

## THE BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

### BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2012 - 2013

#### YOUR LIBRARY @ BERRI BARMERA

Berri and Barmera libraries have had another busy and successful year with many events being held that have encouraged community involvement and participation. Some are highlighted in the following report and others such as book groups and children's activities occur on a regular weekly and monthly basis. Staff at both sites have worked intensively on the 1LMS project and some other new initiatives such as the 'Get Savvy' sessions are creating interest and have been well supported. SA Public Libraries have introduced an e-books platform and many people are enjoying this new online service.

Our library website has been re-worked and continues to provide information and links to our Facebook page and to the many other online resources now available.

Staff have attended training and development opportunities throughout the year to enhance their skills and improve the way our services are offered. Feedback from customers has been positive and encouraging. We look forward to the transition of our library management system to the new 'Symphony' 1LMS in October and being able to share the many features and benefits it will offer our customers in the coming year.

#### **OUR ECONOMY – OBJECTIVE 9:**

*We will provide high quality facilities, services and attractions because it will entice tourists to our region and provide employment locally.*

#### **State-wide Library Management System (1LMS)**

This is a state-wide project that involves all public libraries moving to the same Library Management System to better facilitate the sharing of library resources for customers across South Australia. Although this project began for some metropolitan libraries in early 2012, it wasn't until May 2013 that we held our first official 1LMS meeting with the Adelaide based Public Library Services project team to begin planning for the transition to the new system at Berri Barmera. Our local project team consisting of Peter Ison, Merridy Rady, Peg Germein, Maureen Spiers and two GHS staff have been meeting since late 2012 to manage the process of transferring all library resources at each location across to the new statewide One Card LMS known as Symphony. This is a considerable undertaking which requires many tasks to be completed within a strict timeline that fits with the Public Library's project roll out around South Australia. Regular tele-conference meetings have been scheduled so both teams can guide the project plan and meet required deadlines. At this point we are on track with all staff taking an active part in preparing our library stock for transition in October 2013.

#### **OUR COMMUNITY/SOCIAL – OBJECTIVE 6:**

*We will promote and support Special Events and multi-cultural festivals that bring the community together.*

### **Monster Book Sale**

As part of the National Year of Reading, Library staff from Renmark and Paringa, Berri and Barmera public libraries volunteered their time to run the Riverland's first monster book sale since 2007. The sale took place at the Berri Town Hall on Sunday 1st July 2012 from 10am to 3pm. The sale was advertised in the Riverland Weekly, Murray Pioneer and on local TV and radio and was a roaring success with hundreds of people attending from all over the Riverland. Excess books were donated to the Rotary Club of Berri for transport to the needy in East Timor and to the Salvation Army for distribution and sale around SA. Over \$4,400 was raised at the book sale and split equally between the three libraries taking part. This money will be used to further develop our collections.



*Book lovers search for a bargain at the 2012 Monster Book Sale*

### **Library & Information Week**

Our annual Library and Information Week event was again a great success at both Berri and Barmera libraries. This year's theme of 'Share Your Story' provided an opportunity for us to try something new. Berri Library held a "Getting started with family history" session on Monday May 20th, 'Introduction to Overdrive: free eBooks for your smart device' and a Self-Published authors session was well attended on Tuesday 21st May. On Wednesday both libraries took part in the National Simultaneous Story Time and ran children's activities with visiting schools. On Thursday at Berri Library a creative writing session was run as part of the ABC Open program, an iPad story time was held and extra Overdrive sessions were once again well attended at both libraries. To close the week's celebrations, Berri Library had a local musician to entertain while a morning tea was offered to the community and a raffle prize of an e-reader was drawn by our Mayor, Peter Hunt.



*Self-published authors Pam and Ada at Berri Library*



*ABC Radio's Bruce Mellett reading to a school group*

Barmera Library and Council customers were invited to pick up our “Share a Story” Forms and write a short story about some aspect of their lives to be included in a local history book for library use. Seven selected guest story tellers from all walks of life and ranging in age from 14 to 70 plus, were invited to tell their stories – each individual talking for around 5 minutes in our session “Sharing stories - 5 minutes of fame.” Topics included miniature dolls houses and furniture-making, the art of tattooing, wood art pictures, working with youth, the history of baking in Barmera, how to get a book published at the age of 14, and the touching story of one man’s childhood experiences. The 36 stories from our 'Share Your Story' activity were bound into a book.



*Six of the stars of “Share your stories – 5 minutes of fame”  
Michelle, Joy, David and Ada (sitting) with Gil and Gus.*

### **Adult Learners**

Bringing together new faces, new ideas, new knowledge, and new cultures from our community into the library environment is something we have passionately pursued during the past year. Barmera Library celebrated Adult Learners Week in September with special volunteer instructors invited to the library to encourage the principle of life-long learning. The benefits of Tai Chi were demonstrated by Abbie Evans and her class while Helen Burgemeister, an award-winning mosaics artist from Renmark presented a practical demonstration of her art showing adult learners how to get started in mosaics. Volunteer teachers continued our “Computer lessons for beginners” classes, giving weekly one on one lessons to adults who would like to expand their knowledge of computers and IT skills. The Berri Library celebrated Adult Learners Week with a Family History Workshop.

The TeachMe online resource was purchased for volunteers to use with customers at our free weekly computer lessons. Library staff have continued to support and encourage digital literacy amongst all our customers, and staying up-to date with new IT and technologies is another way we help a wide cross section of the community.



*Computer lessons for beginners at Barmera with Colleen and volunteer teacher Terri.*

### **Bush Poets at Barmera Library**

The 'Bush Poets' afternoon at Barmera Library, held again for the sixth year running in June 2013, consisted of a variety of local and visiting poets and artists entertaining a large crowd of sixty visitors and locals. Compeered by Irish born poet Jill Wherry, the afternoon featured music by Ukulele player Joyce Pamintuan, Mary Kew and Grace Gregory. The legendary Bob Maygor was a special guest poet joining the impressive line-up of local and visiting poets.

### **OUR COMMUNITY/SOCIAL – OBJECTIVE 8:**

*We will be – Young Family Friendly with areas and events that support community involvement to make it easier for families to move and stay in the region. The Council understands that within modern society there are multiple demands on young families with dual employment, single parents and shared custody parenting greater than previous generations. Council will target its facilities and recreation options to parents that have less available time due to their changed circumstances.*

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

The Children's Book Week theme "Champions Read" was fitting in this Olympic Games year. Barmera Library was very busy with children from St Joseph's, Barmera, Kingston and Loveday visiting for stories and activities based on the prize winning children's books. A total of 104 children and 20 adults attended these sessions during book week.

Peg Germein went to Barmera Primary School during Book Week and joined with other guest readers from the community reading books to small groups. The children had come to school dressed in their pyjamas and ready to listen to some favourite "bedtime stories".

### **Community Involvement**

Staff from Berri and Barmera libraries attended the Riverland Field Days to read stories and show children how to do some great crafty activities and using the occasion to promote library and council services to the community.

Barmera Town Beautification Committee meetings were held at the library bi monthly at the library.

Our libraries act as a meeting place for our local Reading or Book Groups to get together and discuss what's great about books, reading and life! The Berri Library holds two Book Group meetings a month and the Barmera Library Reading Group meet monthly, under the experienced guidance of retired librarian Di Tillett.

Barmera Library staff helped distribute and promote surveys being undertaken by Flinders University students on topics including breast cancer, local history, and the Bonney Theatre.

Both libraries produce a regular newsletter containing new book lists, photos of library events and promotions that is given away to library customers and emailed to community members and added to libraries website.

Barmera Library again entered into the spirit of the Christmas Pageant in December – having a merry time in Sherwood Forest with Robin Hood and his Merry Men float.



*Robin Hood and his very merry men, women and children at the Christmas pageant December 2012*

### **Get Reading Promotion**

Our annual “Get Reading” promotion took place in September when both libraries made free copies of the “50 books you can’t put down” guide available with bookmarks and balloons given away. This is a very successful program promoted nationally that draws new and current library members in to our space. Both libraries hold copies of the selected 50 titles and all have been on regular loan throughout the campaign.

### **Volunteers**

Berri and Barmera libraries have been very fortunate to have a dedicated crew of volunteers lending their expertise to various ventures throughout the year. These include roles ranging from co-ordinating Baby Rhyme time, book covering, re-shelving and book repairs to basic computing instruction, genealogy and special projects such as preparing for the new 1LMS. We thank them all and applaud their amazing contributions to our libraries, Council and the community.

### **'Get Savvy' Community Sessions**

The Berri Library have trialled free information nights for our community this year. During March and April various sessions with an IT focus were held and presented by library staff and others from government agencies. 87 people attended the 'Get Savvy with IT' program resulting in many new faces visiting the library and seeing what is on offer to them. Sessions run by ABC Open presenter Daniel Schmidt were so successful that Daniel conducted an additional 2 sessions! The program included An Introduction to Smartphones, Tablets and eReaders, Using eBay for the first time, Online safety & security focussing on scams, identity fraud/theft & safe internet practices, Learn to make a Video Postcard, Pt 1, Basic Facebook: what first time users need to know and Learn to make a Video Postcard, Pt. 2. We would like to thank the following presenters: Daniel Schmidt (ABC Open), Tony Vowles (SA Police) Peter Ison and Hanah Garoufalis (BLIC).



*Introduction to Smartphones, Tablets and eReaders*



*Participants at our Using eBay for the First Time session*

Another program of 'Get Savvy' sessions ran in June. Topics included Introduction to Android and iPad tablets, Facebook, Riverland Community Legal Services and Twitter. Once again the sessions were very popular and had good numbers in attendance. Our thanks to presenters Steven Smith (Riv Community Legal Services), Alysha Hermann (Country Arts SA), Peter Ison and Hanah Garoufalis (BLIC).

### **Partnerships with Kindergarten and Local Schools**

Barmera Library staff continued their long association with the Barmera Kindergarten, with one staff member going to the Kindergarten weekly to read stories. Groups of around ten children from the Kindergarten and two teachers visited the library on most Thursday during the term, sharing in activities and reading specially selected picture books.

Partnerships with local schools continued with visits from St Josephs, Loveday and Barmera Primary School during the last financial year. Schools were notified about children's activities and events and invited to attend. Barmera Library staff attended School and Library Hub Group meetings wherever possible to further strengthen ties with the schools. Barmera Library has a collection of Premiers reading challenge books marked with the reading levels stickers and are these have been useful for parents and children and complement the school's library collections.

National Simultaneous Story Time was celebrated with the book 'The wrong book' being read to children from St Joseph's at the library and the Kindergarten. An iPad version of the story was also shown this year to re-enforce the story in children's minds.

Several Glossop High School students volunteered their time after school this year, helping out at the library as part of their Citizenship Services Challenge.

**OUR COMMUNITY/SOCIAL – OBJECTIVE 7:**

*We will engage the youth at their level to understand their views to build opportunities for retention and increased community involvement.*

**National Year of Reading Photo Competition**

A “Read it, Snap it” photo competition was held at Barmera and Berri libraries to help celebrate the National Year of Reading with winners judged at Berri by Alysha Herrmann from Country Arts SA. The winner of a Kindle eBook reader in the adult competition was Ellen Ryan-Colton for her “Explore Your Own Backyard” photo and winner of a Sony EBook reader for the children’s section was Benjamin Menadue for his “Scary Hair Blue” photo. Congratulations to all our winners at Berri and Barmera and this competition was a great way to end the planned activities to celebrate National year of Reading in 2012.



*Some of the entries in the “Read it, Snap It” photo competition*

**Glossop High School-Senior Campus Activities**

The focus in the past year has been on several main areas. With advice from the Modern History teacher we have endeavoured to develop this aspect of the non-fiction collection so that up to date and relevant information is available to students on a broader range of topics for their major assignment.

School library staff Maureen Spiers and Sue Fisher, as well as volunteers, worked solidly to prepare for the transition to the 1LMS planned for 17th October, 2013. The re-barcoding of up to 10 000 school items to C barcodes has been a large task which was made more manageable with the assistance of two former librarians: Claire White and Helen Richter. At the commencement of the school year, Year 11 students were introduced to the physical as well as the online resources available to them via the Berri Library and Information Centre. The newly developed website at [www.berribarmeralibrary.org.au](http://www.berribarmeralibrary.org.au) was a feature of the presentation. Year 12 English and Modern History classes were given instruction on the use of the SLASA Online Referencing Generator to assist with the preparation of bibliographies for their assignments. One-on-one assistance was given to students requiring specific information for their Research Project topics.

The addition of large and colourful signage has enabled us to define areas more clearly and has brightened up the teenage area of the library quite considerably.

We were pleased to get a “good report” from the DECD Chief Executive, Keith Bartley who visited the Senior Campus and in particular the library, along with his wife Geraldine. Positive feedback from Mr. Bartley focused on the successful collaboration between Glossop High School, TafeSA and the community which has enabled the continued provision of a unique joint use library facility: the Berri Library and Information Centre.



*New teenage reading signage at Berri Library*



*New teenage reading signage at Berri Library*

### **TAFE SA Activities**

Hanah Garoufalís and Merridy Rady have taken an active part in all aspects of our joint-use library service including daily operations and general library events such as book groups, the Get Savvy program, website design and construction, the 1LMS project and regular promotional campaigns. Both staff members have spent many hours assisting people to enrol in TafeSA courses via SATAC and guiding them through the complexities of the Tafe enrolment process. Peak times have been at the beginning of semesters when students are referred here by the campus staff and lecturers. Once classes were established, orientation sessions were planned and delivered to numerous program areas where students were introduced to new ways of finding information, online research techniques and general study skills. We also offer this service to individual students in the library on a day to day basis. We have attended regular meetings with our TafeSA library partners and taken part in specific training and staff development sessions so that we can comply with the service level requirements of our parent organisation and offer consistent processes to our students. Staff have visited the Renmark Campus to maintain the collections there and to offer assistance to lecturers and program staff when required. TafeSA has begun a major restructure to transition three institutes to a ‘Stronger as One’ entity. This will see many changes to the sector and a possible impact on Tafe staff roles at the library.

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

<b>BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL LIBRARY STATISTICS 2012/2013</b>					
<b>LOANS</b>	<b>BERRI</b>		<b>BARMERA</b>		<b>2012-2013 TOTALS</b>
	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>	
Adult Fiction	13,645	12,620	11,618	12,064	24,684
Adult Non-Fiction	5,324	5,219	2,491	2,636	7,855
Large Print	5,350	3,977	5,235	4,539	8,516
<b>Sub Total Adult</b>	<b>24,319</b>	<b>21,816</b>	<b>19,344</b>	<b>19,239</b>	<b>41,055</b>
Children	6,348	6,767	6,013	5,167	11,934
Children Non-Fiction	1,435	483	806	913	1,396
Children Adolescent	1,696	2,270	518	535	2,805



<b>Sub Total Children</b>	<b>9,479</b>	<b>9,520</b>	<b>7,337</b>	<b>6,615</b>	<b>16,135</b>
Magazines	2,472	2,625	3,502	3,463	6,088
CDs	3,177	2,377	1,715	1,841	4,218
CD-ROMs	1,395	749	477	451	1,200
Videos	46	0	202	84	84
DVDs	13,462	12,493	12,881	11,501	23,994
Hear-A- Books	763	650	643	649	1,299
LOTE	91	87	81	70	157
School Resources	8,831*	12,840*	35	20	12,860
TAFE Resources	3,057	3,596	40	35	3,631
ILLs & Other	392	195	1,121	647	842
AV Equipment	4,005	606	N/A	N/A	606
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>71,489</b>	<b>67,554</b>	<b>47,378</b>	<b>44,615</b>	<b>112,169</b>
<b>USAGE</b>	<b>BERRI</b>		<b>BARMERA</b>		
	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2012-2013 TOTALS</b>
Door Count	114,893	131,534	42,744	41,837	173,371
Internet Bookings	6,928	6,464	3,902	5,460	11,924
Holiday Activities	146	206	266	304	510
Weekly children's Activities*	299	443	1,504	1,632	2,075
SA Network Inter Library Loans (totals combined)	7,605	5,367	4,737	3,482	8,849
Visits per capita (Berri 7,025, Barmera 4,188)	16.4	18.7	10.2	10.0	15.5
Loans per capita	10.2	9.6	11.3	10.7	10
Open hours per annum	2,750	2,750	1,950	1,950	4,700
Web Catalogue Searches	8,748	8,322	combined statistics		8,322

\*Includes school laptop loans

\*\* includes Barmera Baby Rhyme Time