

THE BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

BERRI BARMERA LIBRARY SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

YOUR LIBRARY @ BERRI BARMERA

This year has proved to be an exciting and eventful one for the Berri Barmera Library Service. Our careful preparations for the transition to the ONE Card Network proved to be effective and the “go live” day and the celebration launches at each library were both enjoyable and successful. Our work in relation to the new Library Management System has continued as we have learnt even more about its capabilities and we have made minor adjustments to streamline processes and meet the needs of our library customers.

We have continued to maintain partnerships with people and organizations in the community to present our popular information sessions at both libraries. We have been pleased to be involved in some feature events that have brought the community into our libraries; numerous authors have used our libraries and facilities for their book launches. Regular events such as “A Novel Idea” on ABC radio, Book Discussion Groups, Children’s Activities and Library and Information Week have also engaged library customers.

The Berri Joint Use Library Agreement expires at the end of this year. We realize the many benefits that working under this joint-use model brings to people in our community and look forward to continuing our partnerships with the Glossop High School Senior Campus and TAFESA, however at this stage it is unclear if this agreement will continue in its present form. We will continue to nurture partnerships formed with external individuals and organizations as well as look for opportunities to foster new connections as these relationships result in enormous benefits to our diverse range of customers.

OUR COMMUNITY/SOCIAL-Objective 6:

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

One Card Launch

Thursday October 17th 2013 was a memorable day – the day One Card finally started for the Berri Barmera Library Service! To celebrate a special morning tea was held at Berri Library & Information Centre which was well attended by our diverse range of customers whilst an afternoon tea party was held at Barmera, this event was attended by around 30 library and community members. At each location a special cake featuring the One Card logo was officially cut by Mayor Peter Hunt, Councillor Trevor Chapple was also in attendance at Berri. Peter Ison, Library Manager, described the background of how the One Card System came to South Australian libraries, and spoke of the increased opportunities afforded by our entry into the One Card Network.



Library Manager Peter Ison, Team Leader Peg Germein, Mayor Peter Hunt and former Barmera Librarian Di Tillet cutting the ONE Card cake



Mayor Peter Hunt and Councillor Trevor Chapple with Berri Library & Information Centre staff at the morning tea to celebrate the ONE Card launch



Sarah, Junior, Ryan, Malena and Bel Clark are excited about getting their new ONE Card

Newsletters

To achieve our aims of keeping the community informed our library newsletters the Berri BLIC Blurb and the Barmera Bookworm have been published quarterly and given away to library customers. These newsletters contained information on the New One Card system, current library events, new book lists, and photos of library users and promotions.

Country Music Festival

Barmera Library joined in the spirit of the Country Music Festival with a Bush Poetry afternoon on 3rd June. Award-winning poet Bob Magor donated his time to be our special guest, while well know author and poet Jill Wherry volunteered as compere for the afternoon. Around 12 'walk-up' artists took to the 'stage' to recite their favourite bush poetry. The crowd of 70 people enjoyed a variety of traditional, modern, humorous and original poetry. Ukulele artist Joyce Pamintuan entertained the large crowd with a bracket of songs and everyone joined in the singing of Waltzing Matilda before gathering together for afternoon tea.



Bush poets and authors Bob Magor and Jill Wherry with their books at Barmera Library's Bush Poetry Afternoon

Australia's Favourite Library

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) announced a promotion in March to find Australia's favourite library. A total of 200 libraries throughout Australia were nominated with Barmera Library proud to be among the seven SA libraries nominated in the running for Australia's favourite library. While we were not

successful in winning the title, Barmera Library staff received many votes and positive comments from library users who appreciate the service that our library provides.

The One Card System has brought in new library visitors from all over the state and from all parts of the world who enjoy taking advantage of the ability to borrow and return from over 130 different South Australian Public Libraries. These visitors love the atmosphere in our library and bring new ideas, new culture and customs to our town.



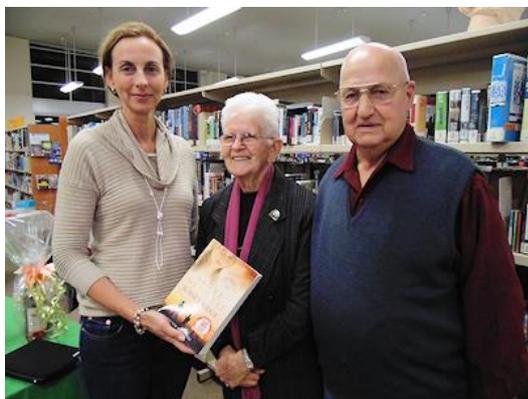
Japanese visitors Patricia Matayoshi, Mr and Mrs Matayoshi are shown with Peg Germein and Jodie Bannea, staff at Barmera Library

OUR COMMUNITY/SOCIAL-Objective 5:

We will reward groups that have a strong self-help culture to work in partnership to maximise the benefit from limited funds.

Author Events

First time children's author, Ange Baldwin launched her two recently published children's books, "A VIP in Billabong Creek" and "Sheila's Big Adventure" in the children's area of the Berri Library, on Saturday 24th August 2013. Nicole Alexander, author of *Absolution Creek*, *A Changing Land* and *The Bark Cutters* came to the Berri Library on the evening of 18th September 2013 to talk about her latest book *Sunset Ridge*. The evening was very successful with Nicole talking to the audience of about 50 about her writing process, her life on the land and her experiences in writing *Sunset Ridge*. Local author Pam Griffin held her book launch for *Widow Makers* on Wednesday 26th February 2014.



Author Nicole Alexander with Berri "regulars" Joan and Max Jaffer



Merridy Rady, June Plush, Elizabeth Lewis, Pam Griffin and Ros Pearce at the *Widow Makers* book launch

Australian Library & Information Week

Library and Information Week was celebrated from 19th to 25th May and the theme this year was 'Join the dots.' A programme of informative, stimulating and fun sessions was organised for this week to highlight and promote the use of the library in our community. The diverse range of sessions at the Berri Library & Information Centre included: *Online catalogue and ebooks, Simultaneous Story-time and Children's Activity, Family and Oral History Workshop, iPad Storytime and Activity, Riverland Creative Writer's Group Activity, Photography 101* and finally *Hooked on Snapfish!*

Activities at Barmera Library during this week included an all week Big Book Sale of donated and debited books, an inspirational talk by Di Tillett on the mystery of books, a 'Biggest Morning Tea' to help raise funds for Cancer research and an iPad Support Group meeting and morning tea.



Children and staff from Riverland Christian School with Mayor Peter Hunt reading the book "Too Many Elephants in this House" as part of the LIW Simultaneous Story-time

Successful Information Sessions

Our new *Get Savvy* free information workshop sessions have been super popular and in this financial year we introduced 5 different *Get Savvy* monthly programmes to the Community. In general our programmes run bimonthly and consist of four or five weekly 2-3 hour sessions run during the month. We utilise a variety of experts from our own staff and the community to introduce a diverse range of interesting topics including: *Introduction to Stress Management, Cake Decorating: Novelty Cake Decorations, The Legal Perils of Social Media, Introduction to Mosaics, Introduction to Smartphones: Androids Explained, Using Ebay for the First Time, Email 101, Windows 8, How to Be Bushfire Ready, Internet Scams* and an *Introduction to Beading and Jewellery Making*.

Daniel Schmidt from ABC Open has also presented his *Photography 101* session on a regular basis as this has proved to be an extremely popular workshop. We appreciate the contribution made by our external presenters who have helped in making our *Get Savvy* sessions so successful with our community.



Matt Humphries, Raoul & Dave Otto De Grancy from Monash CFS with presenter Sue Mickan



Peter Ison, Library Manager presenting a Get Savvy session at the Berri Library & Information Centre

Barmera Library continued to encourage all ages in our community to learn and grow their digital literacy skills. A mini iPad has been used to enhance story time sessions for children and as a teaching aid for adults. A special information session 'Introduction to tablets and iPads' was conducted by Peter Ison at Barmera Library during April. Peter spoke about choice of tablets, their various functions and features and answered questions from audience members.

Free Telstra "Everyone Connected" DVDs were sourced from Telstra 'to help bridge the gap between those older Australians who use technology and those who are yet to embrace it'. These free DVDs were given to library customers and used in Computer Lessons for Beginners classes.

E-books and Online Audio Books

Public Libraries Services records show that Berri Library as well as Barmera Library borrowers have embraced the borrowing of e-books and audio books using the Public Library Services Overdrive program. Customer statistics in relation to Overdrive usage revealed that both libraries were ranked in the top 25 of 136 South Australian Public Libraries who used the service from 1st January 2013 to 1st Jan 2014.

Volunteer Contributions

Volunteers at the Berri Library have assisted on a regular basis with book covering, display preparation and signage on various parts of the collection to assist in location of items on the shelves. Peter Ison and Michelle Harding, along with the Mayor attended the Volunteer thank-you lunch at the Barmera Monash Football Club on Monday 16th December. Both Peter and Michelle spoke about the value of Council's volunteers and thanked them for their efforts.

Baby Rhyme Time Sessions, computer lessons for beginners, book covering and shelving, and Barmera Library Reader's Book Group co-ordination are all successfully run with the assistance of a very dedicated team of volunteers at the Barmera Library. Barmera Library Reader's Group celebrated a milestone at the February meeting with volunteer Di Tillet steering this group over ten successful years. Melanie Alder and Di Tillet received certificates recognising their many years of service in their volunteer roles at the Barmera Library at an afternoon tea held to thank all Council volunteers for their great contribution to the community.

Community Partnerships

During the past year, staff at Barmera Library have once again made use of opportunities to bring the library and community together in a variety of ways. The town's shopkeepers and community members have been very supportive, helping us to achieve the best benefit from our budget. Barmera Newsagency supplied small gifts for us to give to children throughout the year, Barmera Pharmacy donated large white paper bags for our reading and activity packs, the two local Opportunity shops donated and lent items for our displays and the Barmera Kindergarten donated craft supplies for the children's activity sessions.

Our window display for Country Music Week was a community effort, with wood cut-outs made by the Barmera Men's Shed and Robbie from Council, hand painted by staff members and friends. The result was an award for *Best Window Display for 2014* presented to us by the Country Music Committee.

Barmera Beautification Committee meetings held at Barmera Library bi-monthly are another way the community and library collaborate to achieve maximum benefits for the community.



Barmera Library winning window display for Country Music Week

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.

Summer Reading and Get Reading Programmes

Both the Berri and Barmera libraries took part in the yearly nationwide Summer Reading Program, actively promoting to children, parents and teachers the importance of children continuing to read books over the summer holiday period.

The annual 'Get reading' with the '50 books you can't put down' programme was also actively promoted by both libraries in September. At Barmera 50 copies of 'Good Reading' magazine were given away, as part of the 'Love 2 Read' initiative. At the Berri Library the promotion featured a colourful display of the 50 chosen books along with booklets prepared containing detailed information about each book. The promotion was also featured on the library Facebook page.

School Holiday Program & Children's Activities

Our weekly children's storytelling and our special school holiday activities were popular again throughout the year at both our libraries. At Barmera Library hairy caterpillars, leaf craft, goofy goggles, weavings, magician's hats, magic rabbits, bilbies, baubles, bells and red nosed reindeers were some of the craft items made by children during the activity sessions. Special guests at the children's activities this past financial year have

included Maureen from Banksia Yoga in Blackwood, who gave up her time to hold a special ‘Yoga for Kids’ session and Senior Constable First Class Kayleen Summers of the Berri Crime Prevention Section who spoke to the children about her role as a police investigator.

James Young staged special magic shows at Barmera Library in October 2013 and at Berri in January 2014. More than 40 interested children attended each show and were spell-bound by James and his fantastic feats of magic!. ‘Cool 4 kids’ music show was held at Barmera library during the April school holidays and was also a big hit with the children. Singer Tony Genovese provided a variety of different musical instruments, coloured scarves and a silk parachute for children’s entertainment in this interactive holiday activity at the library.

At Berri Library ‘Cool for Kids’ entertainer Tony Genovese held a balloon sculpting session as part of the School Holiday Activities on Tuesday 22nd April. The session was fantastic with more than 35 people attending and the kids made some great balloon creations. Many successful activities were run at the Berri Library over the December-January holiday break with the theme “Science and Magic” keeping the kids interested.



Tony Genovese working with children at the Balloon Sculpting session at the Berri Library



Maddison Roger and Chelsie Wegener showing their magic hats made at Barmera Library (Anne Irwin photo)



Kayley & Elizabeth Need both of Adelaide, Claire & Leeroy Scholz both of Taplan display their stained glass artwork at Berri Library

School Partnerships

Barmera Primary School years 3 and 4 classes visited the library to conduct research into the local history of Barmera. The group of 22 children and their teachers were shown National Trust photos of Barmera on our new large TV screen. The children had a lot of fun learning about how to search for information and how the town looked in earlier times.

Peg Germein attended Kingston on Murray Primary School to present 'Premiers Reading Challenge' medals to the students at the end of the school term in November, taking advantage of a great opportunity to bring the library to the community.

Glossop High School-Senior Campus Activities

Susanne Fisher and Maureen Spiers have worked consistently to provide assistance and resources on a daily basis to the staff and students of the Glossop High School Senior Campus throughout the 2013-14 school year. Both staff members visited Lameroo School Community Library and tapped into the expertise provided by Teacher Librarian Bob Muster in preparation for the changeover to the new State-wide Library Management System, online training was also undertaken.

Once the school year began it was a busy time for staff in promoting the library services to new staff and students. Promotional opportunities involved staff meeting information updates, distribution of new library cards, barcode stickers on diaries as well as QR code stickers to promote the library website. Library orientations began for Year 11 students who were new to the Senior Campus and all Year 12s were given instruction to assist them with their research needs in relation to the Research Project subject. This involved online research techniques utilizing the library website, the new library catalogue: *Enterprise* and the SLASA Online Reference Generator for preparation of bibliographies. The Modern History collection has been developed further and a focus has also been on teenage fiction resources to assist English students with material for their Connected Texts assignment. The ONE Card system has proved to be very valuable especially to Research Project students who are now able to place holds on any items required from public libraries across the state.

Regular displays have continued to alert staff and students to the new resources available to them through the Berri Library and Information Centre. Kindles have again been utilised by those students who appreciate the text to voice feature it provides. School library staff members have continued to attend conferences, training workshops and Library Hub Group meetings and as well liaise regularly with their counterparts at the Glossop High School Middle Campus Resource Centre in order to provide a quality service that meets the needs of our customers.



www.berribarmeralibrary.org.au

QR Code used for promotion of the library website



Glossop High School student Eden Grocke-Bristow and School Services Librarian Maureen Spiers using the iPad to search for items on the new Enterprise catalogue

TAFE SA Activities

Hanah Garoufalis 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, 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.

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 the large number of external students who are based in the Riverland and who use our services regularly.

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.

Children’s Book Week

The Children’s Book Week theme was “Read across the Universe” and at the Berri Library a Children’s Book Week themed story-time and activity session was conducted for children from Monash Kindergarten. They also took great delight in viewing the colourful book display and hanging mobiles as well as receiving a talk about the library.

Barmera Library staff were kept busy with over 260 children from Barmera Kindergarten, St Joseph’s, Barmera, Kingston and Loveday Primary Schools visiting for stories and activities based on the prize winning children’s books. Some great creations were made and the children enjoyed the chance to visit the library and read some of the winning books.

Baby Rhyme Time

Baby Rhyme Time continued to grow in popularity and celebrated its 6th birthday on 18th October 2013. Volunteer co-ordinator Melanie Alder’s continuing contribution during the past six years is much appreciated by Library and Council staff and all past and present participants of Baby Rhyme Time.

Kindergarten Partnership

Barmera Library staff continued to visit the Barmera Kindergarten on a weekly basis, and Kindergarten staff and children also visited us weekly for stories and activities. During one of these visits, Willydidj Didgeridoo Hunter, a didgeridoo artist passing through the town, stopped for half an hour to share his love of stories, music and Aboriginal culture with us in a free impromptu performance.



Willydidj showing the Barmera Kindergarten Children his didgeridoo

Library Improvements

Our libraries have taken the initiative to make improvements for our customers. iPads have been purchased for library customers to view the One Card catalogue in each of our libraries, this type of technology has been well received. New manoeuvrable DVD spinners were received for the children's area in the Barmera Library and have been a great improvement, making it easier for adults and children to select DVDs for borrowing. New disc cleaners were purchased at each library to extend the life of the DVD collection. New non-slip tiles were laid at the front of the Barmera Library entrance. Alterations to the front desk at the Berri Library were carried out over several days in the month of June. These alterations will improve the ability of staff to circulate school laptops using the new 1LMS and improve WHS aspects.

Training and Development of Staff

Staff members at both libraries continue to undertake training to update their skills which enables them to provide an environment that encourages community involvement. Berri Library & Information Centre staff members Maureen Spiers, Susanne Fisher, Jacque Zagotsis and Heather Webb completed 5 units of work in the Public Libraries Digital Literacy Project and were awarded a *Certificate 1 in Information Technology*. This training has increased the participants' confidence and skills in relation to digital media and technology; which will have a positive impact on customer service.

An intensive three days of 'One Card' training was attended by some Berri and Barmera Library staff in Adelaide in August 2013. All library staff members continued with 'on-the-job' training for the 'One Card' System during the year. Two Barmera Library staff members attended the conference "Public Libraries – Culture of Change." in September 2013.

STATISTICS FROM YOUR LIBRARY SERVICE

| BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL LIBRARY STATISTICS 2013/2014 | | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| LOANS | BERRI | | BARMERA | | 2013-2014 TOTALS |
| | 2012-2013 | 2013-2014 | 2012-2013 | 2013-2014 | |
| Adult Fiction | 12,620 | 13,050 | 12,064 | 12,566 | 25,616 |
| Adult Non-Fiction | 5,219 | 4,937 | 2,636 | 2,999 | 7,936 |
| Large Print | 3,977 | 4,011 | 4,539 | 4,142 | 8,153 |
| Sub Total Adult | 21,816 | 21,998 | 19,239 | 19,707 | 41,705 |
| Children | 6,767 | 6,678 | 5,167 | 4,632 | 11,310 |
| Children Non-Fiction | 483 | 1,451 | 913 | 794 | 2,245 |
| Children Adolescent | 2,270 | 1,544 | 535 | 524 | 2,068 |
| Sub Total Children | 9,520 | 9,673 | 6,615 | 5,950 | 15,623 |
| Magazines | 2,625 | 2,736 | 3,463 | 3,334 | 6,070 |
| CDs | 2,377 | 2,570 | 1,841 | 1,335 | 3,905 |
| CD-ROMs | 749 | 756 | 451 | 271 | 1,027 |
| DVDs | 12,493 | 12,021 | 11,501 | 11,558 | 23,579 |
| Hear-A- Books | 650 | 652 | 649 | 1,013 | 1,665 |
| LOTE | 87 | 125 | 70 | 134 | 259 |
| School Resources | 12,840* | 22,623* | 20 | 38 | 22,661* |
| TAFE Resources | 3,596 | 7,046 | 35 | 107 | 7,153 |
| ILLs & Other | 195 | 147 | 647 | 78 | 225 |
| AV Equipment | 606 | 272 | N/A | 8 | 280 |
| TOTALS | 67,554 | 80,619 | 44,615 | 43,533 | 124,152 |
| USAGE | BERRI | | BARMERA | | 2013-2014 TOTALS |
| | 2012-2013 | 2013-2014 | 2012-2013 | 2013-2014 | |
| Door Count | 131,534 | 128,808 | 41,837 | 42,780 | 171,588 |
| Internet Bookings | 6,464 | 6,753 | 5,460 | 5,228 | 11,981 |
| Holiday Activities | 206 | 183 | 304 | 391 | 574 |
| Weekly children's Activities** | 443 | 406 | 1,632 | 1,773 | 2,179 |
| SA Library Network Incoming Transits | 5,367*** | 2,789 | 3,482*** | 4,489 | 7,278 |
| SA Library Network Outgoing Transits | NA | 10,364 | NA | 6,104 | 16,468 |
| Visits per capita (Berri 7,025, Barmera 4,188) | 18.7 | 18.3 | 10.0 | 10.2 | 15.3 |
| Loans per capita | 9.6 | 11.5 | 10.7 | 10.4 | 11.1 |
| Open hours per annum | 2,750 | 2,685 | 1,950 | 1,950 | 4,635 |
| Web Catalogue Sessions | 8,322 | 7,795 | combined statistics | | 7,795 |

*Includes school laptop loans ** includes Barmera Baby Rhyme Time *** Pre 1LMS Incoming & Outgoing Transits combined