the year was the visit by bestselling children's author, Children's Laureate and Reading Hour Ambassador Morris Gleitzman who entertained sell-out audiences at **Cowra** and **Orange** in September with his special brand of humour. This was part of a wider visit to the Central West supported by funding from Charles Sturt University.

Morris had chosen the theme "Stories Create Our Future" for his Laureate term and he explained "Young people need stories more than ever. Stories to delight, stories to beguile, stories to inspire, stories to move deeply. And through these experiences, stories that equip young readers to embrace an often dark and uncertain world with optimism, resolve and creativity." The author visit inspired many children in the audience and would-be-writers.

Library staff maintained a high level of professional engagement in wider programs for children and young people. Librarians Julie Sykes and Rossanne Holmes attended the annual Kids Lit Quiz at Kinross Wolaroi School, Orange on Monday 25th March 2019. Julie participated as a judge and Rossanne as member of the adults "All Stars" table usually with children's book authors. This year 34 teams participated which represented 17 schools from the western part of the state, including the two Kinross Wolaroi School campuses, James Sheahan Catholic High School and Orange High School.

The CWA of NSW Central Western Group held their annual Public Speaking competition for the 32nd year at James Sheahan Catholic High School on Tuesday 21st May 2019. The Library's Rossanne Holmes participated as one of three judges for Year 11 and 12 speeches.

Programs & activities

(continued)

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

The community's interest in visiting authors remains strong and during 2018/19 the Library once again had a rich and diverse offering across all of our service points:

- Jacqui Newling, a resident gastronomer from Sydney Living History Museums visited **Blayney** Library in July to speak on Memories Through Home Cooking. Jacqui spoke on the rich legacies of family recipes and cookbooks, inviting guests to bring along and share their own family recipes.
- Author and academic Kim Hodges visited the **Forbes** Library in July to discuss her latest book *Girl Over the Edge* - a memoir about her lived experience of mental illness. Kim gave a very informative PowerPoint assisted talk about the realities of coping with depression and was candid in discussing her experiences and personal struggles with an often stigmatised illness.
- In the 1970s, author Tony Pritchard drifted over a thousand miles down the Darling River in western New South Wales in a ten-foot boat with no motor or oars, and the trip took around eighteen months. He went fishing and birdwatching, stopped at towns, did a bit of station work, met some of Australia's finest people and all the while looked for adventure and answers to life's question about where he belonged. Tony talked about his travel memoir *Drifting Down the Darling* at **Canowindra** and **Orange** Libraries during August speaking to captivated audiences
- Last December **Molong** Library hosted author visit with Kim Kelly and she entertained all those who came with information about her latest book called *The Ladybird and the Fox*. Kim is a local author and her books often contain references and place names of the Central West. A lively question and answer session was held after Kim's talk. The people who attended the visit were also thrilled that an author would take the time to visit a small town library like **Molong**. Kim was enchanted with the location of Molong Library as well as how cosy it is.
- Bestselling local authors - Kim Kelly who has written *Sunshine*; Alissa Callen who has penned *The Round Yard*; and Kelly Rimmer who has released *All The Things We Cannot Say* spoke at **Orange** and **Forbes** Libraries in March. The authors toured the Central West as part of their Wild West Women's Author Tour. They shared the secrets of their success, amusing anecdotes, writing styles, methods and inspirations in an entertaining way.

Orange City Library was delighted to again be chosen by local author Sophie Hansen to launch her latest book *A Basket by the Door*. The event was part of Orange F.O.O.D. Week celebrations in April. The event featured a grazing plate with local cheeses, biscuits and a sample of Sophie's dips. *A Basket by the Door* will also be published overseas in the United Kingdom, United States with a new title *Food For Thought*, and in Germany.



Jacquie Newling and Ruth Bingham at Blayney Library



Author talk with Kim Kelly at Molong Library

Programs & activities

(continued)

A feast of authors served tasty morsels of their writing at the 4th **Orange** Readers and Writers Festival in July at the Hotel Canobolas with the Monday Morning Cooking Club, Cheryl Akle from Better Reading, Jacqui Newling resident gastronomer from Sydney Living Museums author Anthony Hill, Local is Lovely blogger Sophie Hansen, *Sweet Nourish* author Louise Keats and *Paris Dreaming* author Katrina Lawrence filling out the program as well as the announcement of the **2018 BANJO PATERSON WRITING AWARDS WINNERS**

Short Story:

Stephen D’Arcy *Arthur Peters The Bard of Creswick*

Poetry:

Roger Vickery *Jurkurrpa on bark*

ABC Children’s Writing Awards:

Kodi Sawtell *Ink*

Orange City Library hosted a wide variety of activities during the school holidays in July, October, January and April. A highlight was the Escape Room which was offered during the January school holidays.

Teams of four were given an hour in the Escape Room to solve a series of puzzles. The Escape Room was based on Shaun Tan’s book *The Lost Thing* and copyright permission was gained from the author. All the props were created by library staff and during a Cardboard Challenge. Each team watched a video about the book before they were led into the room with a member of library staff supervising. Teams were given a one minute time penalty for each clue. Most teams completed the challenge well within the hour and all said they enjoyed the Escape Room activity. The team with the shortest time won.

The **Orange** Purlers, volunteer knitters, continued to meet weekly at the library to support Wrap With Love and other charitable organisations. Wraps were received this year from **Canowindra, Cowra**, Condobolin, Parkes, Peak Hill, Eugowra, Grenfell and Dubbo. In 2018-2019 some 580 wraps were supplied to Wrap With Love for worldwide distribution. Most of the wraps from the Orange district were sent to Syria, Armenia, Malawi and Uganda. Eighty-five wraps were distributed locally to homeless individuals, to Housing Plus, Lyndon Women’s Program and Orange Aboriginal Medical Service.



Orange Purlers Jo Welles, Meg Rayner and Dianne Percy



Escape Room participants search for clues in Orange during January

Programs & activities

(continued)

Explore and develop collaborative opportunities for service and program delivery

Many initiatives offered by our libraries are achieved through collaboration with council and community partners. The year 2018/19 was no exception.

For Reconciliation Week 2019 **Forbes** Library staff assisted members of the Forbes Galari-Lachlan Reconciliation Group to set up an information display in the library. The central theme of the display was The Uluru Statement from the Heart and a selection of reconciliation information documents and books about indigenous issues were displayed for general public access for the month of June.

Blayney Library participated in the nationwide Garage Sale Trail during October, setting up a stall out the front of the Library selling books, DVDs and magazines. The Library took part in the event alongside a range of businesses and private sale tables across Blayney.

The Cowra Regional Art Gallery hosted an exhibition of quilts from February 23 till the end of April 2019 and **Cowra** Library supported this event by supplying quilt history books and giving access and instructions to the link for the National Quilt Register online database. On display in the Library was **Cowra's** own interpretation of a Wagga Quilt, made by members of the Cowra Art and Craft Group and donated to the Library in 2003. The Wagga Quilt is one of the database entries. Some members of the group were in attendance on the day and came forward to give an in-depth explanation about the quilt.

Statistical profile

Central West Libraries		
	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019
Population - ABS statistics 2018	84,864	85,765
Membership	34,143	36,331
Library visits	210,494	202,791
Activities, events & programs - number	508	830
Activities, events & programs - attendance	8,197	27,091
Circulation (Loans including renewals)	282,140	275,508
Renewals via Web OPAC	6,877	8,416
Reservations Placed (All)	18,332	17,846
Reservations placed via Web OPAC	6,6160	6,295
Collection (Holdings)	186,994	151,024
Materials Purchased (Titles)	8,305	7,484
Average Price	\$41.35	\$40.68
Public internet use (including WiFi sessions)	32,482	43,788
Number of hits on the CWL home page	3,757,431	5,123,487
Number of visits to the CWL home page	132,149	227,181
Number of page views on the CWL home page	1,012,974	1,419,221

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: The Population figures for 2018 - 2019 have been sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics from their 2018 data.

Note 3: Central West Libraries Collection (Holdings) does not include eAudiobooks and eBooks available through the Central West Zone Consortia arrangements. Also excluded are the newspaper index records (165,996 entries in 2018-2019).

Note 4: The Gutenberg Project Collection of 36,152 eBooks was withdrawn from the Central West Libraries collection in 2018 - 2019 as these eBooks are available from the Project Gutenberg website.

Note 5: Activities, events & programs for 2018-2019 include the externally funded programs (Be Connected, Tech Savvy Seniors). The attendance numbers include the estimated number of people at exhibition openings and the visitors count for the branch for the period of the display.

Note 6: Blayney Library was closed for refurbishment from 1 May to 11 June 2019.

Blayney Library		
	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019
Population	7,343	7,352
Membership	1,503	1,597
Library visits	4,511	6,108
Circulation (Loans)	9,580	7,231
Collection (Holdings)	10,392	7,645
Reservations placed	314	123
Cabonne Libraries		
	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019
Cabonne Totals		
Population	13,577	13,680
Membership	1,876	1,933
Library visits	14,532	13,564
Circulation (Loans)	19,090	17,480
Collection (Holdings)	15,224	15,593
Reservations placed	2,280	2,416
Canowindra Library		
Membership	820	829
Library visits	5,587	5,476
Circulation (Loans)	6,172	5,034
Collections (Holdings)	5,988	6,326
Reservations placed	776	719
Manildra Library		
Membership	148	156
Library visits	1,549	1,496
Circulation (Loans)	1,899	1,562
Collection (Holdings)	3,077	2,890
Reservations placed	138	143
Molong Library		
Membership	908	948
Library visits	7,396	6,592
Circulation (Loans)	11,019	10,884
Collection (Holdings)	6,159	6,377
Reservations placed	1,366	1,554

Cowra Library		
	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019
Population	12,659	12,767
Membership	4,806	5,022
Library visits	40,772	37,856
Circulation (Loans)	35,676	33,997
Collection (Holdings)	20,624	19,771
Reservations placed	2,191	2,602
Forbes Library		
	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019
Population	9,817	9,910
Membership	2,802	2,968
Library visits	22,854	25,440
Circulation (Loans)	33,554	30,856
Collection (Holdings)	16,021	16,401
Reservations placed	2,639	2,347
Orange Library		
	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019
Population	41,468	42,056
Membership	23,005	24,570
Library visits	127,825	119,823
Circulation (Loans)	173,150	172,731
Collection (Holdings)	82,251	82,823
Reservations placed	3,921	3,261



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