

# South Coast Cooperative Libraries

Annual Report 2023-24





## Acknowledgement of Country

Walawaani (welcome),

Shoalhaven City Council recognises the First Peoples of the Shoalhaven and their ongoing connection to culture and country. We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the Traditional Owners, Custodians and Lore Keepers of the world's oldest living culture and pay respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Walawaani njindiwan (safe journey to you all)

*This acknowledgment includes Dhurga language. We recognise and understand that there are many diverse languages spoken within the Shoalhaven.*

# Contents

Acknowledgement of Country	2
Cooperative Manager's Report	4
Shoalhaven Libraries Annual Report 2023-2024	5
Community Quotes	13
Kiama Library Annual Report 2023-2024	14
Statistical Analysis	17
Staff Members - Shoalhaven Libraries	27
Staff Members Kiama - Kiama Library Service	30



# Cooperative Manager's Report



Libraries continue to be the hub of their communities. They continue to provide education and recreational opportunities for all, as well as safe spaces where people can participate in events, programs and gain lifelong learning skills.

Last financial year, Australians made more than 22.8 million physical visits to NSW public libraries, enjoyed 9.4 million internet bookings including Wi-Fi hours and made 13.1 million virtual visits to public library websites. They also ran more than 91,000 programs and made available over 38 million collection items.

Public libraries are for the entire community.

Programs and events held in public libraries not only bring the community together but play an important role in reducing isolation, increasing literacy skills and development, and help improve the mental health of some of its most vulnerable members. South Coast Cooperative Libraries continues to provide a range of physical and digital resources catering to people in all stages of life.

In the past financial year over 17,000 new physical items were added, offering customers access to a total of over 156,000 items. In addition,

there are over 20,000 eBooks, 16,000 eAudiobooks and 11,000 eMagazines available for downloading. The split between physical and digital titles and resources is reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure we are providing the appropriate resources for all library members.

Libraries remain at the forefront for bridging the digital divide by providing access to computers, Wi-Fi and new technologies. The need for digital training and digital literacy is bringing a new skill set to library staff who continue to work with people to build their digital confidence.

Today's libraries are a hive of activity and are now a place in the community for people to gather for learning, socialising, information gathering, recreation and relaxation. As always, a big thank you to partner Library Manager, Michelle Hudson and her team for their ongoing collaboration, support and professionalism. Please take the time to read this Annual Report, which highlights the vast array of services, programs and events that are provided free to the community through their public library service.

**Nicole Lonesborough**  
Acting Manager  
South Coast Cooperative  
Libraries

# Shoalhaven Libraries Annual Report 2023-24

Shoalhaven Libraries continue to be safe, welcoming places for our community. With lounges, study areas, free Wi-Fi, meeting rooms, newspaper reading areas and computers, our branches offer something for everyone.

The vibrant, accessible spaces enable community members to enjoy all that the library has to offer.

Our wide range of activities, events and programs across all branches offer people of any age the opportunity to become involved in something new.

The Book Bar continues to be very popular with sets of Book Bar titles now being converted into Book Club Kits. Book Clubs Kits have been requested for some time now and it is a great way to offer another free service to the community, and to also give new life to books that may have otherwise been sent for recycling.

As part of our ongoing membership campaign drive, we introduced Member of the Month in January. This initiative is open to all new members who have joined during the month. The lucky new member who is selected wins a free library prize pack.

To coincide with Library Lovers' Day on February 14th we launched the 2024 Reading Challenge with an exciting collection of reading prompts to inspire readers to explore a wider range of books and genres.

The State Library of NSW conducted a review of Shoalhaven Libraries services during October. This review was a great opportunity for the State Library to see the programs and services Shoalhaven Libraries offers, and for library staff to receive feedback on how services could be improved.



# Shoalhaven Libraries

Sanctuary Point Mobile Nowra Ulladulla Milton

A report was prepared by State Library staff based on the visit, and discussion and analysis of the library's data with reference to the Living Libraries benchmarks. Library staff are now working on an action plan to implement some of the review's suggestions.

As well as the State Library of NSW review, Shoalhaven Libraries was selected to take part in an internal business improvement pilot study. This review focusses on efficiencies and opportunities for continuous improvement. A project plan was completed based on staff feedback and the review will be completed once the Library Manager's position has been recruited.

After a 28-day public consultation period, the Shoalhaven Libraries Strategic Plan 2024 - 2027 was adopted by Council in February. Staff are now working towards the plan's actions to achieve the desired outcomes.

The Shoalhaven Libraries Local Heritage Plan 2024 - 2028 was also updated. This plan works in conjunction with the Shoalhaven Libraries Strategic Plan and gives staff direction on future priorities in the local heritage space over the years ahead.

Plans are underway for a new mobile library van. This mobile library will be similar to the current van and once operational it will be used for further outreach work as well as regular stops in the southern Shoalhaven.

Due to the rise in building costs, Council deemed the original Sanctuary Point District Library project no longer a viable option to build in its current design. Council instead endorsed the continuation of the Sanctuary Point District Library project and plans are now underway for a revised design and scope of works.

## Events & Programs

This year saw close to 600 events and programs held across our branches and in the community. These events enabled close to 10,000 people to engage with the library and its staff.

Nowra Library introduced adult craft sessions and Ulladulla Library continued to offer this very popular program. Participants for these sessions continue to increase with attendees creating collage portraits, zentangle bunting, wrapping paper, origami flowers and much more.

During NAIDOC Week library staff attended the Annual Family Fun Day at the Nowra Showground. This is a great opportunity to showcase what the library has to offer our indigenous members of the community. Our Local Heritage Librarian also collected oral histories from attendees on what NAIDOC means to them.

The start of winter kicked off voting for the best item or most unusual creation in the Winter Warmers Challenge. Over 120 entries were received with all items being donated to local charities.

"Where's the Source" was the theme for Library and Information Week during August. Scam awareness e-safety sessions were held across the branches enabling community members to recognise scam emails and improve on digital literacy skills.

The Arty Farty Party returned to the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre and library staff entertained the children with stories, crafts and a visit from the mobile library.

Children's Book Week continues to be a major drawcard for children to visit the library. The theme this year was "Read, Grow, Inspire" and all branches ran competitions around this theme. Winning bookmarks from the 'Design a Bookmark' competition were produced and added to the library's collection of free bookmarks for customers to take and use. There were also special storytimes, amazing displays, readers theatre performances and the famous Book Week Roadshow that visited outlying areas of the Shoalhaven.



Book Week 2023



Storytime sessions



Arts and crafts day



Mobile Library



Sanctuary Point Library participated in Moonhack 2023 "Space and Innovation" with 40,000 other children across the world. Moonhack aims to bring kids together who have a love of coding.

We received many visits from local primary schools, pre-schools and playgroups and a message board of support was set up for our HSC students.

School Holiday "Hello Summer Campaign" activities included Tay Tay friendship bracelets, coding and robot craze. Library staff took the summer school holiday program out to Voyager Park at Greenwell Point where we teamed up with staff from Shoalhaven Swim Sport & Fitness. We kept the kids busy with arts and crafts whilst parents and carers participated in a yoga session.

Regular events held at our libraries continue to be popular. Adult programs include Movies at Midday and history talks, as well as the new Nature Matters talks, a monthly series about the environment and flora and fauna found in the Shoalhaven and surrounds.

Sanctuary Point Library added the Book Haven Book Club to their list of programs. This has proven to be very popular with attendees.

Lego Club, Tech Heads, Rhymetime and Storytimes are always well attended by our junior members, and with Coding Club at Sanctuary Point Library now in its fifth year, new groups of kids are learning to code in Scratch. Scratch Junior was introduced so younger kids can join in as well. This year the coding club was featured by Code Club Australia on their blog.

We love collaborating with our community and over the past year we hosted the team from Well-being Health and Movement (WHAM) to present a series of seminars on health and wellbeing. Australian Hearing used the library to offer free hearing tests, and The William

Campbell Foundation held a regular information session on the foundation and how people can become involved. Glenn Kilby again facilitated his popular portrait painting workshop at Nowra Library over two terms.

National Simultaneous Storytime is an event played out in libraries across Australia where the same book is read at the same time. Children from local schools and pre-schools enjoyed the book Bowerbird Blues by Aura Parker, which was chosen for this year.

A travelling exhibition from the Australian National Maritime Museum in collaboration with NSW Department of Primary Industries made its way to Ulladulla Library. Bidhiinja: restoring our oyster reefs was an interactive display which told the forgotten history of the reefs, and the benefits oyster reefs provide to communities and the environment. The exhibition featured stunning artworks from Indigenous artist, Frances Belle Parker. To coincide with the exhibition, Gillian Lewis held an informative talk about the pearling industry in Australia.



Book Week 2023



Adult arts and crafts sessions



The Arty Farty Party - Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre



## Author Visits

Bookfest has become one of most popular author events on our calendar. This showcases local authors and illustrators in a panel style event where those attending can hear about the author and their book. Audience participation is encouraged by asking questions and copies of books can be purchased after the event.

In Conversation sessions are also proving to be popular with authors during the year. This year's sessions included Siobhan O'Brien with Claudine Tinellis, and Shoalhaven Libraries' very own Kell Woods spoke to a full house about her debut novel *After the Forest* with Alison Tait, author of the junior series *The Mapmakers*.

Ulladulla library staff and Karen Hendricks created a special storytime reading of her book *Feathers*. This book was written to help support any child that may have lost a loved one.

Richard Glover entertained library customers at Nowra and Ulladulla (over 100 attendees!) promoting his new book *Best Wishes*. Author of *The Rosie Project*, Graeme Simsion along with Anne Buist and Meredith Jaffe spent a

morning at Ulladulla Library talking all things books to an audience of 70 people in April.

Peter Gray, author of the Charlie Robertson Thrillers, kept his audience engaged talking about his latest thriller series. Peter kindly donated numerous copies of his books to the library collection.

Local resident and poet Robert Downey, whose work has been published in Australia's Best Poetry (2001) and has been displayed in various libraries and town halls across Australia, including Sydney Town Hall, was on display at Nowra Library for the month of September.

Other inspiring author talks held at Ulladulla included Karen Viggers and David Kerr. Audiences particularly love to hear how authors get their inspiration for their writing craft.



## Technology

Supporting digital technology continues to be a strong focus across Shoalhaven Libraries with staff facilitating numerous sessions ranging from our regular Tech Wednesday help to one-on-one lessons, group classes and digital information sessions. Digital assistance is growing in demand and library staff are continually upskilling in this area to support the digital needs of our community.

Library staff continue to seek grant opportunities so we can provide further technology classes for seniors. Classes such as Tech Savvy Seniors are vital in reducing the digital divide for older members of the community helping them become more confident in using different technological devices.

Our Tech Help sessions have proven to be popular at all branches with members of the public consistently seeking assistance with various technology issues. Library staff at Nowra have a strong commitment to digital assistance and put aside two hours every Wednesday to offer technology help so our community can become more proficient digital users. Ulladulla and Sanctuary Point staff offer free one-on-one booked sessions every Tuesday afternoon.

Get Online Week was celebrated with a hotly contested game of trivia at Nowra library and Ulladulla library using an online app, Kahoot!, with the library iPads. This was followed by a shared morning tea.

Be Connected sessions were again offered during the year at our branches. This was made possible through grant funding received from the Good Things Foundation. These classes are free and assist with teaching the essential skills in navigating the online world. Sessions were held at all branches and included: internet safety, identifying and avoiding scams, social media apps, and connecting to others.

The library was successful in obtaining a Backyard Cricket Grant. This money was used to purchase Sphero robots, which the library uses for regular coding sessions. These sessions are popular for our younger demographic and help support ongoing learning and digital literacy.

## Local Heritage

A highlight of this year has been receiving two grants which has enabled the digitisation of significant records in the collection. The Ancestry Grant Program provided in-kind services to digitise our collection of rates, water, sanitary and street lighting books from the historic municipalities forming the present Shoalhaven City Council area, dating from the early 20th century. These images will soon be available online through the genealogical database Ancestry.com, which library members can access for free from any of our branches.

We have also worked with the National Library of Australia to digitise historic local newspapers from Berry and Kangaroo Valley, which are now online on Trove. This brings more of our region's history out of the geographic restrictions of microfilm and onto a free national platform. This project has been supported by Create NSW's Cultural Grants Program, a devolved funding program administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society on behalf of the NSW Government.

In November, a Preservation Station was launched at Nowra Library. This allows library members to convert their personal analogue collections of photographs, slides, negatives, audio cassettes, or VHS recordings into a digital format. As part of the introduction of this service, a hands-on workshop was trialled for members of the Milton Ulladulla Family History Society, which will be repeated in the future for those interested in learning more about the Station's use.

Local history events and talks have again proven popular. This year, Peter Lacey from the South Coast History Society spoke at Nowra and Ulladulla library branches about his newly published book *Extraordinary Histories: Amazing Stories from the NSW South Coast*. An exhibition and talk about local sporting and community identity, *Artie Smith*, was also delivered by his grandson, author and researcher John Blackmore. This event tied into a display in the Local Heritage room about Artie's legacy, with other displays throughout the year covering the history of Nowra Library, our rate book collection,

and the Pyree School by the Shoalhaven Family History Society.

Building relationships with local community organisations continues to be an important part of building the Local Heritage collection, outreach and education. We were delighted to be invited to NAIDOC 2023 celebrations in Nowra and the Arty Farty Party children's festival, to document these events by recording vox-pop style interviews. The library also attended the Nowra Show, which celebrated its 150th anniversary, to promote and record oral histories.

Social media outreach has continued to grow through weekly Flashback Friday posts. Our most popular subjects this year were: fishermen mending nets at Huskisson 1936 (reaching 27,595 accounts), Currowan Creek starch factory c.1920 (reaching 22,255 accounts), map of the Municipal District of South Shoalhaven (reaching 18,220 accounts), and the Nowra Show 150th anniversary (reaching 16,627 accounts).



## Collections

In November 2023, Shoalhaven Libraries expanded its Seed Library by adding collections to Nowra and Ulladulla branches. It quickly “grew” in popularity, with our first produce (a zucchini!) being harvested in January 2024.

Jane from Community Gardens Australia visited Nowra and Sanctuary Point libraries in April 2024 to share her knowledge on seed saving with local community members. These sessions resulted in an influx of people donating seeds from their own gardens for others to enjoy.

We celebrated the first anniversary of the Shoalhaven Book Bar in March 2024. The Book Bar is a collection that sees multiple copies of new release and popular titles made available, giving community members increased access to these titles by lowering wait times. The collection is continuously updated, with old titles currently being converted to Book Club Kits to continue the life of these popular books.

“  
*Love  
the seed  
library!  
Thank you  
so much!*”  
”



## Staff and Training

There has been quite a bit of staff movement this year and with Council recruitment placed on hold, Shoalhaven Libraries staff have gone above and beyond to keep the many functions of the library going and continue the high level of customer service whilst low on staffing numbers.

In January we said farewell to Library Manager Sarah Taylor who took up a position with Wollongong City Council. Sarah was with Shoalhaven Libraries for 17 years and was the major driving force in making Shoalhaven Libraries the wonderful library service that it is today. We wish Sarah all the best in her new role at Wollongong.

Staff have made a conscious effort this year to improve their knowledge and understanding of our customers and have undertaken training in Disability Awareness, Suicide Prevention and participated in a Mental Health Movement study. Staff also undertook training in Public Interest Disclosure.

A big thank you to all the staff of Shoalhaven Libraries. I am continually amazed by your commitment, talent and pride that you take in your work and your dedication to making our library a valuable service for everyone. A special thank you to senior library managers Robin Sharpe, Carissa Close, Anne Lee and Cathy Burns and Michelle Babington, Ulladulla Civic Centre Manager. This has been a challenging year, and I am extremely grateful for your support and assistance through these difficult times.

Next year will bring many changes and we are excited to see what those changes are and how they will make our great library service even better.

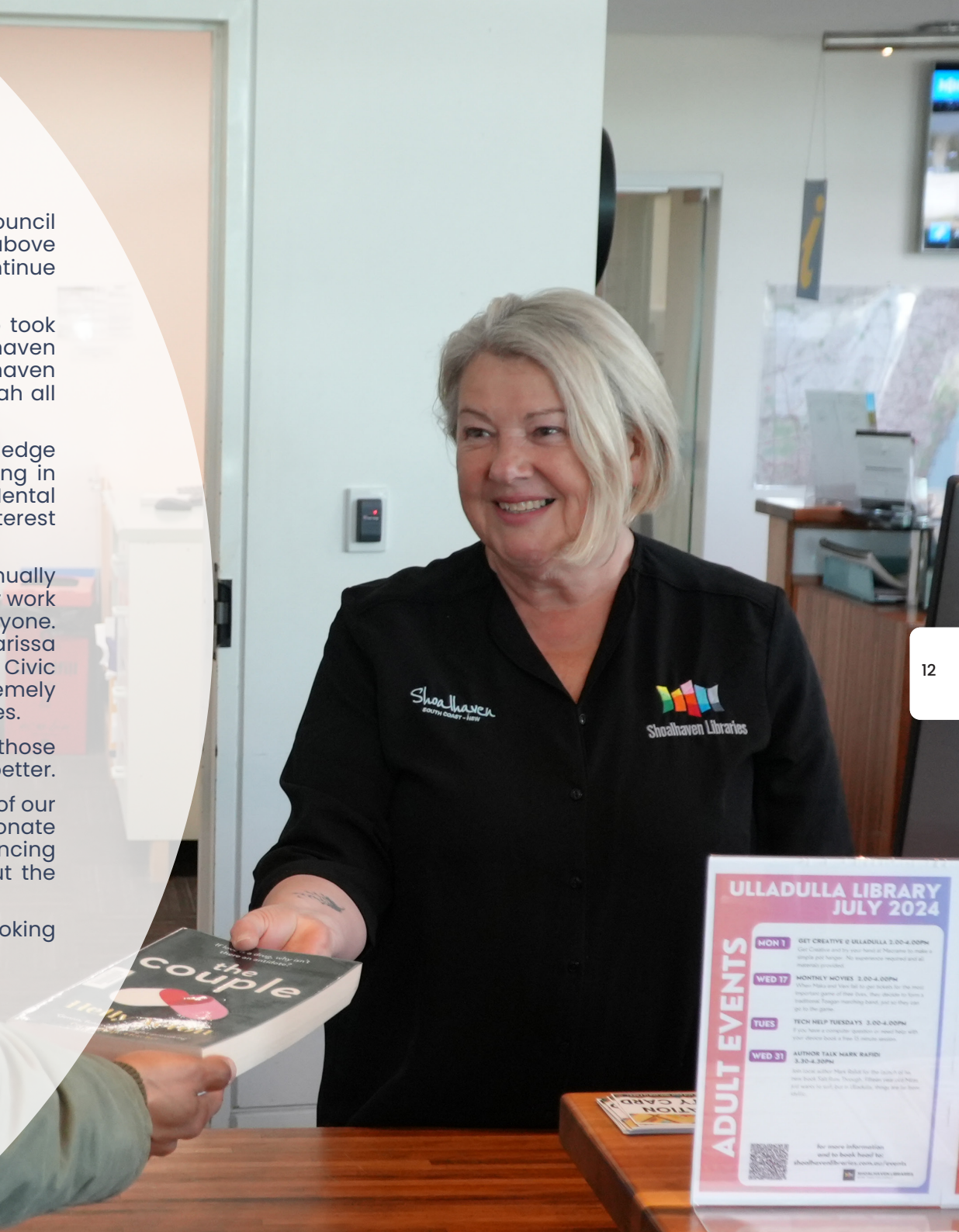
We would also not be able to do what we do without the dedication of our wonderful volunteers. This amazing group of people generously donate their time to support the library service. They play a vital role in enhancing our service and their contribution not only benefits the library but the wider community.

It's been another fantastic year for Shoalhaven Libraries, and I am looking forward to the year ahead and all that it brings.

**Nicole Lonesborough**

**Acting Manager**

**Shoalhaven Libraries**





“  
We love our library.  
It is one of the last  
remaining bastions  
of personal contact/  
customer service that is  
accessible to most people.  
Thank you for all that you  
do, and all the care you  
show to all  
”

“  
Thank you for your  
help and advice to  
my daughter in Year  
12. Because of your  
assistance, she achieved  
a band 6 mark for her  
Studies of Religion HSC  
subject!  
”

“  
This place is so  
amazing - it is my  
happy place and  
the best thing in  
the world  
”

“  
(My daughter) is in  
year 6 at school. Since  
joining the library, her  
reading has improved  
out of sight  
”

“  
This is my favourite  
Library because it  
offers a wide range of  
services and activities  
for everyone in the  
community  
”

# Kiama Library

## Annual Report 2023-24

Our libraries continue to provide opportunities for our communities to come together to learn, collaborate and engage in all manner of library programs. Our early literacy programs for children have increased to include a fortnightly Baby Storytime and Toddler Tales sessions at Gerringong Library, which reflect the current programs being offered at Kiama Library. We have also included a fortnightly Dungeons & Dragons Adventurer's Club during school term at Gerringong Library which has been well received with the community.

Perennial favourites such as school holiday programs continue to be popular and allow children to explore new interests, develop confidence and provide social interaction with others. An amazing 468 programs have been delivered to our community in this reporting period with 12,921 community members attending which is quite an astonishing.

Our in-house library book club groups continue to grow as does membership to our Book Club kits with over 70 kits now available to book groups offering a wide variety of authors and topics which have been selected to generate discussion and foster a continued love of reading and literature.

National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) continues to be a popular library program with our community with many embracing the challenge to write 50,000 words of a novel in just thirty days. In 2023 we were joined by authors A.L. Tait, Jeff Apter, Kell Woods and Tori Haschaka. These impressive authors presented on different aspects of writing; from getting started, story-plotting, research and writing creative non-fiction from a personal perspective.

Building on the success of the NaNoWriMo writing program, in February we kicked off our inaugural session of Ink Well writing group. This program supports aspiring authors who are looking for a little assistance in getting started on their writing journey. The group has consistently grown



throughout the year as members share their works in progress and engage enthusiastically in discussions on everything from writing styles, techniques and troubleshooting.

We were successful in obtaining funding from the Anzacs Community Grants program and the NSW Government in support of our Art for Anzacs project. The project was developed to commemorate ANZAC Day by delivering a series of art workshops that pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of NSW veterans. Participants worked with local artist Kylie Morrison and members of the Kiama/Jamberoo RSL who shared their unique stories at the start of each session, providing insights into the experiences of those who served. Images from our Local History Collection also provided inspiration to our budding artists and the completed artworks were showcased in our exhibition spaces at both libraries as well as the Council Chambers.

This year, for Mothers' Day, we urged the mums and nans and carers of Kiama to say 'No to slippers'. Instead, we hosted a charming little pop-up Mothers' Day stall for the book lovers in our libraries. Children and dads were invited to make up their own mystery boxes which included bespoke bookmarks, book plate sets, enamel pins, library bags, candles and a wrapped mystery book (with a clue). The popular stall was a marvellous success, not just for the library, but for every mum, nan or carer who enjoyed their library themed gifts.

Embracing the Bridgerton phenomenon Gerringong Library was transformed into an elegant tearoom with tables adorned with flowers and decorations which set the stage for an unforgettable experience hosting sixty distinguished ladies and gentlemen for a spectacular event.

Guests were welcomed to melodies from harpist Yasmine Russell, on their arrival and a delectable High Tea was provided by a local community group as a fundraising activity.



Guests engaged in a scandalously intriguing mystery game, aimed at unveiling the identity of the elusive gossip columnist Lady Whistledown, cleverly concealed among attending guests. The crowd, magnificent in their spring formal attire, some even embracing the charm of the Regency era with exquisite costumes, made the event a visual feast. Prizes were bestowed upon the best-dressed attendees, and a lucky door prize added an element of excitement.

Gerringong Library held their first Self-Publishing Showcase at the library in June. Five local authors presented their self-published books in a panel-style discussion, relating their personal stories as well as discussing their written works. An enthusiastic audience were able to ask questions of our authors and afternoon tea provided the opportunity for book purchases and signing along with more discussions and exploration of the library, museum and gallery spaces. The authors really enjoyed the chance to engage with readers and network with other local authors.

It was another successful year making and creating with our Makers and Creators group. This year saw the popular intergenerational group tackle beautiful watercolour Victorian Puzzle Purses, learn how to draw fantasy maps, make punch needle brooches, embroider onto treasured photographs, create vision boards and more! We are looking forward to another year of creative, collaborative making. This program has the added benefit of engaging with community members that are not regular attendees of our other library programs.

To support our local HSC students the library collaborated with Council Waste service and SENTRAL Youth Cottage to make up 120 HSC support bags which included a special edition Kiama Library bag, hot chocolate, flower seeds, mental health support information and mindfulness activities, library program promotional material and affirmation cards. Year 12 students really appreciated this small gift from the library as they head into the study break period.

Heritage NSW honoured Kiama born author and essayist Charmian Clift by installing a blue plaque at Kiama Library. Charmian's writing was often inspired by her hometown and it is a fitting tribute that the library was chosen as the point of connection. The plaque commemorates Charmian's long-lasting impact on literature and culture and celebrates her many writing achievements. The tribute is also supported by our library collections and our walking tour app, Remembering Charmian Clift.



Arts and crafts session



Fun performances



Educational sessions



Our community also celebrated the release of her final and unfinished autobiographical novel *The End of the Morning* with a special presentation delivered by author and biographer Nadia Wheatley.

Our Family History Centre conducted several workshops including a workshop 'Getting started with Family History' followed by a tour of the Family History Centre. Participants were introduced to databases, websites and resources to assist them in starting their family history research. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions and seek advice for 'roadblocks' when researching.

A presentation to a community service club outlining our family research services and projects resulted in an anonymous donor providing \$10,000 to preserve our unique and precious microfiche reels containing magistrate records, indentures of apprenticeship, and crew and passengers lists. The process of converting the microfiche reels into digital format will improve access to our users and provide improved searchability of these documents.

In November the library welcomed the State Library to conduct a library assessment program. The State Library consultant spend the day talking and visiting staff across both libraries and hearing about the many programs and activities that are offered to our community. Library staff are currently working through the suggestions for improvement offered in the report to ensure best practice in our library services.

As always, my appreciation of our library staff and their dedication to providing innovative and engaging programs and services continues. My thanks also go to our South Coast Cooperative colleagues for their continued professional support of our library services.

**Michelle Hudson**  
**Manager Library Services**  
**Kiama Library**



Makers and Creators group



Bridgerton evening - Gerringong Library



# Statistical Analysis – South Coast Cooperative Libraries – July 2023 – June 2024

Note: NSW Av figures taken from the Public Library Statistics 2022/2023

## Expenditure & Subsidy 2023–2024

	Shoalhaven	Kiama
Total Expenditure voted	\$3,342,309.47	\$1,168,182.00
Total Expenditure per capita	\$30.41	\$52.03
Subsidy	\$313,301.00	\$122,961.00
Local Priority Grant	\$35,000.00	\$17,287.50



# Item Purchases – South Coast Cooperative Libraries July 2023 – June 2024

\*Donation & Grant material only includes those catalogued and processed by Shoalhaven Libraries

## Book

Category	Number	Cost	Average Price	Donation / Grant*
Reference	1	\$37.59	\$37.59	6
Adult Non-Fiction	3,545	\$95,360.51	\$26.90	89
Literacy	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Local Studies	11	\$364.01	\$33.09	27
Adult Fiction	5,818	\$129,847.01	\$22.32	167
Adult Paperback	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Large Print	1,303	\$70,674.39	\$54.24	0
Youth Non-Fiction	155	\$2,913.41	\$18.80	1
Youth Fiction	484	\$8,274.67	\$17.10	6
Youth Large Print	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Youth Graphic	129	\$1,965.80	\$15.24	8
Junior Non-Fiction	601	\$11,641.78	\$19.37	0
Junior Fiction	1,049	\$12,935.00	\$12.33	18
Junior Graphic	352	\$5,618.81	\$15.96	2
Junior Reader	5	\$85.19	\$17.04	4
Picture Books	1,640	\$23,512.83	\$14.34	0
Home Education	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Total Book	15,093	\$363,231.00	\$24.07	328



# Non-Book

Category	Number	Cost	Average Price	Donation / Grant*
CDs	367	\$7,367.23	\$20.07	0
Audiobook (Junior/Youth)	15	\$582.97	\$38.86	0
Audiobook (Adult)	528	\$24,833.44	\$47.03	5
DVD (Adult)	831	\$21,435.61	\$25.79	161
DVD (Junior)	200	\$3,381.64	\$16.91	22
Games/Puzzles	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Junior Kit	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Playaways (Adult)	51	\$7,808.10	\$153.10	1
Playaways (Junior)	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Playaways (Youth)	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Total Non-Book	1,992	\$65,408.99	\$32.84	189
Grand Total	17,085	\$428,639.99	\$25.09	517



# Item Purchases – Shoalhaven – July 2023 – June 2024

## Book

Category	Number	Cost	Average Price	Donation / Grant
Reference	1	\$37.59	\$37.59	6
Adult Non-Fiction	3,055	\$82,357.30	\$26.96	89
Literacy	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Local Studies	11	\$364.01	\$33.09	27
Adult Fiction	4,697	\$103,846.08	\$22.11	167
Adult Paperback	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Large Print	1,116	\$60,677.75	\$54.37	0
Youth Non-Fiction	137	\$2,468.86	\$18.02	1
Youth Fiction	376	\$6,727.05	\$17.89	6
Youth Large Print	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Youth Graphic	82	\$956.10	\$11.66	8
Junior Non-Fiction	487	\$9,641.70	\$19.80	0
Junior Fiction	753	\$9,622.43	\$12.78	18
Junior Graphic	296	\$4,926.99	\$16.65	2
Junior Reader	5	\$85.19	\$17.04	4
Picture Books	1,356	\$19,512.61	\$14.39	0
Home Education	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Total Books	12,372	\$301,223.66	\$24.35	328

## Non-Book

Category	Number	Cost	Average Price	Donation / Grant
CDs	367	\$7,367.23	\$20.07	0
Audiobook (Junior/Youth)	15	\$582.97	\$38.86	0
Audiobook (Adult)	398	\$18,848.18	\$47.36	5
DVD (Adult)	831	\$21,435.61	\$25.79	161
DVD (Junior)	200	\$3,381.64	\$16.91	22
Games/Puzzles	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Junior Kit	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Playaways (Adult)	51	\$7,808.10	\$153.10	1
Playaways (Junior)	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Playaways (Youth)	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Total Non Book	1,862	\$59,423.73	\$31.91	189
Grand Total	14,234	\$360,647.39	\$25.34	517

# Item Purchases – Kiama – July 2023 – June 2024

\*Donation & Grant material only includes those catalogued and processed by Shoalhaven Libraries

## Book

Category	Number	Cost	Average Price	Donation / Grant*
Reference	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Adult Non-Fiction	490	\$13,003.21	\$26.54	0
Literacy	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Local Studies	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Adult Fiction	1,121	\$26,000.93	\$23.19	0
Adult Paperback	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Large Print	187	\$9,996.64	\$53.46	0
Youth Non-Fiction	18	\$444.55	\$24.70	0
Youth Fiction	108	\$1,547.62	\$14.33	0
Youth Large Print	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Youth Graphic	47	\$1,009.70	\$21.48	0
Junior Non-Fiction	114	\$2,000.08	\$17.54	0
Junior Fiction	296	\$3,312.57	\$11.19	0
Junior Graphics	56	\$691.82	\$12.35	0
Junior Reader	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Picture Books	284	\$4,000.22	\$14.09	0
Home Education	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Total Books	2,721	\$62,007.34	\$22.79	0

## Non-Book

Category	Number	Cost	Average Price	Donation / Grant*
CDs	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Audiobook (Junior/Youth)	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Audiobook (Adult)	130	\$5,985.26	\$46.04	0
DVD (Adult)	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
DVD (Junior)	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Games/Puzzles	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Junior Kit	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Playaways (Adult)	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Playaways (Junior)	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Playaways (Youth)	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Total Non-Book	130	\$5,985.26	\$46.04	0
Grand Total	2,851	\$67,992.60	\$23.85	0

## Total Items Purchased

\*Kiama purchase the majority of items for their DVD and CD collection

	No of Items purchased 22/23	No of Items purchased 23/24**	Average Cost per item 22/23*	Average Cost per item 23/24	Purchases per capita 23/24
Shoalhaven	13,107	14,234	\$25.14	\$25.34	0.13
Kiama	2,767	2,851	\$22.73	\$23.85	0.12
Total	15,874	17,085	\$24.72	\$25.09	0.13
NSW Av	20,825	-	\$25.13	-	-

\*Includes expenditure on periodicals and donations counted as acquisitions

\*\*Purchased as part of the Cooperative only

## Total Loans – All formats – 2023-2024

	Loans	Population*	Per Capita
Shoalhaven	428,301	109,895	3.90
Kiama	137,286	23,002	5.97
Total	565,587	132,897	4.26
NSW Av	399,017	90,596	4.40

\*Population figures used are taken from .id community. NSW Av taken from the Public Library Statistics by State Library of NSW

# Loans by Format

## Book Stock

	Adult Non Fiction	Youth Non Fiction	Junior Non Fiction	Adult Fiction	Youth Fiction	Junior Fiction	Picture Books	eBooks	Total
Shoalhaven	38,404	156	9,998	123,695	6,551	26,461	45,409	41,654	292,328
Kiama	10,736	79	2,756	45,093	1,671	10,976	16,254	12,814	100,379
Total	49,140	235	12,754	168,788	8,222	37,437	61,663	54,468	392,707
NSW Av	38,539	1,181	15,980	83,410	8,373	52,511	63,060	28,720	291,774

## Non-Book Stock

	Adult Audio Book	Youth Audio Book	Junior Audio Book	eAudio	Adult CD	Junior CD	Toys / Games	Total
Shoalhaven	10,213	79	928	62,190	4,596	415	349	78,770
Kiama	1,546	17	149	17,025	471	96	1,981	21,285
Total	11,759	96	1,077	79,215	5,067	511	2,330	100,055
NSW Av	4,524			30,372	2,786		1,525	39,176

	Adult DVD	Junior DVD	Adult Serial	Youth Serial	Junior Serial	eSerial	Other*	Total
Shoalhaven	26,701	6,020	12,772	0	631	10,147	932	57,203
Kiama	3,412	1,428	3,098	10	215	7,444	15	15,622
Total	30,113	7,448	15,870	10	846	17,591	947	72,825
NSW Av	31,711			32,976			946	65,633

\* Other includes devices, kits etc.



# Total Physical Stock\* – 2023–2024

	Lending	Non Lending	Total
Shoalhaven	106,518	6,178	112,696
Kiama	41,624	1,985	43,609
Total	145,498	10,807	156,305
NSW Av	122,704	19,863	142,568

\*Total stock does not include digital stock

## Book Stock

	Adult Non Fiction	Youth Non Fiction	Junior Non Fiction	Adult Fiction	Youth Fiction	Junior Fiction	Picture Books	Total
Shoalhaven	26,525	665	5,339	36,046	3,886	8,364	7,618	88,443
Kiama	9,811	255	1,899	16,050	1,918	4,010	3,440	37,383
Total	36,336	920	7,238	52,096	5,804	12,374	11,058	125,826
NSW Av	27,525	564	5,843	28,121	3,804	11,616	10,169	96,282

## Non-Book Stock

	Adult Audio Book	Youth Audio Book	Junior Audio Book	Adult CD	Junior CD	Toys / Games	Total
Shoalhaven	6,184	157	580	4,125	208	127	11,381
Kiama	1,047	41	186	870	82	353	2,579
Total	7,231	198	766	4,995	290	480	13,960
NSW Av	2,888			1,891		215	32,323

	Adult DVD	Junior DVD	Adult Serial	Youth Serial	Junior Serial	Other*	Total
Shoalhaven	6,770	1,314	3,021	3	215	1,549	12,872
Kiama	1,969	524	1,055	7	72	20	3,647
Total	8,739	1,838	4,076	10	287	1,569	16,519
NSW Av	10,895		169	2	6	1,033	32,323

\*Other includes devices, kits, images etc.



# Separate Collections\*

	Reference	Literacy	Large Print	Local Studies	Home Library Service	Graphic Novels	Images	Total
Shoalhaven	460	0	10,385	4,169	1,377	2,444	1,464	20,299
Kiama	599	156	4,381	1,386	33	850	0	7,405
Total	1,059	156	14,766	5,555	1,410	3,294	1,464	27,704
NSW Av	2,582	811	5,569	6,726	434	2,823	9,685	23,481

\*Separate collections already counted in Book and Non Book stock.

## Total Digital Stock – 2023–2024

	eBooks	eAudiobooks	eMagazines	Total
Shoalhaven	20,111	16,334	11,111	47,556
Kiama	21,750	17,903	16,549	56,202
Total	41,861	34,237	27,660	103,758
NSW Av	8,640	5,151	9,690	23,481

## Donations and Discards – 2023–2024

	Donations*	Purchases**	Discards	Discards as a % of Acquisitions*	Discards as % of Total Stock*
Shoalhaven	517	14,234	15,729	110.50	13.96
Kiama	592	2,851	6,087	213.50	13.96
Total	1,354	17,085	21,816	127.69	13.96
NSW Av	816	20,825	17,388	114.95	12.20

\*Includes serials and excludes Digital Stock

\*\*Cooperative purchases only

# Library Membership – Active Members – 2023–2024

Please note – Inactive members are deleted from the database if they have not borrowed over the past 3 years.

	Adult	Junior	Digital*	Institutions	Other	Non-Residents	Total	% of Pop**
Shoalhaven	29,474	3,583	3,029	153	50	1,100	37,389	33.02
Kiama	8,734	2,364	757	7	177	50	12,089	52.34
Total	38,208	5,947	3,786	160	227	1,150	49,478	36.37
NSW Av	28,661	2,815	–	104	387	5,595	22,331	34.78

\*Digital members include both adult and junior digital members

\*\*Figure excludes Non-Residents

## Summary of Comparative Statistics

	Library Materials per capita	Adult Fiction as a % of total book stock	Turnover of Stock
Shoalhaven	1.46	40.76	2.78
Kiama	4.34	42.93	1.40
NSW Av	2.37	34.92	2.67

## Document Delivery

	Interlibrary Loans requests sent to other libraries	Interlibrary Loan requests received from other libraries
Shoalhaven	202	170
Kiama	21	24
NSW Av	508	495

## Visits, Access, and Information Requests

	Library Visits	Internet Access	Information Requests
Shoalhaven	321,269	57,104	42,817
Kiama	90,547	31,527	16,484
NSW Av	253,887	52,250	30,604

# Members of Staff as at June 2024

## Shoalhaven Libraries

Name		Position
Sarah Taylor	<a href="#">BA(IntBus)(Hons)</a> <a href="#">MInfoStud</a>	Library Services Manager, Shoalhaven Libraries (Resigned 26/1/2024)
Denise De Strang		Library Administration
<b>Collections &amp; Resources Team</b>		
Carissa Close	<a href="#">BA, DipLibInfoServ</a>	Collections & Resources Manager (Acting)
Megan Crook	<a href="#">GradDipLocFamAppHist</a> <a href="#">MHist, MInfoStud</a>	Local Heritage Librarian
Bronwyn Gollan	<a href="#">DipLibTech(InfoServ)</a>	Librarian – Cataloguing (Acting)
Cher Murphy		Library Assistant – Acquisitions
Debra Nettle		Library Assistant – Branch Support
Ursula Rentz		Library Assistant (PPT)
<b>Customer &amp; Community Resources Team</b>		
Nicole Lonesborough	<a href="#">AssDipAppSc(Tech)</a>	Customer and Community Resources Manager Library Services Manager (Acting) 29/1/2024
Alison Reeve	<a href="#">BA(CreativeArts)</a> <a href="#">MTeach(PrimEd)</a>	Library Technician - Children & Youth (Resigned 21/11/2023)
Damien Bottle	<a href="#">DipLibTech(InfoServ)</a>	Library Technician – Systems
Gemma Luxford	<a href="#">BA(Hons), GradDipInfoStud</a>	Customer Service Assistant (Casual)
Jackie Robinson	<a href="#">DipLibTech(InfoServ)</a>	Library Technician - Children & Youth
Kerry Johnston	<a href="#">BHSc</a>	Library Assistant (Casual)
Michelle Chapman		Library Assistant (PPT)
Michelle Marshall	<a href="#">DipCommServ</a>	Customer Service Assistant (Casual)
Susan Jones	<a href="#">BEd</a>	Customer Service Assistant (Casual)

### Outreach & Digital Resources Team

Robin Sharpe	BAppSc(LibInfoMgt) AssDipArts(LibPrac)	Outreach & Digital Resources Manager
Aimee Scott	BA, GradCertJourn MCreativeWrtg	Library Assistant - Outreach Services
Charmaine Bodini	CertIIICommServ CertIIIAgedCare CertIIBusAdmin	Library Assistant – Outreach Services
Emily O’Driscoll	BPubHlth(HlthPromotion)	Library Assistant – Outreach Services (Note: Emily joined Shoalhaven Libraries on 16/12/2022. Regrettably her name was omitted from the 2022-23 Annual Report staff list)
Jennifer Lyttle	DipLibInfoStud	Library Assistant – Outreach Services (Resigned 26/1/2024) Customer Service Assistant (Casual)
Jim Hines		Mobile Library Officer
Kelly Woods	BA(EngLitCreativeWrtg) GradDiplInfoStud	Customer Service Assistant (Casual) (resigned 26/6/2024)
Lisa Beverstock	BA, DipLibInfoServ DipLibTech(InfoServ)	Information Access Librarian
Nicole Jackson	BEd, BTeach MEd(TeachLib)	Library Assistant – Outreach Services (fixed term from 26/4/2022 to 10/7/2023, full time from 11/7/2023) (Resigned 14/12/2023)
Shaneah Jones		Library Assistant (Aboriginal) - Outreach Services

## Bay & Basin (Sanctuary Point)

Name		Position
Anne Lee	BInfoStud	Sanctuary Point Library Manager
Daniel Paterson	BA(Phil) CertIVLibInfoCultServ	Library Assistant (PPT)
Jade Collinson	BA(EngLitHist)	Customer Service Assistant (Casual)
Melanie Harris	DipLibTech(InfoServ)	Library Assistant - Sanctuary Point (PPT)
Natasha Hammond	BSc(EnvStud)	Customer Service Assistant (Casual)
Ruby Walton	BCom	Customer Service Assistant (Casual)

## Ulladulla Library and Visitors Centre & Milton Library

Name		Position
Cathryn Burns	MEd(TeachLib)	Customer & Community Resources Manager
Alan Arnold	BA GradDipAppSc(LibInfoStud)	Customer Service Assistant (Casual)
Amy Robson		Customer Service Assistant (Casual)
Andrea Smith		Customer Service Assistant (Casual)
Kate Asmussen	BComm(Journ)	Customer Service Assistant
Kim Richards		Customer Service Assistant (PPT)
Lara Donohue	BA(VisArts), BSc(EnvSc)	Customer Service Assistant (PPT)
Lynne Fricke	BA(LibSc)	Customer Service Assistant (Casual)
Michelle Haigh	BGenStud/BTeach	Customer Service Assistant (Casual)
Michelle Richards	BAppSc(OccTherapy)	Customer Service Assistant (Casual)
Tracey Myers	BArchStud GradDipAppSc(LibInfoMgt)	Library Technician (PPT)

# Kiama Library Service

## Librarians – Full Time

Name		Position
Michelle Hudson	BAppSc(Lib)	Manager Library and Cultural Hubs
Erin Tierney	AssDegInfoStud	Local Studies Librarian
Catherine Taylor	GradCertInfoStud	IT Librarian (PPT)

## Library Officers

Name		Position
Carla James	CertIVLibInfoCultServ	Outreach Services Library Officer (PPT)
Jane Thompson	BA(EngLitHist)	Home Library (PPT) until April 2024
Lauren Watkins	DipLibTech(InfoServ)	Gerringong Branch Supervisor (PPT)
Lauran Mills	BSc(EnvStud)	Gerringong Library Officer (PPT)
Wolf Villalta	BA, GradDipLib	Library Officer (PPT)
Angela Braham	DipLibInfoServ	Library Officer (Casual)
Rebecca Cook	BSc, GradDipArts(Lib)	Library Officer (Casual)
Carmen Jacobs	BA, DipEd, MAppSc(Lib)	Library Officer (Casual)
Arthur McConnachie	BA, GradDipContEd, GradDipLib, MEd, DipEd	Library Officer (Casual)
Liz Thornton	BA, Grad Dip ED, M ED (Teacher Librarianship)	Library Officer (Casual)



Family History Centre

Name		Position
Carolyn Morrow	BA(Hist)	Family History Officer (Casual)



Address all correspondence to:

**The Chief Executive Officer**

PO Box 42, Nowra NSW 2541

[shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/contact](http://shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/contact)

1300 293 111

[shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au](http://shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au)   