

## THE BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

### BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2011 - 2012

#### YOUR LIBRARY @ BERRI BARMERA

Berri and Barmera libraries continue to provide a dynamic and wide reaching service to residents in our council area, people from other Riverland towns as well as numerous visitors. This wide customer base demonstrates our effectiveness with regard to service delivery and the quality of resources offered. The Berri Library also has a strong active student membership due to its joint-use structure and maintains strong partnerships with the education and training sectors. A number of key events throughout the past year have been well received, building on the valuable ties with community that each library has nurtured over many years. The ongoing development of our new website is extending our reach even further, using enhanced connectivity technologies that enable library users to interact with the library service and other users, in the online environment. Our library services are at the forefront of change and staff have embraced new methods of service delivery with enthusiasm and optimism. We continue to meet Council's strategic plan objectives by offering a suite of services that meets the needs of our diverse community. Events are described in more detail throughout the report and library staff continue to assist individuals with their information, leisure and learning needs on a daily basis.

Some of the highlights from the past year include:-

#### National Year of Reading 2012 Events

The Berri Library combined the Kristin Weidenbach author visit as part of our National Year of Reading 2012 programme and Australian Library & Information Week celebrations. The aim of Library & Information Week is to raise the profile of libraries and information service professionals.

During the week, library customers were treated to an 'All day every day morning tea' and there was also a free raffle for borrowers. On Tuesday evening we hosted a special author event and many Riverlanders made the trip to Berri to hear Kristin Weidenbach speak. Kristin is the author of two non-fiction books: ***Mailman of the Birdsville Track : the story of Tom Kruse*** and ***Rock Star : the story of Reg Sprigg-an outback legend***. She has also written ***Tom the outback mailman***, a picture book for children.



*Library Manager Peter Ison introducing author Kristin Weidenbach to the audience.*



*Peter Ison presents Gill Rickard with her lucky chair prize.*

On Thursday we invited many local identities from Berri and surrounding areas to be a 'Celebrity Librarian' for the day. Our guests worked with a staff member assisting at the front desk and responding to enquiries from our library customers.

We appreciated the involvement of the following people:

- Trevor Chapple, Councillor
- Karyn Burton, Relieving CEO
- Tim Whetstone, MP
- Peter Hunt, Mayor
- Sally Langdon, TAFE Lecturer
- Trevor Scott, Radio 5RM
- Hayley Ramsay & Chris Mueller, Magic FM
- Olivia Sully & Nathan Scadden, GHS Head
- Prefects
- Matthew (Doc) Clifford, Riverland Sportsman



*Celebrity Librarians Tim Whetstone, Sally Langdon and Peter Hunt.*

The week's celebrations ended successfully with the drawing of our free raffles. First prize went to Kimberley Yates, the second prize was won by Peter Pipinis and the children's prize was won by Shania Bee.

It was also an exciting time at the Barmera Library, with author Kristin Weidenbach conducting a special one hour workshop with year 7 classes from Barmera Primary School and St. Joseph's School. Book marks, banners, T-shirts and free copies of Good Reading magazines have been given to customers at the Barmera Library as part of a promotional strategy for the National Year of Reading.



*Grade 7 students and their teacher from St. Joseph's Barmera School with author Kristin Weidenbach.*

Library staff began preparing for the Riverland Libraries' Monster Book Sale, also a National Year of Reading event, which is planned for Sunday 1st July and will include books for sale from Renmark and Paringa, Berri and Barmera public libraries.

### **Barmera Library's 50th Birthday 31st October 2011**

A major highlight for Barmera Library in 2011 was their 50th birthday. The week included a Special Baby Rhyme Time session, children's party, a small animal farm and pet parade and visits from Barmera Kindergarten, St Joseph's and Barmera Primary School. Other activities and events during the week-long celebrations included scrapbooking and cake decorating sessions for children and adults, a cupcake decorating workshop for school children, and a free afternoon tea and viewing of Barmera Men's Shed promotional DVD. Member for Chaffey Tim Whetstone, Mayor Peter Hunt and Berri Barmera CEO and Councillors joined present and past Library staff and invited guests at the final party on Friday 4th November. A special birthday cake was made, decorated and donated by Joy Engleson. Di Tillett (Barmera Librarian for 40 years) and Berri Barmera Library Manager Peter Ison spoke about Barmera Library's history in a fitting conclusion to our birthday celebrations.



*Cynthia Harvey, Rita Amyan, Peg Germein, Merridy Rady, Heather Webb, Peter Ison, Sue Webber, Sue Fisher and Jodie Bannear at the Barmera Library's 50th birthday party celebrations.*

### **Libraries Australia Grant**

Barmera Library was one of only six South Australian libraries to receive a grant of \$500 from Libraries Australia for the National Year of Reading. This money has been used to purchase puppets with a fairy tale theme to be used in children's story times, Baby Rhyme Times and for staging puppet shows with the help of volunteers.

### **Berri Centenary Project**

During 2011 Library staff continued to be involved with the Berri Centenary project. Staff assisted Marg Colby, Kay Kubenk and Marg Jennings with the production of the second edition of the Berri Centenary Community News. This edition was completed in time for the successful Back to Berri Centenary Dinner in October.

Jacque Zagotsis, Merridy Rady and Peter Ison together with the Community Development Officer Andrew Haigh, coordinated and set up the Berri Centenary History Exhibition in the Berri town hall from Sunday 2nd to Sunday 9th October. The exhibition was very successful with more than 900 visitors during the week and it finished with a morning tea on the 9<sup>th</sup> October that provided the opportunity for visitors to the previous night's Centenary dinner to view the exhibition and say their goodbyes. A special thank you to Jacque Zagotsis for liaising with members of our local community to loan items of memorabilia for the display. A great Berri Centenary event!

The special edition of the book "Berri: Life in a River Town" was recognised as the bronze award winner of the 2011 Limited Edition or Art Reproduction prize from the Printing Industry

Craftsmanship Association of SA & NT. A framed copy of the award can be seen on display at the Berri Library.

In early 2012 Jacque Zagotsis, Peter Ison and Merridy Rady met with Ben Petch from North Studios to plan and begin the production of the Berri Centenary DVD, called "Berri : memories of the first 100 years". In March 2012 the DVD was made available for sale at a cost of \$15 at Berri Barmera Council Libraries and Offices. The 54 minute DVD includes:

- Over 160 historic photographs
- Rare film footage, black & white and colour
- Snippets of interviews with long time and past residents

### **Statewide Library Management System (LMS)**

This is a Statewide project, which will allow all library users in South Australia to access more than 4 million items from any of the State's 135 public libraries using a single borrower card. One library management system has been selected for all public libraries. As part of the Statewide tender process, Peter Ison took part in a trip to Sydney and New Zealand to further evaluate the library systems that were under consideration. Final contractual negotiations have been completed with SirsiDynix, the company who will supply the new library management system. Not only will there be benefits to users regarding access to a huge range of items across the state, networking between libraries will be simplified and there will be cost savings in regard to the implementation of the new system. It will be business as usual in the immediate future at Berri Barmera Council libraries, however we hope to implement the new system sometime in 2013. The roll out of the new system has already begun in Adelaide with a number of metropolitan libraries experiencing the change to the new system.

### **Joint Use Library Conference**

Both Peter Ison and Merridy Rady attended the Second International Conference on Joint Use Libraries in Adelaide in November. Peter Ison presented a paper on the Berri Library & Information Centre entitled, "Twelve years on: the evolution of the Berri public/school/technical and further education library in country South Australia". The conference was very interesting and both participants learnt a lot about the operations and partnerships of other joint libraries in Australia and the world.

### **Library visits**

Berri Library & Information Centre continues to attract attention from other libraries due to its successful three partner joint use library service. A delegation from Port Pirie High School as well as MacKay Regional Council visited the library and spoke with staff about opportunities for developing shared library service facilities in their regions.

The Libraries Board of South Australia visited Berri Library on Thursday 26th April and were impressed with the overall facility and the support provided to our libraries by council. Both Councillor Mike Fuller and Rhonda Centofanti attended and met with members of the board. The Board also visited Barmera Library on Friday morning and were amazed at the warm and welcoming atmosphere of the library along with the breadth of services provided from such a small physical space.

### **Children's and Teenage Area Upgrade at Berri Library**

A new shelving layout has been designed to improve the look and feel of our children's area. Current shelving units have been re-used and some new ones purchased to enable us to present the children's resources in a more appealing way that makes it easier for children to

select their own materials. We have been able to decommission a number of stand-alone spinners that cluttered the area and were potential hazards.

Along with this, a re-organisation of the reference collection, adolescent paperback collection and study area has also taken place. This has made it more inviting and user-friendly for customers and is the first update we have done to this area since we opened in 1999.

### **Youth Projects**

Both libraries continue to be well used by community groups. As part of Children's Book Week in August 2011, Riverland Youth Theatre conducted "Superheroes in the Library" animation session for children at Berri and Barmera.

YACU made use of the library for their multimedia centenary project on two occasions in September.

### **ABC Summer Schools**

Susan Rooney-Harding from ABC Open ran two ABC Summer schools in the Berri Library in February. One session covered Social media and the second one was about using your smartphone for storytelling. Both were well attended with 20-25 participants each session.

### **Summer Reading**

At the Barmera Library a total of 112 children were given reading packs to encourage their summer reading during the long holiday break. Barmera and Berri libraries united to give children the opportunity to win prizes for reading, with one lucky 13 year old boy from Berri receiving the first prize of an eBook reader.



*Milly and Erin enjoyed the Summer holiday activities as part of the summer Reading program at Barmera.*

### **Children's Book Week**

Over 169 children from Barmera Primary School, Loveday Primary School, St. Josephs Primary School and Barmera Kindergarten visited for activities and storytelling at the Barmera Library in August 2011.

### **Country Music Week**

Poet Heather Giles and her husband Ron entertained pre-school children at Barmera Library with bush poetry and rhymes during Country Music Week.



*Sue Webber, Virginia Mahoney, Jodie Bannear and Peg Germein all got into the spirit of Country Music Week 2012.*

### **Volunteers**

Volunteers provide valuable assistance at both libraries. Some of the ways that volunteers help at the Barmera Library include Baby Rhyme Time, Computer Lessons for Beginners, Barmera library Readers Group meetings and representing Barmera Library on ABC Radio's "A novel idea". At Berri Library volunteers help with family history research and with the scanning and tagging of historic photographs. Inter-town book deliveries between the libraries, book covering, processing, shelving, cleaning, dusting, debiting and more are also undertaken by Council volunteers.

### **Glossop High School-Senior Campus News**

Berri Library staff continue to enjoy a close professional relationship with the teachers and students of Glossop High School Senior Campus. At the commencement of the school year, Year 11 students were taken through an orientation program which covered use of the physical resources in the library as well as the online resources available.

As part of the orientation program, students were introduced to the Young Adult Kindle eReaders. These have since been borrowed for student's leisure reading and English teachers have requested that we make some class texts available on them as well. It is pleasing to see that this type of technology is being used to support student learning.

Throughout the year the focus has been on stocking resources suitable for students' subject and research needs. One to one assistance is given to students in relation to their topics for the Research Project, a new subject introduced recently at senior school level. Displays in the school foyer and student area have helped to make these areas attractive learning environments.

### **TAFE SA Activities**

Our partnership with TAFE SA in the joint-use operation of the Berri Library & Information Centre is a continued success with strong ties being maintained between the library and Berri, Renmark and Waikerie Campuses. Staff from the library offer daily support to lecturers and students as they grapple with changes to the training sector and the online learning environment. The TAFE librarian provides information literacy training to students on a one to one basis and to classes across all program areas in the Riverland. This involves Internet

searching, online databases, e-books, video-streaming and online learning classrooms. Assistance is also given to a growing number of external students who are based in the Riverland and who use our services regularly.

### **STATISTICS FROM YOUR LIBRARY SERVICE**

<b>BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL LIBRARY STATISTICS 2011/2012</b>					
<b>LOANS</b>	<b>BERRI</b>		<b>BARMERA</b>		<b>2011-2012 TOTALS</b>
	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	
Adult Fiction	9,838	13,645	6,593	11,618	25,263
Adult Non-Fiction	5,092	5,324	2,566	2,491	7,815
Large Print	5,573	5,350	5,249	5,235	10,585
<b>Sub Total Adult</b>	<b>20,503</b>	<b>24,319</b>	<b>14,408</b>	<b>19,344</b>	<b>43,663</b>
Children	7,652	6,348	5,567	6,013	12,361
Children Non-Fiction	1,713	1,435	892	806	2,241
Children Adolescent	1,935	1,696	715	518	2,214
<b>Sub Total Children</b>	<b>11,300</b>	<b>9,479</b>	<b>7,174</b>	<b>7,337</b>	<b>16,816</b>
Magazines	2,726	2,472	3,454	3,502	5,974
CDs	3,386	3,177	1,940	1,715	4,892
CD-ROMs	1,650	1,395	556	477	1,872
Videos	330	46	558	202	248
DVDs	13,891	13,462	11,906	12,881	26,343
Hear-A- Books	694	763	692	643	1,406
LOTE	155	91	19	81	172
School Resources	3,637	8,831*	41	35	8,866
TAFE Resources	3,111	3,057	60	40	3,097
ILLs & Other	922	392	1,263	1,121	1,513
AV Equipment	10,909*	4,005	N/A	N/A	4,005
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>79,023</b>	<b>71,489</b>	<b>47,757</b>	<b>47,378</b>	<b>118,867</b>
<b>USAGE</b>	<b>BERRI</b>		<b>BARMERA</b>		<b>2011-2012 TOTALS</b>
	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	
Door Count	118,364	114,893	45,178	42,744	157,637
Internet Bookings	8,611	6,928	5,289	3,902	10,830
Holiday Activities	186	146	325	266	412
Weekly children's Activities*	444	299	1,239**	1,504	1,803
SA Network Inter Library Loans	6,479	7,605	4,476	4,737	12,342
Visits per capita (Berri 7,025, Barmera 4,188)	16.8	16.4	10.8	10.2	14.1
Loans per capita	11.2	10.2	11.4	11.3	10.6
Open hours per annum	2,750	2,750	1,950	1,950	4,700
Web Catalogue Searches	10,513	8,748	combined statistics		8,748

\*Includes school laptop loans

\*\* includes Barmera Baby Rhyme Time