

**CENTRAL**

**WEST**

**LIBRARIES**

**2019-20**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**Central West Libraries**

**P** 6393 8120

**W** [cwl.nsw.gov.au](http://cwl.nsw.gov.au)

**E** [library@cwl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:library@cwl.nsw.gov.au)

**Central West Libraries 2019/20 Annual Report**

Designed and printed in-house by Orange City Council

# Contents

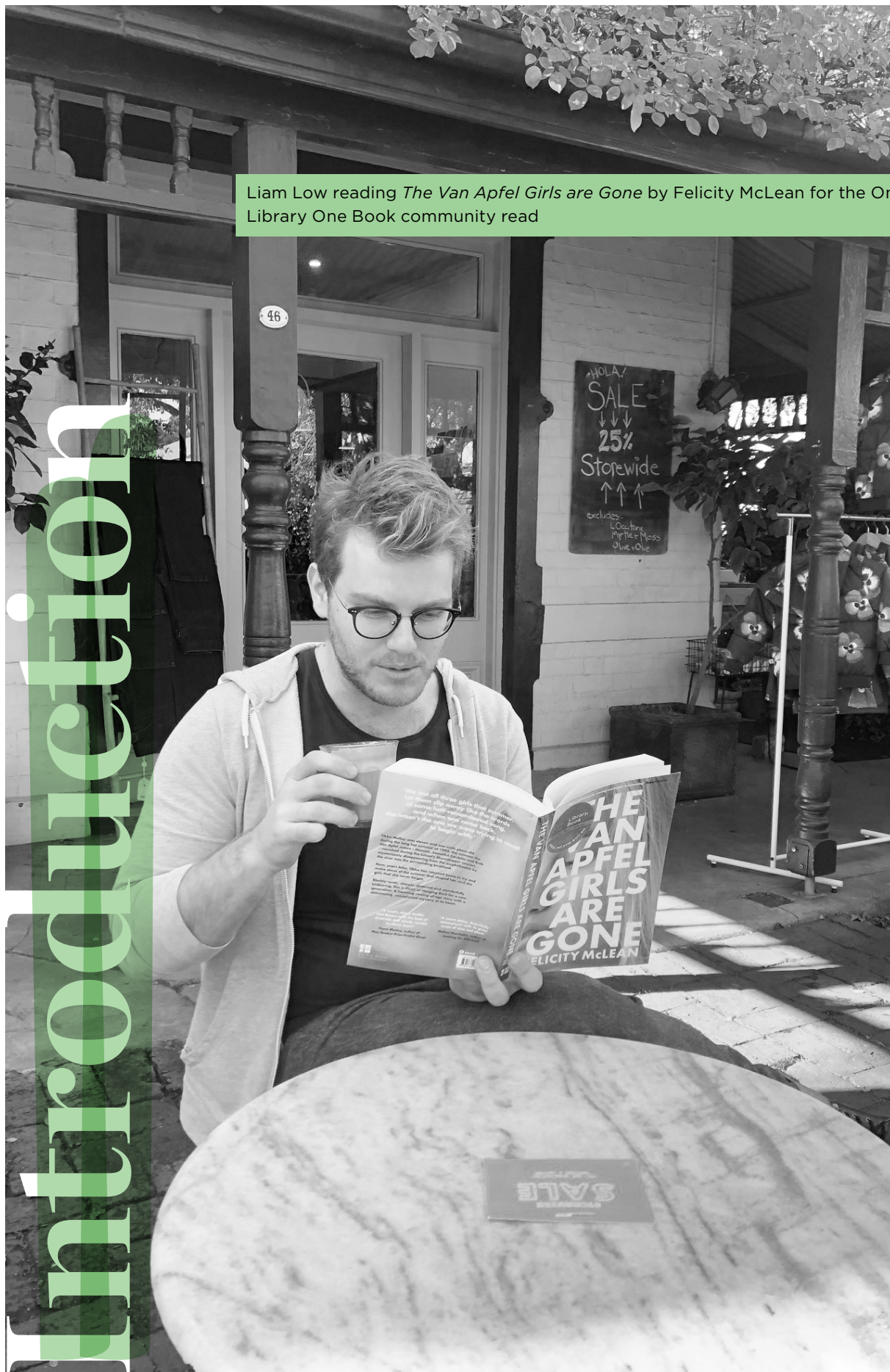
---

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>4</b>
Members of staff	7
<b>OUR SPACES</b>	<b>8</b>
Provide safe, accessible, welcoming and connected spaces	9
Deliver an innovative and accessible 'virtual' branch available 24/7	10
Explore models for outreach services	10
<b>COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>12</b>
Provide relevant and responsive collections	13
Equip the community with the skills to maximise our resources	14
Curate and create collections and content that record the stories and heritage of our region	15
<b>PROGRAMS &amp; ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>16</b>
Focus on family literacy as a key program area across the Central West Libraries footprint	17
Facilitate, host and conduct enriching programs and activities which meet the needs of the community	18
Explore and develop collaborative opportunities for service and program delivery	22
Statistical profile	24

---

# Introduction

Liam Low reading *The Van Apfel Girls are Gone* by Felicity McLean for the One Library One Book community read



# Introduction

The year 2019 to 2020 strengthened Central West Libraries' (CWL) reputation for innovation, collaboration and flexibility though possibly not always in the manner in which we had anticipated.

The year began with the highly successful One Library, One Book campaign in which Felicity McLean's book, *The Van Apfel Girls Are Gone*, was simultaneously read and discussed across the CWL footprint. This was complemented by a week-long visit by the author which gave the community the chance to meet her and explore the concepts behind this suspenseful novel. The initiative was widely promoted and was met with great interest. It generated considerable media coverage including an interview on ABC Radio's State-wide Drive program.

The Library's rich and diverse collections and programs were successfully delivered to the community and planning for 2020 program included several new offers. A planned feature was the CWL wide tour by Stig Wemyss, the most loved narrator of eAudio books for children and young adults, as part of a membership drive.

The declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic forced a rethinking of the way in which services were delivered. Staff reacted quickly, taking advantage of the flexibility of our spaces to create a safe environment and moving many of our services to the online environment. The increased focus on 'e-collections' over the past few years was welcomed by our members who were able to easily access a range of materials from their home and additional funding was directed towards this area of need.

Recognising the important role that the Library has within the community, all of our branches were closed for the minimum amount of time allowed by NSW Health. We closed at 7pm on 25 March and re-opened at 10am on 1 June 2020 with all the necessary protocols in place.

As described in this report, during the closure staff created online content for our members and used the opportunity to undertake many collection development tasks. They also participated in a range of online professional development opportunities to build and enhance the existing skills base.

During June 2020 the Australian Library and Information Association conducted a survey to ask the community what they had missed most about their library during shutdown. Some of the responses from our members are scattered throughout this report. The response that was repeated again and again was 'helpful and friendly staff' and in this challenging year they have truly demonstrated their dedication and professionalism. To them I say 'thank you'.

Jan Richards AM

**Manager Central West Libraries**



Central West Libraries Manager Jan Richards welcomes library members when Orange City Library reopened to the community.

# Members of staff

## ADMINISTRATION

Jan Richards AM, Manager Central West Libraries  
Therese Kostitch, 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  
Julie-Anne Sykes, Local Studies Librarian  
Alexandra Gibb, Librarian  
Tam Wilson, Library Technician  
Rossanne Holmes, Senior Library Assistant  
Michelle White, Library Assistant  
Fiona Hawke, Library Assistant

## HERITAGE UNIT

Alison Russell, Manager Community Museums  
and Heritage  
Trudi Mayfield, Heritage Researcher

## CASUAL AND RELIEF STAFF

Lynne Arnott, Sharon Barber, Linda Braithwaite,  
Robert Cleary, Sharon Denyer, Peter Douglass,  
Roslyn Dukes, Julie Elliott, Monica Engel,  
Emma Flemming, Kathy Garland,  
Frances Guinness, Lyn Gough, Margaret Henry,  
Hanne Hoelass, Robyn Isbester, Candice Iyer,  
Jennifer Jones, Cecilia Lawler, Sumara Meers,  
Roxanne McCormack, Elizabeth Russ, Rebekah  
Salmon, Maryanne Smith, Jan Tonuri

## RESPONDING TO COVID

“I missed the books. All the books.  
The lovely and friendly staff are an  
added bonus!”

# Our spaces

Molong Branch Library Officer Margaret Lamerton is engaged in planning the new Molong Community Centre.



# Provide safe, accessible, welcoming and connected spaces

The flexibility of the Library's spaces was demonstrated with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic with flexible shelving units and self-service check out allowing the library to respond to social distancing and hygiene requirements, at the same time allowing our members access to the collections.

As a result of the extensive refurbishment of **Blayney** Library in early 2019 increased visitation was experienced in the reporting year with numbers increasing by 61% despite the eight-week COVID-19 closure. Blayney's new standardised and expanded opening hours also met with community approval. Central West Libraries continued to work with Blayney Shire Council to develop plans for the cultural infrastructure within the Local Government Area.

The long-planned refurbishment of the Library's administrative area on the first floor of the **Orange** City Library building was undertaken during April to May. This involved replacement of carpet and shelving; painting; and re-organisation. Some components were part of the Library's original 1986 fit out. This resulted in a more practical and flexible workspace. One of the unexpected benefits of the COVID shutdown was the ability to utilise the Orange City Library for storage and staff accommodation during this time instead of moving off-site as had been originally planned. **Canowindra** Library continued its tradition of creative window displays with Christmas, Borrowbox, visiting author Kelly Rimmer and National Simultaneous Storytime featuring in the prominent main street window during the past 12 months.

“In February David Tooby from King and Campbell facilitated a focus group for the next stage of the new **Molong** Library Building. It was held in Cabonne Council's chambers with great representation from many groups.

The new facility will be called *The Molong Community Centre* and will include the Library, meeting rooms, a gallery space and a community hall. The aim of the workshop was to give councillors, stakeholders, council staff and community members input into the design ideas and participate in small, group design brainstorming sessions to decide which plans were the most feasible and approved.

These ideas were all collated and summarised to enable the next stage of planning to be implemented.”

**-Margaret Lamerton, Molong Branch Library Officer**

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

---

## RESPONDING TO COVID

The declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the change in the way services were delivered from March 2020 highlighted CWL's rich suite of online resources and the importance of the Library's 'virtual' branch. Additional programs including online Storytime and book discussions were developed and made available through the website.

The Library also simplified the membership process so that the community could join online and immediately access e-content.

Traffic on the Library's already active social media accounts was increased to maintain contact with members and new enterprises such as a weekly online jigsaw highlighting the heritage collections proved popular.

---

# Explore models for outreach services

Home Library services were suspended during March and April due to COVID-19 restrictions. Visits resumed in May with Library staff undertaking deliveries, rather than using volunteers. During lockdown staff fielded many enquiries from the community about utilising the service.

Children met Library mascot, Freeda the Reader, and had their photograph taken with her at the 10th Annual *Canowindra Community Reading Day* in August. More than 150 students from Cabonne Blayney Family Day Care, Canowindra Pre-School, Cudal Community Children's Centre, St Edward's Primary School, **Canowindra** High School and Canowindra Public School took part in the reading activities at St Edwards School.

A highlight of the day was a visit from children's book illustrator Nathaniel Eckstrom. The children also loved meeting Captain Barnacles who had a case of the Missing Letter Dilemma and they all enjoyed a Storytime reading with Canowindra Branch Library Officer Rossanne Holmes.

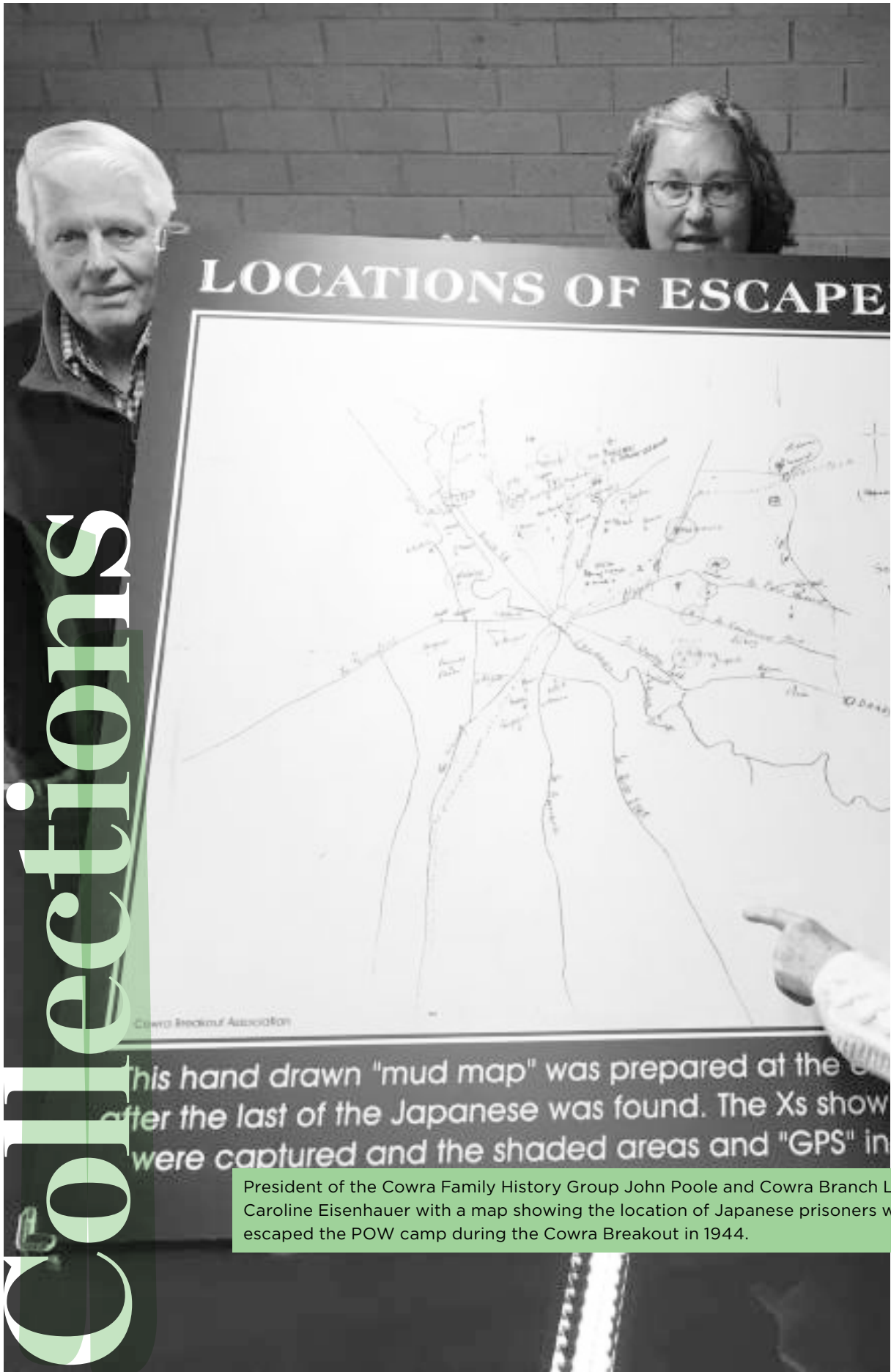
Freeda was also the centre of attention at the *Forbes Reading Down Town Day* in August. It is estimated 400 visitors called into the Library throughout the day. This included local school children, pre-schoolers and their families visiting for Storytime.

The **Blayney** Branch Library Officer was invited by the Blayney Rotary Club to be the judge of the annual Blayney Pumpkin Carving Competition at Blayney Farmers Markets in October.



The Home Library Service, coordinated by Tam Wilson, was one of the most anticipated services to be offered post COVID-19.

# Collections



This hand drawn "mud map" was prepared at the camp after the last of the Japanese was found. The Xs show where prisoners were captured and the shaded areas and "GPS" in

President of the Cowra Family History Group John Poole and Cowra Branch Librarian Caroline Eisenhauer with a map showing the location of Japanese prisoners who escaped the POW camp during the Cowra Breakout in 1944.

# Provide relevant and responsive collections

---

## RESPONDING TO COVID

Additional 'e' content was purchased to supplement existing collections and a number of new services were added including Indyreads a statewide collection of independent Australian and international titles, classic literature and modern award-winning titles in eBook and eAudio format; and Beamafilm - a film streaming service with a focus on Australian content.

The NSW Public Libraries Association provided all Councils with funding to purchase online products and a number of content providers provided free or low-cost access to data sets during the closure period. This widely promoted initiative ensured that CWL members had a range of enhanced formats and genres from which to choose.

---

“During the closure I have been able to access e-books and audio books. Would have been seriously adrift without this service. So, so glad the library is back.”

# Equip the community with the skills to maximise our resources

Well attended *Be Connected* computer lessons were held between July to March at all branches to help older people become familiar with new technology and to become skilled in the use of their devices including mobile phones and tablets.

A series of *Planning Ahead Seminars* were held at **Blayney, Canowindra, Cowra, Manildra, Molong** and **Orange** City Libraries with Sue Field, an Adjunct Associate Professor from Charles Sturt University during August. A Legal Aid lawyer was also in attendance to provide information on legal documents. The sessions provided information and tips on how to plan for the future including wills, power of attorney, funerals and the difference between a variety of legal documents and directives that could be put in place. These seminars supported the Library's Find Legal Answers collection.

Central West Libraries partnered with **Orange** and District Historical Society to bring NSW State Archives guest speaker Wendy Gallagher to Orange in July 2019. Ms Gallagher facilitated a workshop in July to teach participants about *Captured: Portraits of Crime: 1870 – 1930* exhibition at the Library and how to research family history when a criminal is involved. The talk was well attended with a total of 60 guests.

An interactive workshop on family history, local history, memory and material culture with Macquarie University Associate Professor Tanya Evans and local author Elisabeth Edwards was held in August as part of the *Orange Readers and Writers Festival*. This activity was part of an ongoing partnership with the History Council of NSW.

In February Marilyn Woodward from Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra (HAGSOC) presented an interesting workshop on DNA at **Orange** City Library. Ms Woodward is the co-ordinator of the Canberra HAGSOC DNA interest group and provided many tips and advice for those doing family history research.

The Royal Historical Society (RAHS) hosted a seminar, *Looking to the Future and Discovering the Past* with Central West Libraries in March. Participants learnt about historical records relating to land titles, discovering the secrets cemeteries can reveal, as well as how to use the National Library of Australia's Trove database.

**Forbes** Library hosted a lecture by Rob Willis and Olya Willis in March about preserving and recording family histories, *Memories of People and Place – Learn to record Your Life Story*. An entertaining and informative talk provided authoritative advice, practical hints and tips about recording written, oral histories and preserving personal/family historical ephemera. Rob Willis is a Forbes local, a musician, folklorist and oral historian with the National Library of Australia. Olya Willis is a fellow historian, folk musician and photographer.

Through its extensive networks, CWL was able to present these events with experienced and entertaining presenters and encourage lifelong learning in our communities.

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

Central West Libraries adopted an increased focus on Oral History during the year, working in partnership with **Orange** City Council's Community Museums and Heritage Program which includes the Orange/Blayney/Cabonne Sustainable Collections initiative. This has involved key staff and volunteers participating in curated training sessions. Key areas of research include histories of 'The Springs', a Depression fringe camp; the evolution of the F.O.O.D. movement in Orange; and a history of Central West Libraries.

Preliminary work was also undertaken on establishing the parameters for the Recollect database, which will make the Library's heritage collections more widely available.

---

The 75th Anniversary of the **Cowra** Breakout which occurred on 5 August 1944 was the nucleus for a number of projects in August 2019. This wartime incident saw 1,104 Japanese prisoners of war attempt to escape from the Cowra Prisoner of War Camp.

- Launch of the *Cowra Voices* storytelling app. The app aims to link people and places with a geo-locative app exploring Cowra's unique story of civic peace and reconciliation.
- A seminar was held to introduce the community to the *Cowra War Cemetery Database* which provides individual information on 524 graves in the Cowra Japanese War Cemetery. Those buried in the cemetery were Japanese prisoners of war and civilian internees who died in Australia during the Pacific War.
- Cowra Library was given a map showing where Japanese prisoners were captured around the district during the Breakout. Local artist Dallas Nyberg enhanced the original hand-drawn map for display. Residents and visitors were invited to view the map and add any further information in the book provided.

These projects were part of a Cowra Council collaboration with local community organisations to develop a centralised digital presence.

---

“I love being able to study at the library. Having other people working and studying helps me stay focussed.”

# Programs & Activities



Little Bangs Science bottled lightning fascinates children at Forbes Library



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

The Library's suite of family literacy programs continued to be the cornerstone of programs offered to children, 0-6 years, and their parents and carers. During summer our libraries at **Orange** and **Forbes** took advantage to the warmer weather and moved Storytime outdoors.

In **Orange**, Storytime during December moved outside for end of year celebrations with a series of activity stations to keep children busy and entertained after sharing a story together. The activities included a giant 2019 collage that went on display in the Library, al fresco painting and free imaginary play with giant boxes which proved to be a big hit.

The last **Forbes** Library Rhyme Time for the year was held in March before COVID-19 suspension of services. Alfresco Rhyme Time was held outdoors under the shade of the trees in Victoria Park across from the library. This event was greatly enjoyed by a small group of regulars who attended.

---

## RESPONDING TO COVID-19

The COVID pandemic necessitated a review of family literacy programs and the Library team adapted quickly to bring Storytime to families at home and more than 30 sessions were recorded and loaded onto the Library's YouTube channel. This was made possible through an industry agreement brokered by the Australian Library and Information Association, the Australian Publishers Association and Australian Society of Authors which gave libraries in Australia assurance that they could livestream and record Storytime using children's picture books for the period of the WHO-declared pandemic without being called out for breach of copyright.

Four live Storytime Zoom catch up sessions were also hosted during the closure. *Music for Little Ears* was also shared online in partnership with the Orange Regional Conservatorium.

In 2020 the *National Simultaneous Storytime* book, *Whitney and Britney Chicken Divas* by Lucinda Gifford, was also shared online. Staff from many CWL service points contributed to the video, created to support the main event, hosted by the State Library of NSW and presented by Australia's Children's Laureate Ursula Dubosarsky.

---

'Maker' programming has established itself as a core offering by the Library. During August demonstrations of the *Little Bang Discovery Club Science* were held at **Forbes** for parents carers and educators to raise awareness of the program. This science program is aimed at pre-schoolers.

**Orange** Library's afterschool Code Club program was expanded from one to three per week to meet demand: *Bytes* for younger coders using Scratch; *MegaBytes* for older Primary aged students coding in Python, html and creating 3D images in Blender; and *TerrorBytes* for advanced coders who worked on basic robotics using Arduino boards and sound manipulation in Audacity.

Summer Reading Club was offered at all branches of CWL. The theme was "A Roomful of Stories" and tagline "Stories are Everywhere, waiting to be Discovered". A Zine with 40 puzzles and activities was created for children to engage with and record a Summer full of stories. **Orange** hosted a giant Summer Reading Club Wrap Party which was well attended and enjoyed by the children.

School holiday activities moved online during April with Eye Spy, Treasure Hunts and a practical gardening video quickly and expertly created by Library staff and placed on the CWL website 'Stuck at home' page particularly for those in isolation. A Lego Challenge called for children to construct a model of a significant local building and share the image on social media.

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

---

## ONE LIBRARY ONE BOOK

Felicity McLean's book *The Van Apfel Girls Are Gone* was chosen for the *One Library, One Book* initiative that took the traditional book club concept to the next level. The program was designed to have everyone in the region read and discuss the same book at the same time.

Central West Libraries distributed 200 copies of *The Van Apfel Girls Are Gone* across the Central West Libraries footprint – Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes and Orange. These copies were added to the library catalogue with the rest distributed throughout regional towns for the community to take, read and pass on.

Orange City Library hosted its inaugural Library Up Late with the after-hours event featuring performances of selected scenes from *The Van Apfel Girls Are Gone*. Guests enjoyed performances from the book brought to life by local actors, a behind the scenes look at the library and refreshments.

Author Felicity McLean was a guest speaker at the *Orange Readers and Writers Festival* and toured the Central West Libraries branches – **Cowra, Forbes, Molong,** and **Blayney** for an intimate book chat as part of *One Library One Book*. Felicity said she was “really honoured” to have *The Van Apfel Girls Are Gone* chosen for the initiative.

*One Library One Book* was widely promoted and was met with great interest generating considerable media coverage including an interview on ABC Radio's State-wide Drive program.

---

## READERS AND WRITERS FESTIVAL

The *Orange Readers and Writers Festival* was held as part of the Orange Winter Fire Festival in August for a lively Fireside Reads program. There were 70 guests in attendance for the day long event held at the Hotel Canobolas. The dynamic program included keynote speaker bestselling author Debra Adelaide who has written her short story collection *Zebra & Other Stories*; Meg Keneally who had just published her debut solo novel *Fled*; Summer Land who had published her second novel *I Now Pronounce You Husband and Expat*; journalist Tim Ayliffe who published his second book *State of Fear* in his three book thriller series featuring seasoned journalist John Bailey; and Felicity McLean whose book *The Van Apfel Girls Have Gone* was selected for the *One Library, One Book* project with Central West Libraries.

## BANJO PATERSON WRITING AWARDS

Winners were announced in the Banjo Paterson Writing Awards at the Readers and Writers Festival. Local Children's winner Matilda Stafford was presented with her prize by Mayor of Orange, Reg Kidd. There were 121 short story entries, 91 poetry and 19 children's entries received for judging.

The winners were:

### Short Story

- Paul Clarke, Mackenzie *Dave and Mackie*

### Open Poetry

- David Taylor *Water Soul*

### ABC Central West Children's Awards

- 1st Yameen Khan *The Other*
- 2nd Joshua Abihu *The Trumpet Calls*
- 3rd Matilda Stafford *The Accident*

## BOOK WEEK

CWL celebrated Children's Book Week in August with the theme 'Reading is my superpower'. The notable books were distributed to all branches for display and borrowing. Children attending Storytime were asked to dress up as their favourite character or superhero. This opportunity was also taken up by many staff.

In **Orange** an evening event was held to build cubbies in which to read and create lanterns for a night time lantern parade. In **Canowindra** a different community 'guest' was invited to visit Canowindra Pre-School and read a story. Branch Library Officer Rossanne Holmes read *A Stack of Alpacas* by Matt Cosgrove and *I Just Ate My Friend* by Heidi McKinnon finishing off the morning with a scarecrow song and dance that the children loved.

## AUTHOR VISITS

The library delivered a rich program of author visits until the pandemic caused the cancellation of planned programming from March. Visiting authors included:

- Bestselling author Judy Nunn visited **Orange** City Library in October to launch her latest book *Khaki Town* set in Townsville at a pivotal moment in Australia's history - 1942.
- Also, during October **Orange** City Library hosted award-winning historian Dr Stephen Gapps when he spoke about *The Sydney Wars* which reveals British soldiers and First Nation warriors both used military-style tactics in a constant war during early settlement.
- Local author Mark Filmer visited **Blayney**, **Cowra** and **Orange** City Libraries in November to speak about his book *Three Steel Teeth - Wide Comb Shears and Woolshed Wars* during November. This book was particularly relevant to many of the people in attendance as the events in the book and the campaign that led to the Woolshed Wars occurred in the local area.
- Chris Hammer, the author of crime novel *Scrublands* spoke in conversation with ABC Central West Radio's Luke Wong at **Orange** City Library's second Library Up Late event in November.
- In November Paul Byrnes gave an interesting talk showing photographs and telling stories of under age soldiers who lied about their age and fought in the First World War from his book *The Lost Boys* at **Orange** City Library.

- Award winning teacher, librarian, author and blogger Megan Daley gave an evening talk on her book *Raising Readers* at **Orange** City Library before the end of school term in December. It covered how to raise a reader, the importance of reading aloud, reading habits and how to build them into your life, best books for various ages and how to support literacy development at home.
- In February and March local author Kim Kelly visited **Blayney**, **Molong** and **Cowra** Libraries to launch her new book *Walking*. Those who attended were impressed by the background research and the process Kelly undertook to write a novel.
- **Canowindra** Library hosted a unique event with local author Kelly Rimmer across the road at the charming Montrose House in March. More than 30 guests enjoyed morning tea in beautiful surrounds and listened to Kelly talk about her latest book *Truths I Never Told You*.
- Kelly also spoke at **Forbes** Library where she had the opportunity to meet and reminisce with some of her former Forbes High School teachers. An evening event was also held at Orange Library where more than 40 guests appreciated hearing about her heart-tugging story of family secrets, motherhood and marriage.

## BOOK CLUBS

Pageturners book club discussion group met in **Orange** until March then took a break during the COVID-19 lockdown. Thought-provoking books for discussion throughout the year included the controversial *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins, *Normal People* by Sally Rooney, *The Testaments* by Margaret Atwood, and classic novels *The 39 Steps* by John Buchan and *Mainstreet* by Sinclair Lewis.

In October two book clubs: The Book is Always Better and Inklings, were introduced at **Orange**. At each club meet-up, they discussed the chosen book, talked about other books/audiobooks/graphic novels, made a themed badge to add to their library bag, enjoyed fun activities and shared afternoon tea.



Canowindra Branch Library Officer Rossanne Holmes hosts a visit by *Truths I Never Told You* author Kelly Rimmer at Montrose House.



Blayney Branch Library Officer Ruth Bingham with *Walking* author Kim Kelly



*Three Steel Teeth: Wide Comb Shears and Woolshed Wars* author Mark Filmer at Cowra Library.



Manildra author Matthew Weber donates his book *Captain Smith the Jungle at War* to Central West Libraries.



Molong Branch Library Officer Margaret Lamerton with guests for the Molong Library Lovers Day afternoon tea.



Author Kelly Rimmer meets with her former Forbes High School teachers during a visit to Forbes Library.



Author Chris Hammer in crime scene display at Library Up Late

# Explore and develop collaborative opportunities for service and program delivery

Our libraries offered exciting spaces for exhibitions curated by partner organisations.

During July 2019 **Orange** City Library was home to *Captured: Portraits of Crime: 1870 - 1930* produced by NSW State Archives. The exhibition was shown in a circular display that included two local panels on the courthouse and Orange policing history.

Many examples of craft were on show at **Orange** with the annual CWA craft show displaying works from CWA branches in the surrounding district. The items included samples of knitting, sewing, crochet, embroidery, toys, clothing and rugs.

The Library acted as a collection point for items to go into Pamper Boxes as part of the *Ladies of the Land* drive in the lead up to Christmas 2019. Staff packaged and wrapped 50 boxes which were added to the 25,000 collected from across the state.

To mark National Volunteer Week in May a gift was presented to each library volunteer to thank them for their service and commitment. During the year many volunteers were required to stay away from their duties due to COVID-19 NSW Health regulations.

The Library continued to be an active participant in the wider library and information profession with staff attending seminars and conferences, being part of consortia initiatives and presenting at relevant events. Manager Central West Libraries, Jan Richards, was recognised by the Australian Library and Information Association in 2019 with the HCL Anderson Award which is the Association's highest honour.

---

## ORANGE PURLERS - WRAP WITH LOVE

The Orange Purlers continued to meet weekly at the library until March when the library closed as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

A total of 524 wraps were completed this year: 338 to Wrap With Love for worldwide distribution and 145 to the Step by Step Recovery Support Service for NSW bushfire victims. About 32 wraps were supplied to Housing Plus and 9 distributed to local individuals in need. This total also includes wraps from Canowindra, Cowra, Condobolin, Forest Reefs, Eugowra, Grenfell and Parkes.

Member for Orange, Philip Donato, is an advocate for the Orange Purlers and on 17 September he delivered a Community Recognition Statement to the New South Wales Parliament. It reads:

*I wish to recognise The Orange Purlers, a group who have been gathering for more than a decade to knit and crochet a variety of items which they donate to a number of local and international organisations.*

*The many members who comprise this group of knitters gather each week at the Orange City Library where they knit blankets, wraps and other woollen wearables which they donate to local organisations including Lyndon Women's Program, Ronald McDonald House, Orange Aboriginal Medical Service, Housing Plus, Mission Australia's Benjamin Grove Aged Care facility and the homeless.*

*The Orange Purlers also donate the knitted items to the registered charity Wrap With Love, who distribute their woollen creations throughout Australia and abroad to countries experiencing poverty, natural disaster and devastation of war.*

*Since 2011 the Purlers have produced and donated 3,139 woollen wraps, of which 428 have been knitted this year.*

*The members also benefit from sharing their skills and socialising over morning tea as they ply their craft to produce knitted wearables and wraps for those in need.*

*I commend the Orange Purlers on their many years of community spirit and benevolence which positively impacts people across the world.*

---



Orange Purler Dianne Percy accepts the Community Recognition Statement from Member for Orange Philip Donato.

# Statistical profile

CENTRAL WEST LIBRARIES	2018 - 2019	2019-2020
Population – ABS statistics 2018	85,765	86,113
Membership	36,331	38,086
Library visits	202,791	168,568
Activities, events & programs - number	830	543
Activities, events & programs - attendance	27,091	19,807
Circulation (Loans including renewals)	275,508	230,591
Renewals via Web OPAC	8,416	8,644
Reservations Placed (All)	17,846	18,169
Reservations placed via Web OPAC	6,295	7,868
Collection (Holdings)	151,024	149,374
Materials Purchased (titles)	7,484	6,328
Average Price	\$40.68	\$45.08
Public internet use (including WiFi sessions)	43,788	30,106
Number of hits on the CWL home page	5,123,487	4,812,003
Number of visits to the CWL home page	227,181	238,473
Number of page views on the CWL home page	1,419,221	1,397,074

**NOTE 1:**

All Central West Libraries operations and statistics were significantly impacted by the closure between March 26 and May 31 2020 under the COVID-19 regulations. Restricted services and reduced opening hours for some branches applied from June 01 2020 and the statistics for 2019 – 2020 also reflect this especially for visits, circulation, activities, events & programs and public internet use.

**NOTE 2:**

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

**NOTE 3:**

Population figures for 2019 – 2020 come from the official 2019 Australian Bureau of Statistics Estimated Resident Population (ERP). The Population figures for 2018 – 2019 were sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics from their 2018 data.

**NOTE 4:**

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 (167,546 entries in at the end of June 2020).

**NOTE 5:**

Activities, events and programs 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 May 01 to June 11 2019.



<b>BLAYNEY LIBRARY</b>		
	<b>2018 - 2019</b>	<b>2019 - 2020</b>
Population	7,352	7,379
Membership	1,597	1,764
Library visits	6,108	9,943
Circulation (Loans)	7,231	7,233
Collection (Holdings)	7,645	8,160
Reservations Placed	123	257

### **CABONNE LIBRARIES**

	<b>2018 - 2019</b>	<b>2019 - 2020</b>
<b>CABONNE TOTALS</b>		
Population	13,680	13,634
Membership	1,933	2,003
Library visits	13,564	11,231
Circulation (Loans)	17,480	15,050
Collection (Holdings)	15,593	14,756
Reservations Placed	2,416	2,084

### **CANOWINDRA LIBRARY**

Membership	829	870
Library Visits	5,476	4,483
Circulation (Loans)	5,034	4,625
Collections (Holdings)	6,326	5,959
Reservations Placed	719	768

### **MANILDRA LIBRARY**

Membership	156	162
Library Visits	1,496	1,106
Circulation (Loans)	1,562	1,420
Collection (Holdings)	2,890	2,636
Reservations Placed	143	67

### **MOLONG LIBRARY**

Membership	948	971
Library Visits	6,592	5,642
Circulation (Loans)	10,884	9,005
Collection (Holdings)	6,377	6,161
Reservations Placed	1,554	1,249

<b>COWRA LIBRARY</b>		
	<b>2018 - 2019</b>	<b>2019 - 2020</b>
Population	12,767	12,743
Membership	5,022	5,171
Library visits	37,856	28,179
Circulation (Loans)	33,997	26,880
Collection (Holdings)	19,771	17,825
Reservations Placed	2,602	2,205

### **FORBES LIBRARY**

	<b>2018 - 2019</b>	<b>2019 - 2020</b>
Population	9,910	9,906
Membership	2,968	3,108
Library visits	25,440	18,897
Circulation (Loans)	30,856	28,016
Collection (Holdings)	16,401	16,319
Reservations Placed	2,347	1,789

### **ORANGE LIBRARY**

	<b>2018 - 2019</b>	<b>2019 - 2020</b>
Population	42,056	42,451
Membership	24,570	25,760
Library visits	119,823	100,318
Circulation (Loans)	172,731	141,281
Collection (Holdings)	82,823	81,226
Reservations Placed	3,261	3,231



**RESPONDING TO COVID-19**

**“I am never  
without a book  
and visit quite  
often. Couldn’t  
wait for the  
library to  
reopen!”**

CentralWestLibraries