

MINUTES
CLARENCE REGIONAL LIBRARY COMMITTEE 14 March 2024
Online MS Teams meeting 9:00am

PRESENT: *Bellingen Shire Council*

Cllr Jo Brotherton
 Rowena Sierant (Bellingen Shire Librarian)
 Maxine Compton (Group Leader Community Partnerships)

Clarence Valley Council

Cllr Karen Toms (Chair)
 Cllr Peter Johnstone
 Kath Arndell (Acting Manager Cultural, Community & Industry)
 Kathryn Breward (Regional Librarian)
 Di Collins (Team Leader (Public Library Services))

1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

Cllr Karen Toms

2. APOLOGIES

Cllr Ellie Tree
 Victoria Keane (Team Leader (Regional Resources))

3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

Nil

4. Confirmation of Minutes

a) 28 July 2023

Moved: Cllr Peter Johnstone
 Seconded: Cllr Jo Brotherton

Adopted

Clarence Regional Library: Bellingen, Dorrigo, Grafton, Iluka, Maclean, Urunga, Yamba and Mobile Library



**BELLINGEN
SHIRE COUNCIL**



b) 14 December 2023

Moved: Cllr Karen Toms

Seconded: Cllr Jo Brotherton

Adopted

5. Business arising from the Minutes - Meeting held 14 December 2023

5.1 CRL STRATEGIC PLAN & ACTION PLAN 2024-34

Strategic Plan on Public Exhibition, Annie has volunteered to speak to Councillors regarding the Strategic Plan if requested.

Recommendation

That the CRL Committee note the progress of the consultation process and development of the new CRL Strategic Plan & Action Plan 2024-34.

Moved: Cllr Peter Johnstone

Second: Cllr Jo Brotherton

Adopted

6. FINANCIAL PAPERS

6.1 YTD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SPREADSHEET - 9 November 2023

Several questions were asked by the Bellingen Shire delegates including:

- is the Rate Peg used in determining the funding formula? - No
- what does contractor & consulting refer to? - electricians, hardware, IT, Strategic Plan contractor.
- What had caused the increase in operating budget expenses? - increase in leave entitlements and pay increase.
- Reserves, why is it held? - held in contingency if the Regional Library folds for the dissolution of the region and redundancy payouts for staff. It is also allocated to various projects, either as part of an identified item in the Strategic Plan or in an ad hoc manner for example when Bellingen Shire has needed to replace their Public PCs, funds have come from the Reserve to

Clarence Regional Library: Bellingen, Dorrigo, Grafton, Iluka, Maclean, Urunga, Yamba and Mobile Library



BELLINGEN
SHIRE COUNCIL



cover this cost for Bellingen and an amount has been provided to Clarence Valley based on the 80/20 percentage split of contributions. All decisions relating to the Reserve go through the CRL Committee to be voted on.

Recommendation

That the Report on the Clarence Regional Library Income and Expenditure YTD for 2023/24 is endorsed by the CRL Committee.

Moved: Cllr Karen Toms
Second: Cllr Peter Johnstone

Adopted

6.2 YTD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SPREADSHEET - 14 March 2024

Recommendation

That the Report on the Clarence Regional Library Income and Expenditure YTD for 2023/24 is endorsed by the CRL Committee.

Moved: Cllr Peter Johnstone
Second: Cllr Jo Brotherton

Adopted

7. **Executive Officer's Reports** - Nil

8. **Regional Library Reports**

Clarence Regional Library: Bellingen, Dorrigo, Grafton, Iluka, Maclean, Urunga, Yamba and Mobile Library



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8.1 LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS 2022/23 INFOGRAPHICS

Recommendation

The CRL Committee note the:

- 2022/23 operational statistics of the Clarence Regional Library services
- Comparison to the 2021/22 statistics for the CRL
- That figures for infographics be enhanced by inclusion of 2018/19 stats for the next meeting

Moved: Cllr Peter Johnstone
Second: Cllr Jo Brotherton

Adopted

8.2 LIBRARY REVIEW 2022 PROGRESS UPDATE

Bellingen Shire librarian requested their own copy of the State Library Multicultural Pull-up Banner, the Regional Librarian will check availability.

It was also noted that 2 additional casuals were recently appointed for Dorrigo Library.

Clarence Valley delegates asked if there was any long-term planning to resolve the lunchtime closures in Yaegl Country Libraries in the Clarence Valley, the Regional Librarian has indicated that a business case has been prepared for consideration by the Director and the Executive for Clarence Valley, however due to changes in the Manager role in recent months this has hindered the progress of this business case.

Recommendation

The CRL Committee note the steps taken in the State Library Review of the CRL service to date.

Moved: Cllr Peter Johnstone
Second: Cllr Jo Brotherton

Clarence Regional Library: Bellingen, Dorrigo, Grafton, Iluka, Maclean, Urunga, Yamba and Mobile Library



BELLINGEN
SHIRE COUNCIL



Adopted

8.3 COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Bellingen Shire delegates asked what the process for review was, the Regional Librarian indicated a literature review was undertaken by the Regional Librarian and the Team Leader (Regional Resources). Samples of collection policies were obtained for review of best practice as well as articles that covered the recent issues around Book Challenges and censorship that several public libraries have faced and how they responded. State Library and ALIA guidelines were also considered in this context.

Recommendation

That the *Clarence Regional Library Collection Development Policy* be reviewed by Bellingen Shire staff for feedback and note the following recommended changes by Clarence Valley Council staff:

- Updated population figures for Clarence Valley Council and Bellingen Shire Council Local Government Areas
- Include acknowledgment of the Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr and Yaegl people.
- Include Scope of the Collection to reflect that the collection will capture a range of perspectives and voices and reflect the diversity of the community.
- For physical Audiobooks only MP3 format will be purchased.
- Selection criteria for eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines has been updated to include: Usage conditions (eg. Loan Limits and Term Limits before repurchasing is necessary)
- Donations that are: dated, yellowed, damaged or musty items will not be accepted.
- Include the following sentence in the Censorship (Freedom to read) section "The selection of library materials is based on the patrons' right to read and similarly, freedom from censorship by others."

Clarence Regional Library: Bellingen, Dorrigo, Grafton, Iluka, Maclean, Urunga, Yamba and Mobile Library



BELLINGEN
SHIRE COUNCIL



Moved: Maxine Compton
Second: Cllr Jo Brotherton

Adopted

8.4 FEE WAIVING POLICY

Recommendation

That the Clarence Regional Library Committee note that Bellingen Shire staff to be consulted for input in to the reviewed *Clarence Regional Library Fee Waiving Policy* prior to adoption by the executive council.

Moved: Maxine Compton
Second: Cllr Jo Brotherton

Adopted

9. Correspondence

9.1 In-coming:

- various community comments via feedback forms and social media

Noted - Cllr Jo Brotherton / Cllr Peter Johnstone

9.2 Out-going:

Clarence Regional Library: Bellingen, Dorrigo, Grafton, Iluka, Maclean, Urunga, Yamba and Mobile Library



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9.2.1 Media Releases:

- BSC - 20/11/2023 In a Timeless Story - A Collaboration
- CRL - 16/11/2023 Summer Reading Club
- CRL - 13/11/2023 Live n Loud is back at the library
- CVC - 28/9/2023 Jacaranda at your library
- CRL - 26/9/2023 Mini Writer's Festival
- BSC - 21/9/2023 Spring School Holiday
- CRL - 31/7/2023 Vision Australia PC Keyboards for your library

Noted - Cllr Jo Brotherton / Cllr Karen Toms

10. Items for Information

11. Additional Matters

11.1 PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE - Times and Dates 2024

11 July

7 November

Meetings commence at 10:30 am with refreshments available from 10:00am

Morning tea and Lunch are provided by the Regional Library

11.2 Full Zone Meeting date

14 May 2024 at the new Foster library

12. Items for next meeting

- 12.1 CRL Strategic Plan & Action Plan 2024/34
- 12.2 2022/23 LIBRARY INFOGRAPHICS comparison with 2018/19
- 12.3 CRL Collection Development Policy

Clarence Regional Library: Bellingen, Dorrigo, Grafton, Iluka, Maclean, Urunga, Yamba and Mobile Library



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12.4 CRL Fee Waiving Policy

Meeting Closed: 11:46am

Clarence Regional Library: Bellingen, Dorrigo, Grafton, Iluka, Maclean, Urunga, Yamba and Mobile Library



BELLINGEN
SHIRE COUNCIL



ITEM: 5.1 No. 1/24 – CRL STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Meeting: Clarence Regional Library Committee

14 March 2024

Reviewed By:

Attachment: YES

REPORT SUMMARY

This report briefly outlines the progress in the development of the new Strategic Plan & Action Plan 2023-33.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the CRL Committee note the progress of the consultation process and development of the new CRL Strategic Plan & Action Plan 2023-33.

LINKAGE TO CVC COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2032

Theme: Society

Objective: Creating a place where people are healthy, safe, connected and in harmony with the natural environment to retain and improve the quality of community life.

LINKAGE TO BSC COMMUNITY VISION 2035

Theme 2: Community Wellbeing

Objective: 1.1 Enhance community capacity by supporting & creating partnerships to deliver targeted social & cultural programs and activities for community participation
 1.2 Work to enhance the accessing of information and services
 2.1 Actively engage with and include the perspectives and knowledge of our Gumbaynggirr community
 2.2 Enable meaningful creative learning and cultural experiences
 3.1 Promote meaningful and inclusive opportunities for volunteering

KEY ISSUES

The meeting on the 28 September with the Regional Library Team Leaders provided key information to the shaping of the draft objectives and actions, discussion considered appropriate wording as well as capacity to undertake the content indicated by the stakeholder findings and confirmation of the document's general direction. A Draft of the graphic designed Plan was then sent to the Library Team on Monday 23 October for feedback in terms of layout and revised content, the updated version of this draft was presented in a workshop session to the CRL Committee at the 9 November CRL Committee meeting. The final Draft was then reviewed by the CRL Committee and endorsed for adoption by both councils on the 14 December 2023 during an extraordinary online meeting of the Committee.

Council reports were prepared for both Council meetings for presentation at the February 2024 meetings. With the Recommendation:

That Council place the Clarence Regional Library Strategic Plan 2024-34 on public exhibition and subject to there being no submissions that change the intent of the Strategy, it be adopted.

Timeline update:

- 28 July - presentation of progress to CRL Committee
- 28 September - Library team leader meeting with Annie to review draft Objectives and actions
- 11 October - Library team were emailed the following draft files for review:
 - Section 1: intro and context
 - Section 1: pull out boxes
 - Section 1: available quotes
 - Section 2: revised objectives and actions
 - Section 2: strategy timeline
 - The Library team selected and provided images for use in the final document
- 9 November - CRL Committee workshop
- 14 December - endorsed by CRLC
- 27 February - presented to CVC
- 28 February - presented to BSC

BACKGROUND

A *Request for Quote (RFQ)* was created based on the 2008 *RFQ* developed for the first CRL Strategic Plan & Action Plan. As per CVC Procurement Procedures a minimum of two (2) quotes are required for a budget of \$20,000. The *RFQ* has been finalised and five consultants were identified as suitable and they have received the *RFQ* via email with a closure date of 20 March via email for their Quote Submissions.

Annie Talve from Project Sisu was awarded the project on 29 March 2023.

Prepared by	Kathryn Breward - Regional Librarian
Attachment	ATTACHMENT 5.1 draft CRL Strategic Plan & Action Plan

ITEM: 6.1 No. 3/23 – YTD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SPREADSHEET

Meeting:	Clarence Regional Library Committee	9 November 2023
Reviewed By:		
Attachment:	yes	

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides updated information on the Year to Date income and expenditure for 2022/23.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Report on the Clarence Regional Library Income and Expenditure YTD for 2022/23 is endorsed by the CRL Committee.

LINKAGE TO CVC COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2032

Theme: Society
Objective: Creating a place where people are healthy, safe, connected and in harmony with the natural environment to retain and improve the quality of community life.

LINKAGE TO BSC COMMUNITY VISION 2035

Theme 2: Community Wellbeing
Objective: 1.2 Enhance community capacity by supporting & creating partnerships to deliver targeted social & cultural programs and activities for community participation
1.2 Work to enhance the accessing of information and services
2.1 Actively engage with and include the perspectives and knowledge of our Gumbaynggirr community
2.2 Enable meaningful creative learning and cultural experiences
3.1 Promote meaningful and inclusive opportunities for volunteering

KEY ISSUES

Budget expenditure currently tracking in most areas according to the CRL cycle of expenditure for this point in the year. Items of note in the YTD (10 October 2023) Income and Expenditure spreadsheet include:

- *Income - Contributions* - the CVC contributions for this financial year not yet transacted.
- *Item 50 - wages costs* - is tracking under the revised budget as Annual Leave, Long Service leave and casuals expenses are low at this point in the year. Will likely increase over the warmer months as staff go on leave over the Christmas period.
- *Item 51- Other Employee Costs* - this does not include MasterCard transactions for the SWITCH conference for CVC staff as they haven't been journalled yet.
- *Item 53 - Materials* - expenditure in this item are still appearing in commitments
- *Item 54 - Contractors & Consultancies* - no issues at this point
- *Item 57 - Insurance* - will be transacted at the end of the financial year
- *Item 59 - Administration Expenses* - are tracking as per expectations
- *Item 60 - Operating Expenses* - is on track with annual Spydus maintenance fees and FE Technology annual maintenance

- *Item 61 - Subscriptions & Memberships* - on track - we continue to review each renewal prior to payment to consider whether we continue for another year. We also spend time reviewing emerging databases and subscription services to determine whether they are worth adding to the library's suite of online services. We currently have a watch on Beamafilm which has been growing in popularity, however there has been a price increase this year \$6231 gst inc. (\$5392 gst inc. last year). We are considering alternate options for the following year.
- *Item 62 - Internal expenses* - ABC operation costs have been journaled for some of the ABC accounts. Motor vehicle expenses have been transacted also.
- *Item 135 - Book Vote* - \$88,621 with additional commitments of \$251,277.00
- *140 - Reserve Opening - RA 41125 & 411327* - The Reserves have been updated and currently sit at - \$784,787 this is higher then expected.

BACKGROUND

Note: The *Public Libraries in NSW Financial Reporting Manual* says it depends on whether the content is owned or leased. If it is owned in perpetuity, it is capital. If it is licensed/leased it is operational. Page 12 of the report has the most information. Currently when completing the annual financial reporting for the State Library our finance section depreciates our eResources along with all other capital. As they are assets that CRL owns and are treated in the same as other book purchases.

Prepared by	Kathryn Breward - Regional Librarian
Attachment	ATTACHMENT item 6.1: YTD Income and Expenditure spreadsheet

ITEM: 6.2 No. 1/24 – YTD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SPREADSHEET

Meeting:	Clarence Regional Library Committee	14 March 2024
Reviewed By:		
Attachment:	yes	

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides updated information on the Year to Date income and expenditure for 2022/23.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Report on the Clarence Regional Library Income and Expenditure YTD for 2022/23 is endorsed by the CRL Committee.

LINKAGE TO CVC COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2032

Theme: Society
Objective: Creating a place where people are healthy, safe, connected and in harmony with the natural environment to retain and improve the quality of community life.

LINKAGE TO BSC COMMUNITY VISION 2035

Theme 2: Community Wellbeing
Objective: 1.3 Enhance community capacity by supporting & creating partnerships to deliver targeted social & cultural programs and activities for community participation
1.2 Work to enhance the accessing of information and services
2.1 Actively engage with and include the perspectives and knowledge of our Gumbaynggirr community
2.2 Enable meaningful creative learning and cultural experiences
3.1 Promote meaningful and inclusive opportunities for volunteering

KEY ISSUES

- *Income - Contributions* - the CVC contributions for this financial year have been entered.
- *Item 50 - wages costs* - is tracking under the revised budget. Note the Annual Leave and casual budget are now at the halfway point in expenditure as expected for this point in the year
- *Item 51- Other Employee Costs* - this does not include MasterCard transactions for the SWITCH conference for CVC staff as they haven't been journaled yet.
- *Item 53 - Materials* - expenditure in this item are still appearing in commitments
- *Item 54 - Contractors & Consultancies* - no issues at this point
- *Item 57 - Insurance* - will be transacted at the end of the financial year
- *Item 59 - Administration Expenses* - are tracking as per expectations
- *Item 60 - Operating Expenses* - is on track with annual Spydus maintenance fees and FE Technology annual maintenance
- *Item 61 - Subscriptions & Memberships* - on track - we continue to review each renewal prior to payment to consider whether we continue for another year. We also spend time reviewing emerging databases and subscription services to determine whether they are worth adding to the library's suite of online services.
- *Item 62 - Internal expenses* - ABC operation costs have been journaled for some of the ABC accounts. Motor vehicle expenses have been transacted also.

- *Item 135 - Book Vote* - \$179,125 with additional commitments of \$130,152
- *140 - Reserve Opening - RA 41125 & 411327* - The Reserves have been updated and currently sit at - \$786,617 this is higher than expected.

BACKGROUND

Note: The *Public Libraries in NSW Financial Reporting Manual* says it depends on whether the content is owned or leased. If it is owned in perpetuity, it is capital. If it is licensed/leased it is operational. Page 12 of the report has the most information. Currently when completing the annual financial reporting for the State Library our finance section depreciates our eResources along with all other capital. As they are assets that CRL owns and are treated in the same as other book purchases.

Prepared by	Kathryn Breward - Regional Librarian
Attachment	ATTACHMENT item 6.2: YTD Income and Expenditure spreadsheet 20240215

ITEM: 8.1 No. 3/23 – LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS 2022/23 INFOGRAPHICS

Meeting: Clarence Regional Library Committee

9 November 2023

Reviewed By:

Attachment: yes

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides statistical information on the 2022/23 operations of the Clarence Regional Library Service.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

The CRL Committee note the:

- 2022/23 operational statistics of the Clarence Regional Library services
- Comparison to the 2021/22 statistics for the CRL

LINKAGE TO CVC COMMUNITY PLANTheme **1 Society**Objective **1.3 We will have a diverse and creative culture**Strategy **1.3.1 Support arts, learning, cultural services, community events and festivals****LINKAGE TO BSC COMMUNITY VISION 2030**

Theme 2: Community Wellbeing

- Objective:
- 1 Our children, youth and seniors are valued, involved and supported
 - 2 We are a learning and creative community
 - 3 We value, honour and actively acknowledge our Gumbayngirr culture and heritage
 - 4 we are connected, safe and healthy with a strong sense of community

KEY ISSUES

Items of particular interest in the Summary comparison 2022/23 and 2021/22 include the following:

- Increase of 30% in visits across the region over all, with Graton, Maclean and Iluka being the outstanding performers.
- 3% Increase in website visits.
- loans up overall by 3% we are doing better then many libraries who are still suffering from the effects of Covid lockdowns.
- 11% overall increase in Reservations last year has been reversed with **-11%** decrease this year, back to pre Covid reservation levels.
- CRL has had 4% increase in stock on the shelves from last year - tis reflects the increase in eLibrary stock from our providers.
- 36.5% increase for programs/event and 80.5% increase in attendance on last year - COVID-19 affects, are finally beginning to disperse.
- Wi-Fi is up 17% & internet sessions are up 5% - people are coming back to us and using these services.

- Information requests were mixed in the results with the overall still seeing an increase of 1.2% for the year.
- Our eBooks, eAudio and eMagazines have all dropped slightly on last year, however that is expected now people are coming back into our physical spaces. Usage remains higher than our Pre-Covid usage levels.
- Use of the Library App continues to increase on last year by 15%.
- The online catalogue access is still down by -2% but this corresponds with the uptake in using the Library App to access the catalogue as it is a more user friendly platform particularly on a mobile device.
- eResource searches are down by 39% partly due to Ancestry library edition no longer being available for our borrowers to use from home as it was during Covid Lockdowns, we will be monitoring this over the next year.
- Beamafilm downloads has increased by 31%
- all social media platforms saw increased engagement on the previous year as we continue to grow in this medium

BACKGROUND

At the end of each financial year the Regional Library condenses the statistical result into infographics for the region, the two Local Government Areas and each library location including the Mobile and our eLibrary. The statistics selected for these infographics are based on the infographics the State Library develops each year for the State Public Library Network and the NSW.net eResources.

The Regional Librarian also completes the summary comparison spreadsheet that compares the result to the previous year.

Prepared by	Kathryn Breward - Regional Librarian
Attachment	ATTACHMENT item 8.1 library highlights 2022/23 Infographics & Infographics summary & comparison with 2021/22 infographic statistics

ITEM: 8.2 No. 3/23 – LIBRARY REVIEW 2022 PROGRESS UPDATE

Meeting: Clarence Regional Library Committee

9 November 2023

Reviewed By:

Attachment: no

REPORT SUMMARY

The report covers the steps taken in the State Library Review of the CRL service to date.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

The CRL Committee note the steps taken in the State Library Review of the CRL service to date.

LINKAGE TO CVC COMMUNITY PLANTheme **1 Society**Objective **1.3 We will have a diverse and creative culture**Strategy **1.3.1 Support arts, learning, cultural services, community events and festivals****LINKAGE TO BSC COMMUNITY VISION 2030**

Theme 2: Community Wellbeing

Objective:

- 1 Our children, youth and seniors are valued, involved and supported
- 2 We are a learning and creative community
- 3 We value, honour and actively acknowledge our Gumbaynggirr culture and heritage
- 4 we are connected, safe and healthy with a strong sense of community

KEY ISSUES

The summary of these recommendations and the progress in implementation are as follows:

11.1 Faster implementation

- Make sure items in languages other than English are always part of library displays in each library. These items should continue to be added to the displays (when borrowed) or changed to other items (if not borrowed for a few days).
 - Not yet commenced, working through the logistics of this program as there is limited stock availability and we may not be able to provide continually to all locations.
- Use State Library of NSW promotional fliers, signs, and posters (digital or printed) in all libraries to promote collections in languages other than English.
 - done
- Use pull-up banners promoting the bulk loans from the State Library of NSW in each library
 - done
- Use hashtags for social media posts
 - where appropriate this is now being done.

- Provide links to each library's social media on their library page on their website as well as promotion in each library
 - this has been completed
- Increase the visibility of the collection and the libraries in the social media posts
 - Collection highlights are regularly featured in Social Media and the Monthly Newsletter.
 - Still need to work on raising the profiles of the libraries in social media posts.
- Use social media to promote transcription on Amplify at least once a fortnight.
 - Have determined that this is too frequent for our needs and regularly post every 4-6 weeks
- Improved visibility of Amplify on the library website.
 - Website has some issues in terms of arrangement we are in the process of updating this.
- Improved visibility of programs at Bellingen Shire Libraries - make sure the information
 - is in Spydus for access.
 - this is happening now - are also completing event planning sheets and have shared activities with CRL - still not as visible on social media as the CVC libraries
 - Regional focus has been on Regional programming, services and collections
- Use social media resources from the State Library of NSW including posts about
 - Openbook magazine, indyreads, and law and health related posts.
 - this is now happening.
- Clarence Regional Library to reconsider their use of volunteers considering the ALIA
 - statement on voluntary work in library and information services.
 - New Management Plans for Maclean & Yamba libraries to improve paid staffing levels are in draft format awaiting feedback

11.2 Medium implementation

- Regular (weekly/fortnightly) posts about the local studies collection
 - Planning to increase the posts for this collection
- Provide links to the social media on each of the library webpages as part of the contact details for each library, as well as promoting these in the libraries. The website has links to the Clarence Regional Library social media and needs to add links to the Iluka, Maclean or Yamba Facebook pages as well as those at Bellingen, Dorrigo and Urunga.
 - Links have been added to each library page on the website, however links in the contact details can only be added via the contractor and has not yet been scheduled as we are reviewing our website options.
- Add Amplify to the Clarence Regional Library website to make it easier for the community to find it and to increase the amount of transcription which is undertaken. Put the links in the local studies section as well as in other relevant locations on the website *Amplify*.
 - Amplify has been added to the Website and we are monitoring its accessibility.
- Explore options to increase the number of casuals local to each library. Note this does not appear to be an issue for Bellingen or Grafton libraries.
 - This is a particularly pressing issue for Dorrigo Library and also for Maclean Library

- Install automatic doors at all sites
 - Yamba will be getting auto doors in the new facility
 - Dorrigo library won't be getting auto doors due to the structure
- Developed a structured plan for social media posting to Regional library accounts
 - In development, has been drafted but awaiting further input.

11.3 Longer implementation

- It is recommended that Clarence Regional Library aim for enhanced staffing of 23.79 as this would provide approximately 70 additional hours a week to keep all the libraries open at lunchtime as well as provide time for program preparation and professional development for library staff in the five smaller libraries. It may even permit smaller libraries to open at 9.30am, making them available to people who are out and about earlier in the day. It is suggested that this is an additional 0.8 people for Bellingen, Dorrigo and Urunga libraries, and an additional 1.2 people for Iluka, Maclean and Yamba libraries.
 - BSC -
 - Discussions have taken place regarding lunchtime openings at smaller branches with a particular focus on additional time to be allocated to Dorrigo Library. Due to community needs, increased usage, and workloads it is proposed that Dorrigo Library remain open all day on Thursdays and Fridays and not close for lunchtimes. This would result in an extra 6 hours per week. There may also be the capacity to allocate 2.5 hours to casual shifts on Thursday or Fridays at Bellingen Library.
 - CVC -
 - Yamba Management Plan has been drafted for the new facility and currently with the Manager for review. This review has mapped out 3 additional FT positions for the intended increased space, open hours and programming for the new library in Yamba.
 - A draft Maclean Management Plan is also underway that looks to increasing the hours and programs for the this location (based on community feedback) in this it is recommended that an additional 2 FT positions be created to accommodate the increased services, this has not yet progressed to the Manager as awaiting feedback on the Yamba proposal.
- Note while this is a longer implementation, planning for this needs to start soon.

BACKGROUND

There were 19 Recommendations from the Review of Services and Programs conducted by the State Library in November 2022, these recommendations were divided into *faster implementation*; *medium implementation* and *longer implementation*.

The Terms of Reference for the State Library Review of the Clarence Regional Library service were:

- *Efficiency and effectiveness of the services as benchmarked against NSW figures. This would be looked at for region as a whole and by local government area.*
 - *What are the trend for public libraries? This would look at Australian examples and may consider some international examples.*
- *The efficiency and effectiveness of the current Regional Library service and staffing ratios.*
- *Is Clarence Regional Library supplying the right balance of services:*
 - *book stock v online*

- *evidence we are purchasing the right stock.*
- *Is Clarence Regional Library providing services for a range of people in the community including:*
 - *Youth*
 - *Adults*
 - *Aboriginal people*
 - *People with a disability*
- *How will the services need to adapt to COVID world and a post pandemic transformed world- e.g.:*
 - *More tertiary students studying online already the Country University at Grafton has 150 students.*
 - *Trend to home offices.*
- *What potential services can be provided to the Clarence Correctional Centre?*
 - *Every prisoner has online access via an individual electronic device*
- *Using the community consultation information and other data look at how the mobile library is being used, and consider opportunities which it could be used for*
- *Hours of operation of branches*

Prepared by	Kathryn Breward - Regional Librarian
Attachment	NIL

8.3 No. 1/24 – COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Meeting: Clarence Regional Library Committee
 Reviewed By:
 Attachment: yes

14 March 2024

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the review of the *Clarence Regional Library Collection Development Policy*.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the *Clarence Regional Library Collection Development Policy* be updated to reflect the following changes:

- Updated population figures for Clarence Valley Council and Bellingen Shire Council Local Government Areas
- Include acknowledgment of the Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr and Yaegl people.
- Include Scope of the Collection to reflect that the collection will capture a range of perspectives and voices and reflect the diversity of the community.
- For physical Audiobooks only MP3 format will be purchased.
- Selection criteria for eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines has been updated to include: Usage conditions (eg. Loan Limits and Term Limits before repurchase is necessary)
- Donations that are: dated, yellowed, damaged or musty items will not be accepted.
- Include the following sentence in the Censorship (Freedom to read) section "The selection of library materials is based on the patrons' right to read and similarly, freedom from censorship by others."

LINKAGE TO CVC COMMUNITY PLAN

Theme **1 Society**

Objective **1.3 We will have a diverse and creative culture**

Strategy **1.3.1 Support arts, learning, cultural services, community events and festivals**

LINKAGE TO BSC COMMUNITY VISION 2030

Theme 2: Community Wellbeing

- Objective:
- 1 Our children, youth and seniors are valued, involved and supported
 - 2 We are a learning and creative community
 - 3 We value, honour and actively acknowledge our Gumbaynggirr culture and heritage
 - 4 we are connected, safe and healthy with a strong sense of community

KEY ISSUES

Proposed changes include:

- Updated population figures for Clarence Valley Council and Bellingen Shire Council Local Government Areas
- Include acknowledgment of the Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr and Yaegl people.
- Include Scope of the Collection to reflect that the collection will capture a range of perspectives and voices and reflect the diversity of the community.
- For physical Audiobooks only MP3 format will be purchased.
- Selection criteria for eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines has been updated to include: Usage conditions (eg. Loan Limits and Term Limits before repurchase is necessary)
- Donations that are: dated, yellowed, damaged or musty items will not be accepted.
- Include the following sentence in the Censorship (Freedom to read) section "The selection of library materials is based on the patrons' right to read and similarly, freedom from censorship by others."

These changes have been made to better reflect the selection criteria used in selecting, and to provide clarification on the principles of our community's freedom to read.

BACKGROUND

The *Clarence Regional Library Collection Development Policy* was adopted in June 2020. A review of the policy in was undertaken in February 2024. In the previous review of 2020 the policy was updated to accommodate to selection criteria for R rated DVDs.

Prepared by	Kathryn Breward - Regional Librarian
Attachment	CRL Draft Collection Development Policy 2024

8.4 No. 1/24 – FEE WAIVING POLICY

Meeting:	Clarence Regional Library Committee	14 March 2024
Reviewed By:		
Attachment:	yes	

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the review of the *Clarence Regional Library Fee Waiving Policy* that was due for review.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Clarence Regional Library Committee endorse the reviewed *Clarence Regional Library Fee Waiving Policy* for adoption by the executive council.

LINKAGE TO CVC COMMUNITY PLAN

Theme	1 Society
Objective	1.3 We will have a diverse and creative culture
Strategy	1.3.1 Support arts, learning, cultural services, community events and festivals

LINKAGE TO BSC COMMUNITY VISION 2030

Theme 2:	Community Wellbeing
Objective:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Our children, youth and seniors are valued, involved and supported 2 We are a learning and creative community 3 We value, honour and actively acknowledge our Gumbaynggirr culture and heritage 4 we are connected, safe and healthy with a strong sense of community

KEY ISSUES

The review of the current CRL Fee Waiving policy has determined there are no identifiable changes required apart from an update in the formatting to the new CRL Policy Template that includes updated fonts and logos.

BACKGROUND

Library staff are often required to respond to customer requests for the reduction or waiving of overdue fines and charges. This policy outlines the criteria under which requests for the reduction or waiving of library fees and charges can be made and the circumstances under which requests will be considered. Generally, charges will only be reduced or waived as a result of extenuating or unforeseen circumstances such as accident, illness or disaster. This policy enables library staff to make decisions based on individual customer circumstances and provides for staff to refer more complex requests to a supervisor where necessary.

There had been no substantial changes to this policy since its adoption in 2014 until November 2019 meeting which was postponed until February 2020.

The following Recommendation was endorsed and adopted by the executive council:

5.2 OVERDUE FINES REVIEW

Discussion considered the level of funds actually gained from these charges in light of the advantages reported by other library services for removing the fee for overdues.

Recommendation

The Committee endorse the following in relation to overdue fines:

1. Stop charging overdue fees.
2. Suspend membership privileges after 28 days when items move to a *lost* status.
3. Wipe all current overdue fines in a fines amnesty then implement a no overdue fine Overdue Policy as described in item 1 and 2 of this recommendation.
4. Effective from 1 July 2020.

Moved: Cllr Karen Toms

Second: Jill Haynes

Adopted

Prepared by	Kathryn Breward - Regional Librarian
Attachment	Draft CRL Fee Waiving Policy 2024

Clarence Regional Library Strategy 2024-2034



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr and Yaegl people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live and work. We honour the First Nations peoples culture and connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



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“Community cohesion. It brings people together from all sections of the community, and it’s a happy gathering space.”

Bellingen Library

SECTION 1



Introduction

Clarence Regional Library is a partnership between two local government areas: Clarence Valley Council and Bellingen Shire Council.

Public libraries are located in key settlements along the Clarence, Bellinger and Kalang rivers and seaside towns: Grafton, Maclean, Iluka, Yamba, Bellingen, Dorrigo, Urunga. A mobile library augments access to library resources and programs across the Clarence Valley. Clarence Regional Library's well regarded physical and digital collections are shared across an extensive geographical area.

The task of strategic thinking is primarily to ask questions; to acknowledge constraints; to problem solve; to prepare a map for the future, balancing ambition and pragmatism.

The Clarence Regional Library Strategy 2024-2034 supports the regional partnership to meet changing needs, while staying close to the overarching ethos of a regional library service: cooperation, collective decision making, sharing resources, regional collaboration, joint commitment to each other's success and sustainable growth.

*"My library -
accommodating,
knowledgeable,
patient, friendly
and passionate."*

Urunga Library

*"A quiet
place of inspiration,
sanctuary and stories for
me and my family to utilise
free of charge. I will never
buy another book!"*

Maclean Library

Who are we?

The people of the Clarence and Bellinger Valleys are people of the rivers. The upper and lower Clarence River. The Bellinger, Kalang and Orara Rivers. Saltwater Freshwater ecologies have sustained the custodial and cultural stewardship of Country by Gumbayngirr, Bundjalung and Yaegl Peoples.

These mighty rivers run through the land and its intertwined histories.

Always bountiful, the rivers stretch like arteries across lush floodplains; tipping over mountain ranges; colliding with the sea.

Like many other parts of Australia, floods and bush fires have etched the landscape like tattoos. Rebirth and reuse occur in generational cycles.

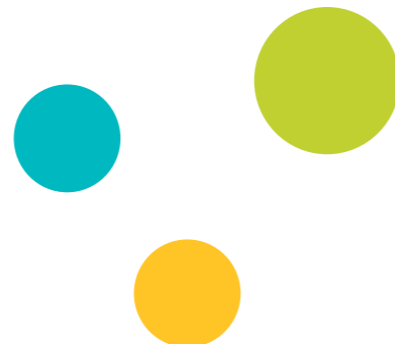
A renewed focus on habitat protection, working alongside and learning from First Nations communities, balancing trade with conservation, are important strategic imperatives of Bellinger and Clarence Valley Councils.

The landscape is changing; as is population density and demographics.

From sugar cane to macadamia farming; harvesting timber to sustainable agriculture; the growth of health, justice and education industries. Like many regional areas in Australia, the demographic trend is older but also younger; the consequence of regional migration due to housing affordability, the normalisation of remote working, and the growth of service industries in larger bustling towns like Grafton and Bellinger. Smaller but still bustling coastal and river villages like Yamba, Maclean and Urunga have also seen population growth and a corresponding demand for learning and cultural experiences and services.

Arts and cultural production is flourishing, making a contribution to economies but also connecting communities, enhancing local distinctiveness, and providing more reasons to see the Clarence and Bellinger Valleys as a destination. The strong presence and cultural stewardship of Gumbayngirr, Bundjalung and Yaegl Peoples extends understanding and active preservation of language, stories, heritage sites and landscape regeneration.

Due to the geographic scale of both local government areas, combined with large tracts of native forests affecting the availability of new housing stock, there is a restricted rate base (especially Bellinger). Bridges, roads, waterways, docks, also need ongoing maintenance; new infrastructure is required to support population growth hotspots. Council's recurrent funding for social and cultural services is stretched in multiple directions; reliance on grant funding opportunities is unlikely to weaken.



Libraries are the glue

The next ten years will bring more disruption, particularly artificial intelligence (AI), climate change, the nature of work, an ageing population, housing affordability, learning and education.

Disruption leads to displacement **and** to new possibilities; always both.

Some regional trends are likely to accelerate: sea/tree population shifts; normalisation of remote working and small business inception; environmental changes and remediation efforts; changes to agricultural production; increase in health and education services; improved transport access, connecting regional centres to major cities; increase in AI, robotics and automated processes and services; demand for medium to higher density housing options; greater need for community connections and collective modes of productivity.

No matter what the scenario, there will be a continued need for libraries.

What do people say?

The people of the rivers, valleys, plateau and seas have spoken eloquently, passionately and pragmatically about their libraries; their needs, hopes and deep attachment to the practical, cultural and symbolic role libraries play in community life.

There are those for whom the library is necessary and vital. How do we reward their attachment and commitment?

There are those who haven't found a reason to visit or use their libraries...yet. We need to understand why, and what would entice people to return to libraries or discover them anew.

Importantly, what do libraries stand for in this complex historical moment, and what are they prepared to stand up for?

The community research has produced consistent findings.

Levels of satisfaction are contingent on location and accessibility. For example, more likely to be satisfied with library spaces and program offerings if living in proximity to larger libraries – Grafton and Bellingen. People are attached to but critical of perceived limitations – spaces, location, opening hours – in some smaller libraries. Yamba, Maclean, Urunga, Dorrigo and Iluka were mentioned, but for a range of different reasons. There are high levels of satisfaction with Clarence Valley mobile library.

Lunchtime library closing hours – Yamba, Maclean, Dorrigo, Urunga – drew strong criticism. In fact, the practice of lunchtime closing is out of synch with comparable regional library services across NSW.

Library programs and learning activities are considered excellent, but there are questions about equity of program delivery across the network.

There is strong support for greater accessibility to library resources/spaces, particularly the possibility of 24/7 access in some locations.

Visibility of physical libraries and awareness of learning programs and online resources continues to be an issue for many community members.

Questions, feedback and considerations have jostled for meaning in a big melting pot of ideas. Clear patterns and lines of enquiry have emerged. Ideas and suggestions for improvement have been tested and refined with various stakeholders; a scaffold for the future has emerged.

In essence, the proposed strategy seeks to extend equity of access to collections and learning programs; offer delightful and versatile library spaces and places; reimagine and expand essential learning programs and activities; deepen collections and the preservation of local memories and histories; foster a culture of inclusion, acceptance and care.

“Using the library at night in enchanting. It's a beautiful place to hang out and get lost in a story.”

Maclean Library



WHAT DO PEOPLE SAY?

Survey 2023:
500 participants

Survey 2022:
727 participants

Interviews:
30

Workshops:
4



Strategy in a nutshell

The Clarence Regional Library Strategy 2024-2034 combines sensible 'stretch' goals with sustainable and necessary 'reimagine' initiatives.

The four essential elements to any library service model – spaces, services, collections, people and culture – form the strategy spine. They provide direction and focus for what needs to be done. Three new lenses have emerged from the consultation process: stretch, reimagine and stand out. The three lenses bring imagination and creativity to the task of thinking about and planning for the future. More information about the spine and lenses can be found in the next section.

Top five summary of strategic actions

Spaces

- stretch ageing libraries into available adjacent spaces
- introduce mobile library for Bellingen Valley
- plan for and open new contemporary libraries in Yamba and Maclean
- 24/7 library kiosk and landing pad in at least one small Clarence Valley village
- ensure every library has noise-insulated meeting/study rooms.

Services

- reimagine library opening hours; eliminate lunchtime closing
- along with new library kiosk and landing pad, explore feasibility of 24/7 library vending machines to supplement services in smaller libraries with restricted opening hours, like Iluka and Dorrigo
- expand locations and platforms for community learning and gathering programs like Storytime; Baby Bounce; Live n Loud; Toddler Time; Vintage Film; Author and Artist Talks
- expand literacy related programs to include media and visual literacy.

What is a mobile library?

A mobile library goes to the people. Clarence Valley's mobile library is a perfect example of a contemporary, agile van delivering books, resources, technology and programs to 12 villages across the local government area. The strategy recommends a separate mobile library for the Bellingen Valley Shire.

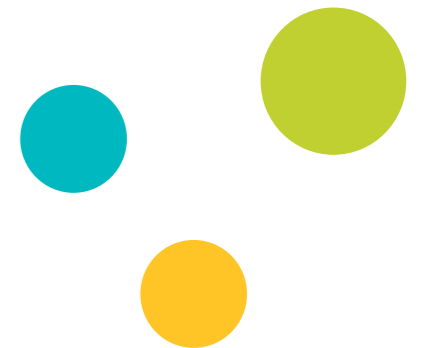


Collections

- investigate specialist non fiction collections where local demand is strong for a particular subject area like visual art, architecture, food and performing arts
- create new position of Local Faces/Local Voices Coordinator focusing on a discreet project to capture local history in the making
- conduct collection needs assessment and deepen collection of fiction, non-fiction, digital devices, and access to new digital platforms
- work collaboratively with local museums and historical societies to discover, digitise and store local stories, memories and artefacts
- explore the concept of a Library of Useful Things.

People and culture

- improve library signage, way finding, website and promotion of multifaceted services
- curate and deliver a biennial Festival of the Rivers, Valleys, and Sea
- promote and facilitate collaborative work spaces, supporting all kinds of study and work endeavours
- evolve reference and information support services; library staff skills; cohort of enthusiastic volunteers.



What is a library kiosk or pod?

The ability to offer 24/7 library services in large suburban and regional locations has seen innovative examples of library kiosks or pods. Incorporating click and collect with high tech vending machines, well designed library pods also provide a landing pad for mobile library vans, free wifi and comfortable seating. Popular programs like Storytime and Tech Savvy Seniors complement what is essentially a 24/7 stripped back library in a convenient location. A good example is Ipswich Library's Karalee Library Pod.



Our neighbours: New libraries in 2023

The two adjacent local government areas of Nambucca Valley Council and City of Coffs Harbour opened new libraries in 2023.

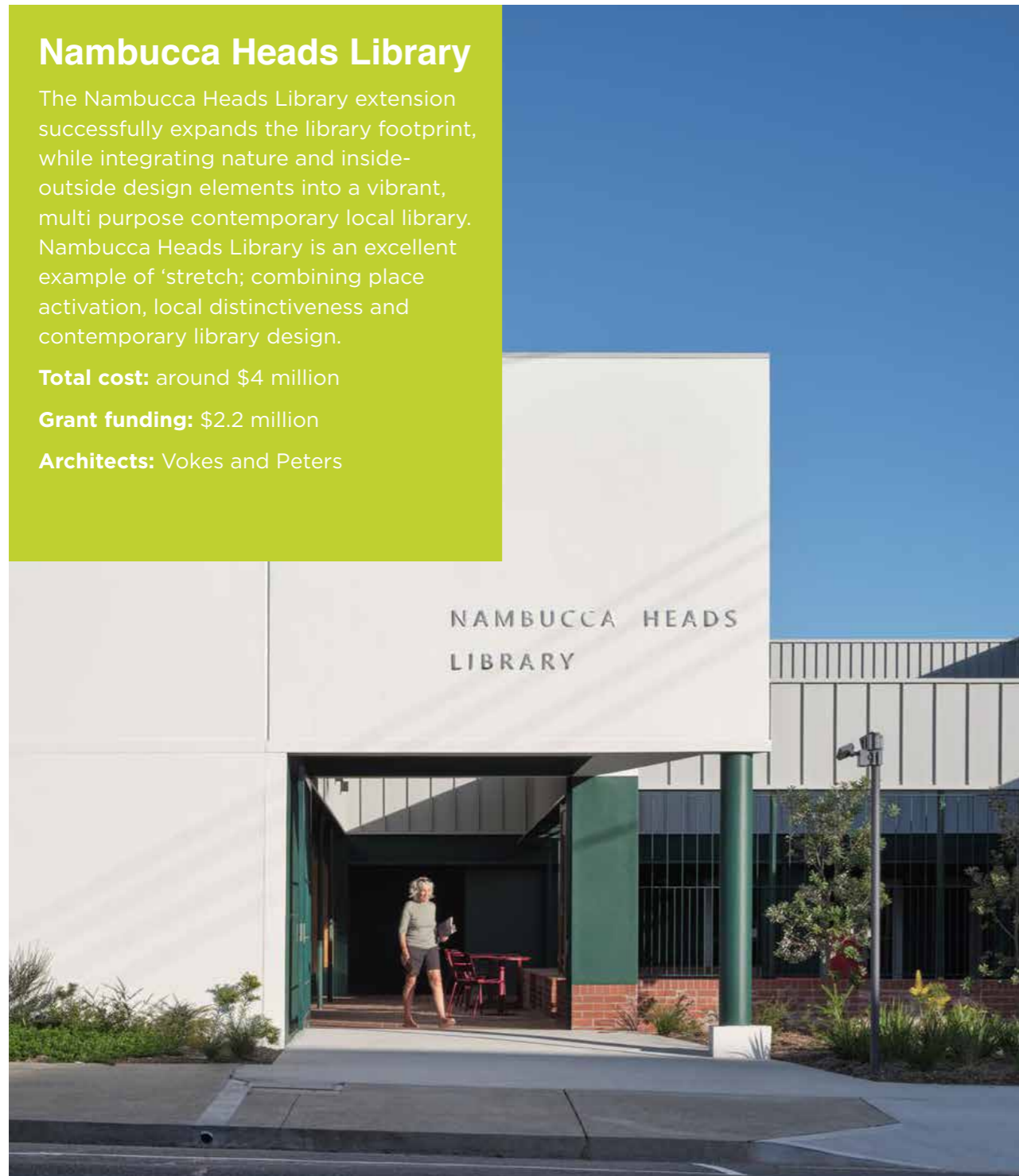
Nambucca Heads Library

The Nambucca Heads Library extension successfully expands the library footprint, while integrating nature and inside-outside design elements into a vibrant, multi purpose contemporary local library. Nambucca Heads Library is an excellent example of 'stretch'; combining place activation, local distinctiveness and contemporary library design.

Total cost: around \$4 million

Grant funding: \$2.2 million

Architects: Vokes and Peters

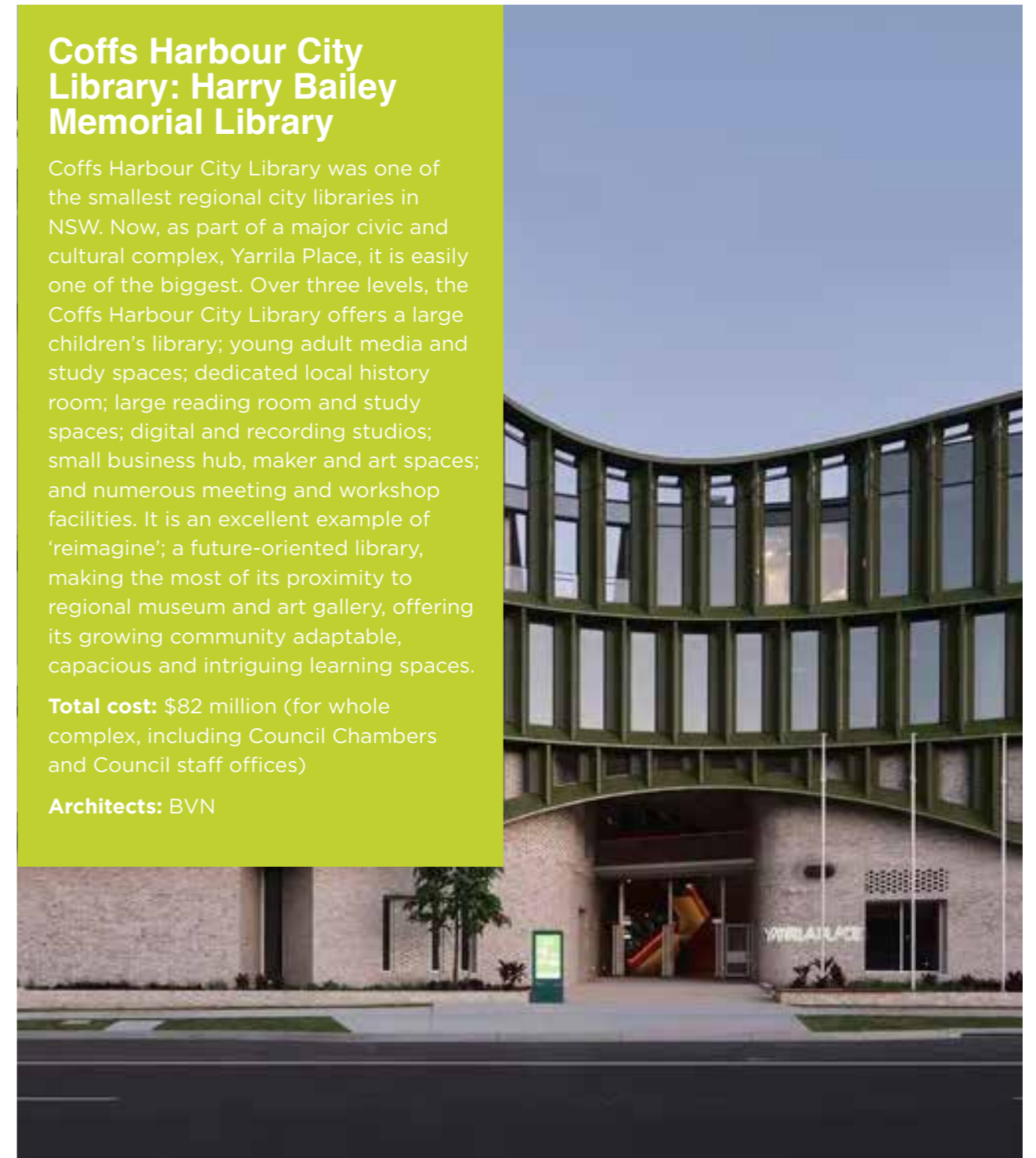


Coffs Harbour City Library: Harry Bailey Memorial Library

Coffs Harbour City Library was one of the smallest regional city libraries in NSW. Now, as part of a major civic and cultural complex, Yarrila Place, it is easily one of the biggest. Over three levels, the Coffs Harbour City Library offers a large children's library; young adult media and study spaces; dedicated local history room; large reading room and study spaces; digital and recording studios; small business hub, maker and art spaces; and numerous meeting and workshop facilities. It is an excellent example of 'reimagine'; a future-oriented library, making the most of its proximity to regional museum and art gallery, offering its growing community adaptable, capacious and intriguing learning spaces.

Total cost: \$82 million (for whole complex, including Council Chambers and Council staff offices)

Architects: BVN

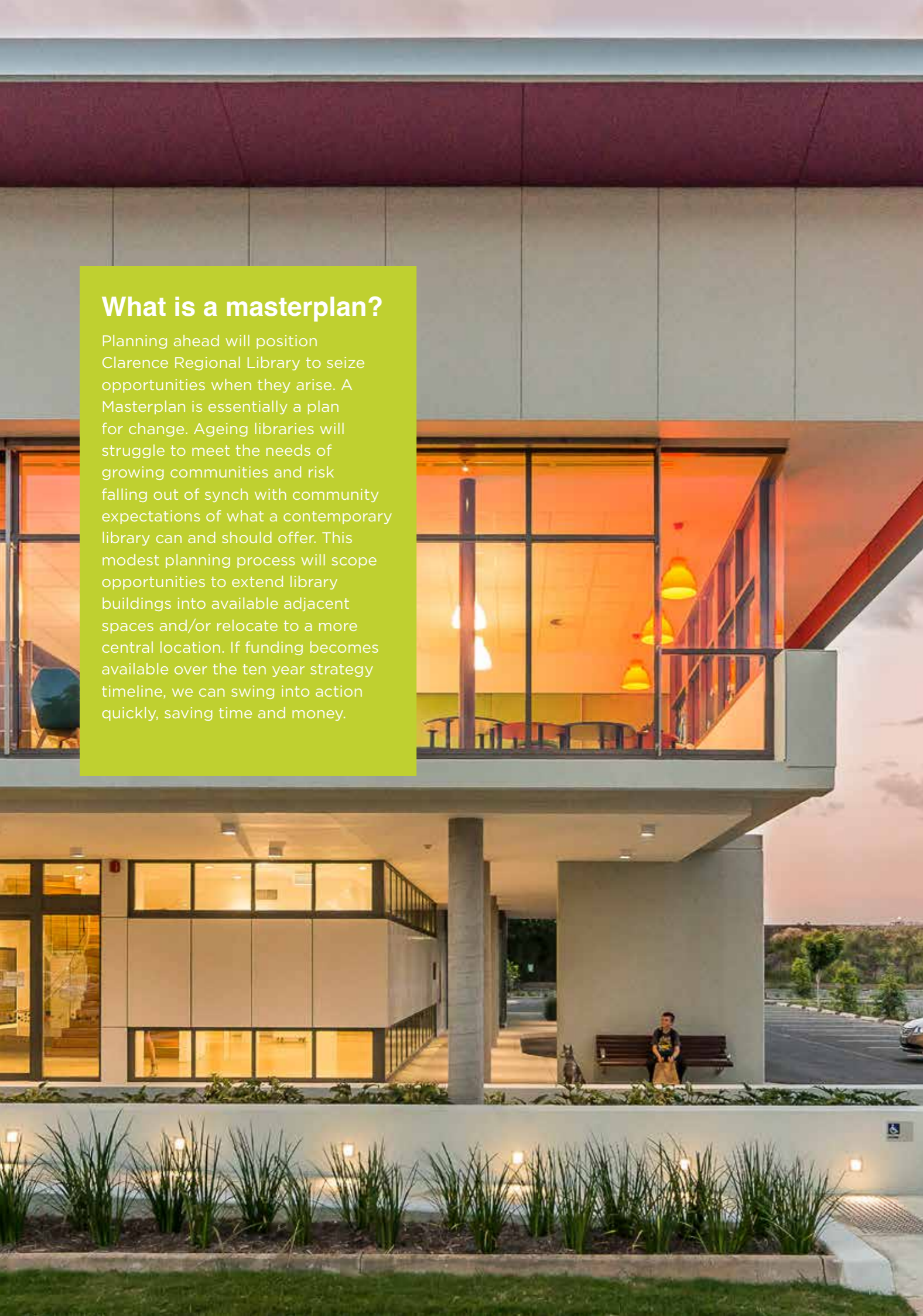


SECTION 2

Clarence Regional Library 2024-2034: Objectives and actions

What is a masterplan?

Planning ahead will position Clarence Regional Library to seize opportunities when they arise. A Masterplan is essentially a plan for change. Ageing libraries will struggle to meet the needs of growing communities and risk falling out of synch with community expectations of what a contemporary library can and should offer. This modest planning process will scope opportunities to extend library buildings into available adjacent spaces and/or relocate to a more central location. If funding becomes available over the ten year strategy timeline, we can swing into action quickly, saving time and money.



Clarence Regional Library 2024-2034

Your libraries are a true treasure. In place or online, the world in all its complexity – of knowledge, contested ideas and multiple histories – is waiting.

A bastion of democracy, your library welcomes all and stands up for free access to knowledge and opportunity.

Work, play, learn and rest – there will always be something for you, your friends and family at the library.

Over the life of this strategy, your library will continue to do what libraries have always done – support learning, research, creativity and community enterprise; anticipating and adapting to emerging needs and possibilities.

You can expect to see more generous opening hours; pop-up access points; new library buildings; additions and extensions; more programs and partnerships; resources galore; questions, ideas and insights about life along our rivers and coastal towns.

A dynamic place, your library nurtures imagination, curiosity, fact finding and thinking. Become a member. Get involved. Tell us what you think and need. Help us plan for the future.

*“Perhaps
a garden space
a green, sheltered
outdoor area to sit
and read. A cafe
would be good.”*
Dorrigo Library

Spine and lenses

There are four essential elements to any library service model: spaces; services; collections; people and culture.

These service elements are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. The capacity to support living, working, learning and play relies on these service elements staying limber, like a spine; the stronger and more flexible they are, the better.

In essence, the spine represents what we are working with in order to change, evolve and/or transform throughout the life of the strategy. The work of doing this transformative work belongs to the lenses. In this case, three have emerged from the community consultation: stretch, reimagine and stand out.

The lenses bring imagination and creativity to the task, while acknowledging constraints, limitations and uncertainties. While pragmatism is needed; imagination is the glue. In fact, our problem solving will depend on it.

Like a pair of glasses, the lenses overlay the service model to ask new questions and suggest new possibilities.

stretch: extend what we already have

reimagine: what can we do differently or better?

stand out: seen by all, used by all



1: Stretch: extend what we already have

sanctuary and gathering place

Objective 1:1

Quiet and lively, for concentration and play, the library will accommodate multiple community needs. Stretching the spatial footprint beyond current boundaries will afford new opportunities for reading, thinking, learning and play.

Your library will:

- have noise-insulated study, meeting and workshop spaces
- library shelving will be on castors; therefore moveable and enabling adaptable spaces
- develop Masterplans for ageing libraries
- where possible, extend the library's physical footprint into adjacent and available open spaces
- continue to refurbish library spaces in line with available budgets and grant funding opportunities.

community magnet

Objective 1:2

The heart of all our towns and villages, fixed or mobile, the library is a magnet for civic life.

Your library will:

- continue to offer a diverse range of learning programs and activities for all ages
- continue to offer reliable and free WIFI across all library spaces and places – libraries and surrounds, mobile library, library pods/kiosks
- develop a feasibility plan and seek grant funding for a Bellingen Valley mobile library
- investigate free working and co-working spaces and business hubs in the two central libraries: Grafton and Bellingen.

treasure trove

Objective 1:3

Books, magazines, games and digital devices – in place and online – will expand and deepen at the library.

Your library will:

- build on CRL collection strengths - fiction, non-fiction and diverse information resources
- continue to modernise technology platforms and access to digital devices/resources
- continue to improve CRL APP; the gateway to online resources and programs
- seek community input and local needs in relation to non-fiction specialist collections: art, design, architecture, sustainable agriculture
- conduct collection needs assessment
- further develop and promote culturally and linguistically diverse resources and collections
- prioritise the inclusion of First Nations histories, stories and publications
- further develop and promote collections that support children's and youth interests and needs.

stretch

extend what we already have

"The most important service that Council offers."
Grafton Library

"Libraries are safe and enriching places, but they are not accessible if they are not open when people need them."

Iluka Library



2: Reimagine: what can we do differently or better?

comfortable, adaptable, open

Objective 2:1

Artists, writers, readers, craftspeople, students and travelling nomads will benefit from new, multipurpose libraries in key locations, as well as the sensitive reimagining of existing library spaces.

Your library will:

- apply an adaptable design ethos to new libraries
- improve accessibility and inside-outside permeability; celebrating nature and taking advantage of our temperate climate in new and extended libraries
- reimagine library opening hours; in particular, eliminate lunchtime closures and enable after hours access where possible
- introduce extended night time opening hours and associated events
- design, seek grant funding, and deliver a multi-service library kiosk and landing pad: trial in outlying location and evaluate after first 12 months
- investigate feasibility of library vending machines outside smaller library locations with reduced opening hours like Iluka and Dorrigo
- continue to improve and expand home library delivery
- investigate the feasibility of a Library of Useful Things to assist cost of living pressures: guided by community needs and available spaces.

literacies, learning and life skills

Objective 2:2

The library stimulates and supports reading and learning; providing free access to digital, information, media and visual literacy programs and resources for all ages.

Your library will:

- continue quality literacy, information navigation and digital literacy programs and support
- expand locations for Storytime, Baby Bounce, Live n Loud, Toddler Time
- extend community learning and gathering programs: Kid's Book Club; Vintage Film; Book Clubs; Author and Artist Talks
- introduce new programs and opportunities based on ongoing community consultation - CosPlay, Game On
- use new library kiosk and mobile services to reach new audiences
- build on and expand link with Clarence Correctional Centre, supporting literacy, reading and entertainment options for inmates and their visitors
- investigate video and/or live streaming possibilities for programs currently delivered in-house only
- research and develop suitable media literacy programs; work with art galleries and artists to develop visual literacy programs and products
- continue to support language learning - ensure adequate resources and access to suitable language learning resources.

memories, stories and ideas

Objective 2:3

Our local stories and histories are precious and irreplaceable. The library is a local stories repository, a vehicle for digitisation and discovery, and an active collector of history in the making.

Your library will:

- find new pathways to publicise and display the Nola Mackey Collection
- grow and expand partnerships with local museums and historical societies
- appoint a Local Faces/Local Voices Project Coordinator to develop, promote and facilitate a participative co-curation of contemporary local histories
- develop digitisation plan and seek grant funding
- work with Gumbayngirr, Bundjalung and Yaegl Elders and communities on joint history capture projects
- expand and promote Local Voices history collections: oral, video and photographic.

"A new library for Maclean. We desperately need a meeting room, so we can have the same range of programs as the other Clarence libraries."
Maclean Library

Soul of the town.
Dorrigo Library

reimagine

what can we
do differently
or better?

3: Stand Out: seen by all, used by all

out and about

Objective 3:1

Clarence Regional Library is a leader in digital equity, community outreach and democratic participation.

Your library will:

- build on CRL branding, marketing and promotional activities
- improve library signage and way finding; in-house and across neighbourhoods
- redevelop the library website to improve functionality and discoverability of resources and programs
- ensure cultural, community and education partnerships are maintained and further developed
- continue to support a cohort of enthusiastic volunteers
- position libraries as go-to places and creative partners across all locations and geographies.

spirit of adventure

Objective 3:2

Library spaces, people and programs encourage and generate a spirit of adventure in how to think, create and learn; alone or together.

Your library will:

- promote and facilitate collaborative work spaces for people in work, working remotely, looking for work, or creating new work: access to online meeting platforms; relevant equipment and high speed WIFI
- continue to market services and opportunities like IndyReads, StoryBox and beamafilm, and any other services people may have forgotten about or never heard of before
- curate and deliver a biennial Festival of the Rivers, Valleys and Sea - weaving reading, learning, thinking and writing into a travelling festival along our interconnected rivers.

behind the scenes

Objective 3:3

In a world of relentless change and disruption, the library is an icon of reinvention. Our service philosophy continues to adapt to a changing landscape, both physical and social.

Your library will:

- review the library service model to ensure congruence with emerging needs and community expectations
- develop transition plans and associated skills development in preparation for new libraries, expanded libraries, and new delivery and digital platforms
- evolve our reference services - skills and modes of engagement
- ensure the library staffing cohort reflects demand, locations and additional services
- maintain advocacy initiatives with key regional stakeholders - arguing for the library as an essential community resource and service, and demonstrating the tangible benefits it delivers to all.



*Friendly, reliable
and extremely
helpful staff*
Yamba Library

stand out

seen by all,
used by all

*“Pop up
libraries in every
town, and people could
borrow and return
books in new ways,
maybe drones?”*
Grafton Library



*“Lower river
Live N Loud,
please!”
Yamba Library*

*“Make our libraries
feel alive, inviting and
interactive. They need to
make broad use on interactive
technologies. It’s the medium
people now use for work and
communication.”
Yamba Library*

*Free. Interesting.
Fantastic. Important.
Bellingen Library*

Timeline

LENSES	2024 - 2026	2027 - 2029	2030 - 2032	2033 - 2034
stretch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masterplans for ageing libraries Feasibility study + grant funding for Bellingen mobile library Start collection needs assessment Improved library app Dorrigo Library extension opens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant funding for library extensions Implement Bellingen mobile library Continue to expand collections; specialist non-fiction implemented Home library services expand, especially Bellingen Valley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co working & business hubs in central libraries Renew and replace mobile library Refurbishment plans in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer up-to-date digital devices, access to platforms, online resources, and training programs Join initiatives with galleries, museums and historical societies
reimagine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Yamba Library opens Grant funding for pilot Library Kiosk Expand programs; build on partnerships Source funding and appoint Local Faces/Local Voices Project Officer Opening hours improved and expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Maclean Library opens 24/7 library vending services outside Iluka and Dorrigo Libraries Media and visual literacy programs available Continue to build relationship with Clarence Correctional Centre Local histories digitisation plan available Evening opening hours implemented Local Voices expands across library network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revitalised Iluka Library Vending services extended to new locations Library of Useful Things 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library kiosk in Bellingen Valley Masterplans for current ageing libraries New exhibiting spaces and programs
stand out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New CRL website Visible library signage Volunteer cohort expands Review service model Establish relevant service metrics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First year of biennial Festival of the Rivers, Valleys and Sea Service model changes implemented New staff positions to support increased demand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biennial festival goes from strength to strength Continue advocacy based on increased library demand & comprehensive metrics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate success of new spaces, services and collections Review library strategy & plan for next ten years



Sources of grant funding

The primary source of additional library funding is the Public Library Infrastructure Grants offered by State Library NSW. Up to the \$500,000 of grant funding is available every year to successful recipients. Another available source is Create NSW and its Cultural Spaces and Infrastructure Grants; the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund, Growing Regions Program, and Building Better Regions Fund. Library program funding opportunities can be sourced from the Department of Communities and Justice NSW's seniors funding program; and Holiday Break Program Grants from the Department of Regional NSW.

The strategy recommends pursuing all grant funding opportunities to advance key strategic objectives over the ten year timeframe.

Next Steps

To come

APPENDICES



To come

Appendices

To come

Appendices

To come

Credits

To come





BOOK STOCK INFORMATION

100 - Opening stock		Number of Books Held			132,000	132,000					132,000	135,000	138,000	141,000	144,000	144,000	144,000	144,000	144,000	144,000
105 - acquisitions		New Acquisitions			13,200	13,200					13,200	13,200	13,200	13,200	15,400	15,400	15,400	15,400	15,400	15,400
110 - Yamba Book Increase		Additional Books			3,000						3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000						
115 - Average item price (EX GST)					\$20	\$20.00					\$20.40	\$20.81	\$21.22	\$21.65	\$22.08	\$22.52	\$22.97	\$23.43	\$23.90	\$24.38
120 - # weeded		Annual book disposals			13,200	13,200					13,200	13,200	13,200	13,200	15,400	15,400	15,400	15,400	15,400	15,400
125 - Closing Stock		Number of Books Held			135,000	132,000					135,000	138,000	141,000	144,000	144,000	144,000	144,000	144,000	144,000	144,000
130 - Net Funds Available before Book Vote					\$0	(\$252,760)					\$103,520	\$303,614	\$338,198	\$344,240	\$433,814	\$414,245	\$447,119	\$456,474	\$461,967	\$466,082
135 - Bookvote Required	570161-6035-6082	book vote	Acquisitions X Item Av Price		\$258,461	\$300,000					\$330,480	\$337,090	\$343,831	\$350,708	\$340,057	\$346,858	\$353,795	\$360,871	\$368,089	\$375,450
137 - Capitol furniture & Equipment	570160-6535-6060	furniture & fittings/office equipment			\$4,987															

ACCUMULATED RESERVES INFORMATION

140 - Reserve Opening - RA 41125 & 41127	RA 41125 & 41127	CRL and Computer Reserve	Closing Bal Prior Yr		(\$786,617)	\$734,212	\$784,787				\$0			\$212,433	(\$12,403)	(\$46,003)	(\$52,096)	(\$59,085)	\$34,081	\$101,809	\$196,150	\$293,715	\$390,531
145 - Movement	997435-6300-4902	Transfer to/from Reserve	update this		(\$258,461)	(\$300,000)	(\$597,760)				\$0			(\$226,960)	(\$33,475)	(\$5,633)	(\$6,468)	\$93,757	\$67,387	\$93,324	\$95,603	\$93,879	\$90,632
150 - Interest On Reserve Opening Balance	997435-6071-1344				\$0	\$18,320	\$7,848							\$2,124	(\$124)	(\$460)	(\$521)	(\$591)	\$341	\$1,018	\$1,962	\$2,937	\$3,905
155 - Other Reserve Expenditure							\$17,558																
160 - Reserve Closing Balance (Positive Figure - Funds Held, Negative - Overdrawn)					(\$1,045,078)	\$434,212	\$212,433							(\$12,403)	(\$46,003)	(\$52,096)	(\$59,085)	\$34,081	\$101,809	\$196,150	\$293,715	\$390,531	\$485,068
165 - Minimum Reserve Balance Determined					\$309,118	\$ 327,075.90	\$335,140							\$342,178	\$351,920	\$357,191	\$365,526	\$373,586	\$385,005	\$391,408	\$400,397	\$410,012	\$420,012
170 - Staff entitlements		Leave entitlements, Restructures			\$200,000	\$ 200,000.00	\$200,000							\$204,000	\$208,080	\$212,242	\$216,486	\$220,816	\$225,232	\$229,737	\$234,332	\$239,019	\$243,799
175 - Contingency 10% of Operating Expenditure		Provided for unforeseen events, Replacement of CRL Specific Assets other than Book Stock			\$109,118	\$ 127,075.90	\$135,140							\$138,178	\$143,840	\$144,949	\$149,040	\$152,770	\$159,773	\$161,671	\$166,065	\$170,994	\$176,213

135 - Bookvote Required	570161-6035-6082	book vote	Acquisitions X Item Av Price	\$258,461	\$300,000	\$345,000	\$179,125			\$330,480	\$337,090	\$343,831	\$350,708	\$340,057	\$346,858	\$353,795	\$360,871	\$368,089	\$375,450
137 - Capitol furniture & Equipment	570160-6535-6060	furniture & fittings/office equipment		\$4,987		\$6,000	\$1,379		camera										

ACCUMULATED RESERVES INFORMATION

140 - Reserve Opening - RA 41125 & 41127	RA 41125 & 41127	CRL and Computer Reserve	Closing Bal Prior Yr		(\$786,617)	\$734,212	\$784,787	\$0		\$212,433	(\$12,403)	(\$46,003)	(\$52,096)	(\$59,085)	\$34,081	\$101,809	\$196,150	\$293,715	\$390,531
145 - Movement	997435-6300-4902	Transfer to/from Reserve	update this		(\$258,461)	(\$300,000)	(\$597,760)	\$0		(\$226,960)	(\$33,475)	(\$55,633)	(\$6,468)	\$93,757	\$67,387	\$93,324	\$95,603	\$93,879	\$90,632
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165 - Minimum Reserve Balance Determined					\$309,118	\$ 327,075.90	\$335,140			\$342,178	\$351,920	\$357,191	\$365,526	\$373,586	\$385,005	\$391,408	\$400,397	\$410,012	\$420,012
170 - Staff entitlements		Leave entitlements, Restructures			\$200,000	\$ 200,000.00	\$200,000			\$204,000	\$208,080	\$212,242	\$216,486	\$220,816	\$225,232	\$229,737	\$234,332	\$239,019	\$243,799
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Clarence Regional Library

Highlights 2022/23

Bellingen, Dorrigo, Grafton, Iluka, Maclean, Urunga, Yamba & Mobile library



www.crl.nsw.gov.au



30,567
library members

213,927
visits in person

45%
of the population of the Clarence Valley & Bellingen Shires are library members

downloads

30,525 eBooks
28,747 eAudio
11,189 eMagazines
34,479 Library App


public library website
141,575 visits


27,381
wi-fi sessions


13,754 hrs
internet sessions


96,769
information requests


226,855 items
45,702 reserves
305,019 loans

programs & events

 **13,979** attendance
 **1446** programs & events

Clarence Regional Library

eLibrary highlights 2022/23

Bellingen, Dorrigo, Grafton,
Iluka, Maclean, Urunga,
Yamba & Mobile library

Social Media



1,234 followers



3,465 followers



850 audience



17,160 views



1,573 images
123.2k views

13,230
eResource
searches

top 5 eResources

- 6,207 - Ancestry.com
- 3,182 - Gale
- 1,448 - StoryBox
- 724 - Ziptales
- 495 - Computer School

downloads



- 30,525 eBooks
- 28,747 eAudio
- 11,189 eMagazines
- 34,479 Library App

71,618

library catalogue
searches



library website

140,826
visits

library app

2,577
users

Clarence Valley Libraries

highlights 2022/23



www.crl.nsw.gov.au



Grafton Iluka Maclean Yamba

plus the
Mobile library



23,282

library members

43%

of the population of
the Clarence Valley are
library members

129,934

visits in person



229,218 loans

31,751 reservations

92,563 items

programs & events

programs & events 1044

attendance 10,705

information requests

76,989

public internet access



12,369

wi-fi sessions



6,723 hrs
internet sessions

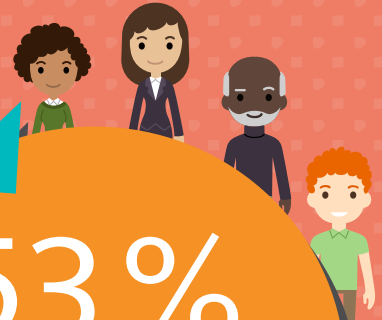
Iluka Library 2022/23 highlights



www.crl.nsw.gov.au



2,708 population
1,431 library members



53%

of iluka & woombah population are library members.

13,839 library visits



programs & events



1885 attendance



257 programs & events



7,855 items
4,023 reserves
14,305 loans

66 hrs internet sessions

1,313 wifi sessions



information requests

9,311



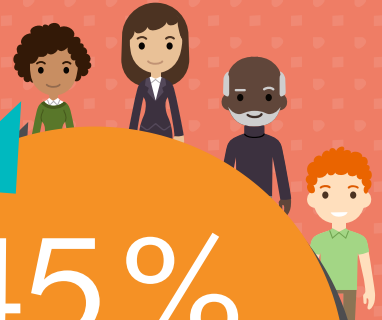
Yamba Library 2022/23 highlights



www.crl.nsw.gov.au



7,994 population
3,559 library members



45%

of yamba, palmers island & angourie population are library members.

25,549
library visits



programs & events



2,267
attendance



154
programs &
events



13,167 items
7,163 reserves
33,036 loans

725 hrs
internet
sessions

1,481
wifi sessions



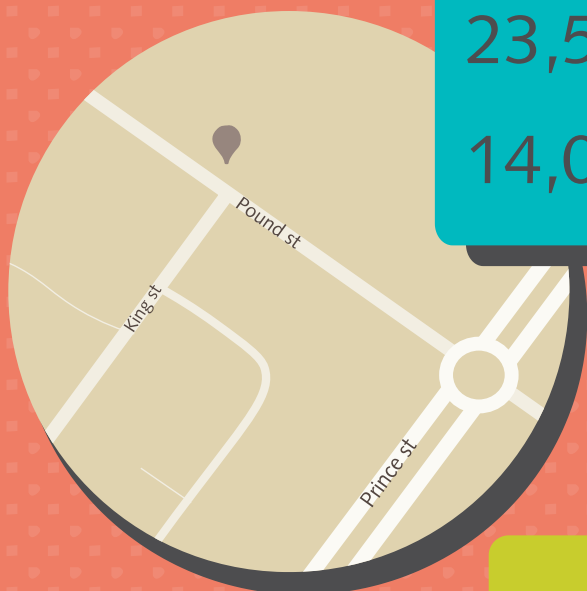
information
requests

16,646

Grafton Library 2022/23 highlights



www.crl.nsw.gov.au



23,597 population
14,025 library members



60%

of grafton, south grafton, waterview heights, seelands, junction hill & southgate population are library members.

58,779
library visits



programs & events



4,605
attendance



419
programs &
events



54,493 items
12,201 reserves
82,655 loans

5,328 hrs
internet
sessions

7,779
wifi sessions



information
requests

28,516



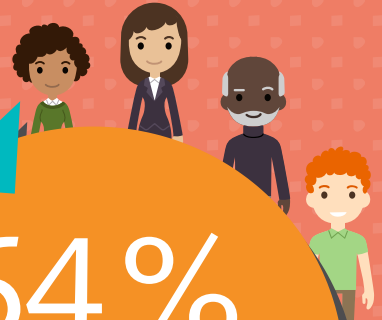
Macleean Library 2022/23 highlights



www.crl.nsw.gov.au



5,742 population
3,638 library members



64%

of the macleean, gulmarrad & townsend population are library members.

29,174 library visits



programs & events



1,395 attendance



130 programs & events



14,761 items
5,946 reserves
25,079 loans

604 hrs internet sessions

1,796 wifi sessions



information requests

20,052



Mobile Library 2022/23 highlights



www.crl.nsw.gov.au

Visiting the villages of Tucabia, Coutts Crossing, Brushgrove, Nymboida, Copmanhurst, Lawrence, Baryulgil, Wooli, Minnie Water, Brooms Head, Glenreagh, and Halfway Creek.



629
library members
12,012kms
traveled this year

programs & events



553
attendance



84
programs &
events

2,593
library visits



information
requests

2,464



2,257 items
2,418 reserves
7,492 loans



Bellingen Shire Libraries

highlights 2022/23



www.crl.nsw.gov.au



BELLINGEN
SHIRE COUNCIL

Bellingen

Dorrigo

Urunga



7,285

library members

55%

of the population of the
Bellingen Shire are library
members

83,993

visits in person



75,801 loans

13,951 reservations

36,614 items

programs & events

programs & events 402

attendance 3,274

information requests

19,780

public internet access



15,012

wi-fi sessions

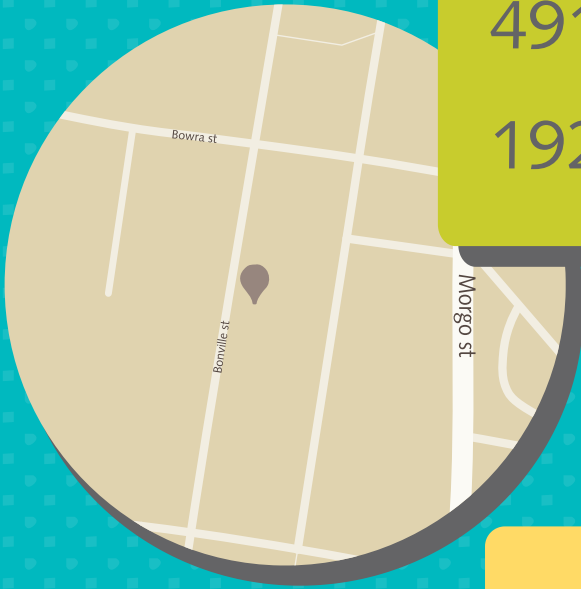


7,031 hrs
internet sessions

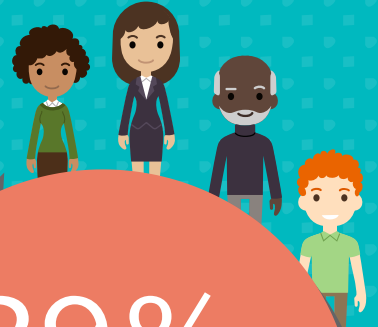
Urunga Library 2022/23 highlights



www.crl.nsw.gov.au



4915 population
1921 library members



39%

of the Urunga seaboard population are library members.

23,966 library visits



programs & events



1000 attendance



122 programs & events



10,744 items
4,314 reserves
17,444 loans

1436 hrs internet sessions

2,301 wifi sessions



information requests

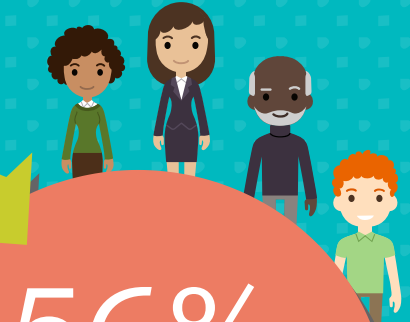
5,290

Dorrigo Library 2022/23 highlights



www.crl.nsw.gov.au

2,158 population
1,219 library members



56%

of the Dorriggo plateau population are library members.

20,360
library visits



programs & events



850
attendance



114
programs &
events



9,050 items
3,476 reserves
13,416 loans

2,092 hrs
internet
sessions

3,409
wifi sessions



information
requests

4,733

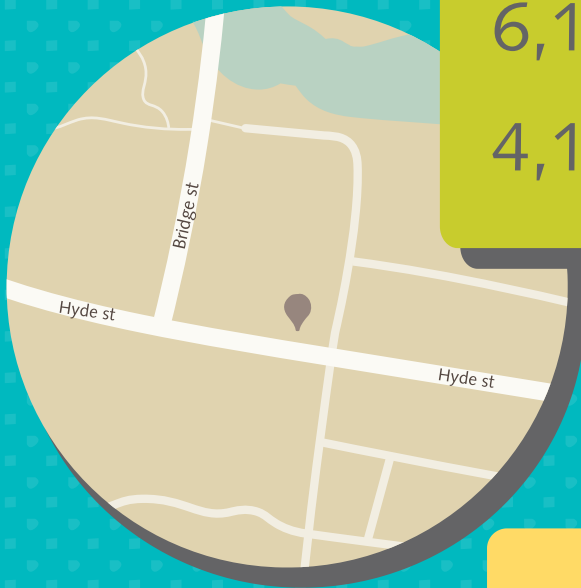


BELLINGEN
SHIRE COUNCIL

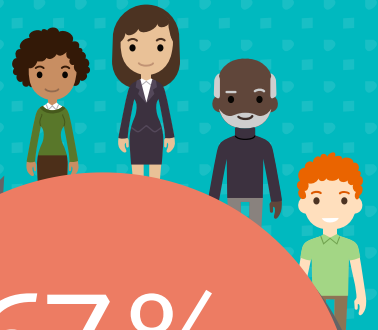
Bellingen Library 2022/23 highlights



www.crl.nsw.gov.au



6,149 population
4,145 library members



67%

of the Bellingen valley population are library members.

39,667 library visits



programs & events



1,424 attendance



166 programs & events



16,820 items
6,161 reserves
28,278 loans

3,503 hrs internet sessions

9,302 wifi sessions



information requests

9,757

ATTACHMENT item 8.1 2022/23 Infographics summary & comparison to 2021/22

2022/23 as at 30 June 2023

	members	% increase or decrease	visits	% increase or decrease	website visits	% increase or decrease	loans	% increase or decrease	reservations	% increase or decrease	items	% increase or decrease	programs	% increase or decrease	attendees	% increase or decrease	wifi sessions	% increase or decrease	internet sessions	% increase or decrease	info requests	% increase or decrease
CRL	30567	0.3%	213927	30.0%	141575	24%	305019	3%	45702	-11%	226855	4.0%	1446	36.5%	13979	80.5%	27,381	17%	13754	5%	96769	1.2%
BSC	7285	0.7%	83993	11.5%			75800.6	2%	13951	-11%	36614	3%	402	23.3%	3274	32%	15,012	9.4%	7031	8%	19,780	-10%
Bellingen	4,145	0.6%	39,667	27%			28,278	4%	6,161	-7%	16,820	6%	166	28%	1,424	19.5%	9,302	18.3%	3,503	8.4%	9,757	-5%
Dorrigo	1,219	-1.2%	20,360	-1.4%			13,416	-7.0%	3,476	-26%	9,050	-4%	114	36%	850	59%	3,409	-8.5%	2,092	-2%	4,733	-14%
Urunga	1921	2.2%	23,966	3%			17,444	3%	4,314	-0.02%	10,744	6%	122	9%	1,000	32.0%	2,301	7.4%	1436	17.6%	5290	-15%
CVC	23282	0.2%	129934	45.4%			229218.4	4%	31751	-11.0%	92563	3%	1044	42.2%	10705	103.5%	12,369	26.8%	6723	4%	76989	4.5%
Grafton	14025	-0.6%	58779	41.3%			82655	4.4%	12201	-16%	54493	2.5%	419	22.2%	4605	84.5%	7,779	22.5%	5328	37%	28516	2.2%
Maclean	3638	3.4%	29174	101.5%			25079	8%	5946	-13%	14761	8.5%	130	67%	1395	119%	1,796	46%	604	-40%	20052	15%
Yamba	3559	2%	25549	5%			33036	-0.74%	7163	-3%	13167	0.03%	154	34%	2267	112.5%	1,481	28%	725	-47%	16646	-8.3%
Iluka	1431	-0.5%	13839	107%			14305	12.3%	4023	-6%	7885	5.3%	257	50%	1885	115.4%	1,313	29.4%	66	-70%	9311	9.3%
Mobile Library	629	-9%	2593	10.4%			7492	4%	2418	-5.0%	2257	-14.6%	84	223%	553	199%	0	0	0	0%	2464	52%

	population	members	% of pop.
CRL	67799	30567	45%
BSC	13219	7285	55%
Bellingen	6149	4145	67%
Dorrigo	2158	1219	56%
Urunga	4915	1921	39%
CVC	54580	23282	43%
Grafton	23597	14025	59%
Maclean	5742	3638	63%
Yamba	7994	3559	45%
Iluka	2708	1431	53%
Mobile Library		629	

ebooks holdings	issues	% increase or decrease	eaudio holdings	issues	% increase or decrease	emags holdings	issues	% increase or decrease	library App launches	% increase or decrease	library catalog searches	% increase or decrease	library website visits	% increase or decrease	eResource searches	% increase or decrease	BeamaFilm downloads	% increase or decrease
6953	30525	-1.4%	3474	28747	-3%	4809	11189	-2%	34479	15%	71618	-2%	140,826	21%	13230	-39%	3317	31%

		% increase or decrease
Instagram followers	1234	4%
FaceBook followers	3465	20%
Pinterest audience	850	20%
Youtube views	17160	15%
Flickr images	1573	22%
Flickr views	123215	125%
library app users	2577	15%



Clarence Regional Library Collection Development Policy

Responsible Manager (Title)	Regional Librarian		
Adopted by Council	Date	Minutes	
File Reference Number	DWS	Version	Review Due
Document(s) this policy Supersedes	2147269 version:4.0		
Community Plan Linkage	1.3 Society - A safe and active community where healthy lifestyles and better health outcomes are encouraged and supported with accessible infrastructure for residents of all ages and abilities		

1 Purpose

The purpose of this Collection Development Policy is to assist in the acquisition and management of library resources and to account to our member councils and the public for the selection of such resources. Measurement of the success of the policy to meet the collection needs of our communities will be measured through the Collection Needs Survey every 2 years.

The reasons for preparing a Collection Development Policy include:

- Enabling the Library to provide a balanced collection of resources that provide for the educational, informational, recreational and cultural needs of the people served by the Library.
- To identify the strengths and weaknesses of the collection, and to redress any weaknesses and to continue to build on strengths
- To act as a guideline for future collection building



2 Definitions

<i>Collection Development</i>	Collection Development is based on ongoing assessments of the information needs of library clientele, usage statistic analysis, and demographic projections.
<i>Selection criteria</i>	Criteria used in the selection of items for the library collection

3 Background/legislative requirements

We would like to acknowledge the Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr and Yaegl people, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our Libraries were built. We would also like to pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and to extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander peoples.

The Clarence Regional Library provides library services for the people of Clarence Valley Council and Bellingen Shire Council. Seven branch libraries and a mobile library serve these communities. The branch libraries are situated at Grafton, Maclean, Yamba, Iluka, Bellingen, Urunga, and Dorrigo. The mobile library operates within Clarence Valley Council area.

Regional Services are located within the Sir Earle Page Library and Education Centre at Grafton and is headed by the Regional Librarian. All centralised tasks such as acquisitions, accessions, cataloguing, ILLs, reference and rotation of stock are carried out at Regional Services and then are delivered to other libraries via couriers. Rotated stock includes adult and junior fiction, adult non-fiction, talking books, large print books and junior easies. This rotation allows our branches to have an injection of new books at regular intervals, additional to newly acquired stock.

All lending stock is available to every library member in the region through our reservation system and may be returned to any library in the system. Items may be reserved via our online catalogue or from within our libraries.

3.1 Community profile

The total population of the Clarence Valley Council and Bellingen Shire areas that fund Clarence Regional Library is 67799. The population of each is shown below: Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Estimated Resident Population 2022.

Table 1. Age distribution in each Local Government Area

Local Government Area	Total Pop.	0-4	Under 15	Over 55
Bellingen	13 262	542 (4%)	2 215 (17%)	5 814 (44%)
Clarence Valley	54 662	2 578 (5%)	8 651 (16%)	23 241 (43%)
NSW	8 153 000	468 056 (6%)	1 470 001 (18%)	2 385 924 (29%)

The above figures indicate that the percentage of the population served by the Clarence Regional Library in each LGA for individuals aged 0-4 and Under 15 is comparable with NSW state figures. However, the percentage of the population for over 55 within each of the LGA's is noticeably higher than the state figure.

3.2 Ethnic Characteristics

The 2021 Census provides the following information about the birthplace of our residents.

Table 2.

	Bellingen	Clarence Valley
Australia	10 518	45 643
England	710	1 531
New Zealand	181	655
Philippines	38	219
India	0	168
Germany	98	159
Netherlands	65	153
United States	73	142
South Africa	62	127

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021 Census. Note: These figures indicate the main responses, not all responses.

It can be seen from the above table that the majority of residents come from English speaking backgrounds.

4 Policy statement

Collection Statements

Scope of the collection

The collection is intended to capture a range of perspectives and voices and reflect the diversity of our communities.



4.1 Reference Collection

The aim of the Reference Collection is to provide access to a broad range of up-to-date information for study and research. It should be of high quality in its content, format and expression. The reference collection is not for loan and includes a range of formats including both print and non-print formats. The Reference Collection also encompasses a number of special collections including, Legal Information Access Centre and Drug Information @ your Library materials. Criteria for selection:

- Up-to-date
- Written by an authority in the particular field
- Easy to use, with appropriate arrangement for the subject, good indexes and bibliographies, illustrations, photographs, maps and timelines.
- Relevance to the needs of our patrons
- Value for money
- Specified by the State Library LIAC and Druginfo coordinators

As is the trend in public libraries, and largely due to internet resources, the Reference collection is reducing in size. Many reference books are being interfiled into the general Non - fiction collection.

4.2 HSC Collection

Each library within the Clarence Regional Library service holds a suitable number of titles specifically published to assist students with their HSC studies. These include past exam papers, study guides and selected texts for English areas of study. The core titles are purchased as a standing order and are displayed in a defined area of each library.

4.3 LIAC Collection

A copy of each title specified by the State Library of NSW Legal Information Access Centre is obtained for each library in the Clarence Regional Library service as part of the Find Legal Answers collection. This collection is maintained on a regular basis as per updated lists from the State Library.



4.4 DrugInfo Collection

A copy of each title specified by the State Library of NSW Drug Information Centre is obtained for each library in the Clarence Regional Library service as part of the DrugInfo collection. This collection is maintained on a regular basis as per updated lists from the State Library.

4.5 Local Studies Collections

The aim of the Local Studies collection is to provide a comprehensive collection of resources relating to the communities served by the Clarence Regional Library. The collection is intended to preserve and make accessible materials of past and present for the future of a cultural, historical, social and environmental nature in a variety of formats. All library locations collect material related to the local history of their area, including Council reports and other documents.

The collections will include monographs, newspapers, periodicals, annual reports, pamphlets, photographs, maps, sound recordings, video recordings, manuscripts, microforms. All subjects related to the local area will be covered including history, biography, geography, social conditions, Aboriginal and migrant groups and local industries. Careful attention will be paid to the proper conservation and storage of items. The Library will not collect realia such as costume or furniture (with the exception of some artefacts for display purposes), as this is the responsibility of the Local Historical societies.

The Library will acquire items for the Local Studies collection through purchase, donations and transfers from other Council departments. Items are identified through suppliers, local contacts, and other library staff.

All local history titles will have at least one copy "not for loan", with duplicate copies available for loan, if resources allow.

For greater detail please refer to the Local Studies Collection Development Policy (in Appendix).



4.6 Digitised Collection

The library maintains a digital collection of documents. Those produced digitally by both Clarence Valley Council and the Bellingen Shire are usually in pdf format. These are harvested from each council website on a regular basis by Regional Library staff or when identified by other staff.

Once downloaded these documents are catalogued to the library Digital Asset Management module within the Library Management System and made available via the library catalogue.

Criteria for selection:

The documents added to this collection are selected for their long term historical value for potential future consultation. They are snapshots of Council processes that have cultural, environmental and historical significance.

Ideally they will contain;

- Local statistics and graphs
- Local historical details
- Cultural details
- Comparisons to state and federal statistics and situations

Draft documents will not be collected, only final published versions.

4.7 Non-fiction Collection

The non-fiction collection contains resources for the recreational and informational needs of all people of all ages in our communities. Material should be collected that allows members of the community to understand and participate in our society, to follow personal interests and to pursue life-long learning. The non-fiction collection should also support school (and other) students carrying out research for projects, local business people and council employees in the course of their work. Hardcover and paperback monographs are collected, depending on price and availability.

Criteria for selection:

- Material should be accurate, up-to-date, and non-biased (or if a work presents a clearly-stated viewpoint, it should generally be balanced by another work presenting a differing viewpoint).



- Authority of author(s) and publisher
- Easy-to-use and containing indexes, bibliographies, photos, illustrations, maps and timelines (depending on the nature of the work)
- Relevant to the needs of our patrons
- Good quality
- Value for money

4.8 Aboriginal collection

The library actively sources titles that have aboriginal content and which have particular significance to local aboriginal communities, their culture and their histories. A portion of the non-fiction budget is specifically allocated to developing this collection and all available contacts and resources are used to identify and purchases titles. Multiple copies of locally significant publications are purchased.

These titles are highlighted through a subject heading in the catalogue record and specific spine labels. Care is taken not to include these titles in the de-selection process.

4.9 Parenting Collection

The library sources titles that cover topics such as general parenting, child birth and development, childhood illnesses, nutrition and behavioural issues. These titles are highlighted through a subject heading in the catalogue record and specific spine labels.

4.10 Adult Fiction

The adult fiction collection includes all types of fiction suitable for adult readers, including literary and popular works. Multiple copies of best-sellers and award winners are purchased through standing orders, and particular attention is paid to buying Australian fiction (including Aboriginal authors). The purchase of trade paperback books is preferred.

Criteria for selection:

- Literary merit
- Imaginative writing
- Effective plot and characterisation
- In popular demand
- Part of existing series
- Standard genre fiction - western, mystery, romance, thriller, science fiction and fantasy.

4.11 Large Print



The Large Print collection is targeted at those patrons who have difficulty reading normal print. It consists of largely fiction titles, with some popular non-fiction (such as biographies) included. The large print collection should include all genres and best-sellers. Softcover will be bought in preference to hardcovers where possible, in consideration for aged or arthritic users.

Criteria for selection

- Literary merit
- Imaginative writing
- Effective plot and characterisation
- Standard genre fiction to be included
- In popular demand
- Bestselling authors

4.12 Magazines

The magazine collection is purchased to provide titles of general interest to all ages of the community. Australian publications are the preferred option when selecting, and should complement and add currency to the collection. The subscriptions to these are reviewed on a regular basis with input from each library.

Criteria for selection:

- Of general interest to the community
- Reputable publisher
- Regular publishing schedule
- Australian publications preferred
- Cost
- Popularity
- Content

4.13 Young Adult Collection

The young adult collection is aimed at children between the ages of 12 and 18. The collection will include both literary and popular authors, with an emphasis on Australian writers. The collection should contain books of high interest to teenagers to encourage the habit of reading for pleasure.

Criteria for selection:

- Literary merit
- Original writing

- Effective plot and characterisation
- Subject matter of interest to young adults
- Includes latest trends and genres
- Attractive format, including graphic novels
- Award winning titles and authors

4.14 Junior Fiction

The junior fiction collection is targeted at children between the ages of 6 and 14. The collection will include both literary and popular authors, with an emphasis on Australian writers. The collection should contain books of interest to children to foster and encourage a lifelong love of reading and literature.

Criteria for selection:

- Literary merit
- Original writing
- Effective plot and characterisation
- Of interest to children in primary school
- Includes latest trends and genres
- Attractive format, including graphic novels
- Award winning titles and authors

4.15 Junior Easy

This collection should introduce children to reading as an enjoyable and rewarding experience by providing a range of titles, which stimulate the imagination, introduce children to language and their cultural heritage, and add to their knowledge of the world. The Junior Easy collection is for children from 0-6 and includes picture books, nursery rhyme and fairytale books, books for parents to read to children, easy books for children who are learning to read. Australian authors and illustrators should be emphasised.

Criteria for selection:

- Literary merit
- Illustrations that enhance text
- Original writing
- Attractive presentation
- Suitability for the age
- Award winning titles

4.16 Readers



To assist with making early literacy resources easier for the community to locate and easier for staff and volunteers to shelve the libraries source and highlight Readers as a separate collection. A reader is a book is which clearly states on the cover or inside that it is a reader and/or gives a reading level. These are purchased through standing order and are highlighted through a subject heading in the catalogue record and specific spine labels and physical location in the libraries.

Australian authors and illustrators should be emphasised.

4.17 Stack

Items from various collections that are not suitable to remain on public display may be retained in the library stack. Usually these are works of literary merit, fragile items, items of historical interest, items of perennial interest, and items now out of print and valuable items. Stack resources remain on the CRL catalogue and are available for loan via reservation.

4.18 Audio Books

The aim of the Audio Book collection is to provide clients of all ages access to a wide range of books in a spoken word format. Criteria for selection should be similar to fiction and nonfiction, taking into account the needs and interests of patrons of this collection, as well as the following criteria

Criteria for selection:

- Unabridged versions where possible.
- Quality and clarity of reader's voice.
- Physical quality of CD cases.
- Availability of replacement CDs.
- Downloadable file sources to be included in this format.

It will be necessary to monitor trends in technology to ensure that the Library's talking book collection is providing clients with new and alternative formats as they are developed. For physical Audiobooks only MP3 format will be purchased.

4.19 DVD's



The Library's aim is to develop a DVD collection that enhances the fiction and non-fiction collections. It will support and stimulate the information, educational, recreational and cultural needs of all members of the community. The selection of audio visual material is aimed at providing viewing, listening and instructional materials to complement and/or supplement the print collections.

Criteria for selection:

- Documentaries
- Do-it-yourself and instructional presentations
- Performance of dramas or screenplays with particular emphasis on Australian works
- Popular series, classic films, drama, comedy, award winning films and films with an Australian interest
- R 18+ rated DVD titles will be added to the collection on a case by case basis. Consideration will be given to critically acclaimed or award winning films and TV series.

4.20 eResources

4.21.1 Databases

The Library provides its clients with access to a range of electronic databases provided by NSW.net consortia or purchased individually by the Library. A number of these databases provide remote access for clients. These are reviewed annually for usage and relevance.

4.21.2 eBooks, eAudio, eMagazines

Electronic formats such as eMagazines, eAudio and eBooks are to be selected using the same criteria as traditional magazine, book and talking book formats:

Criteria for selection

- Literary merit
- Imaginative writing
- Effective plot and characterisation
- In popular demand
- Part of existing series
- Standard genre fiction - western, mystery, romance, thriller, science fiction and fantasy.
- Unabridged versions where possible.
- Quality and clarity of reader's voice
- Value for money
- Usage conditions (eg. Loan Limits and Term Limits before repurchase is necessary)



This policy endorses the Library Council of New South Wales, Access to Information in New South Wales Public Libraries statement (see Appendix 3)

4.22 Donations

Donations play an important part in enriching the collection. Donations of material are accepted on the understanding that they become the property of the Library and as such the Library reserves the right to evaluate, use or dispose of the materials as it deems appropriate. Any books not considered suitable for our needs will be sold at the Library's book sale, given to charity or recycled. There is to be no coercion on the part of the donor imposing conditions relating to any gift either before or after its acceptance by the Library.

Donations must meet the selection criteria outlined in the Collection Development Policy for each individual collection area.

Dated, yellowed, damaged or musty items will not be accepted.

4.23 Suggestions for Purchase

Library patrons are encouraged to make suggestions for the purchase of library materials on our "Suggestions for Purchase" page on our Library Catalogue, which can be accessed from home from the library website: www.crl.nsw.gov.au.

We may not buy all the items that are requested for purchase, if we do not consider the item to be suitable for our collection in terms of this Collection Development Policy, we will attempt to obtain the item through our ILL system, and this service will attract a small processing fee.

4.24 Deselection

Deselection is an on-going process that ensures the Library's collection maintains its effectiveness, quality, currency and integrity.

In general, factors for deselection mirror those used for selection: content, arrangement & style, format and so on.

Additional criteria for deselection:

- Physical condition - dirty, tatty or items damaged beyond repair should be discarded.

- Titles that have not been borrowed for two years should be considered for deselection, however this is to be determined on a title-by-title basis for Non-Fiction subjects.
- Items that contain outdated or inaccurate information should be removed.
- Items superseded by a new edition should be removed.
- Incomplete sets or series may be withdrawn, depending on the usefulness of the remaining parts of the set or series.
- Duplicate copies in the collection (2 copies of the same title is recommended for older titles)

Deselected items are withdrawn from the catalogue, have their barcodes and spine labels obscured with permanent marker and RFID tags de-commissioned.

Material that is withdrawn from stock is not automatically replaced unless it is a standard work, a popular title or subject. Withdrawn items are offered to the subject specialisation library, sold or recycled.

5 Implementation

Selection criteria

Selection is undertaken using a range of resources

- Catalogues/reviews
- Bibliographic tools
- Library supplier visits and promotional material
- Standing orders
- Supplier profiling and selection lists
- Bookshop and warehouse visits
- Suggestions for purchase from the community and staff

5.1 General Selection criteria

As one of the main duties of the Library is to provide free and equitable access to information for all sections of the community:

- The Library must accept responsibility for providing free access to materials, presenting, as far as possible, all points of view on current issues
- The librarian must not select materials based on personal, moral, political, social or ideological views, except where subject to State or Federal prohibition
- Each type of material should be evaluated on its own merits and its suitability for its intended audience.
- Regular weeding of the collection is needed to keep it useful and up-to-date.

- School, TAFE and university text-books will not be collected unless no other suitable material is available. Where these items are requested the borrower is advised of the Inter-library Loan option.
- Multiple copies of materials are only bought for high demand fiction, and to a lesser extent, non-fiction. In many subject areas, where the interest is in the subject, rather than particular titles, the Library will purchase several different titles on the same subject. In this way, the library can add variety and depth to the collection. Duplicate copies of the following materials will be purchased:
 - Best selling fiction authors
 - Literary award winners (Booker Prize, Miles Franklin Award, Children's Book of the Year, etc.)
 - Reference books needed on a regular basis at each branch (e.g. Law Handbook, World Book Encyclopaedia, Legal Tool Kit titles).
 - HSC materials
 - Popular DVD titles
 - Local history titles (loan and reference copies).

Materials being considered for purchase by the Library, should meet the following criteria:

5.2 Community Demand

- Popular authors
- New reading trends

Media influence e.g. Television programs and movie tie-ins

5.3 Content

- Subject matter should be current or present current views on historical matters
- Care should be taken that collection in any subject area is balanced and presents
- all viewpoints
- Representation of significant genre or national culture
- Priority should be given to Australian views of subjects.

5.4 Arrangement & Style

- Indexing and bibliographies should be included where appropriate
- Arrangement, language and style should be suitable for the intended user

5.5 Format

- The format should be suitable for the material presented, and convey the information to the user in the most appropriate way
- Trade paperbacks will be purchased in preference to hardback editions in most instances
- Hardbacks with library binding will be purchased when no paperback edition is available

5.6 Other

- Cost, value for money
- The availability of information via the Internet should be considered when selecting and weeding materials for the non-fiction collection.
- Due to budgetary constraints, the price, or value for money, of an item, may be considered.

5.7 Reasons for non-inclusion

- Items of a highly technical, highly academic or specialised nature, or those items fulfilling a one-off technical request, may be provided through inter-library loan
- Material that is suggested that is out-of-date, very expensive, published in an unsuitable format, or where there are suitable alternative titles in stock on the subject
- Individual titles from a multi-part series for which no other titles are held, whether in print or DVD format.

5.7.1 Censorship (freedom to read)

Censorship powers are vested in both State and Federal governments. Materials prohibited by law will not be included in the collection.

The selection of library materials is based on the patrons' right to read and similarly, freedom from censorship by others. Material will not be rejected on moral, political, racial or religious grounds if it otherwise meets the Library's selection criteria.

It is the responsibility of parents or guardians, rather than library staff, to determine the suitability of materials used by their children.

This policy endorses the ALIA Statement on free access to information and the ALIA Statement on public library services and also the Library Council of New South Wales, Access to Information in New South Wales Public Libraries (see Appendices 1-3).

5.7.2 Controversial Material



The Library aims to include in the collections a representative selection of materials which meet basic selection criteria, are on topics of interest to its readers, including items covering controversial subjects, providing they are not prohibited by law. The Library aims to provide materials which collectively represent all sides of controversial issues.

6 Appeal/objections process

6.1 Complaints

All requests for the review of a selection decision shall be submitted in writing to the Regional Librarian. All queried titles will be re-evaluated by senior library staff and if the original decision is still considered to conform to the selection criteria, the title in question will remain on the shelves. If the criticism is considered to be valid, the title will be placed in another collection (such as Stack) or will be withdrawn. All written complaints will be answered. The final decision will rest with the Regional Librarian.

6.2 Revision of Policy

This collection development policy should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it meets the goals and objectives of the Library. Revisions should take into consideration changes in the community, the publishing and information industries, economic conditions or the role of the public library

7 Related Documents

1. ALIA Statement on free access to information - <http://www.alia.org.au/aboutalia/policies-standards-and-guidelines/statement-free-access-information>
2. ALIA Statement on public library services - <http://www.alia.org.au/aboutalia/policies-standards-and-guidelines/statement-public-library-services>
3. Library Council of New South Wales, Access to Information in New South Wales Public Libraries - <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/accesstoinformation2007.pdf>
4. Clarence Regional Library Local Studies Collection Development Policy



8 Attachments

Click or tap here to enter text.



Clarence Regional Library Fee Waiving Policy

Responsible Manager (Title)	Regional Librarian		
Adopted by Council	Date	Minutes	
File Reference Number	DWS	Version	Review Due
Document(s) this policy Supersedes	DWS 2514194 version 3.1		
Community Plan Linkage	1.3 Society - A safe and active community where healthy lifestyles and better health outcomes are encouraged and supported with accessible infrastructure for residents of all ages and abilities		

1 Purpose

To establish guidelines for dealing with customer loans for lost items and/or loans which move to overdue status.

2 Definitions

Borrow	use of a library item, with an obligation to return it by the due date without damage
Charge/Fee	an amount applied by the Library for lost or damaged items
Due Date	refers to the date recorded by the Clarence Regional Library when a lent item is required to be returned to the Library
Item	refers to any book, magazine, videotape, CD, DVD, Microfilm, microfiche, cassette or any other recorded material, regardless of physical form, that is part of the Library collection
Library	refers to the Clarence Regional Library
Library Member	shall mean a person who has been issued a library card and is entitled to borrow items from the Library for which they may incur charges.

3 Background/legislative requirements

This policy outlines the criteria under which requests for the reduction or waiving of library fees can be made and the circumstances under which requests will be considered. Generally, charges will only be reduced or waived as a result of extenuating or unforeseen circumstances such as accident, illness or disaster. This policy enables library staff to make decisions based on individual customer circumstances and provides for staff to refer more complex requests to a supervisor where necessary.

Relevant Legislative Provisions

Local Government Act NSW 1993

Library Act NSW 1939

Library Regulation NSW 2010

4 Policy statement

Council recognises there are cases requiring respect and compassion in special circumstances. This policy establishes guidelines for applying the principles of fairness, integrity, confidentiality and compliance with statutory requirements. It applies to all applications for waiving or reducing fees and charges.

4.1 Waiving of Lost/Damaged Charges

Lost/Damaged charges may be waived on the following grounds:

- Disasters such as flood, fire, criminal act, etc
- Stolen Library Card

The administration charge will also be waived in these circumstances.

4.2 Reduction or Waiving of Inter Library Loan Charges

Inter Library Loan (ILL) charges will be waived if the request has been altered so that a charge no longer applies. This may occur where the request has been altered to a Suggestion for Purchase request, a Reservation, or a combined ILL request in the case of a two part title.

4.3 Principles

Library staff will treat all people fairly and consistently under this Policy.



Library staff recognise the importance of establishing lost and damaged item charges as a management tool for ensuring that all items are treated with care and that all customers have full and equitable access to these items.

5 Implementation

- Customers are responsible for the library materials borrowed on their cards and are expected to return materials in a timely manner.
- Library membership privileges will be suspended after 28 days when items move to a *lost* status.
- When dealing with all charges, staff should remind borrowers of the various methods available to avoid fees, i.e.) Renewing items in person, by phone, or online.
- Waiving customer charges requires supervisory approval.
- Upon waiving charge, staff must record in the library's computer system that a charge was waived, the location, amount waived, reason for the waiver, and the staff member's name.
- The waiving of fees is an unusual circumstance. Customers who have had charges waived or reduced, either as a single act, or over a period of time, may be denied further service.

6 Related Documents

N/A

7 Attachments

Circulation and Membership Policy

Schedule of Fees & Charges



Media Release

In a Timeless Story - A Collaboration

Bellingen, Dorrigo, and Urunga Libraries will be the home to a unique exhibition brought to us by Istar Backlund Dakhil from Sweden

In a Timeless Story is a picture book presented both in physical form and as an immersive Virtual Reality (VR) experience – where the reader is invited to step into the world of the book and experience the story all around you.

The narrative unfolds through the knowledge and life experiences told by Laila Spik, who comes from a reindeer herding family in Sirkas' Sami village in Jokkmokk, Sápmi, and Uncle Mikael (Micklo) Jarrett, a member of the Baga-Baga clan, proficient in the Gumbaynggirr language.

In a Timeless Story explores the intricate connection between humanity and nature, delving into the transmission of wisdom across generations to safeguard the vibrancy of traditions and cultures.

The project has been led by Ishtar Bäcklund Dakhil who, illustrated and wrote the text together with Marie Metso. The immersive VR experience has been crafted by Vincent Wong, and complemented by the evocative musical score composed by Philip Olofsson

Council's Shire Librarian, Rowena Sierant, was approached by Ishtar after Micklo Jarret recommended our libraries for the exhibition. Reflecting on the unique proposal, Rowena expressed her excitement in supporting Ishtar's mission for an international arts grant to bring this extraordinary story to Australia. Eager to involve Micklo in the opening event at Bellingen library, Rowena conveyed, "I contacted Micklo, and we are thrilled to have him participate."

Mark your calendars for the exhibition's grand opening on Monday, 27 November at 5 pm, where Uncle Micklo Jarrett will launch the event. All are welcome to join Uncle Micklo in a Gumbaynggirr language and singing session, followed by insights from Ishtar, who will also share the enchanting picture book with the audience.

Subsequently, from Tuesday 28 November to Friday 15 December, the book and artworks will be showcased at Bellingen Library. Visitors, both adults and children, are encouraged to immerse themselves in the VR experience using provided headsets.

The exhibition will be on display at the Dorrigo and Urunga libraries from Tuesday 5 - Friday 15 December, for the whole Shire to enjoy.

For additional details, contact Rowena Sierant, Shire Librarian, at 02 6655 1744.



. ... ends

Date: 16/11/2023

For further information contact: Council's Communication and Engagement Lead on PH; 6655 7300
PO BOX 117, BELLINGEN NSW 2454, TELEPHONE (02) 6655 7300, FAX (02) 6655 2310





MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release - 16/11/2023

Summer Reading Club is back!!

As the summer sun beckons, Clarence Regional Library is thrilled to announce the much-anticipated return of the Summer Reading Club, this year's program promises an exciting literary adventure for the entire community.

The Summer Reading Club, a beloved annual tradition, encourages young book enthusiasts to embark on a journey of discovery through the pages of captivating stories. With a diverse selection of challenges, participants are invited to immerse themselves in the joy of reading throughout the summer months.

School-aged children can access the Summer Reading Club at Grafton, Iluka, Yamba, Maclean, Urunga, Dorrigo, Bellingen and Mobile libraries. It is free and makes reading extra fun. To join the club and make the most of this literary extravaganza, visit our website (<https://clarence.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/RDCENQ?RNI=399540>) or drop by your local library. Participants can register online or at their local library, and every completed challenge brings them one step closer to fantastic prizes.

Completing 10 challenges to get a prize and finish all 20 challenges to go in the running to win a \$50 gift card.

Your library invites you to dive into the wonderful world of books, embark on new adventures, and create lasting memories through the Summer Reading Club. Let the pages turn and the imaginations soar this summer at Clarence Regional Library!



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release - November 2023

Live 'n' Loud at the Library - Youth Performers Expressions of Interest

REGISTER NOW!

Live 'n' Loud is back! For the fourth year in a row, we're transforming the carpark under Grafton Library into a mini-music festival for youth with a big stage, lights, and loads of action. It's going to be big -- showcasing our very own up-and-coming Clarence Valley youth.

We have two exciting EOI opportunities to apply for to celebrate NSW Youth Week:

- local, young musicians or bands to play at Live 'n' Loud 2024 (ages 12-25).
- a local, young host (or hosts) for our Live 'n' Loud event 2024 (ages 12-25).

Selected entrants will perform or host at Live 'n' Loud 2024 and be part of an exciting line-up of musicians and bands playing to a local audience right here at your library!

Live 'n' Loud is a drug and alcohol-free event, held in the undercover carpark of Grafton Library from 5pm to 9:30pm on Thursday 18th of April. It's free, but bookings are recommended. On the night there will be food, drinks, stalls and live music.

This is an unmissable opportunity for local young muso's and bands to connect with a local audience, so if you are interested, please get in touch.

Interested bands or musos should register at the [Clarence Conversations page](https://www.clarenceconversations.com.au/live-n-loud-youth-performers-e-o-i) (<https://www.clarenceconversations.com.au/live-n-loud-youth-performers-e-o-i>) before 19th February 2023.



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 2023

Clarence Regional Library Introduces Vision Australia PC Keyboards for their Public Access PCs



Clarence Regional Library is excited to introduce Vision Australia's, Large Print Keyboard.

According to Vision Australia, "never struggle to read the keys on your computer keyboard again! This Large Print Keyboard features oversized print that is four times larger than the print on a standard keyboard. The high contrast enlarged black characters on yellow keys further enhances the visibility of the keys."

Features

- Standard computer keyboard.
- Enlarged and high contrast characters that are very easy to see.
- USB connection to any computer with a USB port.

Benefits

- Suitable for the elderly, students and people who have low vision.
- Quiet key tapping.
- Provides superior comfort without forcing you to relearn how to type.

Clarence Regional Library always aims to make everyone feel included and empowered when they visit their local library. These keyboards add to our visually inclusive range which also features the large print collection and a large range of audiobooks. Make sure you drop into your local library and check it out!!



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release - 28/09/2023

Jacaranda at your library!

Colouring in competition

Your Library is hosting a Jacaranda Colouring in Comp!

Join us in celebrating the Jacaranda season by completing one of our colouring sheets to go in the running to win an exciting prize! There are three age categories (0-3, 4-9, 10+) and two designs to choose from. Colouring-in entry forms can be picked up and returned to any Clarence Valley library.

- Entries close on 'Jacaranda Thursday' (2nd November).
- Winners will be announced on Monday 6th November

Jacaranda Candidate Storytime

Join us for a special Jacaranda Storytime at Grafton library these school holidays!

To help us celebrate Jacaranda we are welcoming some very special visitors... the 2023 junior jacaranda candidates! We will have jacaranda stories, songs, and rhymes as well as face painting! Make sure you come dressed in purple!

When:

- Thursday 5th of October
- 10:30am to 11:30am

MEDIA RELEASE

Clarence Valley Council



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release - 26/09/2023

Are you interested in telling stories and want to be inspired by others who have found their voice in writing? Join us at the Grafton Library for this years Mini Writers Festival! We have an exciting line up of authors from all over Australia including your very own backyard.

Lunch and afternoon tea provided.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL.

The Line Up:

Greg Barron	10:00am to 10:30am
Melanie Jay	10:30am to 10:45am
Deborah Wray	10:45am to 11:00am
Kathryn Goldie	11:00am to 11:15am
Peter Watt	11:15am to 12:00pm
Lunch	12:00pm to 12:30pm
Renee James	12:30pm to 12:45pm
Elizabeth Macintosh	12:45pm to 1:00pm
Julie Campbell	1:00pm to 1:15pm
Paul MacNamara	1:15pm to 1:45pm
Afternoon Tea	1:45pm to 2:00pm
Bruce McLennan	2:00pm to 2:15pm
Gary Davis	2:15pm to 2:30pm
Graeme Gibson	2:30pm to 2:45pm

About the Authors:

Greg Barron:

Greg Barron has qualifications in education and science and studied terrorism at Scotland's prestigious St Andrew's University. He has lived in both North America and Australia and travels widely, combining his interests in politics and current events with a passion for new horizons. His favourite places include the African savannah, the Canadian Rockies, and Australia's Top End. Along with abseiling, offshore boating, skydiving and canoeing, his greatest adventure was a three-hundred-kilometre trek through the wild East Alligator region of Arnhem Land. Greg lives on the North Coast of New South Wales with his wife and two sons.

Melanie Jay:

Melanie Jay: mother, daughter, sister, friend, colleague, worker, volunteer, social butterfly—by day and night. Madeline J: author—by life. Melanie has an alias author name because writing is outside of her. It's something that just happens. Madeline J is in the midst of writing a few amazing creative fiction novels; they are entirely made-up stories, and they all connect in weird and wonderful ways. Blame it on *The Macallan*, *Jinx*, *The Butterfly Necklace*, *The Gaffer*, *Tigerlily Queen* (spelt with a triple e.) She self-published a personal story, *Bee Sting – My Bali Diary*, ten years ago and again one year ago, *Bee Sting My Bali Diary – Edit 2022*, an edited version of the same story with twenty years of reflection. Her first husband was killed in the Bali bombings of 2002, and she has grown through the grief of his loss over the past twenty years, partly because she was able to express her deepest emotions through words and poetry. Her story is intended to help others to learn to live through grief and beyond it.

Deborah Wray:

Deborah Wray grew up in Grafton. Her mother and grandmothers were all very good cooks and quality food was always an important part of family life. Deborah's career has been many and varied from actress, choreographer, speech and drama adjudicator to wine consultant, wine judge and retailer. Always interested in health and a love of cooking, it was not until her son became unwell that Deborah's true education about food began.

Kathryn Goldie:

Kathryn Goldie lives in Yamba, on Yaegl Country. Her short stories have been published in *Island Online*, *Westerly*, *Newcastle Short Story Anthology*, *Grieve* and *The Canary Press*. In 2023, she won the Tasmanian Writers' Prize and was shortlisted for the Rachel Funari Prize for Fiction. In 2022, she won a Byron Writers Festival Residential Mentorship and was shortlisted for the Newcastle Writers Festival Fresh Ink Emerging Writers Prize. In 2021, she won the Long Way Home short story prize and second prize in the Kyogle Writers Festival Poetry Competition. Her short plays and monologues have been performed throughout Australia, and her award-winning short films have appeared at more than 60 Australian and international festivals.

Peter Watt:

Peter Watt has spent time as a soldier, articled clerk, prawn trawler, deckhand, builder's labourer, pipe layer, real estate salesman, private investigator, police sergeant, surveyor's chainman, and advisor to the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary. He speaks, reads, and writes Vietnamese and Pidgin. He now lives at Maclean on the Clarence River in northern New South Wales. He has volunteered with the Volunteer Rescue Association, Queensland Ambulance Service and currently with the Rural Fire Service. Fishing and the vast open spaces of outback Queensland are his main interests in life.

Renee James:

Renee is a local author based in Yamba NSW and the mastermind behind Patroosh, the Pelican. She is a creative powerhouse with a background in communications and commercial television. With over 15 years of experience, she is now the boss lady of Mystery Lane Media, her own video production company, and the mastermind behind Patroosh, the Pelican an online shop - <https://patroosh.com.au/>

Elizabeth Macintosh:

Elizabeth is passionate about the beauty of words and manipulating language. Her main interests are writing short stories for children and Young Adults. Her Junior Fiction and Middle Grade tales often contain an element of danger and a humorous twist. Many are inspired by real places or events. Some of her stories have won awards in various competitions such as The Creative Kids Tales Author Competition, the Port Stephens Literature Awards, Scribes (Victoria) Literary Awards and the Rolf Boldrewood Literary Awards.

Julie Campbell:

Julie's talk will summarise her story and family life living with loved ones suffering from the neurodegenerative disease of CBD or Corticobasal Degeneration. Julie's book also offers lots of hope and constructive ways of dealing with life in this situation. Julie's book is *The Butcherbird sings: A memoir of hope and help born from a neurodegenerative disease*. Julie is passionate about the value of sharing stories as a tool to learn and to connect with others. She is a strong believer in living a life of kindness, with a positive attitude and gratitude for every day.

Paul MacNamara:

School can be hell when some of your students are serving ten years to life. As an everyday teacher who made the precarious transition to Education Officer in the prison system, Paul A. MacNamara has one of the most fascinating - and volatile - jobs. Paul's compelling debut novel, *The Criminal Class: Memoir of a Prison Teacher*, is based on his personal experiences as an outsider on the inside, beyond the razor wire of some of Australia's toughest adult and juvenile correctional centres. This riveting read has attracted rave reviews and nationwide media coverage.

Bruce McLennan:

Bruce A. McLennan this year produced "*The extraordinary memoirs of Sandy McLennan, Gambler*" – a book about one of Grafton's famous sons. Sandy the Gambler was the grandson of the well-known "Sandy" McLennan who, with his brother-in-law, found the route from the New England to Grafton. Sandy the Gambler started life as a peddler in the Clarence and New England before heading overseas for many adventures. Bruce is the worldwide co-ordinator of the Clan MacLennan Genealogy at www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com – including a collection of over 80 books. Production of this Grafton book required a number of important decisions that he will share with us.

Gary Davis:

Gary Davis grew up on a dairy farm in Jiggi, a small rural valley outside of Lismore. He lives in Glen Innes on the New England Tablelands of New South Wales. After thirteen years of working in banking and finance, he practiced as a corporate solicitor and attorney for twenty-seven years, followed by fourteen years in the business sector. His love of writing dates back to winning a regional writing competition as a twelve-year-old. His first novel Tom Mortimer Pitt Street Bankers is inspired by actual events.

Graeme Gibson:

In 2013 Graeme started presenting Life Writing workshops. This is creative non-fiction that supports family history, local history, personal essay, feature article writing, autobiography or memoir. Since then, he has presented more than 80 workshops. 'In Life There is Luck: A memoir of an ordinary life with reflections on memoir writing,' and 'A Pocket Guide to Memoir Writing,' are responses to what Graeme has learned through these workshops and his understanding of the needs of workshop participants. Graeme works as a mediator, assisting people to find a solution to their conflict rather than having a solution imposed on them. He is active in the local community in a variety of ways, including Kyogle Readers and Writers. Graeme says he finds joy in personal relationships, ideas and nature. His current writing focus is a social and environmental history (an eco-biography) of a local river, The Richmond.



Media Release

Spring Holidays at the Library

Children, Youth and Adult Activities

Bellingen, Dorrigo, and Urunga Libraries Unveil Exciting Lineup of Live Theatre and Puppetry Workshops

As the school holidays approach, families in the Bellingen Shire are in for a treat as Bellingen, Dorrigo, and Urunga libraries collaborate to bring an experience that combines the magic of live theatre with the charm of puppetry workshops. This unique event is set to captivate young minds and foster a deep appreciation for the world of books and storytelling.

Legends in the Library: A Theatrical Adventure

Young actors from the Young Actors Studio in Coffs Harbour are set to enthrall audiences with their live theatre production, *Legends in the Library*. This imaginative play, penned and directed by the studio's creative visionary, Belinda Lemair, is poised to transport young spectators into the enchanting world of beloved storybook characters.

Belinda Lemair shares her excitement, stating, "We hope this fun and unique theatre production will ignite the imagination of young children, encourage a love of books, and highlight the importance of reading. The characters in this performance will break the fourth wall, engaging directly with the young audience, inspiring them to embark on an adventure as *'Legends in the Library.'*"

Suitable for primary school-aged children, *Legends in the Library* will be performed on **Wednesday, 27 September**. Shows times below;

- Dorrigo Library at 10:30 AM
- Bellingen Library at 1:30 PM
- Urunga Library at 3:30 PM.

This is a not-to-be-missed event that promises to captivate and inspire young minds.

Puppetry Workshop: Unleash Your Creativity

In addition to the live theatre extravaganza, the libraries will host a vibrant hand puppet-making workshop for children. All necessary materials will be provided, allowing young imaginations to thrive as they create their animal puppets.



Rowena Sierant, Shire Librarian, highlights the significance of puppetry, saying, "Puppetry is a universal language. In child-led puppet play, barriers of shyness can be broken down. Children often communicate with more confidence when talking to a puppet. Imaginations run free as characters and stories unfold through dramatic play with a puppet."

The puppetry workshops will be held to the below schedule:

- Urunga Library - Tuesday, 3 October, 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM.
- Bellingen Library - Wednesday, 4 October, 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM.
- Dorrigo Library - Wednesday, 4 October, 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

Prepare for a season of sunny entertainment and excitement this spring! To secure your place, visit www.crl.nsw.gov.au or contact your local library at the following numbers:

Bellingen Library: 6655 1744

Dorrigo Library: 6657 2234

Urunga Library: 6655 6444

For further information, please contact Rowena Sierant, Shire Librarian, at 02 6655 1744.

Join us for an unforgettable journey into the world of imagination and creativity this school holiday season. We look forward to seeing you at the library!

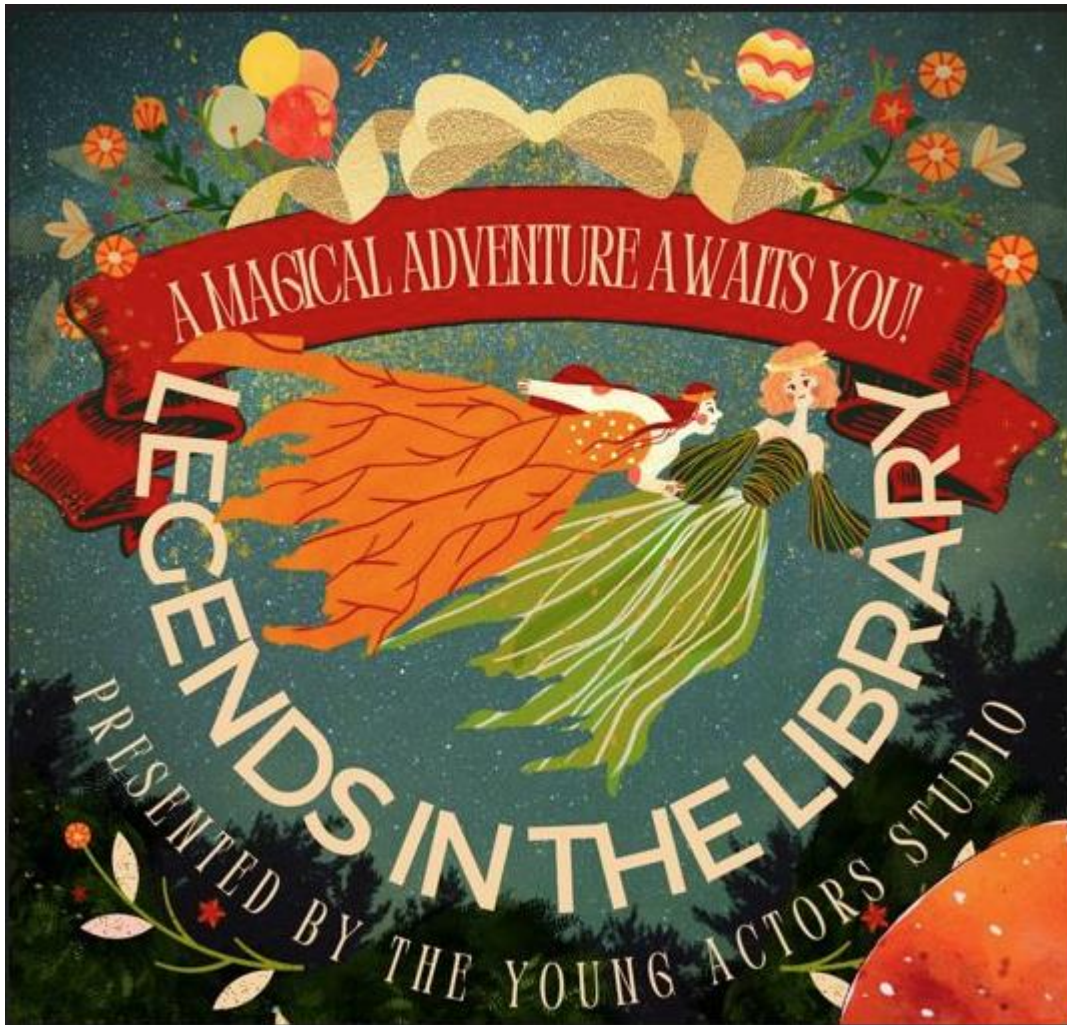
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Authorised by: Bellingen Shire Council General Manager, Mark Griffen

Date: 18/09/2023

For further information contact: the Communication and Engagement Lead on PH; 6655 7300

PO BOX 117, BELLINGEN NSW 2454, TELEPHONE (02) 6655 7300, FAX (02) 6655 2310



Resilient Bellingden Collection unveiled



The Bellingden Library has launched the Resilient Bellingden Collection, a comprehensive resource curated to empower young minds and families to navigate disaster preparedness, safety, and resilience-building.

The collection is a response to community consultations held in the wake of various disasters over the past three years, where education, particularly for young people, emerged as a critical need.

One of the key goals of this collection is to encourage parents to actively involve their children in disaster planning at

home, fostering an environment where the entire family is aware of what to do in emergencies.

This proactive approach empowers children to take action, stay safe even when adults are not present, and significantly contributes to their overall recovery in the aftermath of a disaster.

The collection offers a wide range of resources, including books, educational materials, interactive guides, and online resources, all aimed at equipping young people and their families with the knowledge and skills necessary to confront adversity with confidence.

Bellingden Library invites all members of the community, particularly parents and caregivers, to explore the Resilient Bellingden Collection and take advantage of this valuable resource in the pursuit of building a safer and more resilient community for generations to come.

The Resilient Bellingden Collection was made possible through the generous support of the Bellingden Shire Council, which allocated funding from the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund.

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that frown
upside down.**

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- Dr Elizabeth Flores Westreicher
- Dr Oleg Pushkarev
- Dr Quintin Wilson
- Jessica Cantrill
- Susan Waldorf



We look forward
to hearing from
you and seeing
you soon.

Email: info@welcomedental.com.au

Phone: 6655 5800

JP now at Yamba Library

RODNEY STEVENS

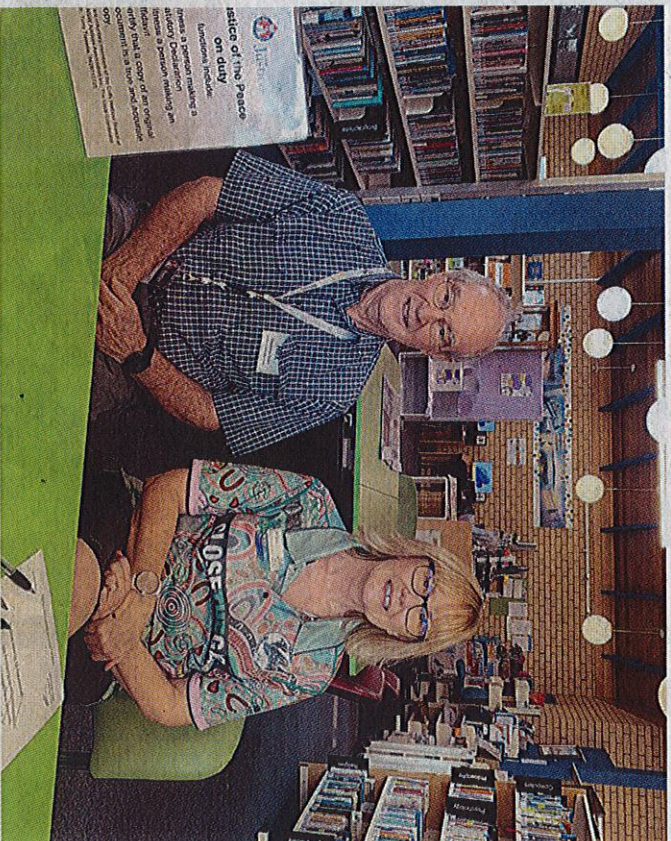
Lower Clarence residents now have access to a Justice of the Peace JP every Friday at Yamba Library.

Rex Grant, who has been a JP for the past 40 years, will be manning the desk at Yamba Library from 10am until 12 noon, providing this free community service which began on October 6.

Mr Grant said he initially got his JP qualifications when he worked in local government in Moree and Bombala, then after a 10-year sea change on Norfolk Island, he worked at the University of New England, using his JP qualifications to assist international students and students who needed documents certified.

When he retired in 2018, Mr Grant said he joined the Coffs Harbour and District branch of the JP Association and while living at Sawtell, he manned a desk at the Toomina Shopping Centre on Saturday's, until he recently relocated to Yamba.

"We repositioned here to Yamba a little over a month ago and I thought there was something needed here in terms of service, so I talked to Jacqui at the Library, and she was keen to get something going," he said.



Rex Grant will be providing free JP services at Yamba Library on Friday's from 10am until 12 noon. Mr Grant is pictured with Yamba Library's Jacqui Hinshaw. Image: contributed.

Initially, Mr Grant said the JP service at Yamba Library will run as a trial, to gauge community demand.

"We are giving it a trial for three months on a weekly basis and if that's not popular, or as popular as we'd hoped, we will probably go back to fortnightly," he said.

JPs are required to renew their qualifications every five years, Mr Grant said, and he recently re-sat the exam where he scored 100 per-cent, which was required to pass. Community members

will be able to access a range of JP services from Mr Grant at Yamba Library.

"We witness statutory declarations, we certify copies of documents for people that have an original copy and want copies done and certified for legal purposes," he said.

"Sometimes people come in with other documents that they want on and we can do that. We will witness affidavits, but we don't do wills or anything more complicated than that which would require a

notary or someone with more legal experience."

Mr Grant said he can only witness or certify documents that relate to the Commonwealth, NSW, or some Queensland documents, but we cannot do anything international.

"If people want proof of life or anything like that for overseas estates, we can't do that," he said.

Anyone wanting information on the Coffs Harbour and District branch of the JP association can call Terry Tweedie on 0428 711 725.

Pop along to pop-up op shop and pin-up shop

EMMA PRITCHARD

The Grafton Hospital Auxiliary Op Shop will have a pop-up op shop in Market Square during Retrofest as part of the 2023 Grafton Jacaranda Festival on October 29. Featuring a selection of quality

pre-loved clothing, trinkets, and treasures, the pop-up op shop will be open between 10am and 2pm.

As Retrofest celebrates the good old rock 'n' roll, vintage fashions, vehicles, motorcycles, and everything from the 1950s and 1960s, a pop-up pin-up shop will also be open in Market

Square from 10am until 2pm, allowing visitors to make a donation and have their hair expertly styled in a creative pin-up do by the team from DiMatia and Co. All proceeds raised from both pop-up shops will go directly towards assisting Grafton Base Hospital (GBH) to purchase specialist medical equipment.

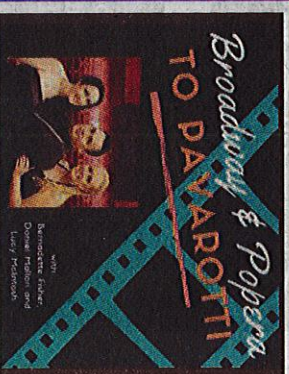
Something for everyone...



MEMBERS DRAW
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ROWLAND & SHEKINAH
FRIDAY 27TH OCTOBER, 8PM
LIVE MUSIC / FREE ENTRY



BROADWAY & POPERA TO PAVAROTTI
SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER, 7.30PM
TICKETS \$25



MELBOURNE CUP LUNCHEON
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TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM BAR



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October 18, 2023

THE CLARENCE VALLEY INDEPENDENT