



**2015-2016**

**Annual Report**



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Mr Anton Franze,  
Director Corporate Services

### **CABONNE COUNCIL**

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Cr Ruth Fagan (Deputy Chair  
December 2015 -June 2016)  
Mr Graham Apthorpe,  
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### **FORBES SHIRE COUNCIL**

Cr Chris Roylance  
Ms Amity Howe,  
Director Corporate Services

### **ORANGE CITY COUNCIL**

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Chair February 2015-June  
2015)  
Mr Scott Maunder, Director  
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Orange City Council

Ms Kathy Woolley,  
Director Corporate and  
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Orange City Council  
(alternative delegate)

### **MANAGER CENTRAL WEST LIBRARIES**

Ms Jan Richards

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Jasmine Vidler, Reading & Writing Coordinator

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Madonna French, Senior Library Assistant  
Vicki Connor, Library Assistant

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Michael Vella, Senior Library Assistant

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### **CANOWINDRA**

Rossanne Holmes, Branch Library Officer

### **COWRA**

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Ann Fricker, Library Assistant

### **FORBES**

Bronwyn Clark, Branch Librarian

### **MANILDRA**

Jeanette Davis, Branch Library Officer

### **MOLONG**

Margaret Lamerton, Branch Library Officer

### **ORANGE**

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Peter Douglass, Local Studies Librarian  
Julie-Anne Sykes, Librarian  
Tammy Atkinson, Library Technician  
Rossanne Holmes, Senior Library Assistant  
Michelle Rosetto, Library Assistant  
Val Nayd'onov, Library Assistant

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Elizabeth Russ, Deborah Schuler, Maryanne Smith, Jan Tonuri

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## INTRODUCTION

For Central West Libraries the year in review was one of consolidation, introduction of new initiatives and planning for the future.

Progress was made on building works for three of our libraries. At Orange City Library the final stages of preparation for the refurbishment work scheduled for the second half of 2016 were undertaken. This will provide a whole new look and feel for the Library which in essence still has its 1986 fit-out. Plans for the new Molong Library were also developed with Library staff working collaboratively with Cabonne Council. Planning also commenced for a proposed, integrated cultural facility in Blayney in partnership with Blayney Shire Council and the local community. There was also cause for celebration in marking 15 years since Cowra Library moved into Waugoola House, which was the start of a new look for Central West Libraries.

The Library was successful in its application under the Public Library Infrastructure Grants 2015/16 for a RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) Project, *RFID: facilitating enhanced services for Central West Libraries*. The grant of \$175,000 will be used towards the installation of RFID technology, self-service stations and enhanced collection management to enable staff to divert energy towards the delivery of customer focused services and programs.

The focus on family literacy continued to be central to many programs offered for young children and their carers across all branches. At Blayney regular story time sessions were reintroduced following a break necessitated by resourcing issues. The early childhood literacy program *Ten Minutes a Day* (TMAD) was officially launched on 3 September. Funded by the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation TMAD was initially offered in Orange from early 2016 with outreach to other branches planned as resourcing permits. In preparation for this staff from all branches attended the intensive training that sits behind the program.

The Forbes Town Reading Day was held during Book Week in August. The Forbes Library was a key partner in the organising and roll-out of the program and offered storytelling sessions for 270 pre-school and infants/primary children during the morning. The flexibility of the refurbished spaces became evident during this program.

Interest in local and family history is strong in all branches. Orange City Library was invited to host the 2017 NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Annual Conference through its program the Orange Family History Group. Planning commenced for this event which will be held in September of that year and is expected to attract in excess of 300 participants.

Alex and Amy enjoy 10 Minutes a Day from Rossanne Holmes

### In 2015/2016 we ...



**WERE OPEN  
FOR 9,912  
HOURS**



**HAD 225,757  
PEOPLE VISIT**



**LENT 321,196  
ITEMS TO  
29,228  
MEMBERS**



**OFFERED  
447 EVENTS  
ATTENDED BY  
9,504 PEOPLE**



**HOSTED  
36,508  
INTERNET  
SESSIONS**



**RECORDED  
87,389 VISITS  
TO OUR HOME  
PAGE**



**HAD 700  
FACEBOOK  
LIKES**

A highlight of the reporting period was the Central West Libraries inaugural Readers and Writers Festival in July. The Festival attracted 70 participants and showcased the work of national acclaimed and local writers including previous winners of the Banjo Paterson Writing Awards which are administered by the Library.

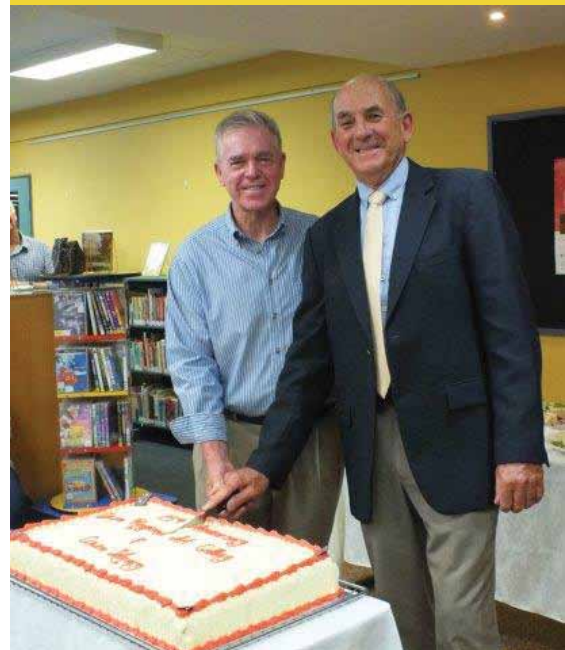
Central West Libraries continued to be an active participant in the wider library and information community. The NSW Public Libraries Association, Central West Zone meeting was held in Orange on 30 October 2015 with delegates from across the region. Guest speaker was Jacqui Kinder from the Alannah and Madeline Foundation speaking about eSmart Libraries. Central West Libraries was represented at NSW Public Libraries Conference in November 2015 by Committee Chair, Cr Janelle Culverson (Cabonne), Scott Maunder (Orange) and Manager Central West Libraries, Jan Richards.

The Library's strong presence in print, digital and social media provided a link to our communities. Most popular stories included author visits at Orange and Blayney; the anniversary of Waugoola House in Cowra; recognition of the Library's volunteers in conjunction with International Volunteers Day; use of our branches by HSC students; Children's Book Week and stories related to the Centenary of the World War I recruitment marches.

Congratulations were extended to our long service awardees at a special ceremony in December. Orange City Librarian, Sean Brady, received an Orange City Council Staff Excellence Award for Leadership at the same time.

As demonstrated in this Annual Report 2015-2016 has been a dynamic period for Central West Libraries. This has been made possible through the dedication and commitment of the highly professional staff across all service points and the ongoing support of the Central West Libraries Committee and Member Councils.

**Jan Richards**  
**Manager**  
**Central West Libraries**



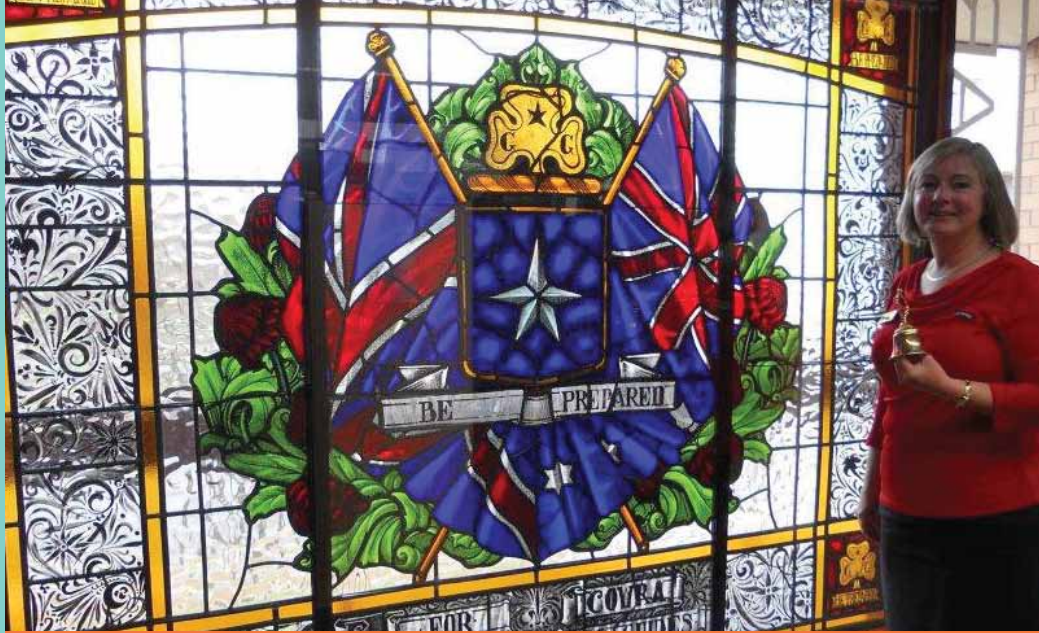
Cr Bruce Miller and Cr Bill West, Mayor, cut the cake to celebrate 15 years since Cowra Library moved into Waugoola House



Long Service and Excellence Awardees

## OUR SPACES

Provide safe,  
accessible,  
welcoming and  
connected spaces



Restored Guide Window at Cowra Library is admired by Maryanne Smith

### Provide engaging places and spaces in all our libraries reflecting the varied needs of our communities

Each of Central West Libraries seven branches is individual in nature reflecting the heritage and culture of the communities in which they are located. During the year considerable work was undertaken by Member Councils in partnership with the Library towards enriching these facilities and planning for the future.

The final stages of preparation for the **refurbishment** of **Orange** City Library were undertaken during early 2016. This included significant work on the Library's collections which will be presented in 'rooms' giving a bookshop feel to the space. The project is scheduled for late 2016 and will complement the adjacent Orange Regional Gallery and Orange Regional Museum.

Progress was made on the design of the new **Molong** Library which will be **constructed** in Bank Street. The location and integration with community facilities will provide many opportunities for the delivery of enhanced library services in the town.

**Planning** also commenced for a proposed, integrated cultural facility in **Blayney** which would include the library as the primary tenant. In developing this concept Blayney Shire Council has engaged with all major stakeholders within the Shire to maximise use of space and prospects for collaboration.

On the 6th September 2015, it was 15 years since the **Cowra** Library moved into its current premises, formerly the Waugoola Shire Council Chambers. The refurbished building was officially opened on November 18th 2000 as a Library and Art Gallery encompassing a multi-purpose meeting room. A combined **celebration** was held in the Library to mark the occasion.

OUR SPACES

A restored Girl Guide window has been re-dedicated and installed in the **Cowra** Library. The window was created for the former Guide Hall for its opening in 1946 in memory of Mrs Ada Hutchison's daughter Barbara. Ex-girl guides and family members attended along with Cowra Mayor Cr Bill West, Councillors Ray Walsh and Ruth Fagan and Cowra Council General Manager, Paul Devery. Cowra District Historical Society assisted in the installation working with local artist Ken Hutchinson.

During Heritage Week in May the Forbes Shire Council was recognised for its work co-ordinating the **Forbes** Library building upgrade with a nomination for the **Forbes Heritage Medal**. Visitors to Forbes Library continued to enjoy and comment on the refurbished space.

Our libraries continued to be used as welcoming spaces by Library members and visitors.

- For the Love of Libraries afternoon teas at Molong were a great success — one held in August 2015 and one in March 2016. These continue to grow in size and popularity and are a nice way for people to connect with the library and each other.
- The Country Women's Association held its annual conference in Cowra in May 2016. The Cowra Library became a meeting place for participants. It provided the meeting room and some ideas for initial planning, and contributed literature and flyers for the sample bags. During the conference many visitors utilised the Library's free Wi-Fi, rest rooms and books for travellers. Many visitors used the space for time out between events and to do family history research, especially in how to use the newspapers on microfilm reels and online.



'For the Love of Libraries' afternoon tea held at Molong library

## DELIVER INNOVATIVE AND ACCESSIBLE 'VIRTUAL' BRANCH AVAILABLE 24/7

Central West Libraries' **'virtual' branch** offers an increasingly diverse range of resources which are available via the web 24 hours, seven days a week. This extends the Library's reach beyond the static sites and helps deliver equity of access. In excess of two million hits were recorded on the home page during the year.

The availability of *OneClick Digital*, *Bolinda eAudiobook* and ebook downloads and *Zinio* online magazines continue to grow in popularity with Library members. A great many of our long distance commuters, farmers and holiday travellers have expressed their appreciation of the convenience, portability and ease of access of these downloadable resources.

A promotional drive in 2015 led to an increase in the use of the **YourTutor** online service. The largest user group is Year 9 and 10 students who access around 60% of the total tutorial time. The service is available for Library members from Sunday to Friday from 3pm to 10pm. Subjects include Maths, English, Science, Assignment and Project Research as well as Study Skills. In 2015/16 there were 597 tutorial sessions with 12,911 minutes used which is a 54% increase in tutorial sessions and a 106% increase in minutes used over the previous year.

The Library used its **social media presence** (blog posts, Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest) to deliver key messages and to engage with our communities of interest.



A promotional drive led to an increase in YourTutor use



Blayney Library held a pop-up library at Blayney Centrepoint Sport and Leisure Centre during the summer holidays and proved popular with young people





## EXPLORE MODELS FOR OUTREACH SERVICES

For many years, the term 'library without walls' has been used to describe the range of outreach services that public libraries provide. This encompasses traditional activities such as home library and visits to schools together with more innovative approaches.

- In February 2016, the **Child Care Centres initiative** began with a pilot program involving the Courallie Park Child Development Centre in **Orange**. The centre will act as a branch of Central West Libraries and have access to the Library Management System to facilitate circulation of items.

The initiative was developed to provide resources for pre-school aged children, their families and carers who may find it difficult to visit the Library in person. Early Childhood teachers and support staff at the centres have used these resources to promote early literacy and encourage children to borrow books to take home. This complements the collections already held by the centres and expand the range of titles available.

As the children are usually enrolled for a term or longer, it is envisioned that they will become returning or repeat borrowers of high quality resources to help prepare them for lifelong reading experiences. This builds on the Library's focus on family literacy as a key program area. The Federal Government's *Early Development Census* has identified of pre-schoolers soon to start school, one in five of them may be 'developmentally vulnerable'. A review of this data for CWL member councils in the majority of cases shows this factor to be higher than the national average.

It is planned to use the experience with Courallie Park to expand the project to other locations.

- In **Manildra** the Branch Library Officer made a visit to the pre-school with books and promotional material including membership forms for interested parents and carers.
- The concept of the **'Pop Up'** is a worldwide trend infiltrating all kinds of ventures and social movements. Pop Up libraries promote literacy beyond the four walls of the physical building and are an opportunity to remind and inform the community about the library and its services.

In a first for Central West Libraries **Blayney** Library held a pop-up library at Blayney Centrepoint Sport and Leisure Centre during the summer holidays. The Pop-Up library ran for 2 hours each Thursday for a period of 4 weeks and provided a selection of books, magazines and DVDs available for loan, with the ability to join new members and lend items on the spot as well as providing information on what else could be found and accessed through the library website.

The pop up library at Blayney was well received and proved popular with young people.

## OUR COLLECTIONS

Optimal and equitable access to all the Library's collections both physical and electronic



Cr Janelle Culverson (Cabonne) Hayley Nicholls (Beyond Blue Ambassador) Jan Richards (CWL) and Cr Ron Gander (Orange) at the launch of Books on Prescription

### Provide relevant and responsive collections

During the year considerable work was undertaken on the collection to maintain its currency and appeal to the community. Much of this was centred on Orange City Library's collections in preparation for the planned refurbishment. The successful Library Infrastructure grant application for RFID will provide for greater monitoring and control of stock.

New collections were also incorporated into the Library's inventory reflecting new services, partnerships and community demand.

- As part of the **Ten Minutes a Day** program the Library received a support collection comprising 281 books, compact discs and DVDs which validates the modules in the early childhood reading program. This collection was funded through a Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation grant.
- The **DrumCircles** collection, which is a partnership between Orange City Library and Carewest consists of 10 individual drums and an assortment of percussion instruments. These are available for loan to accredited groups which have completed training as a drum circles facilitator. The whole or part of the collection may be booked in advance and has proved to be popular
- The **Books on Prescription** initiative was launched in Orange as part of Australian Library and Information week in May. It has been funded by a grant from the Library Council of New South Wales and is being administered by Central West Libraries on behalf of the Central West Zone. It is an Australian pilot.

The project was developed by the Library in partnership with the University of Newcastle – Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health and will eventually be rolled out to all public libraries across Central and Far Western NSW.

The aim of the project is to provide resources which deliver reliable information regarding mental illness promote wellbeing and good mental health and help to build resilience.

OUR COLLECTIONS

## EQUIP THE COMMUNITY WITH THE SKILLS TO MAXIMISE OUR RESOURCES

As more of the Library's collections are available online there is increased demand for training to empower members and staff:

- **Library on the GO** training sessions at **Orange** were held for seniors wishing to learn technology skills for their mobile devices. A variety of subjects were covered including Internet and connectivity, security online, Windows 8, android technology and email.

Training was also offered for some of the Library's more specialised collections including **genealogy**:

- A workshop on how to begin tracing your family tree was held in **Orange** during September. The session included great research tips, ideas on where to look and websites to visit to make family research easier. The workshop was specifically designed for beginners and was well attended.
- In April **Orange** City Library hosted with a seminar on how to access employment records. Presented by well know genealogist Laurence Turtle the program, *Earning a Crust*, elicited many questions.

Library staff work closely with **schools and educational institutions** across the region and encourage visits to our libraries where students are introduced to the services and resources available to them.

- **Blayney** Pre-school conducted two walking excursions to the library during September. Each visit saw 25 children, teachers and volunteer parents attending the library. The children enjoyed afternoon tea on the library lawn followed by a tour of the library and had a story read to them by library staff. During Children's Book Week. In August **Canowindra** Pre-school also visited the library for an excursion.
- **Cowra** Library marked Indigenous Literacy Day in September by hosting a visit from pre-schoolers at Yalbillinga Boori Day Care Centre. They took great delight in browsing all the books in the pre-school section before their teacher read stories to them. The procedures of what to do in the Library were shown to them and then they set up a bulk loan of books to take back to pre-school.
- Year 3/4 from **Molong** Central School visited the library in April for a local history excursion. Armed with a series of questions the budding historians were keen to find out the history of the Library building.
- In June 26 students, staff and accompanying family from Bedgerebong Primary School visited the **Forbes** Library to escape the cold, relax and take a breather before heading over to the Town Hall to participate in the annual Forbes Eisteddfod. The children were given a tour of the library's facilities and enjoyed their time becoming familiar with the library's resources.

## **CURATE AND CREATE COLLECTIONS AND CONTENT THAT RECORD THE STORIES AND HERITAGE OF OUR REGION**

The Library's unique **local studies and family history** collections are heavily used by locals and visitors alike. Increasingly there is a need to make these available online to enable ease of use by researchers regardless of their location. Library staff and volunteers work closely with the community and professional historians to discover and tell the stories of our region.

- The **Centenary of World War I in Orange** online initiative continued to expand with 1,877 service personnel from Orange and surrounding districts recorded on the database. Research on these individuals is progressively being undertaken with an emphasis on those 231 individuals who appear on the Honour Roll (killed in action, died of wounds or died of disease). The story of each individual has been constructed using official records, newspapers and personal papers.

A key objective of the project is to engage with the community in collecting and telling stories of the men and women from the district and the impact of the First World War on their lives.

The Library has been contacted by individuals from around the world who have come forward with letters, diaries, photographs, objects and anecdotes. This has enriched the content available on the Blog and Wiki and given the official records 'life'.

Information has also been used as the basis for temporary exhibitions in a number of venues and was also used to inform the 2015 Coe-ee March re-enactment which commemorated 100 years since the original Coe-ee Recruitment March travelled from Gilgandra to Sydney in October and November 1915, and the 263 men who answered the call of 'Coe-ee! Come and join us'.

The Blog had received 73,000 hits to June 2016 with an average of 150 visits per day. The majority of visitors were from Australia, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa, Ireland, France, Belgium, Netherlands and Germany. Using feedback we know that the majority of users are students and family historians.



- The **Blayney** Shire Local and Family History Group Inc continued to hold its monthly meeting at the library. This group is also working on a First World War commemorative project.
- In March the **Orange Family History Group** volunteers received Council recognition for their incredible milestone of 100,000 entries from the local newspapers births, deaths and marriages listings, funeral, probate, in memoriam notices and obituaries. Since 2009 the indexing team has been using hardcopy and microfilm editions of the *Central Western Daily* to create an invaluable resource for family history researchers.

The planned closure of the Electrolux factory in **Orange** generated several initiatives during the year. The factory had previously been known as Email and Emmco.

- Fridges were turned into artworks and displayed in Orange City Library during September. Professional artists painted their works on fridge doors acknowledging the legacy of the Electrolux factory. The doors included works by Sydney artists Peter Griffen, Ian Chapman and Denis Clarke as well as Lesley Vogel, Gabrielle Jones from the Blue Mountains and Central West artists Ted Lewis, Loretta Blake and Eris Fleming.
- During April Orange hosted a photographic display of the factory from the 1950s and 60s showing production, management, unions, sporting and social occasions organised by the Orange & District Historical Society. The display was also an opportunity to collect extra information about the people in the photographs from the community.

The Library's collection of oral history recordings relating to the history of the factory was also digitised during the year making it more accessible. These were recorded and transcribed in 1996 as part of the *Weapons to Whitegoods* project.



Participants in the Coo-ee March Re-enactment took time out to visit Orange City Library

## OUR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Deliver programs and activities that build social inclusion and promote a sense of belonging

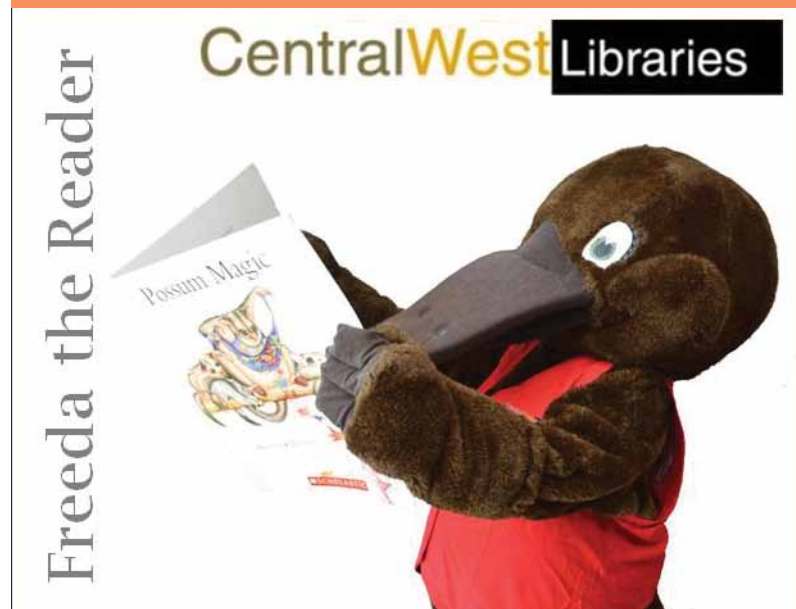
### Focus on family literacy as a key program area across the CWL footprint

The Library's programs for children and young people have a high profile in the community and are key to ensuring the next generation is equipped with the skills to learn and engage. Program frequency differs from branch to branch and is sometimes offered in partnership with other agencies. The one constant is that these programs are fun for children, their carers and Library staff.

### Freeda the Reader Library Cards

From early 2016 children in the pre-schooler and junior membership categories were able to obtain a special membership card which features the library mascot, 'Freeda the Reader'. This branded card was created to emphasise the role of reading and differentiates membership for this age group.

The card shows the Library's mascot, Freeda the Reader, who has featured in a number of successful promotions and activities and is being developed as an identity associated with services for children offered by the Library.



PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

In September **Ten Minutes a Day** an early childhood pre-literacy program supported by a grant from the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation and auspiced by the Smith Family was officially launched in **Orange**. *Ten Minutes a Day* is offered through a series of workshops that parents and carers share with their child of 0-2 to develop skills to help enhance language development, a child's imagination, and make reading to children part of a family's everyday routine. Staff from all CWL service points were included in the comprehensive training offered as part of the rollout.

**Storytime** continues to be the cornerstone of family literacy programs and is offered at all branches as part of regular programming and to mark special events and visits.

- There was an island theme in **Cowra** during the Festival of Understanding (March) in honour of the guest nation Tonga with featured book, *Our Island* by the children of Gununa, with Alison Lester and Elizabeth Honey.
- Children from **Blayney** Early Learners childcare centre visited the library in June to join in with storytime session, listening to some stories and joining in with craft activities.
- At **Molong** storytime is a collaborative venture between the Library and Cabonne Family Day Care.

The annual **National Simultaneous Storytime** was marked at **Orange, Cowra, Molong** and **Forbes** libraries when children and carers shared *I Got This Hat* by Kate and Jol Temple and illustrated by Jon Foye on Wednesday 25 May at 11am.

- At **Molong** the local pre-schoolers attended with 33 children enjoying the story.
- At **Cowra** Library pirate hats which were made and worn home.
- The **Forbes** library staff together with ten enthusiastic members took part in a dress up 'Hats and Stories'.
- At **Manildra** the Branch Library Officer visited the pre-school to deliver some fun activities to promote National Simultaneous Storytime.

Another national reading event in August, **The Reading Hour** is celebrated across the country in conjunction with Children's Book Week. At **Orange** City Library the lights went out and young readers used newly created torch/lanterns to read to each other aloud in cubby houses made from blankets and furniture. It was a unique shared reading time event and had everyone feeling they were in the Library long after the doors had closed. This was in keeping with the Book Week theme *Shining A Light on Books*.



Angus and Jessica enjoy storytime at Blayney with Ruth Bingham



Forbes children dress up as part of the annual Reading Down Town Day, seen here with Freeda the Reader

The annual **Forbes** community Birth to Kinder **Reading Down Town Day** also took place during August as part of Book Week. Schools and pre-schools participated with the support of family and friends, community groups and local businesses to raise the awareness of the importance of early childhood literacy. Children dressed as their favourite storybook characters spent the morning in the Forbes CBD where members of the local business community showed their support by hosting the children and their parents and teachers for read aloud sessions in their shops and businesses. Central West Libraries reading ambassador, Freeda the Reader, and CWL library staff were pleased to host over three hundred children and their families throughout the morning. The children were greeted by Freeda and regaled with readings from entertaining read aloud storybooks such as *The Wrong Book* by Nick Bland.

In September award winning local illustrator **Freya Blackwood** spoke about her books, illustrations and overseas publications at **Orange** in a follow up to Children's Book Week. She also displayed her rough and finished drawings including artwork from the 2014 Children's Book Council of the Year Early Childhood Honour Book titled *Banjo and Ruby Red*.

The PCYC and pre-schools are among groups who visit the **Cowra** Library regularly as part of their core literacy programs. During school holidays the PCYC brings vacation care groups to the Library where children have the opportunity just to sit quietly and read or learn about their library services. Many return to sign up for membership and borrow items from the collection.





## FACILITATE, HOST AND CONDUCT ENRICHING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES WHICH MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

December heralds the start of **Summer Reading Club**, a national program for school age children This is offered at all CWL branches The theme for 2015-2016 was *Lost Worlds*. Underwater worlds, alternate universes, epic adventures, mythical creatures and so much more awaited discovery in this year's program.

- Summer Reading Club participants had fun with their own “dig” discovering lost worlds and ancient relics at **Orange** in January. They also enjoyed a talk from Warren Keedle, Age of Fishes Museum, Canowindra.
- At **Molong** Club members were involved in a range of activities.
- **Forbes** Library registered 42 young people to the Summer Reading program in January. The participants greatly enjoyed the Lost Worlds adventure theme and working through the fun activities on the Summer Reading Club website.

**School Holidays** provide an opportunity for targeted programs which showcase the Library's resources and encourage discovery.

- During the September school holidays **Orange** City Library hosted a wide range of successful events including an Anime Film Festival, a Global Cardboard Challenge, Board Games at the Library, and Theatresports.
- School holiday time is often used by a number of **Manildra's** young out of town students to make a welcome visit to the library.
- **Cowra** Library used school holidays to join the 'maker movement' with children invited to create, invent and learn. The 'makerspace' is established during school holiday periods and children can collaborate, create, and make things using whatever resources are available. Invited guests shared their knowledge and expertise ranging from creating a crocheted granny square to making 3D constructions with the aid of an iPad.

Orange City Library offered a Comic Book Workshop program as part of the **Orange Youth Arts Festival – Aesthetica** in September 2015. A group of young people from diverse backgrounds attended a workshop to learn about self-esteem and identity through writing and sharing their own stories through the development of comic books. In collaboration with the facilitators they then created a film which was shown as part of the festival.



Festival organiser Vince Lovecchio at the Orange Youth Arts Festival

Visiting writers are inspiring to both **readers and writers** alike and during the past 12 months the Library has attracted a wide range of guest speakers with many visits the result of strong relationships with bookstores, publishers and authors. Work by local writers is also featured where possible in the annual program of events with a focus on the launch of publications by local writers or with a local theme.

- Author Brenda Inglis-Powell gave an entertaining talk at **Forbes** in July about her family's life in the region. At the conclusion members of the Forbes Family History Group and some long-time Forbes residents were able to provide Brenda with helpful local information to further her family history research.
- More than 120 guests helped education consultant and former Councillor, Orange High Principal and Director of Schools, Pam Ryan, launch her first book *Leadership in Education Learning from Experience* at **Orange** on Wednesday 29 July. Mayor John Davis spoke of Pam's leadership experience, educational knowledge and sporting skills when he officially launched the book.
- A large number of guests discovered how judges compare so many books and how they agree on a winner and gained an insight into the judging process for Australia's most prestigious literary prize, the Miles Franklin Award when member of the judging panel Mitchell Librarian Richard Neville visited **Orange** as special guest in September.
- One of the world's leading creators of picture books, Graeme Base, spoke to a large audience of 70 people at **Orange** in October. During the day he had presented to 240 students in school sessions. His alphabet book *Animalia*, received international acclaim when it was first published in 1986, and achieved classic status with worldwide sales approaching three million copies.
- *This is Where We Live* covers a diverse range of people living in the Central West. It was written by Orange journalist Denis Gregory with photos taken by local photographer Alf Manciangli. The highly successful and well attended book launch was held in November at **Orange**.
- Two poetry workshops with poet, novelist and academic Berndt Sellheim were held at **Cowra** Library in February. The free 90 minute poetry writing workshops were designed to map the appearing and disappearing worlds around participants. The project was supported by The Red Room Company and Charles Sturt University.



Judy Johnson at the Readers and Writers Festival



## Readers and Writers Festival

Central West Libraries hosted the inaugural Reader and Writers Festival at the Hotel Canobolas in Orange on Saturday 18 July 2015.

A capacity audience of 60 attended for a day of stimulating discussion as they explored *Reimagining History: Words and Meaning*, a look at how we can bring the past to life through stories. The Library welcomed guest speakers; celebrity wordsmith David Astle, poet and author Judy Johnson, author and political reporter Latika Bourke, Better Reading Director Cheryl Akle and local authors Kim Kelly, Michael Caulfield and Lis Edwards.

The event was also an opportunity to invite previous winners of the Banjo Paterson Writing Awards (Astle and Johnson) who have become established writers back to Orange to join local authors in individual and panel presentations on the theme. Wordsmith David Astle, an early BPWA winner, delivered an entertaining and well attended crossword workshop as a taster to the Festival main event.

Feedback from participants was universally positive and included comments such as 'fantastic day', 'loved the quality of the speakers' and 'informative and entertaining'.

The Readers and Writers Festival was supported by the NSW Government through Arts NSW.

- During February **Orange** also hosted local author Kim Kelly in conversation with Orange City Librarian Sean Brady as they toasted her latest book, *Wild Chicory*, and discussed how living in the Central West inspires her work.
- In March the **Cowra** Family History Group launched *Through the Lens: a collection of local Cowra photographs through the years*, some from the well-known Pardey collection. The Family History Group was assisted by Library staff with newspapers, copying and use of the equipment and instruction in TROVE.
- Molong author Lina Stunden celebrated the launch of her book *Lord Kitchener's One Hundred World War I Surgeons* in April at **Orange**. Kitchener's One Hundred were young surgeons, mostly Australians fresh out of university, who answered the call from the British War Office in early 1915.

Pageeturners, the Library's **book discussion** group met monthly throughout the year at **Orange**. Independent book groups are also supported by **Blayney**, **Cowra** and **Canowindra** libraries.

### EXPLORE AND DEVELOP COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROGRAM AND ACTIVITY DELIVERY

All seven CWL branches work closely with their communities in developing programs, offering outreach services and providing spaces for displays and activities. During 2015-2016 this collaborative approach greatly extended the reach of the Library and its partners.

- **Forbes** Library supported the biennial Forbes Kalari-Lachlan River Festival in October as an information point and display venue. At the Festival's conclusion the library hosted a colourful display featuring wishing cards created in community workshops as part of the event.
- **Canowindra** continued its eye-catching window displays with a Balloon Challenge theme in April and Aussie hero quilts in October and promoted library services by providing books for travellers known as *Travellers' Tales* in two local cafés.
- A new exhibition was mounted at **Cowra** by the Lachlan Valley Learning Community during Education Week. This community group of public schools in Canowindra and Cowra exhibited art work and sculpture created by children from public schools in the local area. The participants had attended centralised workshops with activities that also included drama and dance performances.
- Waste2Art, a community art exhibition and competition showcasing imaginative works made from reused and recyclable waste materials was on display at **Orange** Library during June featuring the theme "year of used tyres".



Orange Purlers meet every Thursday to contribute to the Wrap With Love charity








- **Blayney**, and **Canowindra** libraries both participated in town wide Christmas in July promotions in partnership with the local business communities.
- In June the adjacent Craft Cottage and **Manildra** Library had coinciding displays to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday.

Many of the programs offered by CWL are done so in partnership with our valued team of volunteers, who act as couriers for our home library service, assist with family history research and help deliver children's programs. An afternoon morning tea to thank volunteers was held in December at **Orange** while Cowra Shire Council held a morning tea for Cowra community volunteers during National Volunteers week in May.

Volunteer knitters, the **Orange Purlers** meet regularly in Orange City Library on Thursday mornings to contribute to the charity Wrap with Love, The Purlers also spent time sewing labels onto knitted rugs supplied by other knitting groups from Molong, Parkes, Eugowra, Grenfell, Oberon and Condobolin. ABC Radio breakfast presenter Brooke Daniels collected all the knitted squares and rugs during her trips around the Central West. In December the group enjoyed a morning tea to mark the end of a busy year. They produced 455 rugs for the Wrap With Love charity for people in need.



## STATISTICAL PROFILE

Central West Libraries		2014-2015	2015-2016
	Population — <i>ABS Census of Population and Housing Usual Residence 2011</i>	79,179	79,179
	Membership	33,085	29,228
	Library visits	224,121	225,757
	Activities, events & programs — number	431	447
	Activities, events & programs — attendance	10,364	9,504
	Circulation (Loans including renewals)	346,670	321,196
	Renewals via Web OPAC	6,498	6,059
	Reservations Placed (All)	19,749	18,945
	Reservations placed via Web OPAC	6,468	6,174
	Collection (Holdings)	191,826	188,419
	Materials Purchased (titles)	4,798	6,238
	Average Price	\$51.22	\$40.33
	Public internet use (including wireless sessions)	38,003	36,508
	Number of hits on the CWL home page	2,316,071	2,199,073
	Number of visits to the CWL home page	93,936	87,389
	Number of page views on the CWL home page	402,800	320,005

**Note 1:** CWL totals include statistics from the Administration Branch and digital collections which are not counted elsewhere.

**Note 2:** Lapsed and inactive memberships totalling 6,551 were deleted from the CWL database. 2,609 joined; 3,764 renewed their memberships.

**Note 3:** CWL Collection (Holdings) includes eAudiobooks and eBooks of which 36,152 are from the Gutenberg Project Collection.

<b>Blayney Library</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>
Population	6,985	6,985
Membership	1,478	1,294
Library visits	5,044	4,984
Circulation (Loans)	10,699	9,401
Collection (Holdings)	9,908	10,199
Reservations Placed	440	214

<b>Cabonne Libraries</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>
<b>Cabonne Totals</b>		
Population	12,821	12,821
Membership	1,898	1,674
Library visits	12,064	16,795
Circulation (Loans)	24,422	22,593
Collection (Holdings)	16,347	16,509
Reservations Placed	2,224	2,672

<b>Canowindra Library</b>		
Membership	849	747
Library Visits	2,814	6,253
Circulation (Loans)	7,091	7,228
Collections (Holdings)	6,033	6,040
Reservations Placed	808	810

<b>Manildra Library</b>		
Membership	159	131
Library Visits	1,519	1,538
Circulation (Loans)	2,076	2,040
Collection (Holdings)	2,977	3,003
Reservations Placed	215	198

<b>Molong Library</b>		
Membership	890	796
Library Visits	7,731	9,004
Circulation (Loans)	15,255	13,325
Collection (Holdings)	7,337	7,016
Reservations Placed	1,201	1,664

**Note:** There is a significant increase in the number of Library visits especially in the Canowindra branch and the Cabonne total. It is believed that there may have been some discrepancy in the figures collected for Canowindra during 2014-2015.

<b>Cowra Library</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>
Population	12,147	12,147
Membership	4,917	4,229
Library visits	45,848	42,478
Circulation (Loans)	45,953	38,458
Collection (Holdings)	23,041	23,233
Reservations Placed	2,636	1,682

<b>Forbes Library</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>
Population	9,170	9,170
Membership	2,796	2,469
Library visits	22,277	25,045
Circulation (Loans)	35,768	39,535
Collection (Holdings)	15,683	15,928
Reservations Placed	3,301	3,729

**Note:** Forbes Library closed for refurbishment from April 13-May 30 2015

<b>Orange Library</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>
Population	38,056	38,056
Membership	21,926	19,507
Library visits	149,688	140,475
Circulation (Loans)	213,283	201,639
Collection (Holdings)	87,528	83,262
Reservations Placed	3,598	3,566

