



Yarra Plenty
Regional Library

Annual Report

14
15



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LIBRARIES

1. Whittlesea
2. Lalor
3. Thomastown
4. Mill Park
5. Diamond Valley
6. Eltham
7. Watsonia
8. Rosanna
9. Ivanhoe



MOBILE LIBRARY STOPS

1. Mernda
2. Doreen
3. Arthurs Creek
4. St Andrews
5. Hurstbridge
6. Panton Hill
7. Christmas Hills
8. Yarrambat
9. Diamond Creek
10. North Warrandyte
11. Yallambie
12. West Heidelberg

WHITTLESEA

Population 187,000
Library membership
26% of population



NILLUMBIK

Population 62,800
Library membership
46% of population



BANYULE

Population 125,503
Library membership
27% of population



10km from Melbourne CBD

20km from Melbourne CBD

CBD

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



ON BEHALF OF THE
YARRA PLENTY REGIONAL
LIBRARY BOARD, I AM
DELIGHTED TO PRESENT
THE LIBRARY'S 2014-2015
ANNUAL REPORT.

The Board is very proud of the building program undertaken this financial year and the investment that Member Councils are making in our libraries to ensure that they remain vibrant, modern, relevant spaces. The City of Whittlesea has had two significant projects. Whittlesea library is the first new branch for the region in 12 years and is part of the redeveloped Community Activity Centre; the community has embraced the library. Lalor library was refurbished with new carpet, paint and a new air-conditioning system. It now looks smart and contemporary, and the rearrangement of the collections has provided much better zoning for activities and noise. Watsonia library was also renovated with new carpet, a rearrangement of the layout and fresh paint, enhancing the usability of the space and providing a fresh and attractive community facility. These three projects were funded with assistance from Local Government Victoria's Living Libraries Infrastructure program. Diamond Valley library has also been recarpeted and repainted this year and a new layout will be designed and implemented in the coming year.

There were two significant policies approved by the Board this year. As part of a review of policies and procedures it was identified that there was no overarching Library User Policy in relation to membership and conduct in the library; the use of

library facilities and services; and a publicly available complaints procedure. Similarly the library has a highly successful and well-functioning volunteers program, which has been in place for many years, but there was no formal policy in place. The policy recognises the valued contribution that volunteers make to the library service and outlines the types of roles they may undertake and the differentiation between voluntary and paid duties. The Board also endorsed the ICT Strategic Framework 2015-17 which articulates a strategic direction for the library's ICT from a service provision and asset management perspective.

The Board became a signatory to the Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development which was launched at the World Library and Information Congress 2014 in Lyon in October. Since then, over 560 organisations from across the library and development community have signed the document and called upon United Nations Member States to incorporate access to information in the new post-2015 development framework. The Board wrote to the United Nations representative in Australia to urge commitment to ensuring that everyone has access to, and is able to understand, use and share the information that is necessary to promote sustainable development and democratic societies.

I would like to thank all members of the Library Board for their contribution and involvement in developing our library service; member Council Directors and staff; and the library staff for their support and contribution. We are very fortunate to have such an engaged and collaborative Board. A special thank you is due to Cr Jenny Mulholland, who was Chairperson of the Board until February 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sam Alessi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct dot at the end.

Cr. Sam Alessi
Chair





CEO REPORT



ONE OF THE MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR WAS OUR FIRST STAFF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DAY HELD IN JULY.

Over 120 staff (around 80% of total staff) and Board members attended and agreed that the day helped in understanding where the future of public libraries lies and how YPRL is planning for the future. The keynote speech was given by Steve Tighe, the author of the award winning *Victorian Libraries 2030 Report*, which outlines the future of public libraries as community and creative spaces.

The regional library performed well in the past year in comparison to other libraries in Victoria according to benchmarking data provided through Public Libraries Victoria Network. The Nexus Community survey also highlights a successful and well regarded service, with a mean satisfaction rating of 8.5 – a slight increase on the previous year; 97% of respondents rating a satisfaction score of 6 or higher. The overall results for the Employee Survey 2015 conducted by Quantum Management Indicators are also very positive. YPRL has maintained its excellent position with regard to the external benchmarks compared to both the library sector and municipal government. Of particular note is the Organisational Image Key Performance Indicator, which is 41% over both sectors. Customer service standards are also very high being 12% over local government and 15% over the library sector.

There have been some important initiatives this year, including the launch of our new website in April and upgrade of the mobile App, which is getting a positive response from our borrowers. The work that has been done on our Learning programs is another highlight. The Learning Coordinators at each branch have consolidated and made more consistent an impressive range of learning offerings, which are being

promoted through a new Learn@YPRL brochure. The ambitious building program has been highlighted in the Chairperson's Report.

The first convening for the first of two cohorts of the INELI-Oceania program was held at the State Library of Victoria in July. This leadership program is mainly funded through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Yarra Plenty Regional Library is the Grantee. There are six participants from Australia, six from New Zealand and four from the South Pacific. The aim of the program is to develop leadership and innovation skills in participants, improve the quality of public libraries in the South Pacific and increase the collaboration between the major partners in the project. In May I attended the Gates Foundation's Global Libraries' Networking Summit in Seattle along with other implementers of regional INELI programs to discuss future collaboration and library leadership.

From 15 August to 6 September I led a group of 18 librarians on the third PLVN Great Public Library tour. It started at the IFLA Congress in Lyon, which brought together over 4,000 participants from more than 120 countries. The conference program included Jane Grace, Community Engagement Manager, who presented on makerspaces. Over the next two weeks we visited 13 libraries in France and England – in Strasbourg, Reims, Paris, London, Oxford, Worcester and Birmingham. It was a most enriching experience to visit these world-class libraries.

Success comes down to the hard work, commitment, belief and partnership between the Board, library staff and the community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board for their support during the year, particularly Cr Jenny Mulholland, Chair until February and Cr Sam Alessi, the current Chair.

Christine Mackenzie
Chief Executive Officer

VISION

INFORMED, CONNECTED, INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

STRATEGIC PLAN 2013–17

Creating our future: reading, learning, meeting outlines the library's direction and key performance indicators until 2017. Developed in consultation with the Board, staff and community in 2012, this plan builds on the previous strategic plan, *Creating informed, connected, inclusive communities*. We have defined the core activities of the library as reading, learning and meeting. These activities are supported by a collection of physical and digital items that have been developed through usage-based statistics; staff who work in a branch structure aligned to these activities; and technology that is taking advantage of broadband and the NBN.



The six key focus areas for achieving our outcomes are:

Collections

We provide free access to popular, timely and desirable content that is easy to find in order to make available information, knowledge and culture.

Programs: reading/learning/meeting

We offer programs, activities and learning opportunities that make a difference to people's lives in order to improve their wellbeing.

Technology

We provide infrastructure that is robust and fit for purpose in order to provide access to digital services and gain efficiencies, better customer experience and better processes.

Space

We provide attractive, functional physical and virtual library spaces that meet standards including size and location in order to provide people with spaces that are welcoming, accessible, encourage learning and enable connection.

Staff

We invest in the recruitment, training and development of our people to ensure we have skilled staff in the right jobs to optimise community engagement; contribute to positive user experience; and add value to our collections and spaces.

Finance and Governance

The Board, Staff and Member Councils will work collaboratively and advocate for financial and environmental sustainability in order to provide equitable and excellent public library services across the region.





ABOUT YARRA PLENTY REGIONAL LIBRARY

One of Australia's largest and most progressive library systems, Yarra Plenty Regional Library was founded in the mid-1960s, when the former City of Heidelberg agreed to provide library services to the former Shire of Eltham. Later the former Shire of Diamond Valley and the Shire of Whittlesea joined the regional group.

In 1995, following changes in local government boundaries, the new municipalities of Banyule, Nillumbik and Whittlesea continued their support for the regional library service and Yarra Plenty was one of the first regions incorporated under Section 196 of the Victorian Local Government Act 1989. It is coordinated from Library Support Services located at the Civic Centre in South Morang and also provides selected services to Murrindindi Library Service.



Cr Alessi, Lalor Branch Manager Felicity and YPRL CEO Christine Mackenzie.

There are nine branch libraries located at Greensborough, Eltham, Ivanhoe, Lalor, Mill Park, Rosanna, Thomastown, Watsonia and Whittlesea, three mobile libraries (Mobile Library, Outreach Vehicle and Reading Rover) and a home library service.

The state of the art website and elibrary at www.yprl.vic.gov.au is available for members to download ebooks, eaudiobooks and other electronic items such as magazines and newspapers from any location as well as place holds for items to be collected from the branch or mobile library of their choosing, and browse and book for events.



Tyler and Jake in new computer space at Lalor Library.

The library service covers an area of 983 square kilometres and includes metropolitan, urban fringe and rural areas. There are 114,668 library members which is 31% of the population of 375,381. There are 155 staff and a budget in 2014–15 of \$14,305 million.



OUR COMMUNITIES

Banyule City Council

Banyule is situated to the north-east of Melbourne, adjacent to the inner city suburbs and ranging towards the more rural fringe areas to the north of the metropolitan area. The municipal area covers 63 square kilometres and the 21 suburbs of the city have a population of 125,503. Primarily an urban residential area, there are also industrial areas in Heidelberg West, Greensborough, Briar Hill and Bundoora. Important institutions in the area include the extensive Heidelberg Medical Precinct as well as the Simpson Army Barracks in Watsonia, and significant aged care and education facilities. Library membership for Banyule is 34,383, which is 27% of the population.

Nillumbik Shire Council

The Shire of Nillumbik is located 25 kilometres north-east of Melbourne, and has the Yarra River as its southern boundary; Kinglake National Park to the north; Plenty River and Yan Yean Road to the west; and Christmas Hills and the Yarra escarpment to the east. The Shire covers an area of 432 square kilometres, including 20 suburbs or townships and has a population of 62,800. Library membership for Nillumbik is 28,757, which is 46% of the population.

City of Whittlesea

The City of Whittlesea is located in the outer north-eastern suburbs of Melbourne. It covers an area of 489 square kilometres and has a population of 187,000. It is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Australia, and welcomed 7,900 new residents in 2014. The community is made up of a high proportion of people from NESB countries and a growing indigenous community. Growth is taking place in newer suburbs as well as in established areas such as Epping, Thomastown and Lalor. Library membership in Whittlesea is 49,057, which is 26% of the population.

Banyule City Council



Ivanhoe Library



Rosanna Library



Watsonia Library

Nillumbik Shire Council



Diamond Valley Library



Eltham Library

City of Whittlesea



Lalor Library



Mill Park Library



Thomastown Library



Whittlesea Library





LIBRARY BOARD FOR 2014–2015

GOVERNANCE

The Library is governed by a Board comprising two Councillors from each of the three municipalities. Responsibility and authorities of the Board include policy determination, strategic planning and service evaluation. Board meetings are held bimonthly with location of meetings rotating among each of the member Councils.



Cr Jenny Mulholland



Cr Steven Briffa



Cr Helen Coleman



Cr Ken King



Cr Sam Alessi



Cr Mary Lalios

Banyule City Council

Cr Jenny Mulholland
(Chair to February 2015)

Cr Steven Briffa

Ms Allison Beckwith (ex officio)
Director Community Programs

Nillumbik Shire Council

Cr Helen Coleman

Cr Ken King

Ms Clem Gillings (ex officio)
General Manager Community and Leisure

City of Whittlesea

Cr Sam Alessi
(Chair from February 2015)

Cr Mary Lalios

Mr Russell Hopkins (ex officio)
Director Community Services

Chief Executive Officer
Christine Mackenzie
BA, Grad Dip Lib, Grad Dip Mgt, FALIA

BOARD INITIATIVES

This year the Board has approved the Procurement Policy; Volunteer Policy; ICT Strategic Framework 2015–17; the Library User Policy; and the Annual Budget and Business Plan.

The Victorian Library Concept was endorsed at the October meeting and letters of support for the initiatives were sent to the Premier, the Minister for Local Government, the Leader of the State Opposition and local Members of State Parliament advising them of the Board's position.

LIBRARY BOARD FOR 2014–2015

BOARD INITIATIVES CONTINUED

The Board became a signatory to the Lyon Declaration in October and wrote to the United Nations representative in Australia to urge commitment to ensuring that everyone has access to, and is able to understand, use and share the information that is necessary to promote sustainable development and democratic societies.

The Board approved a new Service Level Agreement with Murrindindi Shire Council in December.



Eltham Library.

ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETINGS

Cr Jenny Mulholland (4/6)
Cr Steve Briffa (1/6)
Cr Helen Coleman (3/6)
Cr Ken King (4/6)
Cr Sam Alessi (6/6)
Cr Mary Lalios (4/6)

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS 2014–2015

- Building program
- Launch of new website
- Learn@YPRL
- Seniors Connect Program
- Library User Policy
- Staff Planning and Development Day

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

USAGE OF LIBRARY SERVICES

The changing role of libraries in the community is highlighted by our usage statistics. Traditional measures such as loans of physical items are plateauing while loans of ebooks have increased by 28%. Visits to branches increased by 5% and the number of programs offered has grown by 15%. The number of members shows a decrease; this is because of a one off database cleansing of inactive borrowers with outstanding charges.

114,668 members
(19% decrease from 2013–2014)

1,414,211 million visits to libraries
(5% increase from 2013–2014)

3,481,911 loans of collection items
(1% increase from 2013–2014)

113,142 loans of ebooks and eaudio books
(28% increase from 2013–2014)

530 opening hours per week

6,547 programs (15% increase from 2013–2014)
attracting 139,787 attendances
(1% increase from 2013–2014)

397,604 website users
(2.9% decrease from 2013–2014)

766,643 website visits
(7% decrease from 2014–2015)

74,488 sessions using the mobile App
(Apple & Android). Launched in 2014

1,907 new mobile App users
(Apple & Android). Launched in 2014

215,022 hours of public Internet usage in libraries
(1% increase from 2013–2014)

88,797 wireless sessions
(147% increase from 2013–2014)

222 public internet access computers in branches
(2% increase from 2013–2014)



FINANCE

The financial results for the 2014–2015 financial year show an ascending operating surplus of \$793,000.

In 2014–2015 income was derived from the following sources:

	14–15	13–14
Member Councils	79%	77%
State Government Grants	16%	16%
Fees, Charges and Interest	2%	4%
Specific Grants	4%	2%



Banyule grant presentation night with Mayor Langdon, Cr Briffa, Cr Mulholland, Watsonia Branch Manager Barb and Cr Melican.

In 2014–2015, expenditure was comprised as follows:

	14–15	13–14
Collection	18%	18%
Administration and Branch Staff	62%	61%
Library Branches (excluding staff)	6%	6%
Information and Technology General Costs	14%	15%



Library Lovers' Day at Whittlesea Library with Branch Manager Joyce.



Chess in the library.

COLLECTIONS

WE PROVIDE FREE PUBLIC ACCESS TO POPULAR, TIMELY AND DESIRABLE CONTENT THAT IS EASY TO FIND IN ORDER TO MAKE AVAILABLE INFORMATION, KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE.

GOALS FROM THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2013–2017:

- 1. Tailor collections to the local communities served by each branch
- 2. Improve and promote e-book offerings
- 3. Provide enhanced access to information including reference resources
- 4. Ensure collections are relevant to emerging communities
- 5. Seek innovative ways of promoting the collection

SUCCESS INDICATORS

Current circulation figures maintained loans in 2014–15 were 3.481 million (benchmark 3.587 million 2011–12)
Range and quality of books for adults: satisfaction levels as measured by Nexus survey 2014–15: 7.9 (benchmark score 2011–12: 7.8)
Range and quality of books for children: satisfaction levels as measured by Nexus survey 2014–15: 7.6 (benchmark score 2011–12: 7.8)
Feedback from annual Collections survey We continue to receive positive feedback from respondents as well as constructive comments.

HIGHLIGHTS

New opening day collection for Whittlesea
Record number of new items added to collection
Turnover rate of 8.9

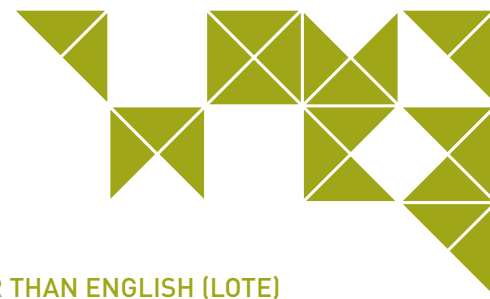


Reading Lounge at Eltham Library.

LENDING

There has been a slight increase in loans compared to 2013–14 with the opening of Whittlesea library. Loans of ebooks continue to rise significantly each year indicating the changing usage of library collections. Both picture book and DVD collection loans are high; together they comprise 34% of total loans. There have been significant increases in e-lending – with ebook loans up 27%; eaudio book loans up 28%, emagazine loans up 12% and emusic and streaming up 85% over the previous year.





USAGE OF COLLECTIONS

Our borrowers are satisfied with our collections; this is indicated by the turnover rate of 8.9 which means that on average every physical item in the collection was borrowed almost 9 times in the last 12 months; and with the quality of collections, with 86% of items purchased in the past 5 years. Fiction and non-fiction collection loans continue to be steady with community appetite for popular titles and subjects still very strong.

Junior fiction collections continue to be popular and picture books and easy starter loans continue to increase. Picture book loans are 17% of total loans and are very heavily used at all branches. Children's non-fiction book loans have increased over the past year as the collection evolves into a popular interest and recreational reading resource. The junior non-fiction collections are being genrefied to increase accessibility and visibility on the shelf. An additional 2,600 Premiers' Reading Challenge titles including junior and teen fiction, eBooks and eAudiobooks and DVDs were added to the collection.

NEW ITEMS

A record 124,097 new items were added to the Collection in 2014–15, a 9% increase over the previous year; and 128,819 items were de-selected from the catalogue due to age, condition and/or irrelevance. The number of items in the collection at June 30 is 467,272.

The new Whittlesea library opened in September with an opening day collection of 16,000 items. The collection was specifically curated to match the needs and demands of the Whittlesea community.



LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (LOTE)

LOTE newspapers and magazines have been introduced at all branches to support their Language Café programs. More than 200 Chinese eBook titles and online magazines were purchased this year. A Chinese language newspaper was also introduced and is proving to be very popular. Storytime kits in community languages – Italian, Japanese, French, German and Chinese – have been provided to support the many bi-lingual storytimes held at branches.



Italian Conversation Group at Diamond Valley.

COLLECTION SURVEY

The annual Collection survey ran in March and received 1,382 responses. While many respondents praised the library and its collections, we also received constructive feedback and suggestions for improvement.

Some responses:

All the libraries are terrific – don't know what I'd do without them!

I really appreciate the library service – in being able to source books for myself and my children is so fantastic.

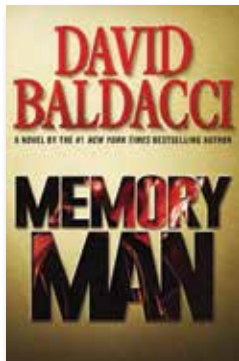
The online catalogue & holds system is terrific.

COLLECTIONS

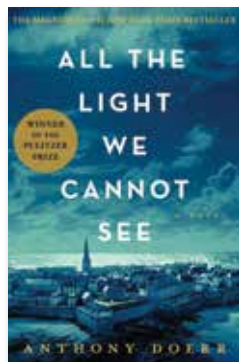
Print and ebooks listed alphabetically by author.

Popular print titles not available in ebook, therefore titles which are popular in print vary to popular in ebook.

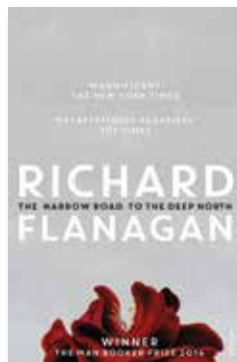
TOP 10 PRINT TITLES 2014-15



Memory Man
Baldacci, David



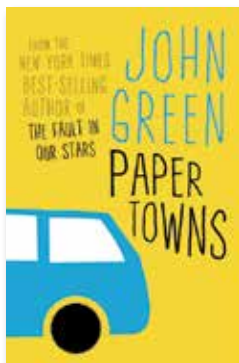
All The Light We Cannot See
Doerr, Anthony



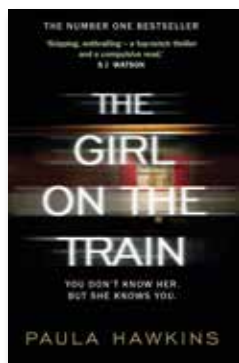
Narrow Road To The Deep North
Flanagan, Richard



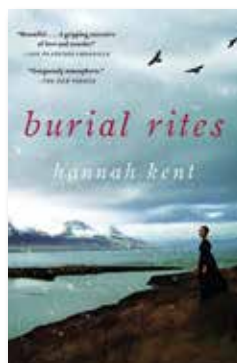
Still Alice
Genova, Lisa



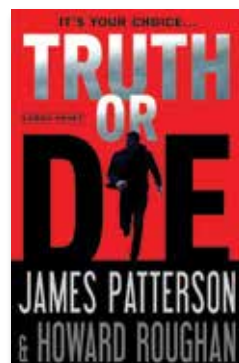
Paper Towns
Green, John



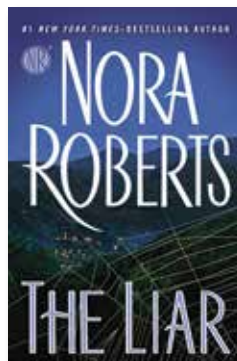
Girl On The Train
Hawkins, Paula



Burial Rites
Kent, Hannah



Truth Or Die
Patterson, James

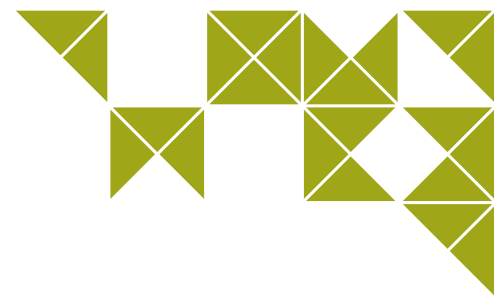


The Liar
Roberts, Nora



The Rosie Effect
Simsion, Graeme

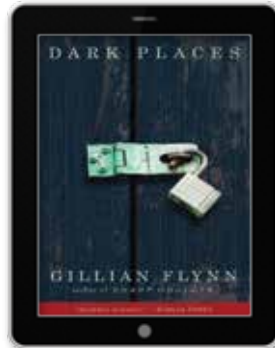




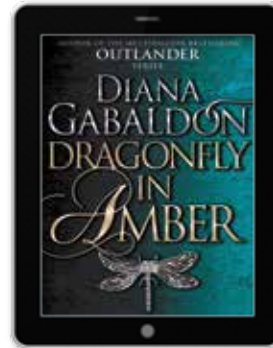
TOP 10 EBOOK TITLES 2014-15



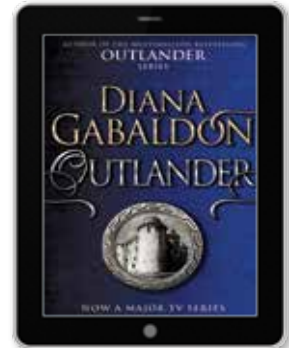
True North
Blake, Liora



Dark Places
Flynn, Gillian



Dragonfly In Amber
Gabaldon, Diana



Outlander
Gabaldon, Diana



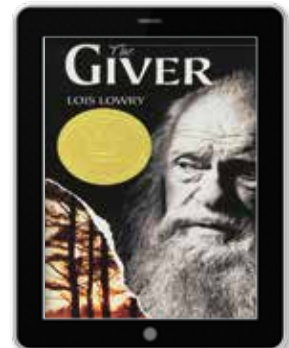
**Still Alice And
Left Neglected**
Genova, Lisa



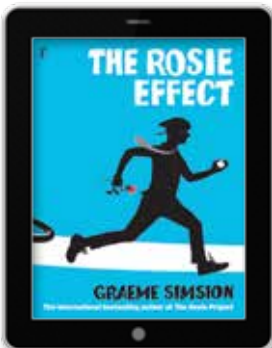
**An Abundance Of
Katherines**
Green, John



Eye Of The Sheep
Laguna, Sofie



The Giver
Lowry, Lois



The Rosie Effect
Simsion, Graeme



Olive Kitteridge
Strout, Elizabeth

PROGRAMS

WE OFFER PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO PEOPLE'S LIVES IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THEIR WELLBEING.



Eltham Library regular Ted.

GOALS FROM THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2013–2017:

1. Develop programs and opportunities to foster and encourage reading and literacy
2. Develop and facilitate learning programs consistent with evolving community needs
3. Develop and promote learning activities that complement the offerings of other learning providers and continue to develop strong relationships with them
4. Promote branch libraries as meeting places for reading, learning and culture

SUCCESS INDICATORS

Events and activities for children satisfaction levels as measured by Nexus survey
7.93 (benchmark score 7.5, 2011–12)

Events and activities for adults satisfaction levels as measured by Nexus survey
7.39 (benchmark score 7.3, 2011–12)

Increase in attendance at programs 10% per annum
1.1% increase from last year with 139,787 attendances at programs

Increase in visits to libraries – 3% per annum
There were 1,428 million visits in 2014–15.
A 5% increase from last year

HIGHLIGHTS

Live Reads on the Road

Doggy Tales reading dog program extended

Seniors Connect program

Learn@YPRL

Highest ever number of visits to libraries



Live Reads on the Road launch.



READING

Public libraries foster a love of reading and literacy development among people of all ages. However, we are aware that not all members of our community are being catered for in reading and literacy programs. Generally people with special needs have lower literacy levels. The challenge is how to reach out to special groups in the community to enhance reading and literacy and to encourage people of all abilities to use their local library by offering them appropriate programs.



Popular storyteller chair.

CHILDREN'S REGULAR READING PROGRAMS

Pre-literacy programs

The library offers a complete range of programs held regularly at all branches tailored to the specific needs of different ages from newborn babies through to primary age. The programs are bookaroo, baby storytime, toddler time, preschool story time, weekend storytime, and bedtime storytime.



School Holiday Programs

The library runs popular and well-attended school holiday programs during the year. This year there were 82 activities held over the three school holiday periods and 4,500 attendees.

The themes were:
Green Fingers – July
Bop 'til You Drop – September/October
Crazy Craft – March/April



School Holiday Program.



Crazy Craft at Mill Park.



Storytelling at Eltham Library with Roslyn.

The branches recording the highest attendances for school holiday programs were Diamond Valley, Mill Park and Watsonia.

PROGRAMS



Summer Reading Club

The Summer Reading Club is an annual program to encourage children aged 3–12 to read during the summer holidays and the theme this year was “Paws to Read.” Over 2,600 children registered and they read 23,560 books over the holidays. There were 60 activities across branches with 2,060 attendees.



Cr Coleman presents to SRC winner six year old Sienna Graeme.



National Simultaneous Storytime



The highlight of Australian Library and Information Week is National Simultaneous Storytime, which is now in its 15th year. The program aims to promote the value of reading and literacy using an Australian children's book. Around Australia 500,000 participants at over 3,000 locations all read the same book on Wednesday 27 May at 11am. The book chosen for 2015 was *The Brothers Quibble* written and illustrated by Aaron Blabey. Board members Crs Jenny Mulholland and Mary Lalios were guest readers as were Crs Craig Langdon, Tom Melican, Kris Pavlidis, Bronnie Hattam and Anita Van Hulsen.



Cr Mulholland reading at Ivanhoe Library for National Simultaneous Storytime.





Bilingual Storytimes

Bilingual storytimes continue to grow both in attendance and in the number of languages offered; this is made possible by collaboration between staff and volunteers. We offer storytimes in Dutch at Diamond Valley; German at Eltham; French at Ivanhoe; Italian at Lalor, Mill Park and Rosanna; Arabic at Thomastown Library; and Chinese and Japanese at Watsonia. This year we have introduced Vietnamese and Farsi at Lalor; Chinese and Italian at Ivanhoe; and Japanese at Whittlesea.



Vietnamese storytime at Lalor Library.

CHILDREN'S SPECIAL READING PROGRAMS

Doggy Tales – Read to a Dog

In celebration of the National Year of Reading 2012, the library developed a program using a dog to assist children to improve their reading and literacy skills based on the R.E.A.D. program from the USA. The idea behind the program, named Doggy Tales, is to provide children with a non-judgemental, comforting and safe canine audience as they practise their reading. Doggy Tales also develops children's verbal communication skills and presents reading as a joyful experience. The pilot program was run out of the Diamond Valley Library and featured Lachlan the Reading Dog and his handler and staff member Marlies Irvine-Tammes. Lachlan has become a media star and is the mascot for the Premiers' Reading Challenge, a state-wide



Reading Dogs and volunteers supporting Doggy Tales.

literacy program run by the Victorian Government. We now have four reading dogs at our branches and our aim is to have one at each branch. The program received a heart-warming donation from the Diamond Valley Special Development School of \$300. The teacher explained that the students had raised money through a lapathon and wanted to give something back to the community and they chose our reading dog program for their donation.

Whittlesea Community Festival

This annual community festival held in March included a live reading of *Green Eggs and Ham* by library staff on the Kids Stage, supported by Board Chair Cr Sam Alessi and Cr Mary Lalios.



Annie, Maria and Cr Alessi participate in Whittlesea Community Festival.

PROGRAMS

ADULT REGULAR READING PROGRAMS

Live Reads

Live Reads aims to promote Australian and local authors and this year 42 authors were part of the program which attracted over 790 people to various activities. The highlight was Australia’s 22nd Prime Minister, (the late) Hon. Malcolm Fraser, talking about his book, “Dangerous Allies.” Over 160 people attended this event, held in partnership with Eltham Bookshop.

Regular Eltham Library customer Ted commented “It was an excellent night. One I will never forget. My photograph of me and Malcolm is one I will always treasure.”



Hon. Malcolm Fraser author talk in partnership with Eltham Bookshop.



Bookface a trend this year.



Hon. Malcolm Fraser showcasing the collection of his titles.

Live Reads – authors who presented in 2014–2015

Marie Bean	Mariam Issa
Kate Belle	Antoni Jach
MaryAnne Bennie	Nicole Jenkins
Tina Bui	Jill Jolliffe
Lyndel Caffery	Toni Jordan
Nicola Connelly	Suzanne McCourt
John Considine	Karen Manwaring
Tania Cooper	Ian Michen
Jacqueline Dinan	Maggie Miller
Sue Donnelly	Chee Min Ng
Chris Donnelly	Elyne Mitchell
Helen Downey	Kirsty Murray
Christine Durham	Sian Prior
Corinne Fenton	Leigh Redhead
Greg Foyster	Tim Richards
Malcolm Fraser	Bill Robertson
Jacinta Halloran	Angela Savage
Betty Harvey	Carl Sundstrom
Lou Harvey-Zahra	Jane Sullivan
Loretta Hill	Chole Twohig
Hilda Inglese	Daniela Zannoni





Book Clubs

There are 70 book clubs throughout the region. Many book clubs are self-facilitated and groups borrow book club kits and meet in the library for their discussions; others are facilitated by library staff. Thirteen new titles were added to the book group kits this year and each kit contains 12 copies of the title together with associated discussion notes. The most popular book club titles this year were *Narrow Road to the Deep North*; *Rosie Project*; *Gone Girl*; and *The Light Between the Oceans*.



Live Reads on the Road launch with Maggie Millar.

ADULT SPECIAL READING PROGRAMS

Live Reads on the Road

This was launched last year as the hero Reading program for 2014. The need for this program is shown by results from the Adult Literacy and Life skills Survey 2006 which found that 46% of working age Australians struggled with everyday tasks such as reading newspapers, making sense of timetables or filling out forms. The program aims to introduce reluctant or disengaged adult readers and non-library users to the benefits of reading and libraries through the power of story-telling. We are aware that some community members are not comfortable coming to a library, so this project involved partnering with community organisations to take storytellers out to people attending other programs at these facilities. The program was funded by local priorities grant and ran in partnership with Eltham Health Centre, St. Clare's Primary School PRACE, Thomastown West Primary School PRACE, Livingston Centre and Banyule Community Health. The program was launched by the Mayor of Banyule, Cr. Craig Langdon and Cr Jenny Mulholland at the Banyule Community Health Centre in West Heidelberg when Maggie Millar, an accomplished and well-known actor, enthralled the audience with readings of five fairy tales.



Book club at Mill Park.



Lalor library volunteer Lynne.

PROGRAMS

6th Annual Booklovers' Festival – A Story Begins

Board Chair Cr Jenny Mulholland opened the Booklovers' Festival at Watsonia library in July. The launch featured author and journalist Jill Jolliffe who spoke movingly of her experiences in Timor Leste. The month-long program featured singers, songwriters, novelists, artists, journalists and authors including Antoni Jach, Jane Sullivan, Leigh Redhead, Angela Savage and Toni Jordan.



Launch with Jill Jolliffe and Sarah Schmid.



Kev Howlett photographer presentation.

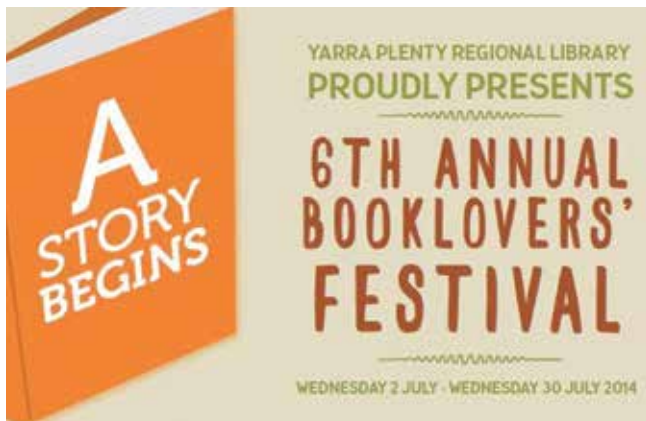
YOUNG ADULT READING PROGRAMS

YRead

Reading Under the Stars was the theme for the summer reading program for young people aged 13–18 and attracted 267 registrations (29% increase on last year). Over 20 activities were held across all branches for the program which also included a writing competition called Six Word Stories which had 139 entries.



Cr Alessi and Annie with winner Isabella Gojkovic.



Program for Booklovers' 2014 marketing.



Marketing at Ivanhoe Library.



Lenisa Di Clemente from The Voice Kids' at Lalor.





WRITING PROGRAMS

Regular Writing Groups

Creative writing groups meet regularly at seven of our branches. These groups provide a network of support, advice and a fresh approach to writing and publishing. Writing groups are facilitated by a volunteer or a staff member and there are occasional guest speakers.

Write Now! Short Story Competition

This program, now in its fourth year, encourages writers from across Victoria to be creative and express themselves through the art of the short story. The majority of entrants for Write Now! came from our local community. This year there were three categories of entry: Junior, Young Adult and Open and there were over 140 entries. Kirsty Murray was the guest judge and all winning and highly commended stories were published in an anthology by Busybird Publishing. The anthology was launched in November at Mill Park Library in front of an eager and supportive crowd of 70 writers and their family and friends.



The winners were:

The very steep, dastardly driveway with a pond at the bottom by Luke Shaw (Junior)

Guerrilla Gardens by Jeanne Cheong (Young Adult)

Tailwind by Beverley Lello (Open)

WHITTLESEA WRITERS FESTIVAL

The inaugural Whittlesea Writers Festival was held at Mill Park Library in March. The day consisted of writing workshops, author talks, book sales and signings, writing competitions and a used book sale. The Mill Park Library writers group also released their latest self-published anthology called 'Unruly Writers'. The festival was supported by a City of Whittlesea community grant.



Mill Park writers group with their published work.



Reading anywhere.

PROGRAMS



Polar bear workshop at Arts Centre Melbourne.

in a creative way and the results were surprising, heart-warming and awe-inspiring. This program was supported by a community development grant from Banyule City Council.

Stories from My Life

This project involved students from Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg interviewing residents at Sir William Hall Hostel, Heidelberg Heights. The stories were added to the Wikinorthia website and enhance the rich content of personal reminiscences in Melbourne's north on this online archive. It was run in partnership with Banyule Nillumbik Local Learning and Employment Network.



OMNI Ivanhoe Library with Cr Briffa and Community Coordinator Alan Thompson.



Yarn bomb craft group, City of Whittlesea.

Reflections: Writing Life from Banyule

A five month memoir writing program *Reflections: Writing Life from Banyule* attracted 40 writers from our region who developed their memoirs with one-on-one mentoring from writer Lyndel Caffrey. Participants navigated their way through the creative process while confronting the dilemmas facing memoir writers in how to tell their own stories in their own voice. For many this was the first time they had ever written



Biggest Morning Tea with Cr Hattam and Cr Coleman, Eltham Library.





LEARNING

Libraries are increasingly offering informal learning programs in a safe and supportive environment to improve the skills of community members. This year over 10,000 people have attended learning programs at our libraries. The most popular programs are those that support digital literacy.

REGULAR LEARNING PROGRAMS

Learn@YPRL



The library service offers many appreciated and well-attended learning programs through its branches and also offers online learning courses free to the community. The aim of Learn@YPRL is to build on these offerings to raise the profile of learning programs at the library and take advantage of new resources. A suite of core classes based on current programs has been standardised, packaged and marketed under new branding.

Learning programs have been allocated into four areas. Get Connected is to enhance digital literacy and includes introduction to computers and the internet, technology groups, digital media, and downloading content. Brain Health covers the language cafes, craft, board games, writing groups, marketplace of ideas and tutoring. Regular genealogy and family history classes are offered; and Go Green is about sustainability and gardening.



Rosa – garden volunteer and Dione at Diamond Valley.



Tash – Lalor and Thomastown Learning Coordinator.



Mill Park Primary School visit with Steven at Mill Park Library.



Diamond Valley craft group – spinners.

PROGRAMS

iPad Sessions for Special Groups

iPad workshops for seniors are held every Thursday morning at Mill Park Library in partnership with Whittlesea U3A. The program was developed and implemented by U3A and is delivered by library staff. There is also a weekly iPad play and information session for 5–10 intellectually disabled young adults run in partnership with Plenty Valley Health at Mill Park.



iPad class with Community Coordinator Jack at Mill Park.

Rosanna Library staff attended Austin Hospital's Secure Mental Health Unit on a monthly basis to support an average of 10 clients a session with the support of Austin Hospital staff for iPad classes to increase community inclusion and improve digital literacy.

One individual who has been at the unit for a number of months is now recognising staff members Jane and Adam and is starting to communicate. In past sessions he had stayed only 5 minutes but now he is up to 15 minutes. The therapist and the Unit Manager were over the moon as this was the first time he had stayed in a group session.

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER AT THE AUSTIN HOSPITAL



SPECIAL LEARNING PROGRAMS

Seniors Connect Program

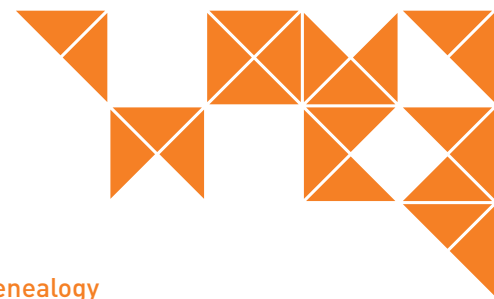
The Minister for Ageing, Hon David Davis and Board Chair, Cr Jenny Mulholland launched the pilot program of Seniors Connect at Wattle Glen Aged Care Facility in September. Also in attendance at were – Telstra Chief Sustainability Officer Tim O'Leary and Department of Health and Human Services Gerard Mansour – Commissioner for Senior Victorians and Barbara Mountjouris – Manager Seniors Programs and Participation.



Seniors Connect launch.

This initiative is being run in conjunction with Telstra and the Victorian Department of Health and provides 50 iPads with pre-paid data allowances for loan for 9 weeks. It aims to reach 1,000 seniors in our region by the time the pilot finishes at the end of 2015. Free training sessions have been delivered from Rosanna Library, at residential aged care facilities and through our housebound service by staff and the 35 volunteers recruited and trained to support this training. La Trobe University has been involved in the assessment of the program, developing and analysing pre and post borrowing surveys, to ascertain the success of the program. Volunteers from this program were recognised at the Banyule City Council's Volunteers' Dinner in May.





Youth Week

It Starts With Us was this year's national theme for Youth Week held in April. The library offered young people 14 programs to get creative, to make and play games, try 3D designing and printing, Raspberry Pi, stop-motion animation, knitting, art and storytelling.



Mill Park space for Young People.



Finding MY Place term 2 Thomastown Library.

Local History and Genealogy

The Local History Librarian coordinates the regional local historical societies and they meet regularly to exchange information. Stories continue to be added to the Wikinorthia site which is becoming an important historical resource for the region. Postcards were produced this year to promote the Shire of Eltham Pioneers' Photograph collection.

During Local History Month in November, 17 activities were held including discovering the secrets and fascinating history of the region, a self-guided tour of literary and cultural sites in Whittlesea and Nillumbik, researching cemeteries and displaying an original Anzac collection.



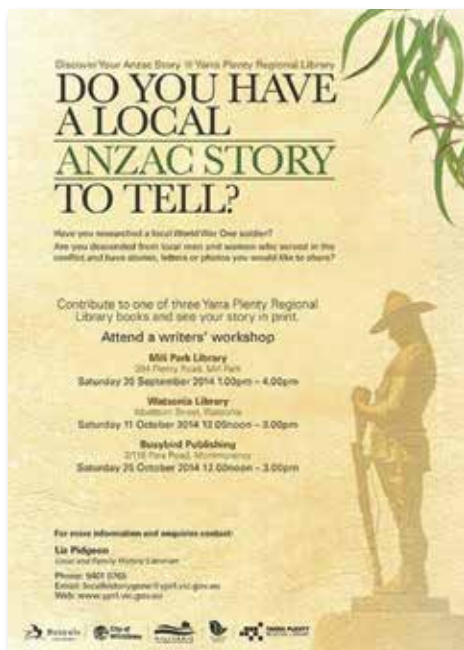
Local History forum.

August is Family History month and the library offered 18 activities across the branches to provide families with the resources they need to pass along memories to future generations.

PROGRAMS

ANZAC grant

The project *Discover your Anzac Story @Yarra Plenty Regional Library* was successful in receiving a grant for \$24,000 from the Federal Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program via the Scullin electorate. A program of expert speakers, information sessions and writing workshops is facilitating local community involvement in the commemoration of the Anzac Centenary and will continue into 2016. The project will culminate in a published book for local Anzac Stories to be published in August 2016. Fourteen stories with photographs have been collected to date and will also be showcased on the Wikinorthia website.



Journey of Remembrance

In March a free theatrical event *Journey of Remembrance*, which tells the stories of a group of men and women who served in WWI, was held at Plenty Ranges Arts and Cultural Centre. It also included a slideshow tribute to local Epping enlistments, a memorabilia display, piano music of the era, a performance by the Huffers and Puffers retirement band, distribution of commemorative kits and poppies, and afternoon tea. The library's contribution included hosting a Pop Up library of WWI related items. This was a partnership with the City of Whittlesea's Positive Ageing Team, Epping RSL and Plenty Valley FM.



Local History display at Eltham.



Vietnam veteran Bob Elworthy's talk at Diamond Valley.

I would like to thank you for your magnificent contribution towards making yesterday's event a great success. Your cooperation, ideas whilst planning the event and assistance on the day ensured that many of the 460 community members who attended had an experience they will remember. The community members' reaction after leaving the theatre and seeing the show was great. From the war widow who grabbed my face and couldn't stop smiling, the many patrons I saw with a cheerful tear in their eye and the Cypriot women's group wanting to attend the Anzac day march. Your commitment and enthusiasm for this event created many great moments...

CON CONSTANTINOU – SENIORS CITIZENS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
POSITIVE AGEING TEAM – AGED AND DISABILITY SERVICES





MEETING

Libraries provide important spaces for people to meet and engage in activities and programs. Libraries are safe places where people can go to be alone or with others. They are friendly and accessible to all. There have been many and varied programs held in libraries over the past year – here is a sample.



Lalor Community Choir.

Live@YPRL

This new program features music at libraries for all ages and showcases local talent. The aim is to provide live theatre, dance and opera performances at libraries through community partnerships with local musicians and Arts and Cultural Departments of member councils. The program makes live music and theatre accessible at local and major arts and cultural destinations. Events this year were at the Arts Centre Melbourne, Plenty Ranges Arts & Convention Centre and library performances by Opera Australia at Watsonia Library and the Whittlesea Community Carols Choir performance at Mill Park Library.



Minecraft participants at Mill Park.



Watsonia craft with Sam Walsh BCC and Watsonia Branch Manager Barb Armstrong.



Local bagpipes at Watsonia.



Booklovers' presenter Jackson McLauren.

PROGRAMS



House #5803



House #5803 with Melbourne display.

Arts Centre Melbourne HOME project

HOME is the second of four large scale public participation events produced by Arts Centre Melbourne exploring and celebrating our notions of home and what this means to us as individuals, families and communities. The library offered 100 people the opportunity to participate in HOME through creative workshops, some facilitated by Arts Centre Melbourne. Participants created a representation of their concept of 'home' through decoration of little wooden houses. All of the houses (7,000 in total) were gathered to form part of the HOME public program, including installation of a super-scaled replica wooden house – the Big House – on the Main Lawn at Arts Centre Melbourne. It included a diverse range of activities and events for participants and members of the public to engage in through January. The wooden houses were subsequently offered as public gifts for placement across Melbourne and beyond.



Opera Australia's Hansel and Gretel with Shadow Interpreters

Over 270 children and their carers were captivated by the story of two young people and the bewitching characters they meet on their journey of hardship, forgiveness and self-discovery. Featuring professional singers from Opera Australia, colourful costumes and an enchanting set, this fully staged version of Humperdinck's opera was presented by Opera Australia as part of the Pierre Gorman Award and Banyule Community Development Grants Program at Watsonia Library in late June. It was the first time Opera Australia has performed in a library and also their first performance using Auslan shadow interpreters.



Opera Australia with YPRL CEO Christine Mackenzie.

Silver Linings Seniors Photographic Exhibition

This was the second year of the photographic program *Silver Linings*, which invites over 55s to submit a photograph, this year on the theme of 'gratitude.' The 15 entries were exhibited at Diamond Valley and the exhibition was launched by Board Chair Cr Jenny Mulholland and Cr Helen Coleman also attended.



One Hundred Faces – Children’s Week

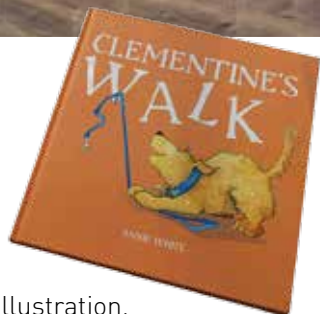
The project *One Hundred Faces* was developed with the aim to see what’s important to 100 Banyule primary school children and was an exciting photo-based exhibition. It was displayed at Ivanhoe and Rosanna library branches as a digital slide show through the library screen savers. The library partnered with Banyule Council and the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to present this event.



Eltham Library Gallery.

The Art of Illustration

The library’s inaugural exhibition at Eltham Library Community Gallery celebrated the art of children’s picture book illustration, showcasing the work of illustrator Annie White. Visitors explored a showcase of original works and the development of Annie’s recent picture book *Clementine’s Walk*. The library now has a permanent booking in January at the gallery and will stage exhibitions linked to Summer Reading Club themes.



Crafted poppies with Jude, Mill Park Library.

5000 Poppies Project

Over 3,795 crafted poppies were contributed by groups in the region for this project of remembrance, which culminated in a red carpet display at Federation Square to commemorate the centenary of ANZAC Day. Local crafters joined a library craft group or dropped in their homemade poppies to libraries. The Heidelberg Leader promoted the displays in a feature article in November.

Love the Arts, Create the Crafts

November was arts and culture month at the library. Highlights included community artist demonstrations and exhibitions at Eltham; participation in the Arts Centre Melbourne HOME project; a ceramic exhibition and workshop at Diamond Valley; ceramic jewellery making workshops; and an artist-led mask making workshop at Lalor.

PROGRAMS

Cultural Diversity

Each March we celebrate the many cultures of our local communities during Cultural Diversity week. This year the activities at libraries included a foreign film festival; Indian cultural celebration; Arabic language classes; Italian cooking; Japanese origami; language translation apps; and 3D printing of your favorite word.

For the second year, Lalor library held its very popular annual Whittlesea Community Connection day attended by 1,500 people. There was a full program of events with performers, a choir, and a petting zoo. The day was launched by Board Chair Cr Sam Alessi, attended by Crs Mary Lalios and Kris Pavlidis and supported by the Lalor Traders Association and the City of Whittlesea.



CEO Christine Mackenzie, Annie, Keryn and YPRL Chairperson Cr Alessi at Lalor Community Connection Day.



Halloween celebrations at Mill Park.

Halloween

The aim is to encourage families of all cultures to come together and celebrate this annual event in their local library. These events break the barrier for many families who would not otherwise come to the library and it increases awareness of the library as a multi-functional and inclusive place, giving people a sense of belonging in their community, and increasing their confidence and interest to participate in local events. Mill Park Library transforms into a haunted house complete with spooky disco and this year over 700 people attended. Rosanna Library had 106 parents and children attend to listen to scary stories, and participate in craft and games.

World Autism Day

Autism Spectrum Disorder is a developmental condition which affects the ability of the individual in two main areas: social communication and interaction, and restricted, repetitive patterns of behaviour, interests or activities. It affects the way that individuals are able to interact with other people, and they often find the world a confusing place. ASD affects around 1 in every 100–110 people. This equates to around 55,000 Victorians and around 250,000 Australians.





At our Mill Park Branch special attention is being paid to encouraging families with children on the spectrum to feel welcome and included. On World Autism Day the library was transformed into a space that specially catered for these children and their parents and included local support organisations promoting their services. During the year programs such as sensitive storytimes, the reading tent, Sensitive Santa, Lego club and raspberry pi sessions are held to cater specifically for those on the spectrum. The collection at Mill Park also contains specialist materials for parents.



Sensitive Santa Partnership Program.

I never want to do anything other than play on my iPad and computer. I cannot play sport, ride a bike or hold a pen properly because of my Asperger's. I do not fit in with a lot of the kids at school. When I started doing the Raspberry Pi workshops at the library, I felt immediately comfortable with like-minded people. I normally stutter at school for fear of saying the wrong thing and being disliked, but with this group, we think similarly, we have the same social difficulties and my stutter is gone. I am good at computers, and love learning how to make my own computer games. I have now learnt how traffic lights work through basic coding and now feel very excited that this is something I might be able to do as a job in my adulthood. Before these classes, I was very fearful that I would not be able to find a job that I could do. I look forward to each class and what I can learn next.

JAKE AGED 11, DIAGNOSED WITH ASPERGER'S SYNDROME

Pop Up Libraries at Railway Stations

A number of branches have opened occasional Pop Up libraries at their local stations, handing out books and membership information to early morning commuters.



Mill Park Pop Up library.



Ivanhoe Pop Up library.

Seniors Week

The library extends Seniors Week in October to a month long program of celebrations. This year 132 people attended 24 activities across 8 branches encouraging seniors to embrace life and health, choose adventure and life-long learning. The highlight this year was Words on Wheels being delivered in branch. The residents of 10 aged care facilities were transported to local library branches, and treated to a WOW session, which included jokes, storytelling, music, dancing and singing, and much audience participation.



PROGRAMS



Volunteers from Library Support Services.

Volunteers

It has been another wonderful year of volunteer engagement at our libraries. We have 290 volunteers who select and deliver library materials to housebound people; assist in the branches and at Library Support Services; run the WOW program at nursing homes; and conduct the Tech Savvy Seniors program. The latest initiative is the Ambassador program. There was a thank you event at the Growling Frog Golf Club in November and Cr Helen Coleman, Mayor of Nillumbik, spoke of the valued contribution that volunteers make to our community. Long-serving volunteer Judy Buckmaster gave an entertaining and moving account of her volunteer experience.

Volunteers Week is in May, and there were a number of celebrations for our volunteers and volunteering. Whittlesea Community Connections launched a video that promotes volunteering at Mill Park Library and Board Chair, Cr Sam Alessi, welcomed everyone to the event.

There was also an awards ceremony at Whittlesea Council where our Lalor ambassador, Lynne Dobby, was nominated and awarded a prize for her commitment to the library. Nillumbik Council

celebrated National Volunteers Week with a cocktail party for nominated volunteers of the region. Banyule City Council held their annual Volunteers' Thank you Dinner.

Home Library Service

The Home Library Service continues to meet the library needs of members who are housebound due to frailty, illness or disability. Around 90 people receive this much appreciated service which is provided by volunteers who select and deliver items to clients.

Seniors Connect

The Seniors Connect volunteers were nominated for the community award at the Banyule Volunteers Awards. Their citation read:

Thanks to this group of dedicated volunteers, and through the partnership of Yarra Plenty Regional Library, Telstra, the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and Latrobe University, older members of the community are able to become more IT savvy using iPads, and increase their social connections within the community. Volunteers are matched with individuals or groups, meeting regularly to provide training, support and encouragement. The age of people being assisted ranges from 60 to 100 years old, and each has different skill levels and expectations.



Seniors Connect launch.



Jayne Boon and Seniors Connect clients.





Jayne Boon was nominated as Citizen of the Year for the same program. Jayne's citation read:

Jayne has been involved in the Seniors Connect program at Yarra Plenty Regional Library since its inception in 2014. As part of the program she has helped many older library members learn how to use an iPad and enhance their lives by becoming more computer savvy. Jayne has also mentored other volunteers and provided continuous training and troubleshooting sessions.

She has not only helped numerous library members develop digital skills, but has brought many isolated older individuals together to form a strong friendship.

Words on Wheels

This interactive storytelling program continues to grow and bring pleasure to many residents in aged care facilities and 34 volunteers are now delivering to 35 facilities, with plans for further expansion into Planned Activity Groups (PAGs) in the Whittlesea area. Diamond Valley library is hosting WOW sessions with seniors from PAGs from Nillumbik Community Health centre. The groups differ every month and cater for people with ABI, dementia, stroke, and the frail elderly. This has been very successful. It is an outing for the participants and they are able to browse the shelves and select items for loan, as well as enjoy lunch in the community garden. A total of 313 elderly people attended the program this year.

Quarterly meetings are held for the volunteers participating in the program and one meeting featured a guest speaker from Vision Australia who discussed options for those with vision impairment, as well as a talk by a lifestyle coordinator at an aged care facility, who gave suggestions to the group on how best to work with residents with dementia. At every meeting one of the volunteers does a mini WOW presentation to the other volunteers, to showcase different styles and interpretations of the kit content. Regular newsletters are also produced for the volunteers.



Volunteers 'thank you' Christmas celebrations. Melody, Doreen and Judy.

Ambassador Program

This program was created to increase word of mouth marketing in the community for programs and services provided by the library service. Volunteers who have a passion for all things library are encouraged to become library ambassadors and are attached to a particular branch. These volunteers have the opportunity to utilise individual strengths and interests, aligning with the needs and culture of the individual branch. Some of the ambassadors enjoy public speaking, so spend their time talking to service clubs as well as visiting schools and other groups. Others enjoy attending events and festivals to liaise with community members and spread the word about future events. It is a powerful marketing tool, and we have ambassadors in Banyule, Whittlesea and Nillumbik.



TECHNOLOGY

WE PROVIDE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT IS ROBUST AND FIT FOR PURPOSE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO DIGITAL SERVICES AND GAIN EFFICIENCIES, BETTER CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE AND BETTER PROCESSES.

GOALS FROM THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2013–2017:

1. Continue to be responsive to community needs in providing access to online services
2. Leverage the opportunities of the NBN
3. Foster innovation with the provision of digital, creative and maker spaces
4. Facilitate business improvements and continuous improvements in the organisation



Raspberry Pi session Mill Park.

SUCCESS INDICATORS

Internet access at the library satisfaction levels as measured by Nexus survey. Mean score in 2014–15: 7.74 (benchmark mean score 2011–12: 7.9)

Availability of computers for public use satisfaction levels as measured by Nexus survey. Mean score in 2014–15: 7.6 (benchmark mean score 2011–12: 7.8)

Use of digital, creative and maker space (qualitative)
3,000 programs were run out of the Mill Park Library Maker Space.

HIGHLIGHTS

Mill Park Makerspace

3D printing

Raspberry Pi

ACCESS TO ONLINE SERVICES

A new cellular router supporting Telstra 4G has been installed. This is also supplying WiFi at bookmobile stops. Whittlesea Library is now connected to the library WAN via a tower at Coombs Road, Kinglake West.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Various products that form part of the library's IT infrastructure have been upgraded. These include: the website (BiblioCommons), the Library Management System (SirsiDynix), Self-check software (Bibliotheca) as well as server (VMWare) and antivirus (Kaspersky) software.

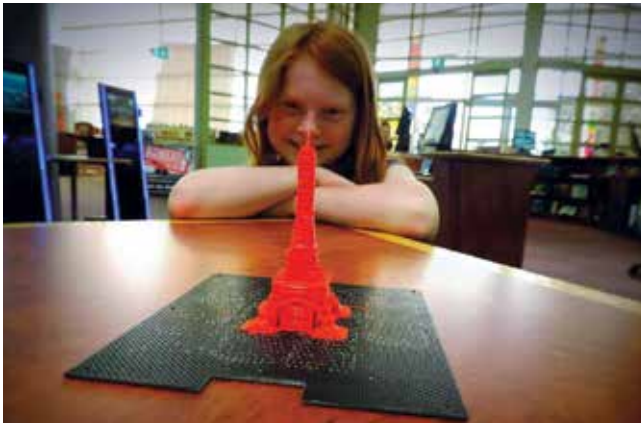


SLV mini conference – Makerspace presentation panel with Christine Mackenzie and Felicity Gilbert.

MILL PARK MAKERSPACE

The Makerspace continues to be a catalyst for encouraging innovation and creativity. The emphasis is on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The success of this Makerspace has led to planning for two more Makerspaces in the 2015–16 year at Thomastown and Watsonia.





3D printer model.

3D PRINTING IN THE MAKERSPACE

The popularity of 3D printing is illustrated by the 370% increase in workshop attendance at Mill Park. Workshops are now being held twice a week to meet this growing demand, with some users designing and printing their own key rings, modifying their own toys and printing a Spiderman cosplay mask.

Mill Park Librarian Beryl helped three young engineers print a part for a project they are working on today. She gave them a go as they had designed a piece of piping with an internal thread and wanted to see if it would print. It did! And they were suitably impressed! Spent ages looking at the 3D models in the cabinet and asked heaps of questions.

RASPBERRY PI

In collaboration with the City of Whittlesea, Raspberry pi activities have been held at Mill Park, Lalor and Thomastown. Raspberry pi are small, box-like computers that enable children to write their own code and to make their own games. It also extends their learning into robotics and how the back end of computing works. The program re-uses computer parts that would otherwise go to landfill. The City of Whittlesea won an award at the Sustainable Cities Awards in the resource recovery and waste management category with the Mill Park Library's e-waste sustainable project which uses Raspberry Pi.

DIGITAL ENTERPRISE PROJECT

Mill Park library partnered with Reservoir Neighbourhood House to run a computer-based program targeted for 'tweens' with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Run weekly after school, this program is designed to equip children with computer skills, to present future study and career pathways and to develop their social skills.



Disability Group Mill Park.

AFTER-HOURS CHUTES PROJECT

All branches now have Controlled Access Returns after-hours chutes as a result of a special project to increase the security of branches. These chutes can only be opened by presenting a YPRL book with an RFID chip attached.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENTS

New Windows 8 based laptops were deployed to staff and for patron training. The laptops may be used as desktops or as tablets. Initiatives completed this year include the separation of staff and public WiFi within our network, taking door counts from the Bibliotheca security gates instead of from the Footprint devices, and the deployment of the controlled access after-hours return chutes. New initiatives commenced this financial year with completion next year include: the migration to VoIP phones, the deployment of security cameras, and a new asset management system. A complete range of infrastructure equipment and services was provided for the Whittlesea Library.

SPACES

WE PROVIDE ATTRACTIVE, FUNCTIONAL PHYSICAL AND VIRTUAL LIBRARY SPACES THAT MEET STANDARDS INCLUDING SIZE AND LOCATION IN ORDER TO PROVIDE PEOPLE WITH SPACES THAT ARE WELCOMING, ACCESSIBLE, ENCOURAGE LEARNING AND ENABLE CONNECTION.

GOALS FROM THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2013–2017:

1. Be proactive in planning library services for community needs
2. Respond to community demand and create quiet spaces in libraries
3. Provide collaborative work spaces/urban office spaces/cultural spaces
4. Continue to develop the website and discovery layer to make it more functional and social



New Whittlesea Library customer service area.

SUCCESS INDICATORS

Opening hours satisfaction levels as measured by Nexus survey
Mean score in 2014–2015: 8.07
(benchmark mean score 2011–2012: 7.9)

Presentation of the library buildings as measured by Nexus survey
Mean score in 2014–15: 8.18
(benchmark mean score 2011–2012: 7.8)

Ease of use of the library website to find information satisfaction levels as measured by Nexus survey
Mean score in 2014–2015: 8.22
(benchmark mean score 2011–2012: 7.8)

Ease of use of library catalogue as measured by Nexus survey
Mean score in 2014–2015: 8.01
(benchmark mean score 2011–2012: 7.9)

HIGHLIGHTS

First new branch for region in 12 years

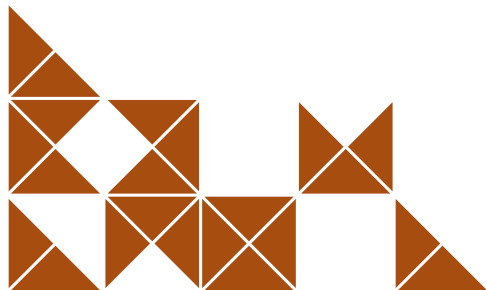
Lalor, Watsonia and Diamond Valley refurbishment

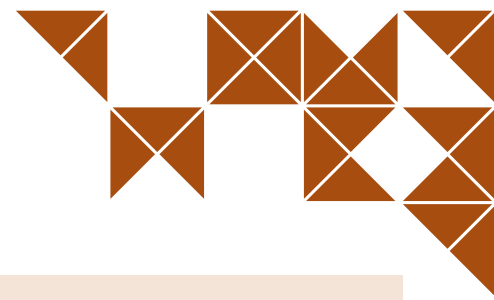
Community gardens at both Diamond Valley and Watsonia

New website

The Building Program

2014–15 was a big year for library buildings with the opening of one new branch at Whittlesea, the first for 12 years in the region, two major refurbishments at Lalor and Watsonia and a minor refurbishment of Diamond Valley. The influence of these projects can be seen by the increase in satisfaction levels reported by the Nexus survey on presentation of library buildings.





YPRL team at Whittlesea Library official opening.



Lalor Library upgrade.

Whittlesea Library

The Whittlesea Community Activity Centre and Library was officially opened on Saturday 18th October by the Minister for Children & Early Childhood Development, Hon Wendy Lovell and the Mayor of Whittlesea, Cr Mary Lalios. Also in attendance were local MP Craig Ondarchie, Cr Christine Stow and CEO David Turnbull. The library was funded by the City of Whittlesea with assistance of a \$400,000 grant from the Victorian Government's Living Libraries Infrastructure program. The library is 250sqm and has a collection of 19,000 items. Special features of the building include a children's outdoor reading space, a reading lounge with a gas log fire and a media area designed for teenagers. It has quickly become a community hub and is much appreciated by the local community.

Can't speak more highly of the staff at the new Whittlesea Library. They are all so pleasant and go out of their way to help. Love having the library so close to home and my girls adore popping in when we have spare time to find new treasures to read. The library is well set out and very comfortable. Please pass on our thanks to the staff for a fantastic job!

WHITTLESEA COMMUNITY MEMBER

Lalor Library

Lalor Library underwent a major refurbishment with new carpet, shelving, furniture, a new layout and was repainted. It also had a new HVAC system installed and new public toilets. The library reopened to the public in October and the official launch was attended by Mr David Morris, Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government and the Mayor of Whittlesea Cr Mary Lalios. The official guests included Crs Sam Alessi and Kris Pavlides, City of Whittlesea CEO David Turnbull, Community Services Director Russell Hopkins, Major Projects and Infrastructure staff. The refurbishment of the library was funded by the City of Whittlesea with the assistance of a \$300,000 grant from the Victorian Government's Living Libraries Infrastructure program.



Lalor Library upgrade official opening with dignitaries.

SPACES

Watsonia Library

Watsonia library was repainted and recarpeted. The space was repurposed to better reflect the changing use of libraries. The children's library was moved to a larger space which allows much greater flexibility as the shelving in this area is now moveable. The new Asian corner looks out over the beautiful Japanese garden and the circulation desk has become a lab bar. The work was funded by Banyule City Council with the assistance of a \$125,000 grant from the Victorian Government's Living Libraries Infrastructure program. The official opening of the library was attended by Board Chair, Cr Sam Alessi, Banyule Mayor Craig Langdon, Crs Rick Garotti and Jenny Mulholland and local Member for Bundoora, Colin Brooks. The library has had a 20% increase in usage over the same period last year in visits and loans.

Watsonia Library received a very positive mention in the Watsonia Traders' newsletter

And when you combine this with the recent upgrade and complete renovation of the Watsonia Library, we should be proud of our local area and what it offers to our community. If you haven't visited our library lately, spend 5 or 15 minutes there and you'll see that we have a state-of-the-art facility right on our doorstep. If you thought libraries were only about books, you are wrong. This library is a community hub, and will serve to attract thousands to only metres away from your trading area. And it is perfectly poised to change with the times, with a significant online presence and service options available. No longer do you need to go to the library to go to the library!!

Diamond Valley Library

Diamond Valley has been repainted and recarpeted and the large circulation desk has been removed. An interior architect has been appointed to create a master plan for the layout of the library to be achieved over the next two years. The reopening of the library also saw a change in opening hours and the library is now open on Thursdays.

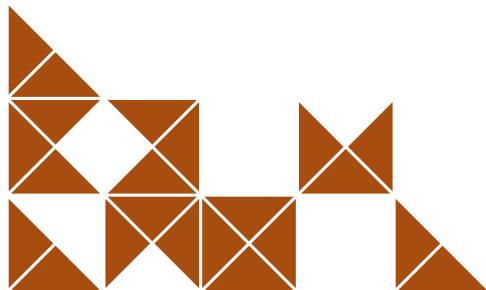
MOBILE LIBRARIES

Mobile Library

The Mobile Library makes 14 stops on a weekly cycle visiting Epping, Mernda, Doreen, Panton Hill, St Andrews, Hurstbridge, North Warrandyte, Yallambie, Arthurs Creek, Yarrambat, Diamond Creek, Christmas Hills and West Heidelberg. The Mobile Library has attended several local festivals during the year including the Barry Road Whittlesea Community Festival, Kids Arty Farty Festival at Heidelberg, the Wattle Festival in Hurstbridge, and the Diamond Creek Rotary Town Fair. The Mobile lent almost 60,000 items this year. After 20 years, the Lime Street stop at Whittlesea has been discontinued because of the opening of the new branch library.

Outreach Vehicle

The Outreach Vehicle visits 39 nursing homes, retirement villages and assisted living accommodation facilities on a regular three week cycle. It is designed for ambulatory people who are not able to visit their local branch library but who still enjoy the sociability of choosing their own library materials and meeting staff and other borrowers. A range of large print books, DVDs, CDs and audiobooks are available and 25,700 items were loaned in 2014-15. The vehicle is fully accessible.





Reading Rover

The Reading Rover has now been operational for just over a year, delivering pre literacy programs to hard to reach and vulnerable children. Partnerships have been developed with member councils and other community organisations including EPIC, Berry Street, Maternal Health Centres, Salvos and Spectrum. The RE Ross Trust continues to assist funding the program.



COMMUNITY GARDENS

Diamond Valley's Garden of Plenty is a community garden attached to the Diamond Valley Library. It promotes sustainability and encourages children to enjoy gardening and promotes healthy living. Regular food swaps are held and the produce is available for community members to use. A feature of the garden is a sculpture that was conceived and constructed by students at St Helena Secondary College. The Garden was officially launched by Cr Helen Coleman in November. Watsonia Library also has a Community Garden with a regular garden group attending weekly and sharing tips.



Cr Coleman launched Garden of Plenty artwork.

ELTHAM LIBRARY COMMUNITY GALLERY

A program offered in partnership With Nillumbik Artist Open Studios and Nillumbik Shire Council saw artists demonstrating their crafts and creating works in the library while interacting with library patrons. It showcased Nillumbik Artist Open Studios artists as part of their open studios. Sessions included painting, molten glass and printmaking.



Art demonstration Eltham Library.

LIBRARY WEBSITE

The new website went live in April and is the only website of its kind in an Australian public library. It is much more visual with a focus on images accompanied by minimal text and has intuitive navigation allowing patrons to find what they are looking for with greater ease. The website is powered by the Bibliocommons Content Management System based in Toronto Canada which is also used by major public library systems in North America including Chicago Public Library and New York Public Library. The App for mobiles was also launched in 2014 and has undergone an update to coincide with the new website.

STAFF

WE INVEST IN THE RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR PEOPLE TO ENSURE WE HAVE SKILLED STAFF IN RIGHT JOBS TO OPTIMISE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, CONTRIBUTE TO POSITIVE USER EXPERIENCE AND ADD VALUE TO OUR COLLECTIONS AND SPACE.

GOALS FROM THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2013–2017:

1. Provide an interesting, relevant and innovative staff development program
2. Promote a safe and healthy workplace
3. Commit to fair, equitable and transparent HR and IR practices



Shared Leadership 2015.
Branch Manager Mill Park, Kylie.



Shared Leadership 2015.
Branch Manager Lalor, Annie.

SUCCESS INDICATORS

Satisfaction as measured by Quantum biennial staff survey "Overall, I am satisfied with my job" 87% (benchmark 2013 – 85%)

Staff courtesy and helpfulness as measured by Nexus survey
Mean score in 2014–15: 8.42
(benchmark mean score 2011–12: 8.0)

Staff knowledge as measured Nexus survey
Mean score in 2014–2015: 8.45
(benchmark mean score 2011–12: 7.9)

Ease of use of library catalogue as measured by Nexus survey
Mean score in 2014–2015: 8.01
(benchmark mean score 2011–2012: 7.9)

HIGHLIGHTS

Staff Planning and Development Day

Annual Training Calendar

International Job Exchange

New website



Staff Planning and Development Day.





STAFF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DAY

The first Staff Planning and Development Day was held in July at Plenty Ranges Arts and Cultural Centre and was attended by 124 staff, volunteers and board members. The aim of the day was to understand what the future of public libraries might be, what is happening now and how we are planning for the future. The keynote address was given by Steve Tighe who wrote the *Victorian Libraries 2030 Report*. Board members in attendance were Crs Sam Alessi, Mary Lalios, Helen Coleman and Ken King.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

A varied and interesting training program is available to all staff to ensure they are skilled to perform tasks in the areas of Reading, Learning and Meeting. The training calendar this year offered programs for Microsoft Office, eResources, Maker Space, 3D printing, Raspberry Pi, Communication Access, Social Media, First aid/CPR, Manual Handling, Writing Effective Emails, Essential and Advanced Storytime, Advanced Interpersonal Communication, Local and Family History/Genealogy, Working with aggressive and challenging behaviour, Train the Trainer, Staff Induction and Cyber Safety.

All staff including casuals and volunteers were offered an extensive two part customer service training workshop to ensure that standards remain high and are uniform around the region.

Another important initiative this year was implementing succession planning to ensure all roles have alternative staff trained. There are opportunities for regular acting in charge roles for senior branch staff to gain management experience in libraries.

INTERNATIONAL JOB EXCHANGE PROGRAM

As part of our International Job Exchange program, we hosted Swedish librarians from Stockholm City Library, Tal Lewinsky and Ingrid Johansson, in March and April. They were especially interested in our programs for children and teenagers. Two of our staff, Cherry Byford-Sibbing and Louise Milne had visited Stockholm libraries in May 2014.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

The recent staff survey results indicated that 83% of staff responded favourably in the area of OH&S at YPRL and 85% of staff responded favourably to the OH&S committee's role to raise safety concerns and make recommendations to resolve these.

All OH&S procedures were reviewed in consultation with the OH&S committee this year. Bimonthly OH&S meetings were held and formal bimonthly safety inspections take place at all branches. There have been two formal emergency evacuation drills at each branch with several more informal drills occurring with staff. Annual appliance tag testing has taken place across all branches and mobile vehicles.

Members of the OH&S committee are:

Diane Carafillis	Thomastown Library
Natasha Savic	Lalor Library
Jack Chan	Mill Park Library
Jane Hamilton	Whittlesea Library
Denise Manikas	Eltham Library
Teresa Dober	Diamond Valley Library
Jennet Vecchi	Watsonia Library
Pat Egan	Rosanna Library
Mary Gregor	Ivanhoe Library
Gina Fancoli	Library Support Services (LSS)
Sofia Campino	HR Coordinator

STAFF

STAFF HEALTH AND WELLBEING INITIATIVES

The library service was successful in obtaining grant funding through the City of Whittlesea's Healthy Together Achievement Program to further improve the health and wellbeing of employees. This funded a mental health training session that was delivered by our EAP provider D'Accord in November. It is pleasing that in the recent staff survey 88% of staff responded favourably to work life balance at YPRL.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

ALIA Library Stars: Best of the best

This one day seminar prior to the ALIA Conference was held at Library at the Dock on Monday 15 September and was designed to showcase public library programs and activities. It featured keynote speaker Marie Ostergard from Aarhus in Denmark. The national competition to select the speakers attracted over 40 nominations and our Reading Rover project was one of three winners. Jane Grace and Donna Derons presented to an audience of 120 people including a number of YPRL staff and Cr Mary Lalios.



ALIA Library Stars – Best of the Best Award. Donna Edwards, Cr Lalios, YPRL CEO Christine Mackenzie.

Renew, rethink, revitalize – a Mini Conference at SLV

This conference was held in March and there were two presentations by YPRL staff. Marlies Irvine-Tammes presented on the Doggy Tales – Reading Dogs program and Kylie Carlson talked about the programs that Mill Park is offering to special groups in the community, particularly the Autism community.



YPRL Network Administrator Tom.



IFLA Conference Lyon, Jane Manager Community Engagement.

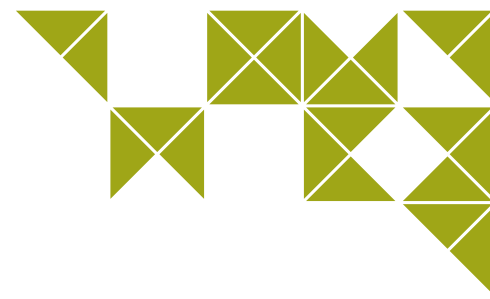
QPLA conference

Jane Grace, Manager Community Engagement, was invited to speak at the QPLA conference on the Gold Coast about the pre-literacy programs and Reading Rover project in November.

Adelaide conference

The *Beyond the walls: public libraries reaching out to their communities* was held in Adelaide 26–27 March 2015. There was a public library tour and presentations by various library services on outreach, engagement and capacity building in communities. A number of staff attended this conference and Cr Jenny Mulholland, Cr Craig Langdon and Allison Beckwith participated in the library tour.





Statewide Public Library Development Projects

Public Libraries Victoria Network and State Library of Victoria collaborate on these projects which are undertaken over three years.

Christine Mackenzie is a member of the Lead and Learn reference group.

Jane Grace is a member of the Read reference group.

Liz Pidgeon is a member of the Memory reference group.

Natasha Savic is a member of the working group on Digital Literacy.

Annie Bourne and Kylie Carlson were accepted into the Shared leadership program for 2015–2016.

Committees

Christine Mackenzie was Chair of the Steering Committee for the National ALIA Conference held in Melbourne in September.

Christine Mackenzie was successful in her nomination for a second term on the IFLA Governing Board. The two year term commences at the IFLA Congress in Cape Town in August.

Liz Pidgeon Convener Local Studies Special Interest Group (SIG) Public Libraries Victoria Network (PLVN).

INELI-Oceania program

The first convening for the first cohort of the INELI-Oceania program was held at the State Library of Victoria in July. YPRL is the grantee for this program, which is mainly funded through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. There are six participants from Australia, six from New Zealand and four from the South Pacific. The aim of the program is to develop leadership and innovation skills in participants, improve the quality of public libraries in the South Pacific and increase collaboration between the major partners in the project.



Visitors

Susan Benton, Executive Director of the Urban Libraries Council based in Washington DC was a keynote speaker for the ALIA National Conference held in Melbourne in September and she visited Mill Park and Eltham libraries during her stay.

As part of the ALIA National Conference there was a bus tour to a number of libraries in the metropolitan area including Mill Park Library for 30 conference participants.

In November the Library Board of Victoria's Advisory Committee on Public Libraries visited Mill Park and Whittlesea Libraries on the way to Kilmore for its meeting.

In January we hosted a Swedish colleague, Eva Olsen, who is Planning and Communications Manager for the Malmo Library. She visited Mill Park, Eltham and Lalor libraries.

Patricia Genat, Vice President of ALIA, President of the Australian Booksellers Association and owner of ALS, one of our collection suppliers, visited Watsonia library in February.



Job Exchange and International Program Louise, Eva, Jane, Christine and Cherry.

FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

THE BOARD, STAFF AND MEMBER COUNCILS WILL WORK COLLABORATIVELY AND ADVOCATE FOR FINANCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE AND EXCELLENT PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES ACROSS THE REGION.

GOALS FROM THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2013–2017:

- 1. Ensure YPRL’s per capita funding is equal to or better than the state average
- 2. Regularly seek feedback from our community and service partners to ensure we optimise community outcomes
- 3. Commit to environmental sustainability and conduct an energy audit to identify where energy and water is being used and opportunities to reduce consumption
- 4. Be responsible for good governance and oversee and monitor processes for making and implementing decisions
- 5. Inform, advocate and respond to Government policy (eg Ministerial Advisory Council on Public Libraries)

SUCCESS INDICATORS

Level of funding of library service for 2014–2015 \$38.57 per capita, (benchmark 2013–2014 \$37.35per capita, State average – \$38.80)
Customer Satisfaction overall as measured by Nexus survey in 2014–2015 is 8.5 (benchmark mean score 2011–12: 8.1)
Cost per loan in 2014–2015 \$4.12 (benchmark 2011–12 – \$3.28, State average – \$4.03)
Ease of use of library catalogue as measured by Nexus survey Mean score in 2014–2015: 8.01 (benchmark mean score 2011–2012: 7.9)

HIGHLIGHTS

Energy efficiencies
Rated highly in Nexus survey
Library Users Policy



Yarn bomb poles Mill Park.





FUNDING

The library service continues to be well supported by Member Councils. This year the per capita funding was \$38.57, a 2.7% increase over the previous year. There were a number of successful grant submissions as outlined earlier in this report, allowing us to provide interesting and innovative programs.

PROJECT	AMOUNT	FROM
Lalor Library upgrade	\$300,000	Living Libraries Infrastructure Program, Local Government Victoria
	\$700,000	City of Whittlesea
Watsonia Library upgrade	\$125,000	Living Libraries Infrastructure Program, Local Government Victoria
	\$125,000	Banyule City Council
INELI-Oceania regional leadership program (YPRL is the grantee)	\$146,000	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Premiers' Reading Challenge	\$54,044	Local Government Victoria
Discover your Anzac Story @Yarra Plenty Regional Library	\$24,000	Federal Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program Scullin electorate
Reading Rover	\$16,000	RE Ross Trust
Finding MY Place	\$5,400	Hume Whittlesea LLEN
Watsonia Library's Community Garden	\$3,635	Banyule City Council
Reflections writing program Watsonia Library	\$3,000	Banyule City Council
Diamond Valley Library's Community Garden	\$3,000	Nillumbik Shire Council
Whittlesea Writers Festival at Mill Park Library	\$1,925	City of Whittlesea
Lalor Library's Community Connection Day	\$1,450	City of Whittlesea Lalor Traders' Association
Banyule Indian Festival at Ivanhoe Library	\$960	Banyule City Council
Healthy Together Whittlesea	\$500	City of Whittlesea
Italian Night at Mill Park Library	\$500	City of Whittlesea
Doggy Tales	\$300	Diamond Valley Special Development School

FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

NEXUS SURVEY

This annual community satisfaction survey of users and non-users was undertaken in January–February by Nexus Research Pty Ltd. The survey results come from 2,100 people (14 years plus) living within the boundaries of the seven organisations that comprise the Regional Library Syndicate. The objective of the survey is to track the resident population's usage, perceptions and satisfaction with their Public Library services. The 2015 Nexus survey confirms the importance the community still places on the provision of public library services and 57% of respondents from YPRL consider libraries extremely important. For YPRL, 49% of the community used a library in the past 12 months, compared to the average of 50%. In Yarra Plenty Regional Library in 2015 the Satisfaction mean is 8.5 similar to the 8.49 recorded in 2013, and above the Total Syndicate (8.35) this year, and still significantly up on the 8.11 recorded in 2012. Staff Courtesy and Staff Knowledge are again one of the major strengths of the library. The website, lending services, ease of locating books, the library catalogue, opening hours and presentation of the building along with reference services all score highly in importance and performance.



Eltham Library reading lounge.

COLLECTIONS SURVEY

The annual Collection survey ran in March and received 1,382 responses. While many respondents praised the library and its collections, we also received constructive feedback and suggestions for improvement.



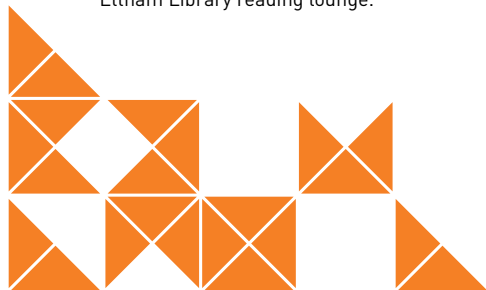
Watsonia Library new face out picture book shelving.

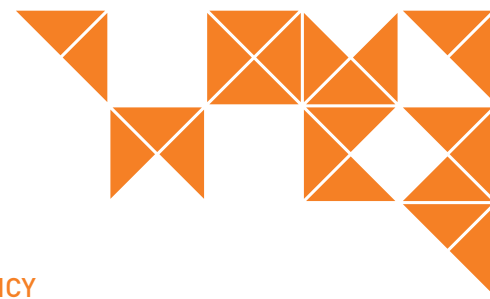
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

To celebrate the Energy Efficient Streets and Libraries Project, the City of Whittlesea's Sustainability Department and Mill Park Library yarn bombed the external front entrance poles to support and highlight the street light upgrade campaign. Around 50 people knitted or crocheted to contribute to this project including Cr Mary Lalios. The Yarn Bombing project brought together people from across the community, including local knitting and craft groups, users of local community centres and libraries and visitors to community events.

Over the past year the City of Whittlesea has upgraded energy efficiencies at Lalor, Mill Park and Thomastown bringing total savings to \$35,000 per year across the three libraries by:

- changing 458 lights to energy efficient lights
- adjusting the times and temperatures of the air conditioning systems – the change in temperatures alone will save the libraries and Council up to \$10,000 every year in electricity costs





- fixing the solar hot water system at Thomastown Library and installing solar panels; the system supplies around 40% of the library's daytime electricity consumption
- installing 100 solar panels at Mill Park Library



Mill Park volunteer Betty.

Nillumbik also added more solar panels to the roof of Diamond Valley Library. There are now 58 panels with a total capacity of 12kW that are expected to generate around 17,500kWh per year saving \$3,000 at today's rates.



Diamond Valley garden community project – planter box painting.

LIBRARY USER POLICY

The first Library User Policy was adopted by the Board in 2014. It sets out the terms and conditions of membership and loans; the conduct of persons in the library; unattended children in the library; the role of volunteers in the library; the use of meeting rooms and notice boards, displays and exhibitions; and outlines the complaints procedure.



Whittlesea Community Connections Volunteers Day celebrations. WCC CEO Vemal Ahmet, YPRL CEO Christine Mackenzie, Plenty Valley Health CEO Phillip Bain, YPRL Chairperson Cr Alessi and WCC Volunteer Nessie Sayar.

INTERNAL AUDIT

The subject of this year's Internal Audit was Asset Management and the audit was undertaken by HLB Mann Judd. A number of recommendations have been made and these are being implemented.

DISABILITY ACCESS PLAN

The Disability Access Plan 2013–2017 was adopted by the Board in April 2014 and is reviewed on an annual basis. This year's review monitored progress in ensuring accessible library spaces. Initiatives that have occurred are updating communication boards at branches and improved signage and brochures so they are more accessible to people with communication disabilities.

STATISTICS

Collections	52
Programs	58
Technology	60
Spaces	62
Finance and Governance	65

COLLECTIONS

The data collected and presented in the tables and graphs is designed to show the usage, quality and accessibility of the collections and the usage of digital resources.

Loans of collection items have increased by 0.7% this year which is the first increase for several years. This is contrary to the trend in public libraries both in Australia and internationally. The decline in loans at three branches (Watsonia, Diamond Valley and Lalor) was due to extended periods of closure for refurbishments.

Ebooks and e-audiobooks continue to grow with an increase of 27.9% in loans from the previous year.

Turnover measures how collections are performing. The turnover rate of 7.54 indicates that the collection continues to be extremely well used. Collection accessibility and loan increases have been influenced by the purchase of additional new release items, the development of face-out displays and by rearranging the collection into genres.

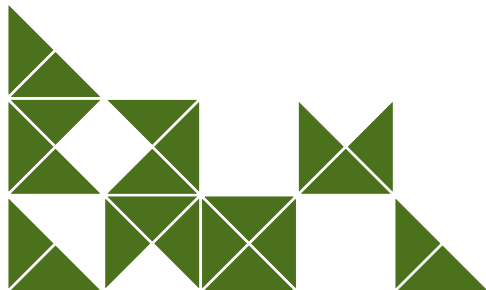
Robust collection management principles, policies and procedures reflect a contemporary collection with 86.26% of items being less than five years old.

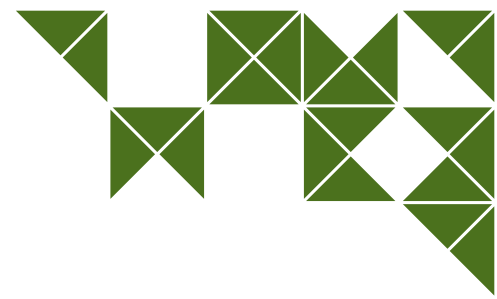
A record number of 124,097 new items were added to the collection in 2014–2015.

DVDs and picture books continue to be the most highly borrowed collections with 594,300 and 580,400 loans respectively. These collections are closely followed by adult fiction, non-fiction and junior fiction. Loans for large print materials continue to decrease as more community members familiarise themselves with reading online.

Fiction eBooks and eAudiobooks continue to dominate digital collection loans. Online magazines have also increased in popularity.

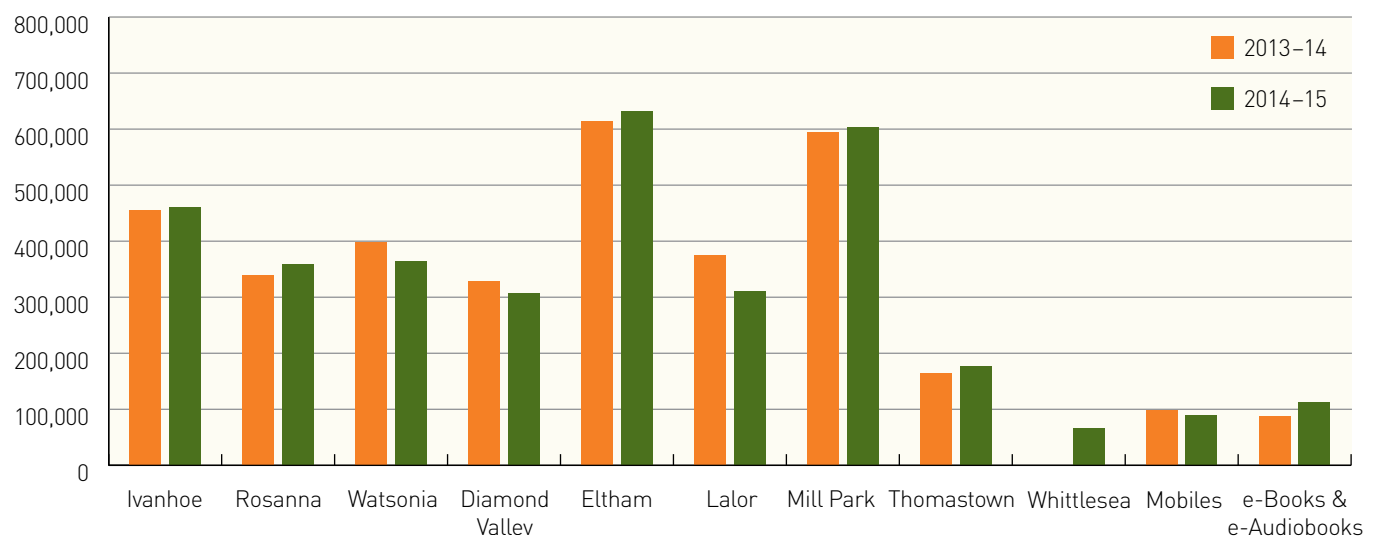
Holds have slightly decreased this year as a result of branches being closed for refurbishment.





LOANS

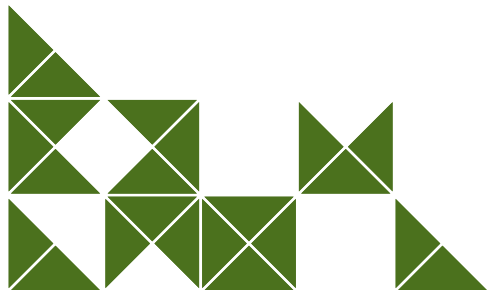
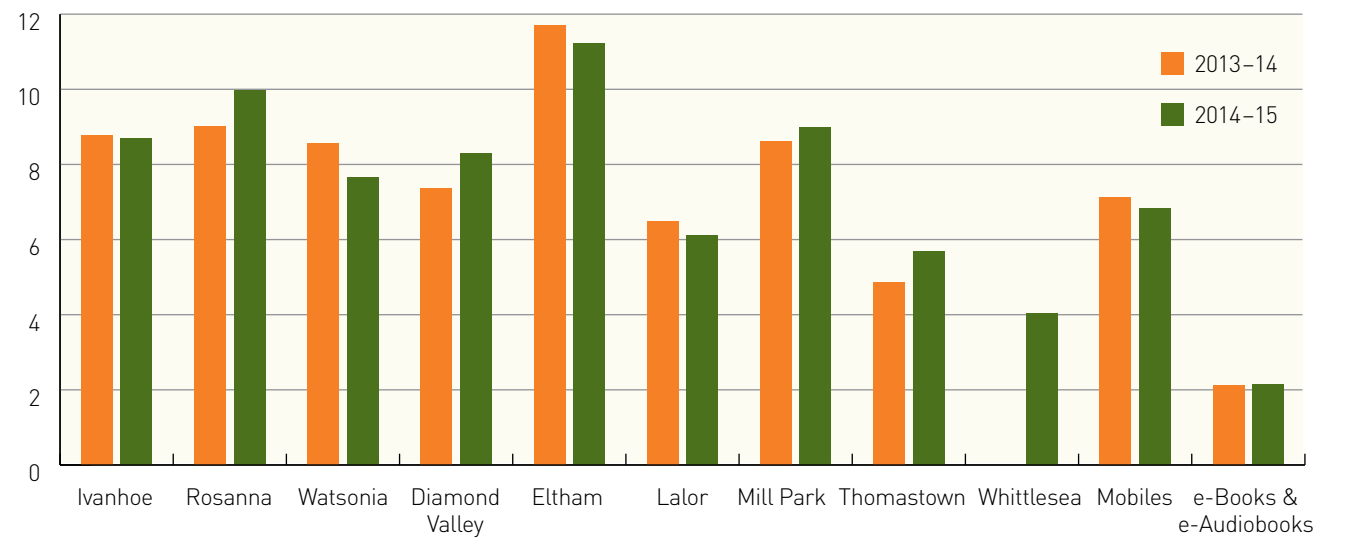
	IVANHOE	ROSANNA	WATSONIA	DIAMOND VALLEY	ELTHAM	LALOR	MILL PARK	THOMASTOWN	WHITTLESEA	MOBILES	EBOOKS & E-AUDIOBOOKS	TOTAL
2013-14	455,499	339,444	398,434	328,407	614,250	375,508	594,918	164,109		97,836	88,431	3,456,836
2014-15	460,562	358,744	363,553	307,415	632,598	310,169	603,096	176,968	66,803	88,857	113,142	3,481,907
% difference	1.1%	5.7%	-8.8%	-6.4%	3.0%	-17.4%	1.4%	7.8%		-9.2%	27.9%	0.7%

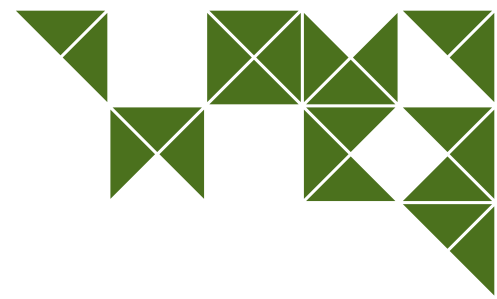


COLLECTIONS

TURNOVER

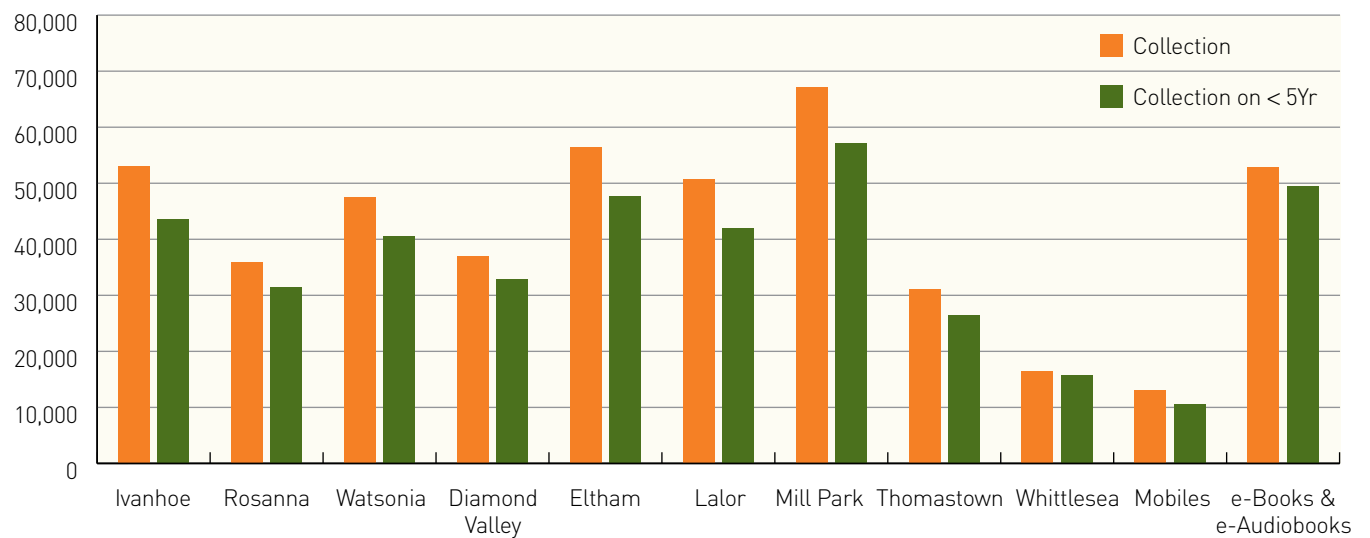
	IVANHOE	ROSANNA	WATSONIA	DIAMOND VALLEY	ELTHAM	LALOR	MILL PARK	THOMASTOWN	WHITTLESEA	MOBILES	EBOOKS & E-AUDIOBOOKS	TOTAL
2013-14	8.77	9.00	8.56	7.37	11.69	6.49	8.62	4.87		7.12	2.12	7.69
2014-15	8.68	9.97	7.64	8.29	11.21	6.11	8.99	5.69	4.04	6.83	2.14	7.54





QUALITY OF COLLECTION

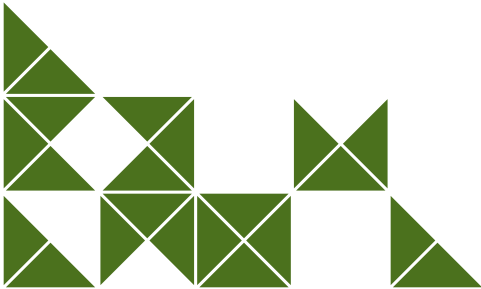
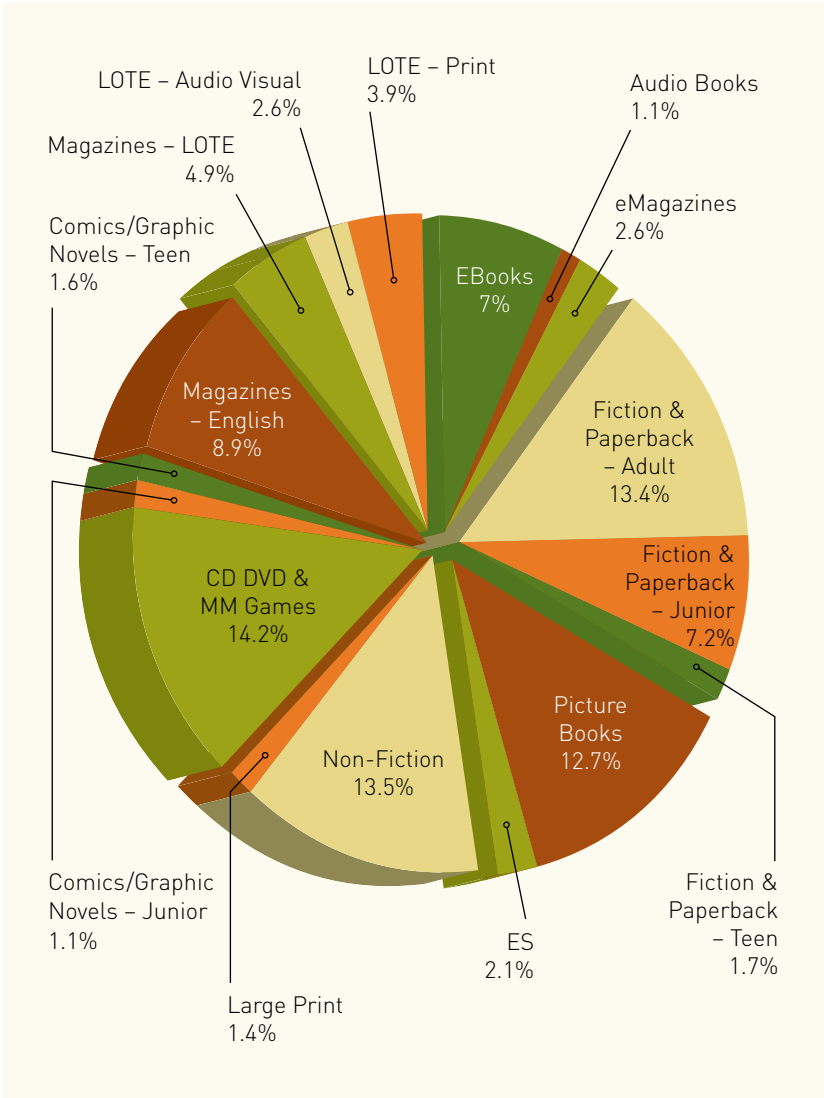
	IVANHOE	ROSANNA	WATSONIA	DIAMOND VALLEY	ELTHAM	LALOR	MILL PARK	THOMASTOWN	WHITTLESEA	MOBILES	EBOOKS AND E-AUDIOBOOKS	TOTAL
Collection	53,038	35,987	47,559	37,068	56,440	50,803	67,092	31,116	16,526	13,010	52,906	461,545
Collection < 5Yr	43,591	31,387	40,664	32,930	47,779	42,083	57,202	26,487	15,768	10,671	49,560	398,122
% difference	82.19%	87.22%	85.50%	88.84%	84.65%	82.84%	85.26%	85.12%	95.41%	82.02%	93.68%	86.26%

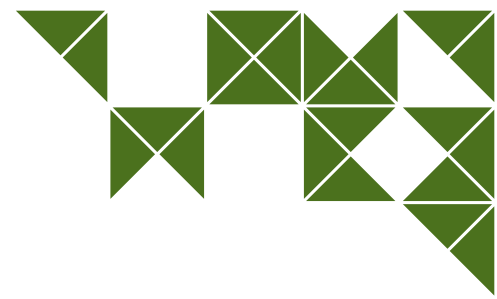


COLLECTIONS

NEW ITEMS

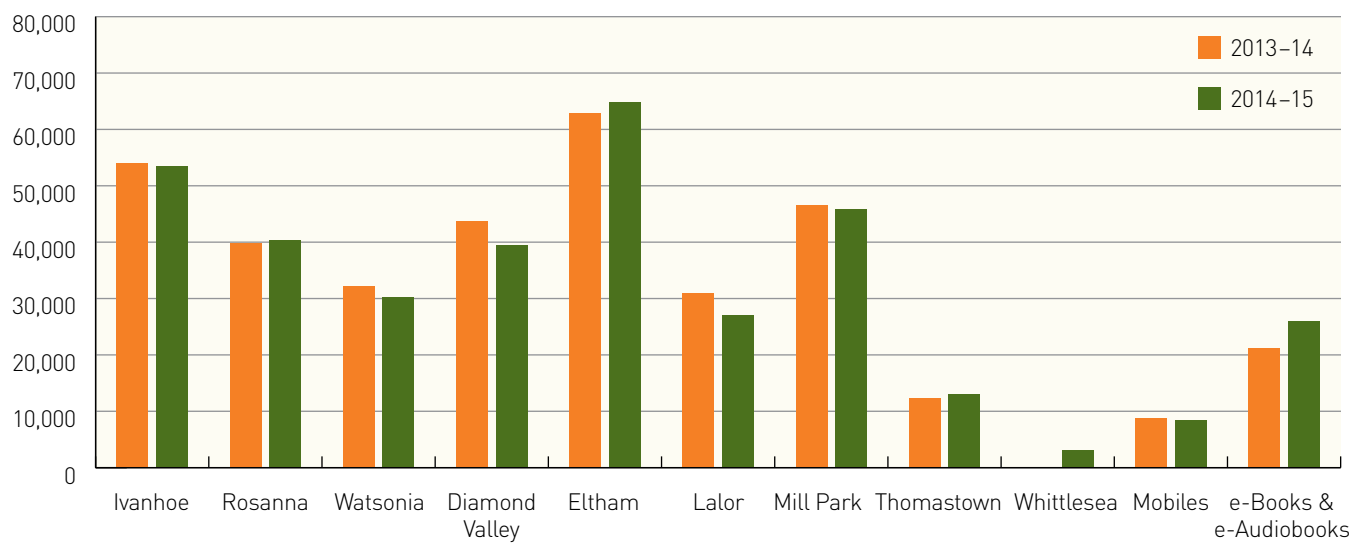
EBooks	8,676
Audio Books	1,361
eMagazines	3,176
Fiction & Paperback – Adult	16,535
Fiction & Paperback – Junior	8,827
Fiction & Paperback – Teen	2,042
Picture Books	15,602
ES	2,539
Non-Fiction	16,680
Large Print	1,689
CD DVD & MM Games	17,466
Comics/Graphic Novels – Junior	1,410
Comics/Graphic Novels – Teen	1,989
Magazines – English	11,006
Magazines – LOTE	6,019
LOTE – Audio Visual	3,158
LOTE – Print	4,795
Toys	40
Images	50
Indexed Newspaper articles	119
Local History/Reference	460
Bookclub Kits	13
Storytime Kit books	95
eAudiobooks	188
eMusic and Film (Overdrive)	89
Equipment (including iPads)	73
Total	124,097





HOLDS

	IVANHOE	ROSANNA	WATSONIA	DIAMOND VALLEY	ELTHAM	LALOR	MILL PARK	THOMASTOWN	WHITTLESEA	MOBILES	EBOOKS AND E-AUDIOBOOKS	TOTAL
2013-14	54,074	39,883	32,195	43,713	62,944	30,894	46,642	12,375		8,792	21,185	352,697
2014-15	53,499	40,435	30,223	39,433	64,765	27,116	45,884	12,991	3,142	8,510	25,961	351,959
% difference	-1.1%	1.4%	-6.1%	-9.8%	2.9%	-12.2%	-1.6%	5.0%		-3.2%	22.5%	-0.2%



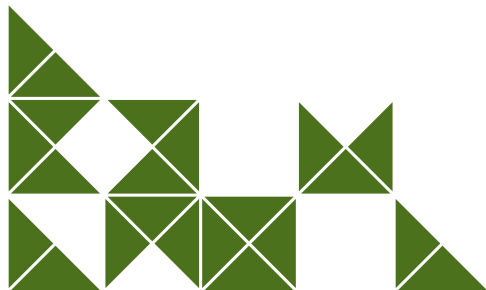
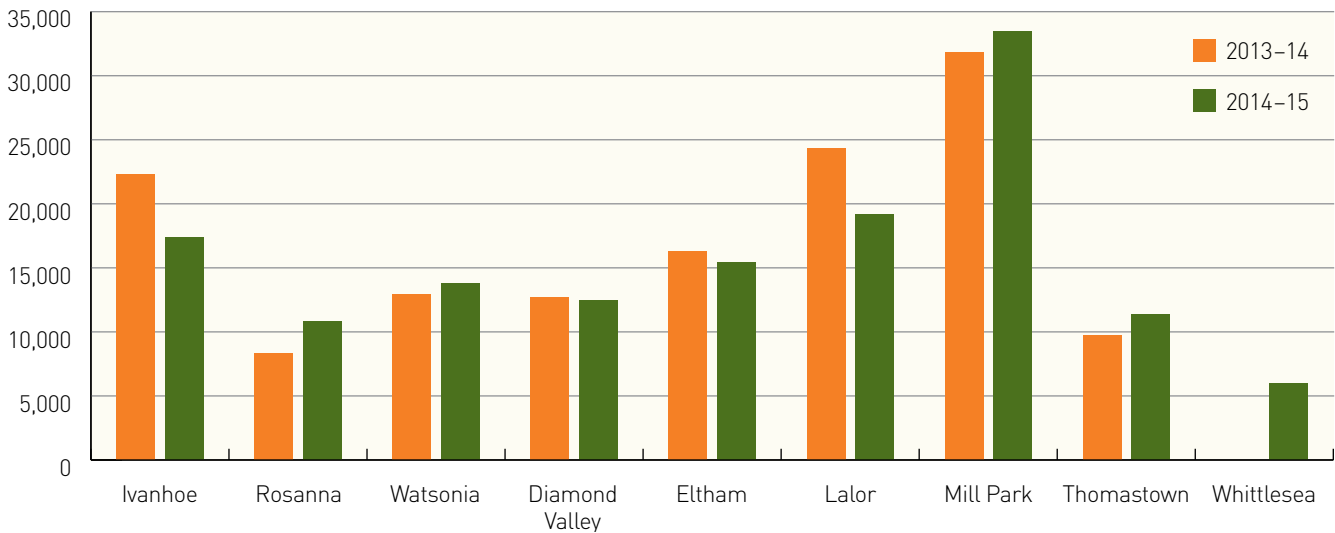
PROGRAMS

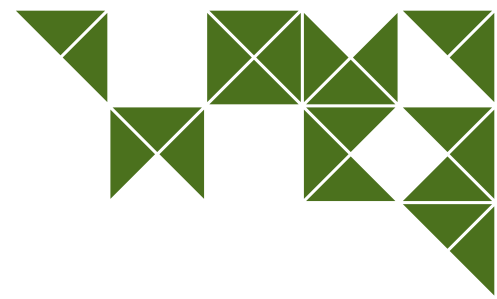
These measures show the attendance at various programs that are offered at the nine branches and outreach services. Program attendance for all programs remains high at 139,787 and despite periods of closure for three branches, there was still a minor increase of 1.1% on last year. The total number of programs run was 6,547 – an increase of 1.15% over last year. The attendance has stabilised after increases of 41% in 2012–13 and 29% in 2013–14. An increase in attendance at Rosanna Library is partly attributed to the cultivation of new partnerships.

Learning programs continue to grow with a new initiative project Learn@YPRL, which has directed focus onto the development of core programming in this area and established four key category areas of learning – Get Connected, Brain Health, Family History and Go Green. Both Thomastown and Ivanhoe experienced significant increases in attendance – Ivanhoe had a 60.1% increase and Thomastown more than doubled with 112.1%.

ATTENDANCE – ALL EVENTS

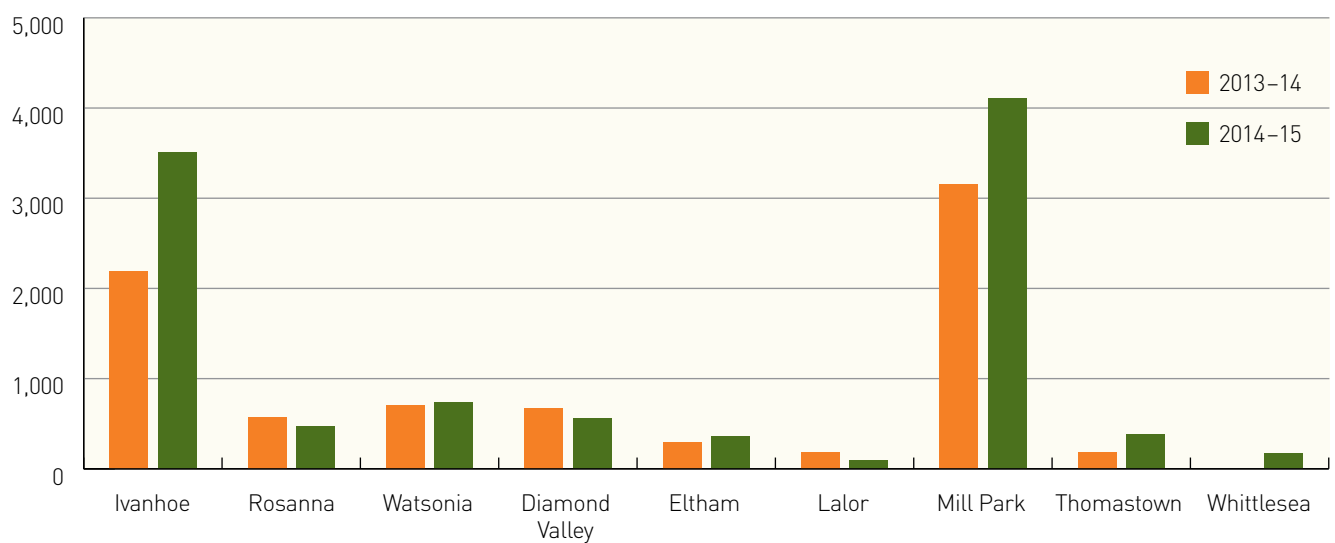
	IVANHOE	ROSANNA	WATSONIA	DIAMOND VALLEY	ELTHAM	LALOR	MILL PARK	THOMASTOWN	WHITTLESEA	TOTAL
2013–14	22,302	8,318	12,904	12,657	16,298	24,340	31,804	9,685		138,308
2014–15	17,389	10,827	13,785	12,440	15,401	19,167	33,472	11,362	5,944	139,787
% difference	-22.0%	30.2%	6.8%	-1.7%	-5.5%	-21.3%	5.2%	17.3%		1.1%





ATTENDANCE – LEARNING

	IVANHOE	ROSANNA	WATSONIA	DIAMOND VALLEY	ELTHAM	LALOR	MILL PARK	THOMASTOWN	WHITTLESEA	TOTAL
2013–14	2,194	574	701	672	299	183	3,153	182		7,958
2014–15	3,512	470	741	555	365	90	4,109	386	173	10,401
% difference	60.1%	-18.1%	5.7%	-17.4%	22.1%	-50.8%	30.3%	112.1%		30.7%



TECHNOLOGY

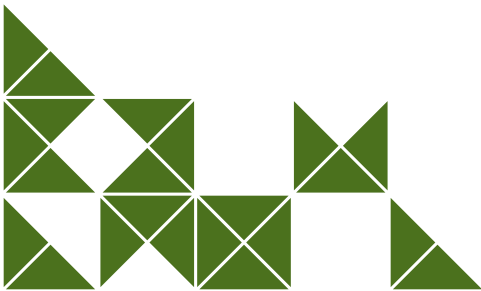
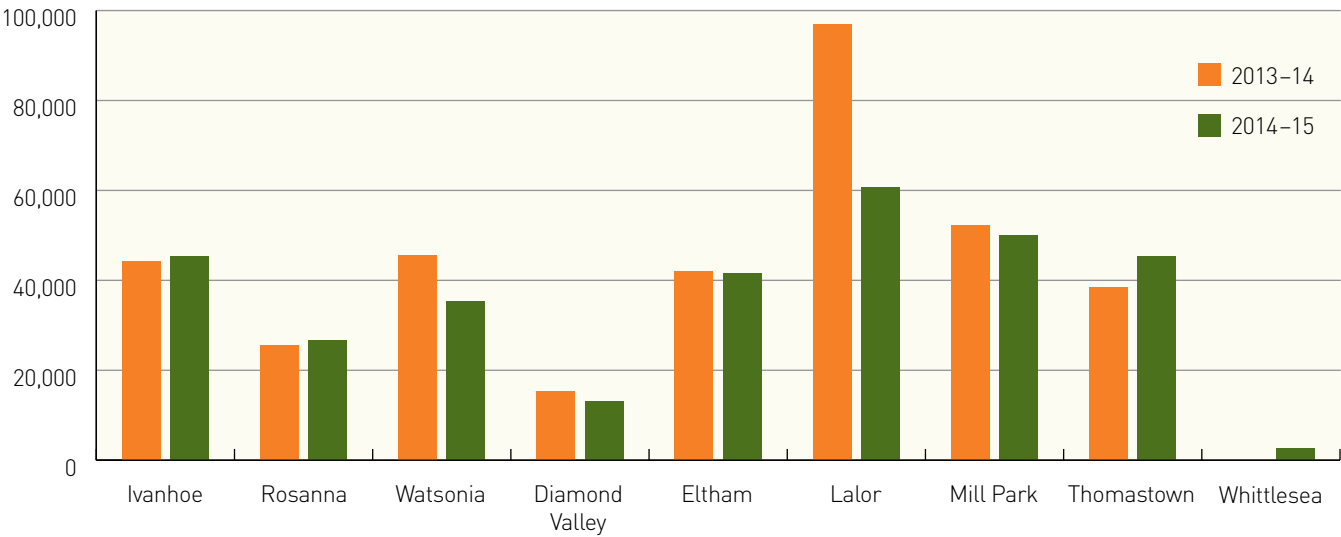
These measures show the usage of the library’s computers and wifi. Several branches showed a decline in the number of bookings for their public access PCs. Watsonia, Diamond Valley and Lalor had large declines due to their closures. Conversely, Thomastown saw the largest increase at 18% which was due to the temporary closure at nearby Lalor and the limited personal digital access for those in the community. Rosanna experienced an increase of 5% and Ivanhoe 2.8%.

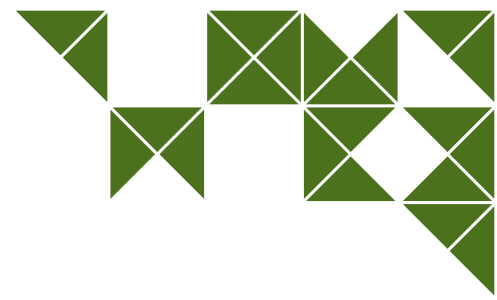
WiFi usage continues to be in high demand with an increase of 146.5% across the three local government areas covered by YPRL. This measurement shows no decrease at any of the branches. The lowest increase was at Watsonia with 106.5%, and the highest was at Thomastown with 243.3%.

Internet access at all our sites for all PCs and WiFi is via multiple NBN services located at Mill Park and South Morang. These provide a high capacity and high performance for a reasonable price.

PUBLIC COMPUTER SESSIONS

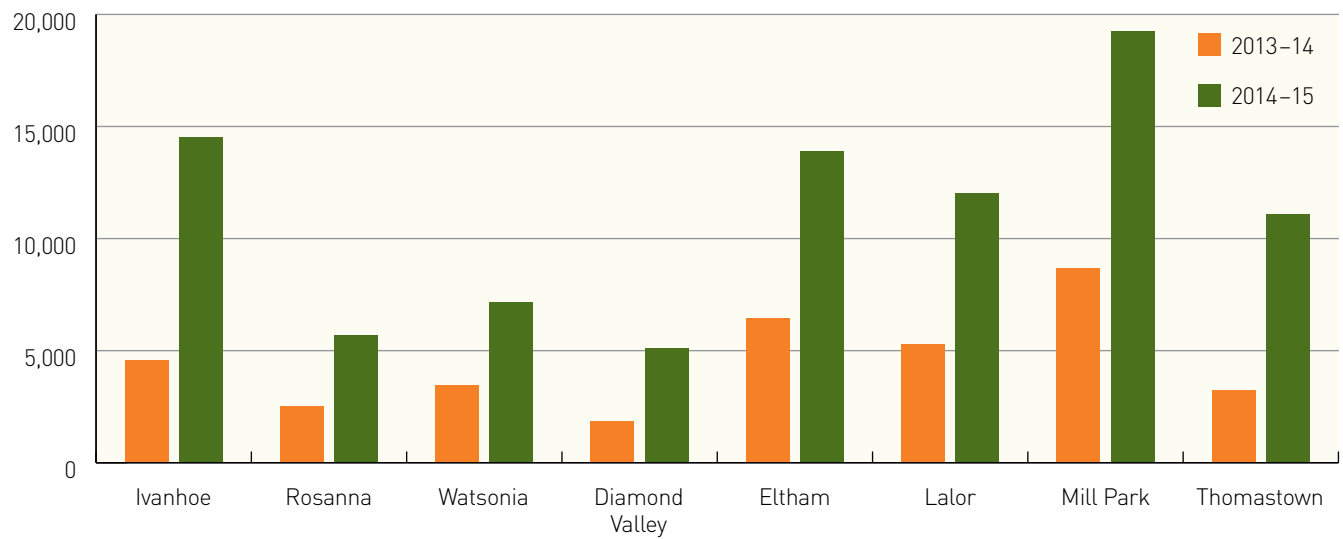
	IVANHOE	ROSANNA	WATSONIA	DIAMOND VALLEY	ELTHAM	LALOR	MILL PARK	THOMASTOWN	WHITTLESEA	TOTAL
2013–14	44,201	25,502	45,661	15,227	41,969	96,893	52,262	38,371		360,086
2014–15	45,424	26,772	35,267	13,176	41,496	60,595	50,019	45,285	2,715	320,749
% difference	2.8%	5.0%	-22.8%	-13.5%	-1.1%	-37.5%	-4.3%	18.0%		-10.9%





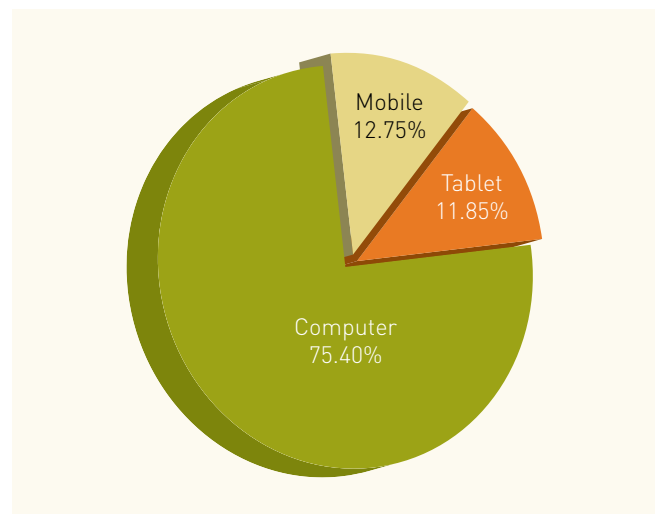
WIFI SESSIONS

	IVANHOE	ROSANNA	WATSONIA	DIAMOND VALLEY	ELTHAM	LALOR	MILL PARK	THOMASTOWN	TOTAL
2013-14	4,555	2,525	3,476	1,839	6,454	5,274	8,665	3,234	36,022
2014-15	14,521	5,686	7,179	5,113	13,909	12,017	19,270	11,102	88,797
% difference	218.8%	125.2%	106.5%	178.0%	115.5%	127.9%	122.4%	243.3%	146.5%



WEBSITE ACCESS

	SESSIONS	%
Computer	578,038	75.40
Mobile	97,740	12.75
Tablet	90,865	11.85
Total	766,643	100



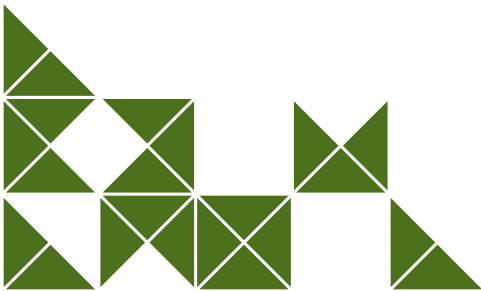
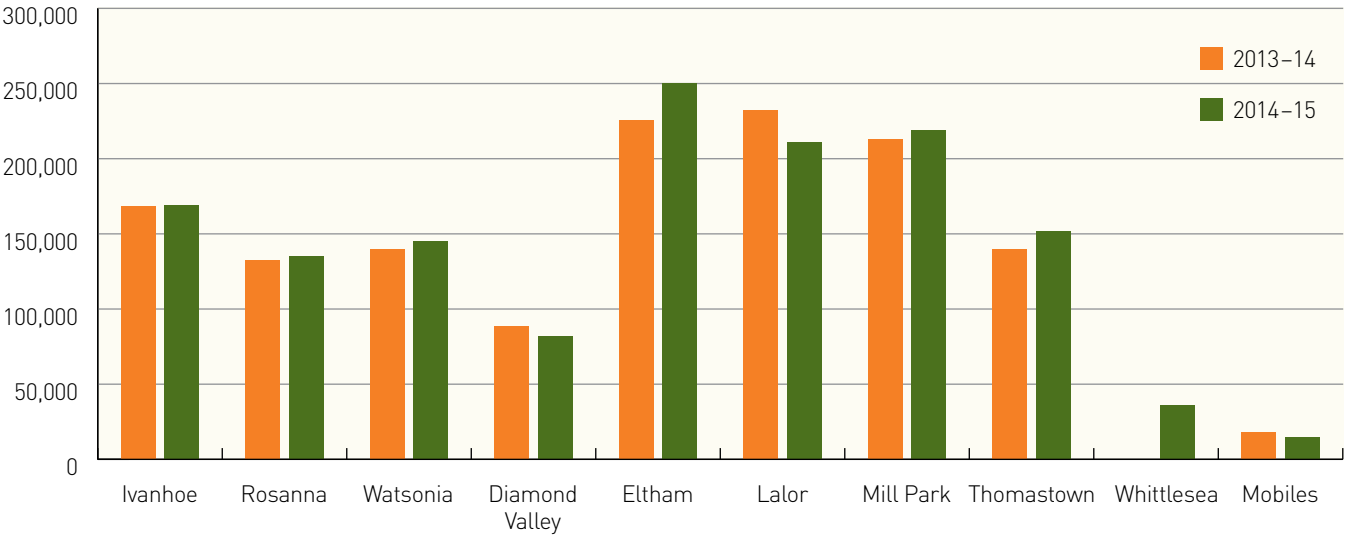
SPACES

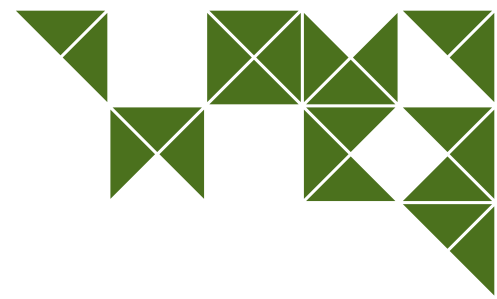
These measures show the usage and accessibility of spaces at the libraries. The number of visits has increased by 4.2%. The largest increases were at Eltham with 10.7%, Thomastown with 8.8% and Watsonia with 4.1%. The only decreases in visits occurred at the Mobile Library with a drop of 17.7% and Diamond Valley experienced a drop of 7.2%. These figures were affected by closures.

An active member is defined as a patron who has accessed any of the lending, PC or WiFi services the library provides within the last 12 months. This has decreased by 8.1% over the region. Membership also decreased by 18.9% due to a one off purge of the database of inactive members.

VISITS

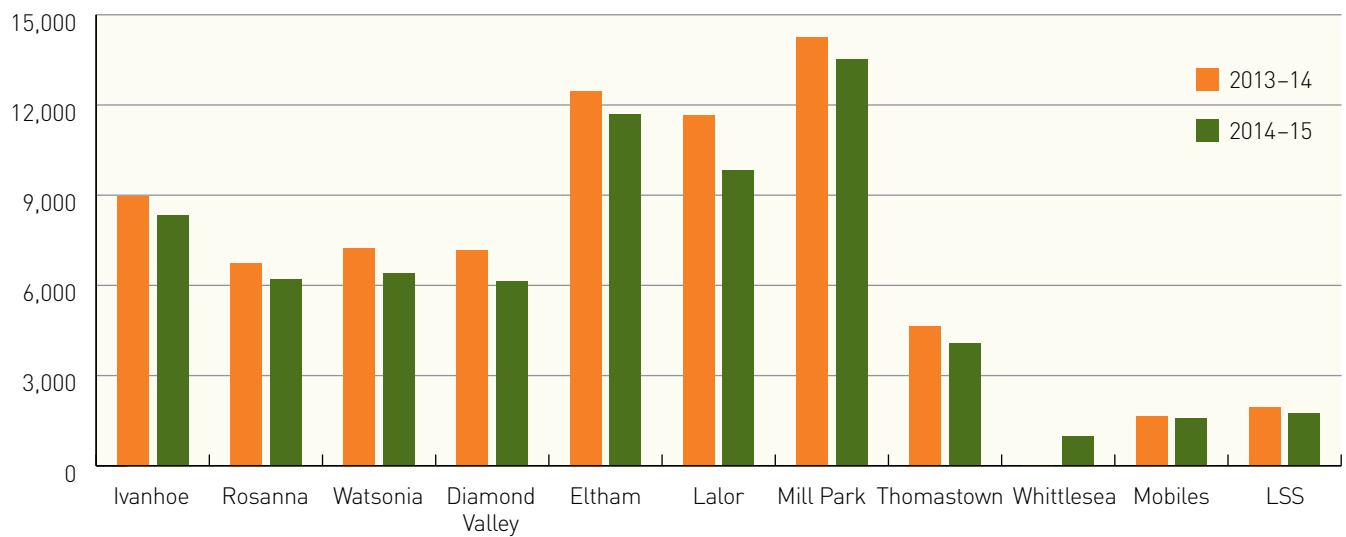
	IVANHOE	ROSANNA	WATSONIA	DIAMOND VALLEY	ELTHAM	LALOR	MILL PARK	THOMASTOWN	WHITTLESEA	MOBILES	TOTAL
2013-14	168,427	132,220	139,595	88,404	225,803	232,489	213,071	139,716		17,865	1,357,590
2014-15	169,103	135,293	145,276	82,044	250,024	211,219	218,674	151,981	35,887	14,710	1,414,211
% difference	0.4%	2.3%	4.1%	-7.2%	10.7%	-9.1%	2.6%	8.8%		-17.7%	4.2%





ACTIVE USERS

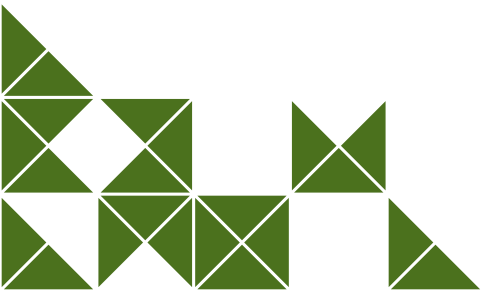
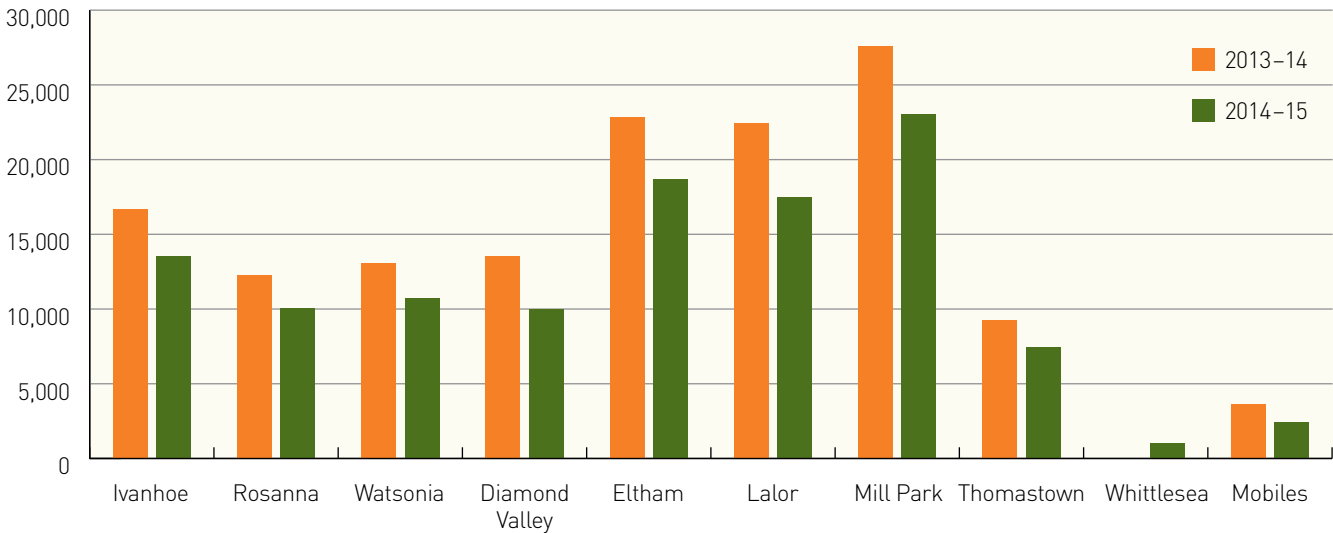
	IVANHOE	ROSANNA	WATSONIA	DIAMOND VALLEY	ELTHAM	LALOR	MILL PARK	THOMASTOWN	WHITTLESEA	MOBILES	LSS	TOTAL
2013-14	8,978	6,740	7,220	7,169	12,449	11,643	14,236	4,636	13	1,662	1,939	76,685
2014-15	8,321	6,219	6,397	6,150	11,683	9,834	13,515	4,070	995	1,572	1,739	70,495
% difference	-7.3%	-7.7%	-11.4%	-14.2%	-6.2%	-15.5%	-5.1%	-12.2%	7,553.8%	-5.4%	-10.3%	-8.1%



SPACES

MEMBERSHIP

	IVANHOE	ROSANNA	WATSONIA	DIAMOND VALLEY	ELTHAM	LALOR	MILL PARK	THOMASTOWN	WHITTLESEA	MOBILES	TOTAL
2013-14	16,714	12,269	13,112	13,541	22,835	22,473	27,577	9,287		3,636	141,444
2014-15	13,571	10,093	10,719	10,028	18,729	17,526	23,033	7,467	1,032	2,470	114,668
% difference	-18.8%	-17.7%	-18.3%	-25.9%	-18.0%	-22.0%	-16.5%	-19.6%		-32.1%	-18.9%



FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

These measures provide an indication of the cost of running each branch. This is calculated on visits and the cost per branch; and the relative per capita amounts provided by each member council.

The Mobile Library service remains the most expensive service when measured by the number of visits, costing \$27.53 per visit. Whittlesea Library costs are high at \$9.42 per visit as they opened in October 2014 and have therefore operated for less than a full year. Diamond

Valley is the most expensive branch to operate and Thomastown and Eltham are the least expensive.

The Shire of Nillumbik contributes the most per capita for their library service. The cost per capita for City of Whittlesea has increased due to the additional branch – Whittlesea Library. The council contributions take into account that the Regional Library Agreement stipulates that costs are assigned to councils by usage of their residents of each branch across the whole region.

COST PER VISIT PER ANNUM PER BRANCH

	IVANHOE	ROSANNA	WATSONIA	DIAMOND VALLEY	ELTHAM	LALOR	MILL PARK	THOMASTOWN	WHITTLESEA	MOBILES	TOTAL
Number of visits	169,103	135,293	145,276	82,044	250,024	211,219	218,674	151,981	35,887	14,710	1,414,211
Cost per branch	\$807,462	\$629,028	\$724,126	\$694,987	\$999,963	\$867,374	\$992,369	\$531,903	\$337,877	\$404,904	\$6,989,994
Cost per visit	\$4.77	\$4.65	\$4.98	\$8.47	\$4.00	\$4.11	\$4.54	\$3.50	\$9.42	\$27.53	\$4.94

PER CAPITA FUNDING

	BANYULE	NILLUMBIK	WHITTLESEA	GRAND TOTAL
Population	125,503	62,872	187,006	375,381
Contribution	\$4,195,018	\$2,277,100	\$4,888,888	\$11,361,006
Per capita	\$33.43	\$36.22	\$26.14	\$30.27

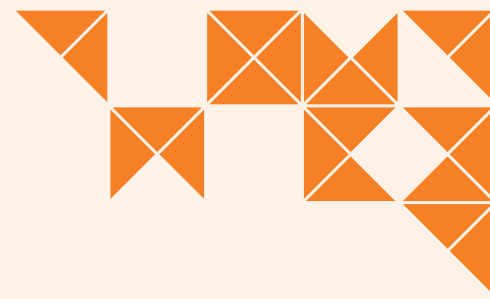
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Revenue			
Contributions to Regional Library Service – Member Councils	3	11,361,006	10,611,660
Contributions to Regional Library Service – State Government	4	2,155,133	2,099,656
Grants	4	267,377	242,752
Other Contributions	5	81,930	201,423
Library Fees		334,530	326,156
Interest		108,851	115,104
Other Revenue	6	169,950	169,250
Total Revenue		14,478,777	13,766,001
Expenses			
Employee Costs	7	8,223,083	7,675,510
Library Support Centre Lease Costs	1	125,230	122,877
Depreciation	8	1,619,452	1,296,632
Administration Costs	4	440,002	425,265
Branch Costs		822,118	748,152
Computer Services	8	833,049	1,069,708
Collection Services		849,618	809,701
Other Expenses	9	773,175	852,311
Total Expenses		13,685,727	13,000,156
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		793,050	765,845
Other Comprehensive Income		0	0
Comprehensive Result		793,050	765,845

The above comprehensive income statement should be read with the accompanying notes



BALANCE SHEET

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	10	3,017,220	2,660,204
Financial assets	11	973,150	941,797
Trade and other receivables	12	174,825	59,062
Other Assets	13	0	4,826
Total Current Assets		4,165,195	3,665,889
Non-Current Assets			
Bookstock, plant and equipment	14	5,023,482	4,488,002
Total Non-Current Assets		5,023,482	4,488,002
Total Assets		9,188,677	8,153,891
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	15	693,754	491,747
Provisions	16	1,852,982	1,813,751
Total Current Liabilities		2,546,736	2,305,498
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	16	31,100	30,604
Total Non-Current Liabilities		31,100	30,604
Total Liabilities		2,577,836	2,336,102
Net Assets		6,610,841	5,817,789
Equity			
Members Contributions		3,770,080	3,770,080
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)		2,840,761	2,047,709
Total Equity		6,610,841	5,817,789

The above balance sheet should be read with the accompanying notes

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

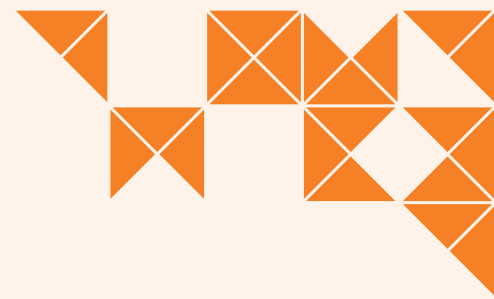
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Note	Total	Members Contribution	Accumulated Surplus/(Deficit)
2015		\$	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of the financial year		5,817,791	3,770,080	2,047,711
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		793,050	0	793,050
Balance at end of the financial year		6,610,841	3,770,080	2,840,761

	Total	Members Contribution	Accumulated Surplus/(Deficit)
2014	\$	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of the financial year	5,051,946	3,770,080	1,281,866
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	765,845	0	765,845
Balance at end of financial year	5,817,791	3,770,080	2,047,711

The above statement of changes in equity should be read with the accompanying notes



CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	Note	2015 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$	2014 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Contributions		12,497,107	11,672,826
Grants and contributions received		2,504,440	2,099,656
Payments to suppliers		(4,265,960)	(4,508,615)
Payments to employees		(8,082,135)	(7,570,712)
Interest received		108,851	115,103
Library fees		252,893	209,490
Other receipts		304,030	798,820
Net GST payment		(775,925)	(723,912)
Net cash provided by operating activities	18	2,543,301	2,092,656
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for library books, plant and equipment		(2,154,932)	(1,786,734)
Proceeds from redemption of financial assets		941,797	917,439
Payments for financial assets		(973,150)	(941,797)
Net cash used in investing activities		(2,186,285)	(1,811,092)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		357,016	281,564
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		2,660,204	2,378,640
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	19	3,017,220	2,660,204
Restrictions on cash assets	10		

The above cash flow statement should be read with the accompanying notes

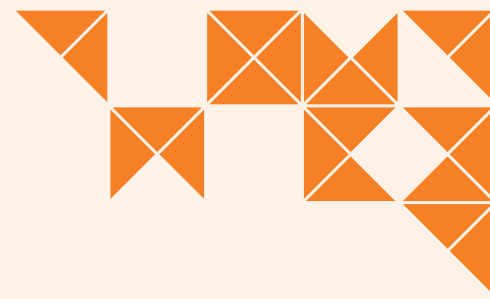
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

STATEMENT OF CAPITAL WORKS

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Bookstock	1,804,780	1,676,482
Plant and Equipment	252,589	110,252
After Hours Shutes	97,562	0
Total Capital Works	2,154,931	1,786,734
Represented By:		
Renewal	2,057,369	1,786,734
Upgrade	0	0
Expansion	0	0
New Assets	97,562	0
Total Capital Works	2,154,931	1,786,734

The above statement of capital works should be read with the accompanying notes



NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

INTRODUCTION

The Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service (YPRL) was incorporated under Section 196 of the Victorian Local Government Act 1989 and is dependent on funding from Member Councils for its continued existence and ability to carry out its normal activities

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report that consists of a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and notes accompanying these financial statements. The general purpose financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AAS), the *Local Government Act 1989*, and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

NOTE 1 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting

The accrual basis of accounting has been used in the preparation of these financial statements, whereby assets liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated judgements are based on professional judgement derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in the application of AAS's that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates relate to:

- the determination of depreciation for the collection and plant and equipment (refer to note 1 (i))
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to note 1 (o))

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those applied in the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation, and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

(b) Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies from the previous period.

(c) Revenue recognition

Income is recognised when YPRL obtains control of the contribution or the right to receive the contribution and it is probable that the economic benefits comprising the contribution will flow to YPRL and the amount of the contribution can be measured reliably.

Contributions

Monetary and non monetary contributions are recognised as revenue when YPRL obtains control over the contributed asset.

Grants

Grant income is recognised when YPRL obtains control of the contribution. This is normally obtained upon their receipt (or acquittal) or upon earlier notification that a grant has been secured, and are valued at their fair value at the date of transfer.

Where grants or contributions recognised as revenues during the financial year were obtained on condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period and those conditions were undischarged at balance date, the unused grant or contribution is disclosed in note 4. The note also discloses the amount of unused grant or contribution from prior years that was expended on YPRL's operations during the current year.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 1 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(c) Revenue recognition (continued)

Sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

The profit or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has irrevocably passed to the buyer.

Interest

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

Dividends

Dividend revenue is recognised when YPRL's right to receive payment is established.

Other Income

Other income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is recognised when YPRL gains control over the right to receive the income.

(d) Pending accounting standards

Certain new AAS's have been issued that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2015 reporting period. YPRL has assessed these pending standards and has identified that no material impact will flow from the application of these standards in future reporting periods.

(e) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of 90 days or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

(f) Trade and other receivables

Receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. A provision for doubtful debts is recognised when there is objective evidence that an impairment has occurred.

(g) Other financial assets

Other financial assets are valued at fair value, being market value, at balance date. Term deposits are measured at amortised cost. Any unrealised gains and

losses on holdings at balance date are recognised as either a revenue or expense.

(h) Recognition and measurement of property, plant and equipment, infrastructure, intangibles

Acquisition

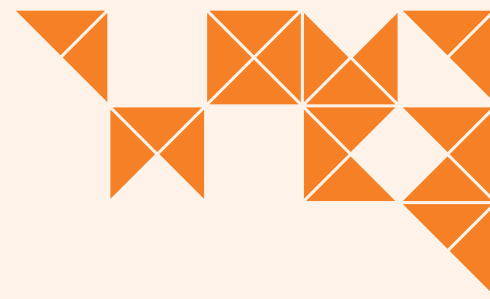
The purchase method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets, being the fair value of assets provided as consideration at the date of acquisition plus any incidental costs attributable to the acquisition. Fair value is the amount for which the asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

In accordance with YPRL's policy, the threshold limits detailed in Note 1 (i) have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year.

Revaluation

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment, are measured at their fair value, being the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. At balance date, YPRL reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets measured at fair value to ensure that each asset materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value at balance date, the class of asset was revalued.

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use on an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. Further details regarding the fair value hierarchy are disclosed at Note 14, Bookstock (Collection) and plant and equipment.



(i) Depreciation and amortisation of Bookstock (Collection) and plant and equipment

Collection assets and plant and equipment, and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to YPRL in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of remaining useful lives and residual values are made on a regular basis with major asset classes reassessed annually. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and residual values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Straight line depreciation is charged based on the residual useful life as determined each year.

Depreciation periods used are listed below and are consistent with the prior year unless otherwise stated.

	Depreciation periods	Threshold Limits
Plant and equipment	3 to 15 years	\$500
Library books	2 to 7 years	\$0

Collection assets are depreciated for the full financial year in the year of purchase.

Withdrawn bookstock is written off on a first in, first out basis.

(j) Repairs and maintenance

Routine maintenance, repair costs, and minor renewal costs are expensed as incurred. Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

(k) Impairment of assets

At each reporting date, YPRL reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any

indication that these assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the assets carrying value. Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the comprehensive income statement, unless the asset is carried at the revalued amount in which case, the impairment loss is recognised directly against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset.

(l) Trust funds and deposits

Amounts received as deposits and retention amounts controlled by YPRL are recognised as trust funds until they are returned, transferred in accordance with the purpose of the receipt, or forfeited (refer to Note 15).

(m) Borrowings

YPRL has no borrowings

(n) Equity

Members Contributions

This represents the value of the initial contribution of net assets made by the Member Councils of YPRL when it was established in 1996.

(o) Employee costs and benefits

The calculation of employee costs and benefits includes all relevant on-costs and are calculated as follows at reporting date.

Wages and salaries and annual leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits and annual leave expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits in respect of employee services up to the reporting date, classified as current liabilities and measured at their nominal values.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 1 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(o) Employee costs and benefits (continued)

Liabilities that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits as current liabilities, measured at present value of the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Long service leave

Liability for long service leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits.

Current Liability – unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability even when the council does not expect to settle the liability within 12 months because it will not have the unconditional right to defer settlement of the entitlement should an employee take leave within 12 months.

The components of this current liability are measured at :

- present value – component that is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months.
- nominal value – component that is expected to be wholly settled within 12 months.

Classification of employee costs

Non-current liability – conditional LSL that has been accrued, where an employee is yet to reach a qualifying term of employment, is disclosed as a non-current liability. There is an unconditional right to defer settlement of the entitlement until the employee has completed the requisite years of service.

This non-current LSL liability is measured at present value.

(p) Leases

Finance leases

Leases of assets where substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the asset, are transferred to YPRL are classified as finance leases.

Finance leases are capitalised, recording an asset and a liability at the lower of the fair value of the asset and the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual value. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the interest expense. Leased assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives to YPRL where it is likely that the YPRL will obtain ownership of the asset or over the term of the lease, whichever is the shorter. At 30 June 2015 YPRL had no finance leases

Operating leases

Lease payments for operating leases are required by the accounting standard to be recognised on a straight line basis, rather than expensed in the years in which they are incurred.

(q) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

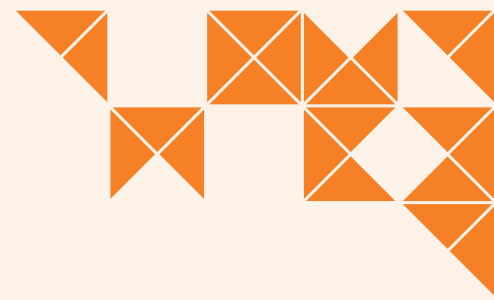
Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the Statement of Cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

(r) Contingent assets and contingent liabilities and commitments

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed by way of a note and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

Commitments are not recognised in the Balance Sheet. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value by way of note (refer Note 20 and 21).



NOTE 2 (a) BUDGET COMPARISON

The budget comparison notes compare YPRL's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* requires explanation of any material variances. YPRL has adopted a materiality threshold of \$10,000 where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

The budget figures detailed below are those adopted by YPRL on 19 June 2014. The Budget was based on assumptions that were relevant at the time of adoption of the Budget. YPRL sets guidelines and parameters for revenue and expense targets in this budget in order to meet its planning and financial performance targets for both the short and long-term. The budget did not reflect any changes to equity resulting from asset revaluations, as their impacts were not considered predictable.

These notes are prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

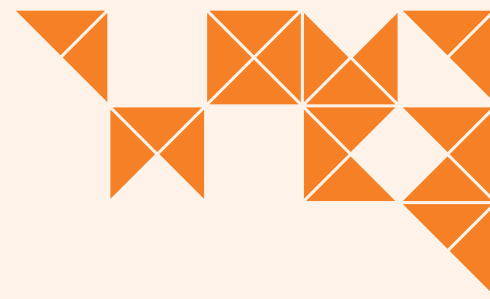
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 2 (a) BUDGET COMPARISON (continued)

Income Statement

	Budget 2014/15 \$	Actuals 2014/15 \$	Variance \$	Reference
Revenue				
Contributions to Regional Library Service – Member Councils'	11,361,086	11,361,006	(79)	
Contributions to Regional Library Service – State Government	2,162,646	2,155,133	(7,513)	
Grants	164,500	267,377	102,877	1
Other Contributions	0	81,930	81,930	1
Library Fees	332,000	334,530	2,530	
Interest	115,000	108,851	(6,149)	
Other	170,625	169,950	(675)	
Total revenue	14,305,857	14,478,777	172,920	
Expenses				
Employee Costs	8,364,964	8,223,083	141,881	2
Library Support Centre Lease Costs	125,747	125,230	517	
Depreciation	1,960,000	1,619,453	340,547	3
Administration Costs	438,700	440,002	(1,302)	
Branch Costs	903,413	822,118	81,295	4
Computer Resources	932,690	833,049	99,641	4
Collection Non Capital	821,210	849,618	(28,408)	5
Other Expenses	546,388	773,175	(226,787)	6
Total expenses	14,093,112	13,685,727	407,385	
Net result for the reporting year	212,745	793,050	580,305	



Variance Reference

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Specific 'one off' Government Grants and Other Contributions are unknown when the budget is determined.</p> <p>2 Employee costs savings primarily due to unfilled vacancies during the year.</p> <p>3 The budget calculations in the adopted budget were over estimated.</p> <p>4 Expenses totalling \$91K were capitalised relating to Branch costs and IT/Resources. These capital costs</p> | <p>were not known when the budget was determined. General cost savings were also achieved in these two categories.</p> <p>5 Over expenditure in this category is off set by reduced expenditure in Collections/Bookstock Capital – (refer Note 2 (b))</p> <p>6 This category includes expenditure on 'one off' grants and carried forward unspent grants of \$290K and general costs savings of \$64K in Organisation Development and other cost centres.</p> |
|---|---|

NOTE 2 (b) BUDGET COMPARISON

Capital Works

	Budget 2014/15 \$	Actuals 2014/15 \$	Variance \$	Reference
Collections – Bookstock	1,836,994	1,804,780	32,214	1
Plant and Equipment	75,750	252,590	(176,840)	2
After Hours Shutes	128,000	97,562	30,438	3
Total Capital Works	2,040,744	2,154,932	(114,188)	

Represented By:

Renewal	1,990,744	2,057,370	66,626
Upgrade	0	0	0
Expansion	0	0	0
New Assets	50,000	97,562	47,562
Total Capital Works	2,040,744	2,154,932	114,188

Variance Reference

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Under capitalisation primarily off set by non capital expenditure in Income Statement (refer Note 2 (a)) as expenditure on non capital items is classified during the financial year and may vary from when the budget was determined.</p> <p>2 Plant and Equipment capitalisation not known when the budget is determined.</p> | <p>3 \$27K relating to 'after hours shute' cost not capitalised as the nature of some of the components of the expenditure on the project were not considered capital.</p> |
|--|---|

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 3 (a) CONTRIBUTIONS TO REGIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE

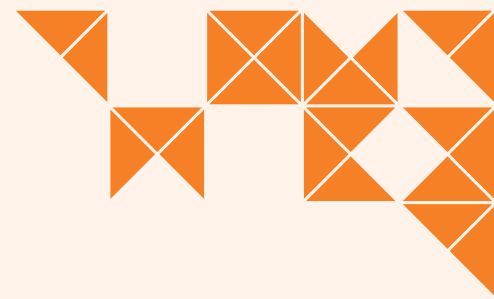
The following Member Council contributions were received during the year.

	2015 Total \$	2014 Total \$
Shire of Nillumbik	2,277,100	2,281,724
City of Banyule	4,195,018	4,073,628
City of Whittlesea	4,888,888	4,256,308
	11,361,006	10,611,660

NOTE 3 (b) AGGREGATE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBER COUNCILS

The percentage aggregate contributions of Member Councils making up the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service is as follows:

	2015 %	2014 %
Shire of Nillumbik	20.83	20.90
City of Banyule	42.40	42.86
City of Whittlesea	36.77	36.24
	100.00	100.00



NOTE 4 (a) GRANTS

Grants were received in respect of the following:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Summary of Grants		
Commonwealth funded grants	100,009	78,200
State funded grants	2,322,500	2,264,208
Total Grants	2,422,509	2,342,408
Operating Grants		
Recurrent State Government		
State Library Grant (refer Note 4 (b))	2,155,133	2,099,656
Local Priorities Grant	113,323	110,508
<i>Total Recurrent Operating Grants</i>	<i>2,268,456</i>	<i>2,210,164</i>
Non recurrent Commonwealth Grants		
ANZAC Centenary Grant	21,809	0
NBN	78,200	78,200
<i>Total Non-Recurrent Commonwealth Grants</i>	<i>100,009</i>	<i>78,200</i>
Non recurrent State Grants		
Premiers Reading Fund	54,044	54,044
<i>Total Non-Recurrent State Grants</i>	<i>54,044</i>	<i>54,044</i>
Total recurrent and non recurrent grants excluding State Library Grant	267,376	242,752
Total Grants	2,422,509	2,342,408

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 4 (b)

The State Library Grant was apportioned on the following basis:

As per State Government Allocation:	2015 \$	2014 \$
Shire of Nillumbik	378,462	378,463
City of Banyule	715,394	711,191
City of Whittlesea	1,061,277	1,010,002
	2,155,133	2,099,656
As per Regional Library Agreement:		
Shire of Nillumbik	495,330	494,551
City of Banyule	854,179	872,088
City of Whittlesea	805,624	733,017
	2,155,133	2,099,656

NOTE 4 (c)

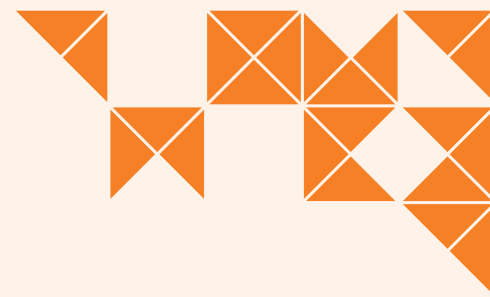
Grants recognised as revenue during the year that were obtained on condition that they be expended in a specific manner that had not occurred at balance date were:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Premier's Reading Grant	14,616	11,215
Local Priorities Grant	0	33,018
NBN – Digital Hubs Program	0	5,474
ANZAC Centenary grant	20,809	0
	35,425	49,707

See Note 10 Restricted Assets (Cash)

Grants recognised as revenue in prior years and were expended during the current year in the manner specified by the grantor were:

Premier's Reading Grant	11,215	4,465
Local Priorities Grant	33,018	40,660
NBN – Digital Hubs Program	5,474	40,316
	49,707	85,441
Net decrease in restricted assets resulting from grant revenues for the year	(14,282)	(35,734)



NOTE 5 OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Monetary		
Reading Rover	16,000	15,000
INELI Oceania	52,736	145,878
Various	13,194	40,545
Total Monetary Contributions	81,930	201,423
Monetary Contributions recognised as revenue that were obtained on condition that they be expended in a specific manner that had not occurred at balance date were:		
Equipment Purchase Contribution	15,000	15,000
INELI Oceania Contribution	65,718	98,288
Various	3,146	6,180
Total	83,864	119,468

See Note 10 Restricted Assets (Cash)

NOTE 6 OTHER REVENUE

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Fundraising	12,474	16,311
Murrundindi Computer Rental	62,500	60,772
Miscellaneous	94,976	92,167
	169,950	169,250

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 7 EMPLOYEE COSTS

The following items are included as employee costs:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Salaries	7,316,733	6,804,185
Superannuation	674,045	641,430
Workcover Levy	40,458	40,606
Annual Leave/Long Service Leave Provision	191,847	189,289
	8,223,083	7,675,510

YPRL makes the majority of its employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (the Fund). This Fund has two categories of membership, accumulation and defined benefit, each of which is funded differently. Obligations for contributions to the Fund are recognised as an expense in the Comprehensive Income Statement when they are made or due.

Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation categories, Vision MySuper; Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2015, this was 9.5% required under Superannuation Guarantee legislation (for 2013/14, this was 9.25%)).

Defined Benefit

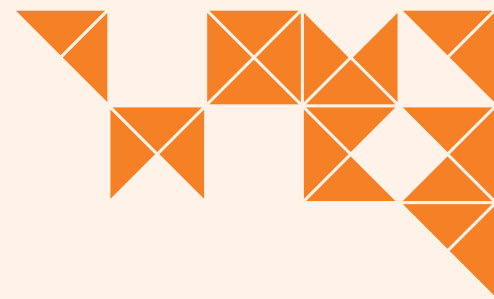
YPRL does not use defined benefit accounting for its defined benefit obligations under the Fund's Defined Benefit category. This is because the Fund's Defined Benefit category is a pooled multi-employer sponsored plan.

There is no proportional split of the defined benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of YPRL in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB 119.

NOTE 8 DEPRECIATION EXPENSE

Depreciation expense for the year was charged in respect of:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Plant and equipment and motor vehicles	181,753	165,656
Library books and audio visuals	1,437,699	1,130,976
	1,619,452	1,296,632



NOTE 9 OTHER EXPENSES

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Document Copy	86,370	81,432
Transport Costs	19,581	32,565
Community Engagement	213,484	223,376
Organisation Development	148,303	168,241
Grant Expenditure	290,766	324,357
Audit Fees Payable	14,671	22,340
	773,175	852,311

NOTE 10 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENT ASSETS

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Cash on Hand and at Bank	1,002,692	953,091
Interest bearing deposits – Current	2,014,528	1,707,113
	3,017,220	2,660,204

Restricted Cash

YPRL's cash and cash equivalents are subject to a number external restrictions that limit amounts available for discretionaly use. These include:

Unspent Government Grants (refer Note 4)	35,425	49,707
Unspent Monetary Contributions (refer Note 5)	83,864	119,468
Trust Deposits (refer Note 15)	1,791	2,091
	121,080	171,266

Intended Allocations

Although not externally restricted the following amounts have been allocated for specific purposes by YPRL:

Long Service Leave – Investments	1,255,098	1,148,500
Asset Replacement Funds	1,218,500	1,086,500
	2,473,598	2,235,000

Users of the financial report should refer to Note 21 for details of existing library commitments

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 11 FINANCIAL ASSETS

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Interest bearing deposits	973,150	941,797

This Interest bearing term deposit relates to a term deposit with a maturity of more than 90 days.

NOTE 12 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Current		
Accrued Income	2,397	0
Sundry Debtors	172,428	59,060
	174,825	59,060

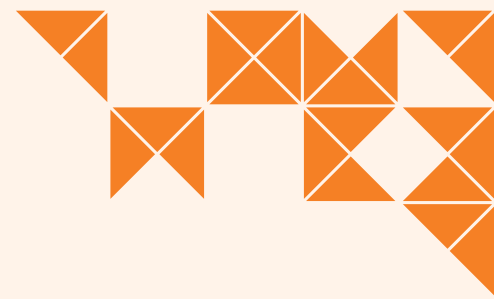
Ageing of Receivables

At balance date sundry debtors representing financial assets that were past due but not impaired. These amounts relate to a number of independent customers for whom there is no recent history of default. The ageing of YPRL's receivables was:

	\$
Current	172,392
Past due by 30 days	36
	172,428

NOTE 13 OTHER ASSETS

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Prepayments	0	4,826



NOTE 14 BOOKSTOCK (COLLECTION); PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

2015	Bookstock	Plant and Equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$
At Fair Value 1 July 2014	4,621,582	2,511,440	7,133,022
Accumulated Depreciation 1 July 2014	(1,168,123)	(1,476,897)	(2,645,020)
	3,453,459	1,034,543	4,488,002

Movements in Fair Value

Aquisition of assets at fair value	1,804,780	350,152	2,154,932
Fair value of assets disposed	(1,901,664)	0	(1,901,664)
	(96,884)	350,152	253,268

Movements in accumulated depreciation

Depreciation Expense	(1,437,699)	(181,753)	(1,619,452)
Accumulated depreciation of assets disposed	1,901,664	0	1,901,664
	463,965	(181,753)	282,212

At fair value 30 June 2015	4,524,698	2,861,592	7,386,290
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2015	(704,158)	(1,658,650)	(2,362,808)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2015	3,820,540	1,202,942	5,023,482

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 14 BOOKSTOCK (COLLECTION); PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

2014	Bookstock \$	Plant and Equipment \$	Total \$
At Fair Value 1 July 2013	4,752,161	2,401,187	7,153,348
Accumulated Depreciation 1 July 2013	(1,844,208)	(1,311,242)	(3,155,450)
	2,907,953	1,089,945	3,997,898
Movements in Fair Value			
Aquisition of assets at fair value	1,676,485	110,254	1,786,739
Fair value of assets disposed	(1,807,061)	0	(1,807,061)
	(130,576)	110,254	(20,322)
Movements in accumulated depreciation			
Depreciation Expense	(1,130,979)	(165,656)	(1,296,635)
Accumulated depreciation of assets disposed	1,807,061	0	1,807,061
	676,082	(165,656)	510,426
At fair value 30 June 2014	4,621,585	2,511,441	7,133,026
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2014	(1,168,126)	(1,476,898)	(2,645,024)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2014	3,453,459	1,034,543	4,488,002

NOTE 15 TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Current		
Payables and Accruals	516,603	350,356
Trust Deposits	1,791	2,091
Net GST	175,360	139,300
	693,754	491,747

NOTE 16 EMPLOYEE PROVISIONS

	Annual Leave \$	Long Service Leave \$	Total \$
2015			
Balance at beginning of financial year	542,798	1,301,555	1,844,353
Additional provisions	55,086	146,683	201,769
Amounts Used	0	(162,040)	(162,040)
Balance at the end of the financial year	597,884	1,286,198	1,884,082

2014			
Balance at beginning of financial year	555,267	1,184,293	1,739,560
Additional provisions	0	211,684	211,684
Amounts Used	(12,469)	(94,422)	(106,891)
Balance at the end of the financial year	542,798	1,301,555	1,844,353

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months		
Annual Leave	524,458	504,843
Long Service Leave	376,907	905,727
	901,365	1,410,570
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
Annual Leave	73,426	37,956
Long Service Leave	878,191	365,225
	951,617	403,181
Total current provisions	1,852,982	1,813,751
Non Current		
Long Service Leave	31,100	30,604
Total non current provisions	31,100	30,604
Total aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions	1,884,082	1,844,355
The following assumptions were adopted in measuring the present value of employee provisions:		
Weighted average increase in employee costs	4%	4%
Weighted average discount rates	2.4%	2.9%
Weighted average settlement period	14 years	14 years

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 17 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

- (a) Names of persons holding the position of Responsible Person at the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Corporation during the reporting period are:

Councillors:

Sam Alessi (City of Whittlesea)

Mary Lalios (City of Whittlesea)

Jenny Mulholland (Banyule City Council)

Steven Briffa (Banyule City Council)

Helen Coleman (Nillumbik Shire Council)

Ken King (Nillumbik Shire Council)

Chief Executive Officer

Christine Mackenzie

- (b) Remuneration of Responsible Persons in bands of \$10,000

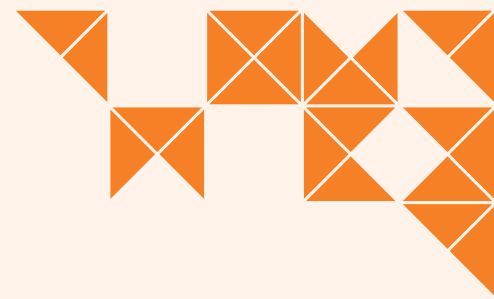
	2015	2014
Income Range:	No	No
NIL	6	6
\$210,000 – \$220,000	1	1
Total	7	7
Total remuneration for the reporting period for responsible persons mentioned above amounted to:	\$ 219,127	\$ 215,000

- (c) Senior Officers Remuneration

The number of Senior Officers, other than the Responsible Persons, whose total remuneration exceeded \$136,000 during the reporting period, are shown below in their relevant income bands:

	2015	2014
Income Range:	No	No
\$133,000 – \$140,000	0	1
\$140,000 – \$150,000	2	1
	2	2
Total remuneration for the reporting period for Senior Officers mentioned above amounted to:	\$ 284,747	\$ 280,975

- (d) Retirement benefits paid by the library in connection with the retirement of Responsible Persons amounted to Nil. (2013/14 Nil)
- (e) No loans have been made, guaranteed or secured by the library to a Responsible Person of the library during the reporting period. (2013/14 Nil)
- (f) Other Transactions
- Other related party transactions requiring disclosure have been considered and there are no matters to report.



NOTE 18 RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO PROFIT OR LOSS

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Net Result For the Reporting Period -Surplus (Deficit)	793,050	765,845
Cash flows in operating surplus attributable to non-operating activities :		
Depreciation	1,619,452	1,296,632
Changes in assets and liabilities :		
(Increase)/Decrease in receivables	(115,763)	(24,701)
(Increase)/Decrease in prepayments	4,826	20,810
Increase/(Decrease) in payables	202,009	(70,727)
Increase/(Decrease) in provision for employee entitlements	39,727	104,797
Net cash provided by operating activities	2,543,301	2,092,656

NOTE 19 RECONCILIATION OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Cash at Bank	1,001,372	951,771
Cash on hand	1,320	1,320
Interest Bearing Deposits	2,014,528	1,707,113
	3,017,220	2,660,204

Users of the financial report should refer to Note 10 for details of restrictions on cash and Note 21 for details of existing library commitments

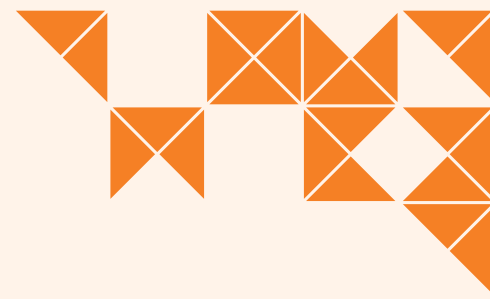
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 20 OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Motor Vehicles		
Payable:		
– Not later than one year	2,568	5,258
– Greater than one year but not later than five years	28,248	0
	30,816	5,258
Term of the Lease: Commencing on March 2015 and ending March 2018		
Library Support Services Accommodation Rental		
Payable:		
– Not later than one year	129,434	125,664
– Greater than one year but not later than five years	77,768	262,750
	207,202	388,414
Term of the Lease: Commencing February 2011 and ending January 2016		
Photocopier Lease		
Payable:		
– Not later than one year	8,462	41,652
– Greater than one year but not later than five years	0	8,462
	8,462	50,114
Note: The current lease is on a month by month basis		
Computer Lease		
Payable:		
– Not later than one year	176,588	200,360
– Greater than one year but not later than five years	141,340	275,656
	317,928	476,016

Term of the Lease: Commencing September 2014 and ending September 2017



NOTE 21 COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

Capital and other expenditure commitments contracted for as at the reporting date and which have not been recognised as liabilities in the balance sheet are as follows :

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Bookstock	167,037	179,360
Courier and Cleaning Contract Expenditure	1,206,670	0
	1,373,707	179,360
The periods expected to elapse from the reporting date to the expected date of payment are as follows :		
– Not later than one year	584,237	179,360
– Greater than one year but not later than five years	789,469	0
	1,373,706	179,360

NOTE 22 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

(a) Contingent liabilities

YPRL has no known contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2015.

YPRL has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme to ensure that the liabilities of the fund are covered by the assets of the fund. As a result of the volatility in financial markets the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists. At this point in time it is not known if additional contributions will be required, their timing or potential amount.

Funding arrangements

YPRL makes employer contributions to the defined benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund's Actuary.

The Fund's latest actuarial investigation was held as at 30 June 2014 and it was determined that the vested benefit index (VBI) of the defined benefit category of which YPRL is a contributing employer was 103.4%. To determine the VBI, the fund Actuary used the following long-term assumptions:

Net investment returns	7.5% pa
Salary information	4.25% pa
Price inflation (CPI)	2.75% pa.

Vision Super has advised that the estimated VBI at the June 2015 quarter end was 105.80%.

The VBI is to be used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the actuarial investigation determined the defined benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the defined benefits category's funding arrangements from prior years.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 22 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

(a) Contingent liabilities (continued)

Employer contributions

Regular contributions

On the basis of the results of the most recent full actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund's Actuary as at 30 June 2014, YPRL makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2015, this rate was 9.5% of members' salaries. This rate will increase in line with any increase to the Superannuation Guarantee (SG) contribution rate.

In addition, YPRL reimburses the Fund to cover the excess of the benefits paid as a consequence of retrenchment above the funded resignation or retirement benefit.

Funding calls

If the defined benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at actuarial investigation or the defined benefit category's VBI is below its shortfall limit at any time other than the date of the actuarial investigation, the defined benefit category has a shortfall for the purposes of SPS 160 and the Fund is required to put a plan in place so that the shortfall is fully funded within three years of the shortfall occurring. The Fund monitors its VBI on a quarterly basis and the Fund has set its shortfall limit at 97%.

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers, including YPRL, are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall. Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's defined benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound up.

If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers.

In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

Latest actuarial investigation surplus amounts

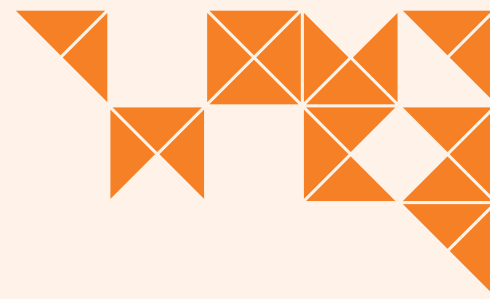
The Fund's latest actuarial investigation as at 30 June 2014 identified the following in the defined benefit category of which YPRL is a contributing employer:

- A VBI surplus of \$77.1 million; and
- A total service liability surplus of \$236 million.

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2014.

The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's defined benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses.

YPRL was notified of the results of the actuarial investigation during January 2015.



(b) Superannuation contributions

Contributions by YPRL (excluding any unfunded liability payments) to the above superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2015 are detailed below:

Scheme	Type of scheme	Rate	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Vision Super	Defined benefits	9.5%	173	184
Vision Super	Accumulation	9.5%	501	457

The expected contributions to be paid to the defined benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2016 is estimated at \$176,000.

(c) Contingent Assets

YPRL has no known contingent assets as at 30 June 2015.

NOTE 23 FINANCING FACILITIES

The Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service does not have any credit standby arrangements or unused loan facilities.

The Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service does have credit card facilities with an unused credit limit of \$35,000 at 30 June 2015.

NOTE 24 RELEVANT FINANCIAL RATIOS

(a) Working Capital

To assess the corporation's ability to meet current commitments

Current Assets/Current Liabilities

2015 \$ 000's		2014 \$ 000's		2013 \$ 000's	
4,165	1.64	3,666	1.59	3,356	1.52
2,547		2,305		2,204	

(b) Investment Gap

To assess Library's capital expenditure against depreciation

Capital Spend/Depreciation

2,155	1.33	1,787	1.38	1,932	0.86
1,619		1,297		2,255	

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 25 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Objectives and policies

The Library's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, other financial assets; receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables (excluding statutory payables) and bank borrowings. 'Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in Note 1 of the financial statements. 'Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by the Library Board. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to the Library and appropriate procedures, controls and risk minimisation.

(b) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of our financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Library's exposures to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with only insignificant exposure to other price risks and no exposure to foreign currency risk.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Our interest rate liability risk arises primarily from other financial investments which exposes us to fair value interest rate risk. The Library does not have any borrowings. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Library has exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits that are at floating rate.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the Local Government Act 1989. We manage interest rate risk by adopting an

investment policy that ensures:

- diversification of investment product,
- monitoring of return on investment,
- benchmarking of returns and comparison with budget.

There has been no significant change in the Library's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing interest rate risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

Interest rate movements have not been sufficiently significant during the year to have an impact on the Library's year end result.

(c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause us to make a financial loss. We have exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in our balance sheet. To help manage this risk:

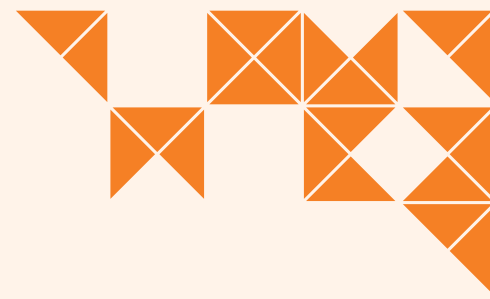
- we have a policy for establishing credit limits for the entities we deal with;
- we may require collateral where appropriate; and
- we only invest surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in our investment policy.

Receivables consist of a small number of customers, primarily the contributing Member Councils.

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired.

The Library has no contingent liabilities (Refer Note 22).

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. The Library does not hold any collateral.



(d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of our operational liquidity requirements or we will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction when required, we will be forced to sell a financial asset at below value or may be unable to settle or recover a financial asset

To help reduce these risks the Library:

- have a liquidity policy which targets a minimum and average level of cash and cash equivalents to be maintained;
- have readily accessible standby facilities and other funding arrangements in place;
- have a liquidity portfolio structure that requires surplus funds to be invested within various bands of liquid instruments; and
- monitor budget to actual performance on a regular basis.

There has been no significant change in the Library's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing liquidity risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

With the exception of borrowings, all financial liabilities are expected to be settled within normal terms of trade.

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amounts of financial instruments reflect their fair value

(e) Fair value

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amount of financial instruments reflect their fair value

Fair value hierarchy

The Library's financial assets and liabilities are not valued in accordance with the fair value hierarchy. The Library's financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

(f) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

Taking into account past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, YPRL believes the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months:

- A parallel shift of + 1% and -1% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 2.75%.

These movements will not have a material impact on the valuation of YPRL's financial assests and liabilities, nor will they have a material impact on the results of YPRL's operations.

NOTE 26 AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Audit fee to conduct external audit	8,000	9,000
Internal Audit Fees	8,671	11,740
	16,671	20,740

NOTE 27 EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER BALANCE DATE

There have been no events occurring subsequent to balance date.

CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In my opinion the accompanying Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989, and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014, Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.



Linda MacRae

Principal Accounting Officer

Dated: 14 September 2015

In our opinion the accompanying Financial Statements present fairly the financial transactions of the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Corporation for the year ended 30 June 2015 and the financial position of the Library as of that date.

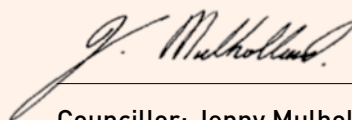
As at the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars in the Financial Statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the Library Board on 20 August 2015 to certify the Financial Statements in their final form.



Councillor: Sam Alessi

Dated: 14 September 2015



Councillor: Jenny Mulholland

Dated: 14 September 2015



Les Firth
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 14 September 2015

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board Members, Yarra Plenty Regional Library Corporation

The Financial Report

The accompanying financial report for the year ended 30 June 2015 of the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Corporation which comprises the comprehensive income statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow, statement of capital works, notes comprising a summary of the significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the certification of the financial statements has been audited.

The Board Members' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Board Members of the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Corporation are responsible for the preparation and the fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and the financial reporting requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

The Board Members are responsible for such internal control as the Board Members determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the *Audit Act 1994* and the *Local Government Act 1989*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit, which has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The audit procedures selected depend on judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, consideration is given to the internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Board Members, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independent Auditor's Report (continued)

Independence

The Auditor-General's independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. The Auditor-General is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which his powers and responsibilities are to be exercised. In conducting the audit, the Auditor-General, his staff and delegates complied with all applicable independence requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Opinion

In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Corporation as at 30 June 2015 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards, and the financial reporting requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

MELBOURNE
16 September 2015


John Doyle M.Acc FCA
Auditor-General



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www.yprl.vic.gov.au

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Rosanna 3084
Telephone 9459 6171

Watsonia
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Watsonia 3087
Telephone 9435 2397

Whittlesea

Lalor
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Lalor 3075
Telephone 9465 2353

Mill Park
394 Plenty Road
Mill Park 3082
Telephone 9437 8189

Thomastown
52 Main Street
Thomastown 3074
Telephone 9464 1864

Whittlesea
Whittlesea Community Activity Centre
57-61 Laurel Street
Whittlesea 3757
Telephone 9716 3028

Nillumbik

Diamond Valley
Civic Drive
Greensborough 3088
Telephone 9434 3809

Eltham
Panther Place
Eltham 3095
Telephone 9439 9266

Regional Service

Home Library Service
Outreach Library Service
Mobile Library Service
Reading Rover Service

Telephone 9088 3425
Telephone 0418 107 724
Telephone 0419 883 159
Telephone 0427 913 100



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