The 2014-15 year has been one of challenge and change for our libraries. Both libraries have strived to promote their library to the people of the Riverland in various ways and we have celebrated our regular events such as Library and Information Week and Book Week. Our Children’s Activity Programmes have continued in school holidays as well as term time and we have taken the opportunity of adding new events which have brought additional people into our libraries. The Berri Library and Information Centre launched the Baby Rhyme Time programme and our library has become a meeting place for the University of the 3rd Age workshop sessions in Berri. At the Barmera Library and Customer Service Centre an additional Baby Rhyme Time session has been added. We are pleased with the new look created internally in both libraries with new carpet and painting of walls. The Berri Library & Information Centre has made some room modifications to meet the changing needs of our customers and to allow for the expansion of our local history collection.

At the end of 2014 TAFESA withdrew from the Berri Joint Use Library Agreement after 15 years! The withdrawal was one of the outcomes of an internal review of library services at all campuses. The remaining partners (Glossop High School Senior Campus and Berri-Barmera Council) have chosen to continue the arrangement to share the cost of providing staff and services. The withdrawal of TAFE SA has resulted in some changes to our resources, services and staffing levels and it has been challenging attempting to maintain previous service levels.

We continue to attend training workshops and make observations at other libraries in order to keep abreast of current ideas and innovations that we can introduce that may improve the experiences of our library patrons. In 2014 SA Public Library Services began planning another huge project that follows on from the recently completed statewide One Card system. The RFID project will see the introduction of RFID (Radio Frequency ID) in all South Australian public libraries by mid 2017. RFID tags will be added to all library items, and with the introduction of additional equipment, will bring a range of benefits, including allowing customers to self-serve and providing staff with the ability to stock take library collections in hours, rather than days!

**OUR COMMUNITY/SOCIAL-Objective 6:**
We will promote and support Special Events and multi-cultural festivals that bring the community together.

**Civic Book Reception**
A number of library staff attended the *Maestro John Monash: Australia’s Greatest Citizen General* civic book reception for author, Tim Fischer at the Monash Hall on the afternoon of Thursday 20th November. All agreed that it was a fantastic event.
Library Shared Statistics & Reports

Reports
Annual Reports 2006-2014-2015

August 2015

Library & Information Week - 25th - 31st May
The Berri Library & Information Centre ran a number of special activities for Australian Library and Information Week, including National Simultaneous Storytime with the Riverland Special School, a vote for your favourite author and books display and a great mini book sale, with all items selling for discount prices.

Barmera Library used the 'Imagine' theme for Library and Information Week to encourage all library visitors to use their imaginations, dress up and have their pictures taken at our free Photo Booth. Adults and children took part and lots of great pictures were taken during this fun activity. Our celebrations also included a week long backyard book sale of donated and debited books, a promotion pairing books for loan with their matching DVDs and a competition for all who borrowed from our Library Week display.

Berri Library Orientation Sessions
Organisations from around the Riverland continue to encourage their members to utilise the resources provided by the Berri Library & Information Centre. Peter Ison conducted a number of tailored library orientation visits for these external groups including Young Mums, the Headspace Mothers group and TAFE SA Cookery students to inform them about library services and facilities. Other groups taking advantage of the library orientation included Berri Primary School Special Education class, Relationships Australia, “Reach for the Stars”, 123 Me! a self-help group organised by the RDA as well as the CAFS Mothers Group and the Riverland Support To Achieve group.

Barmera Library Special Events
St Patrick’s Day in March saw 23 Barmera Primary school years 3 and 4 students visiting the library to learn about Ireland and the history behind St Patrick’s Day. They had fun learning and made some great leprechaun hats at the same time.
The Bush Poetry afternoon at Barmera Library was the biggest and best yet! For the second year our event was included in the Official Country Music Festival program in June and attracted a huge crowd of 75 people. Award-winning poet Bob Magor was our special guest again this year, with talented poet and author Jill Wherry MC for the afternoon. Local sound technician Lance Gum set up and lent us the sound equipment so the poets’ voices could be easily heard reciting the original, traditional, and contemporary poetry. Afternoon tea afterwards was a great opportunity for catching up with old friends and for making new ones.

Author events at Barmera Library
We were lucky to have two very different authors donate their time to come to Barmera Library over the past year, one in December and one in May. The first to visit was Australian born author Carrie Lock, who has been living in India since 2006. Carrie is foundress of a contemplative ashram and has led a fascinating life. Carrie spoke about her Indian experiences, her time spent with tsunami survivors in Sri Lanka, her connection to Aboriginal spirituality and her research into Mary MacKillop.

The second author to visit was South Australian author Tricia Stringer, who came to Barmera Library during her tour of regional South Australia and New South Wales. Tricia is a writer of popular Rural Romance books, this genre is the fastest growing in Australia today. Tricia read a chapter from her newest book, the first in a new historical romance series set in early Australia. Around 26 people attended and helped launch this new book. Tricia described the extensive research she carries out for each book which has enabled her to become an award winning author. Tea, coffee, conversation and delicious Barmera Bakery scones concluded the very successful event.

Riverland Field Days in September traditionally has been an important way for libraries in the Riverland to join forces and promote our services to the community. Berri-Barmera Library Services staff members Peter Ison, Jacque Zagotsis, Jodie Bannear and Peg Germein joined in a roster of Library staff from other Riverland libraries at the Field Days promoting council services and libraries as part of the ‘Kids Corner’ group. This year was the first year that the Field Days have been held on Friday and Saturday and the number of children who visited Barmera and Berri’s Library craft activities in the children’s tent was up on past years, especially on Saturday morning when around 30 children and 15 adults stopped by to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the Field Day to read books and take part in crafty activities.

Library Lover’s Day was celebrated in early February around the same time as Valentine’s Day and we used the promotion to ‘share the library love’ with some romantic displays and a free raffle. 170 library borrowers took part in our competition to guess the combined number of pages in a book pack to win the prize of assorted new books.
Library Promotional Activities
The Berri-Barmera Library Service has continued to utilise a multi-faceted approach to the promotion of services and events. The weekly ABC radio program “A Novel Idea” is a valuable promotional tool with Peter Ison and Maureen Spiers participating from Berri and Di Tillet from Barmera. Newsletters, the BLIC Blurb (Berri Library) and The Barmera Book Worm (Barmera Library) have been used over the year to share information and communicate news of coming events. Barmera Library has also made use of Monthly New Book Lists and Website page updates to keep library borrowers informed. The relatively recent introduction of a library Facebook pages allows us to connect with a different audience and constantly changing displays within our libraries also attract the attention of customers.

**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.*

University of the 3rd Age Riverland
During the latter half of 2014 a public meeting of interested participants was held at the Berri Town Hall, a decision was reached to launch a University of the 3rd Age in the Riverland. The Berri Library and Information Centre has proved to be a suitable venue for many of the sessions offered in Berri and library staff assisted Di March in preparing for her Snapfish sessions which commenced in February 2015 at the Berri Library.

Information Sessions
The Berri Library & Information Centre has continued to offer free information sessions. Library staff offered workshops on the following IT based topics: Email, iPads and Android Tablets, Advanced eBay Selling, Introduction to iPad Tablets and Basic IT Q&A. A series of 5 workshops was also offered on buying a tablet and what tablet is right for you which looked at the positives and negatives of Android, Apple and Window tablets. Visiting presenters conducted sessions on the following: Digital Photography (Daniel Schmidt, ABC Open), Beading and Jewellery (Gabby Traforti), Gardening (John Menzel), Astrology (Cathy Schier), Being Bushfire Ready (Sue Mickan, CFS) and Toddlers, Tantrums & Triumphs (Val Fewster). These sessions were all well attended and we are very appreciative of the presenters for sharing their expertise with the interested participants.

Volunteers
Our volunteers have continued to make a valuable contribution. At Berri we have been fortunate to have the assistance of the following; Sarah Plush (Baby Rhyme Time), Jenny Duggin (Local History), Jigna Patel (Processing of items), Rob Lehmann (Local History) and Leanne Quayle (Processing of items).
At Barmera Library the following people have provided assistance; Melanie Allder (Baby Rhyme Time Co-ordinator), Robyne Ridgeway, Gale Fiebig and Terri Fowles (Computer and iPad Lessons for Beginners), Di Tillet (Readers’ Book Group and ABC Radio “A Novel Idea”), Joan Hoffmann (Processing, maintaining DVDs and Children’s Craft Cupboard) and Virginia Mahoney (Processing, shelving and Special Projects). Volunteers from the Community Transport team transport books and internal mail between Berri and Barmera Libraries.

Staff members have also attended functions where volunteer contributions have been recognised. Merridy Rady and Peter Ison along with Jigna Patel attended the volunteer Christmas gathering and thank you party at Rocky’s Hall of Fame. Peggy Germein and Peter Ison attended the Council volunteers Thank You afternoon Devonshire tea in the Len Mahoney room during June 2015.

**Partnership with Barmera Kindergarten**

This successful partnership has been ongoing since around 2006 with the Kindergarten children and teachers visiting the Barmera library on a weekly basis and library staff calling in to the Barmera Kindergarten once a week to read a story to the children. The Barmera Kindergarten donated some craft materials for library use and we work in with the Kindergarten’s activities and term topics whenever we can. The Kindergarten children benefit by getting to know library staff, know what the library service offers and are more confident with books and reading when they start school.

**Other Barmera Library partnerships**

Our partnership with local business, committees, charities, op-shops and the Barmera Men’s shed group have been an important part of our library year. Barmera Men’s shed made us a beautiful puppet theatre for our children’s activities, and Barmera Newsagency supplied us with gifts and lucky dips for children. The two local Op Shops often lend us materials and props for our different displays. Chaffey theatre provided free movie tickets for us to use as prizes in our holiday activities.

Library staff value this community help and try to be involved with local charities and promote events like the Cancer council “paint the town purple” Relay for Life promotion, the SA Living Artists festival (SALA) in August and travelling exhibition ‘Century of Red Cross’ display. Many individuals and community groups use the library as a friendly meeting place and the Barmera Beautification Meetings held here bi-monthly are just one example.

**Lions International Peace Poster Contest** entries were displayed at Barmera Library in October for the third year running. Our walls came alive with colour in October as we once again displayed entries from Grade 6 and 7 Riverland school students in the ‘Lions International Peace Poster Contest. Around the world at the same time, 350,000 young artists from over 70 countries were also taking part in this competition. The 50 posters made a beautiful display for library customers to see and enjoy.
Some of the posters are shown here.

Poster by Cobdogla School student Cameron Kuchel.

**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.*

**Barmera Library Work Experience**
In February and March, Glossop High School students Matt Sly and Brayden LeGassick volunteered at the library as part of the Glossop High School Community Service Program. Both Matt and Brayden were very keen to use the experience to learn more about what it means to work in a Public Library.

Matt Sly

Brayden LeGassick

**Summer reading Club at Barmera**
Our Summer Reading Club which encourages reading over the summer holiday break, was such a success this year that we continued it to the end of February instead of finishing when school started again at the end of January as we usually do. The theme was **Choose Your Own Adventure** and over 100 packs containing bookmarks, reading logs and small gifts donated by Barmera Newsagency were given away to children. When the children had read 10 or more library books, they were given a certificate and an additional small prize. Around 30 children completed the task of reading 10 library books over the holidays which was a great achievement.
Glossop High School-Senior Campus Activities

Berri Library & Information Centre staff members Maureen Spiers and Susanne Fisher continued to provide support to the teachers and students of Glossop High School Senior Campus especially in relation to the Research Project, a compulsory Stage 2 SACE subject. Maureen Spiers along with Glossop High School teachers Claire Long and Kristina Kalkstein accompanied a large group of interested Year 11 students to attend the Research Project Expo held at the Wayville Showgrounds. Students gained much useful information for next year by visiting stalls manned by current Year 12 students as well as those from business and government sectors.

Year 12 students also attended a Research Project Workshop at the Berri Library & Information Centre at the end of the 2014 school year, this was presented by School Services Librarian Maureen Spiers. The workshop detailed how the library could assist students with their research in 2015 and tips and techniques in relation to searching the library catalogue - Enterprise and also the e-Library database were demonstrated.

During the first semester in 2015 Year 11 students undertook a Library Orientation Program to make them aware of what the library has to offer and to also assist them to approach tasks within the library more confidently and independently.

An Educational Bookseller, Andrew Pierson from Lighthouse Books and Office Supplies was organised to visit the school during first semester and teachers were able to purchase new Teacher Reference material. Library staff continue to provide up to date resources on current topics to add to the collection in order to meet the research needs of the students of the Glossop High School Senior Campus.

Renae Rapson a Year 10 student from Glossop High School Middle Campus chose the Berri Library to carry out the Work Experience component of her course. Renae involved herself enthusiastically in a wide range of tasks in order to gain an understanding of what it is like to work in a library.

TAFE SA Withdrawal

The Berri Joint Use Library Agreement between the Minister for Education and Children’s Services and Berri Barmera Council which had operated for 15 years expired on the 31st December, 2014. On the 3rd November 2014, TAFE SA contacted Council by email and explained that “…….TAFE SA is withdrawing from the Joint Use Library arrangements at Berri” because “…… the financial aspects of our review of the Agreement indicate the arrangement is not sustainable and we need an alternative arrangement for TAFE students and staff in the
Riverland.” It was disappointing that TAFE SA did not contact library staff, Council or even local TAFE SA staff for their input before making this decision and it appears it was mainly financially motivated. TAFE SA financial contribution to the library was approximately $174 000, this had a major impact on the current budget and staff and services.

Practical matters that were addressed almost immediately included the removal of all TAFE SA stock housed in the library and alternative computer and network arrangements were made for library staff. With the loss of the two TAFE SA library staff members a new weekly library and desk roster was trialled and is still in operation. This has meant that staff have been rostered increased hours on the circulation desk and also a Thursday night and a Saturday morning shift on alternate weeks rather than every 3 weeks. Greater use of casual staff to cover staff absences due to annual, sick and long service leave has been made throughout 2015.

On a more positive note, discussions took place between the remaining partners and the Berri-Barmera Council and Glossop High School agreed to work together to provide staff and services. A new draft agreement is in the hands of the Crown Solicitor’s Department and signing by the parties involved should occur in the near future. Comments made by Principal Julie Ahrens in the Glossop High School newsletter indicated that the school was pleased that operations at the library had continued successfully in the 2015 school year and students had not been impacted by the withdrawal of TAFE SA.

**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.

**Baby Rhyme Time**
Berri Library & Information Centre introduced a new programme in February, Baby Rhyme Time, for parents and carers with babies. The session runs weekly on Wednesday morning at 9.30 and is run by a dedicated volunteer, Sarah Plush. This builds on the already very successful Barmera Baby Rhyme Time program at Barmera which celebrated its 7th birthday in October. Volunteer co-ordinator Melanie Allder’s continuing contribution over the past 7 years is much appreciated by Library and Council staff and all past and present participants of Baby Rhyme Time. Research has proven that reading to children from an early age has a positive effect on children’s literacy and numeracy skills, and parents in the community agree, as the Rhyme Time sessions have grown in popularity over the seven years. In April 2015 Melanie offered to hold an extra session on Thursdays as a trial. While this is still in trial mode, it has been very successful so far, gaining more members each week as word gets out about the extra sessions.
Children’s Activities
Tony Genevese from Cool-4-Kids ran a Children’s Cooking show at the Berri Library & Information Centre as part of our school holiday activities, on Tuesday 21st April. The show was booked out with parents and children attending and making healthy wraps to take home.

Barmera Library Children’s activities held weekly during the term and during the School holidays in the 2014-15 year have included some great stories and craft activities. Some of the highlights include visits by Riverland Dog Training & Kennel Club members Sue Laidler and Kay Richardson with their dogs, a life sized walking talking robot (volunteer Terri Fowles) and Magician James Young. When we invited Destiny Farm Wildlife Park to bring some animals to the library outdoor children’s area in the April school holidays, we thought we’d have a lot of children coming and were delighted with a record crowd of 136. Our outdoor area was transformed into a mini petting zoo with kangaroos, a goat, guinea pigs, dogs, a turtle, rabbits, a water python and a baby crocodile all receiving lots of love and attention from the kids. Decorating animal masks, chalkboard wall drawings and constructing paper planes were other ways the large crowd was kept occupied while waiting for their turn to pet the animals.

Children’s Book Week
A display celebrating the theme ‘Reading to connect, Connect to reading’ was on show in the front foyer of the Berri Library & Information Centre. Peter Ison and Jacque Zagotsis organised a visit by 21 children from Our Lady of the River Catholic School along with their teacher Anthony Segui. Peter read one of the winning stories ‘Jeremy’ then the children participated in creating jigsaw pieces with pictures of their favourite book to ‘connect to reading’. These jigsaw pieces were then stuck on the children’s area wall as a “connect to reading” display.
After craft activities, Jacque read another Book Week winner book and the children went outside to draw their favourite book titles and pictures on the pavement in chalk. A story and photos was published in the Murray Pioneer and on Facebook with permission from Ros Oates, the Principal at OLOR.

Book Week at Barmera is always a busy one and 2014 was no exception as we “connected to reading” in a big way with 250 children visiting the Barmera Library over the week. Barmera Kindergarten, Kingston, St Josephs and Barmera Primary joined Barmera Library staff for craft activities and to read the award winning books, discovering why “connecting to reading” can be such fun. The children, from Kindergarten to Grade 7 children, all signed their name to our giant jigsaw pieces as a memento of their visit. An iPad presentation of one of the winning books was a highlight this year. Jodie Bannear and Sue Webber made great use of the creative ideas gained from their attendance at the July Book Week Z art Workshop and we received many positive comments from school staff on the thought and planning that goes into our Book Week activities and display.

Berri Library Improvements
The Berri Library & Information Centre has taken on a new look internally and the usage of some rooms has changed to meet the needs of our customers. At the commencement of the 2015 school year our Multi-media Room was modified structurally and painted and fitted out with school tables and chairs, this has provided an extra space for Private Supervised Study by the Year 11 and 12 students at the Glossop High School Senior Campus. All major works required to transform our existing meeting room into the new local history room were completed in June. This included, laying new carpet, painting, electrical and network cabling and the installation of new bench and cabinet works. Shelving, furniture and resources in both rooms were swapped around in early July and the rooms were ready for use on 20th July. This project has increased the storage space and work area of our local history service while retaining a fully functional meeting room for 10 people. The Silent Room which houses the “Anzacs at War” collection has also had modifications made to it which has resulted in improvements regarding time and safety. A built-in data projector and pull down screen have been installed which has cut down the time staff needed to prepare the room for presentations and eliminated the use of extension cords as portable equipment had been used previously. A new coin operated photocopier was installed at the library on 25th November that will enable customers to carry out their own copying without staff intervention and also do their own document scanning direct to USB.

At Barmera Library, new carpet tiles were laid in March, replacing the old worn, unravelling carpet that had become a trip hazard in places and was unsafe. Thanks to Barmera United Supermarket for lending us a squadron of shopping trolleys to pack books in while the shelves were being moved and the carpet tiles put in place. This made our job of re-shelving all the books so much easier and saved a lot of manual labour. The new carpet tiles have added a fresh modern look to the library and been much admired by library and council users. One of the library air conditioning units was replaced in March as it had become inoperable. The other units were given a thorough service and are all now all working efficiently and well, making the environment comfortable in all weather. In June renovations continued at the Barmera Library with the painting of blue
feature walls and panels brightening up the whole library. The Public Toilet at the back of the library was also repainted at the same time. The purchase of six new chairs in bright blue and green complement the new fresh and bright look and we have had many positive comments on how good our library is looking.

One Card and Statewide LMS User Group
It has now been almost 2 years since Berri Barmera Council libraries joined the state-wide Consortium called One Card. Now public library borrowers from all over South Australia can use their borrower card at all libraries, and both our libraries we have seen an increase in use by borrowers from other SA areas. The introduction of a shared Library Management System (LMS) has brought with it many challenges for the network and to address this a number of state-wide working groups that have been formed to ensure there is consistency with cataloguing, circulation and other processes across all network libraries. Our Library Manager, Peter Ison has been nominated to serve a two year term representing the Murray River Region on the State-wide LMS User Group. This group meets approximately 10 times per year and helps support the Consortium’s strategic and policy requirements with members consulting widely with their regional colleagues on LMS Consortium operational matters.

Staff Training and Development
Berri-Barmera Library Services staff have attended various library and council training sessions to help us best perform the roles we are responsible for within the library service. Peter Ison attended the A Future of the Public Library Network Visioning Workshop at the Adelaide Oval, this was a very interesting workshop looking at the future of SA public libraries using a future perfect approach. Following this a regional workshop was held at the Berri Library & Information Centre. Maureen Spiers, Merridy Rady, Jacque Zagotsis and Peggy Germein participated from the Berri and Barmera libraries, a facilitator worked with the group of people from Riverland public libraries in order to gain ideas and feedback to be supplied to Public Library Services. The event was designed to get us all thinking about what the State’s circumstances will be in 2030, and within this context how will libraries be operating.

Staff at Barmera Public Library have participated in a wide range of training which assists them to perform their dual roles of Library and Council Services. All staff were trained and accepted as Electoral officers for the Local Government Elections in August 2014. Staff also attended was CFS Bushfire awareness training, Fire Warden training, ICAC Awareness for Council Employees, Communications workshop and St John courses. Jodie Bannear and Sue Webber attended ZART Art Children’s Book Week and Christmas Craft Workshops. ‘Putting Readers first’ and ‘Changing libraries’ workshops run by noted UK library consultant Rachel Van Riel were attended by Sue Webber and Peg Germein. In June Peg Germein undertook an on-line course ‘Reading makes the world go round’ aimed at extending participants library skills, knowledge of books, and reader’s advisory needs. Sue Webber accepted the voluntary position of OHS & W Committee employee representative, and has attended meetings in this capacity during the year.

STATISTICS FROM YOUR LIBRARY SERVICE

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August 2015
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**USAGE**

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<td><strong>SA Library Network</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Incoming Transits</strong></td>
<td>2,789***</td>
<td>5,936</td>
<td>4,489***</td>
<td>5,020</td>
<td>10,956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outgoing Transits</strong></td>
<td>10,364***</td>
<td>13,516</td>
<td>6,104***</td>
<td>6,375</td>
<td>19,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visits per capita (Berri 7,025, Barmera 4,188)</strong></td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>14.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Loans per capita</strong></td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open hours per annum</strong></td>
<td>2,685</td>
<td>2,496</td>
<td>1,950</td>
<td>1,950</td>
<td>4,446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Web Catalogue Sessions</strong></td>
<td>7,795</td>
<td>7,533</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Library Website Sessions</strong></td>
<td>6,909</td>
<td>6,833</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6,833</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes school laptop loans ** Berri new program started Feb 2015 *** combined legacy LMS & 1LMS Incoming & Outgoing Transits