

11.2 Library Services - Quarterly Report

REPORT BY THE MANAGER LIBRARY SERVICES
 TO 15 FEBRUARY 2023 ORDINARY MEETING
 GOV400103, F0620020

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the report by the Manager Library Services on the Library Services - Quarterly Report.

Executive summary

This report seeks to inform Council of the activities undertaken by the Mid-Western Regional Council Library Service, under the broad themes of Customer Visits, Library Borrowings & Purchased Items, and Sustainable Organisations. This report covers the period July-December 2022.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

CUSTOMER VISITS, LIBRARY BORROWINGS, & PURCHASED ITEMS

Visits to our Library branches during the July-December 2022 period are slightly higher than the number of visits during the previous six months:

Period	Visits
July – December 2022	34,093
January – June 2022	31,304

Across the Library Service, loans of library items are slightly lower compared to the previous six months:

Period	Loans
July – December 2022	40,474
January – June 2022	45,358

Loans from the Mobile Library during July-December 2022 remain stable when compared to the previous six months:

Period	Loans
July – December 2022	2,524
January – June 2022	2,843

The use of library e-resources (library subscribed databases) has increased by 2% when compared to the previous six months:

Period	Accesses
July – December 2022	46,287
January – June 2022	45,345

The Library continues to purchase new items in line with the Collection Development Strategy. These items include audio books, magazines, and fiction and non-fiction titles for adults and children in both print and electronic formats, as well as DVD's:

Period	Purchases
July – December 2022	9,745

SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION

The Library hosts several in-house Book Groups, including a Teen Book Group in partnership with Council's Youth Services, and also facilitates six community Book Groups. Throughout July-December 2022 we held 21 Book Group sessions with a total of 91 attendees. In addition, we host a weekly writing group and a monthly poetry circle which averages 6-8 attendees at each.

The Library continues to encourage a lifelong love of books and reading through its early literacy initiatives. During July-December 2022, Library staff delivered 66 story time sessions, reaching 644 children. The Library also continued to pilot two literacy programs for school-aged children – Bigger Bookworms for K-Y2 students, and Junior Book Bouncers for Y3-Y6 students. During the July-December 2022 period, there were 12 face-to-face sessions held at Mudgee Library, reaching 63 children.

Monday History Talks remain popular with 4 talks held over July-December 2022, with 65 attendees. During History Week in September 2022, the Library organised a special history talk event featuring multiple local speakers and presentations by several historical organisation including History Council of NSW, Society of Australian Genealogists, NSW State Archives, Royal Australian Historical Society, and local speakers Malcolm Drinkwater (History Hill Museum), Bernadette Eichner and John Honeysett. The Library received glowing feedback including the following comment left by Vince & Sue Ridley on the Library's Facebook page:

"The presentations were varied and interesting and the speakers were engaging, knowledgeable and passionate about their subjects. We learnt a lot and came away with enthusiasm to work on our family histories. Looking forward to more of the same. Thank you very much and well done".

The Library also partnered with local poet Kevin Pye for The Centenary of Henry Lawson's Death, hosting daily poetry readings and songs from 29 August – 1 September 2022. This hugely popular event saw a total of 58 participants attending over the four days.

On 11 September 2022, the Library hosted an intimate author talk and afternoon tea with Annie Seaton, Fiona McArthur and Darry Fraser at Putta Bucca House with 34 attending. On the following Monday the Library also hosted a writing workshop for 9 participants with Annie Seaton.

Kids Chess Club continues to grow in popularity, meeting every second and fourth Wednesday of the month. Our external trainer has facilitated 10 sessions, reaching a total of 81 children.

During the July school holidays, Library staff held 10 storytelling and craft activities, reaching 84 children. During the September school holidays, Library staff held 13 storytelling and craft activities, reaching 104 children. Throughout Book Week (20-26 August 2022), the Library welcomed 311 students into the Library, delivering a total of 16 sessions.

Our Willy Wonka themed Summer Reading Program held over December and January has received 123 registrations. Children are encouraged to keep track of their reading, and complete bonus activities to earn tickets in the prize draw, to be held 1 February 2023.

December 2022 was a very exciting time for the Library as we soft-launched our new Library app. Members will now be able to access the library anywhere, anytime. Users can enjoy contactless self-service and easily borrow any title directly from the shelf by scanning the barcode with their

smartphone. This free app provides a one-stop shop for all of the library's services, and can be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play Store.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Looking After Our Community
Goal	A safe and healthy community
Strategy	Maintain the provision of high quality, accessible community services that meet the needs of our community

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

The Library Services Quarterly Report has been developed in line with the 2022/23 – 2025/26 Delivery Program, and the Library's Collection Development Strategy.

Council Policies

Not Applicable

Legislation

Not Applicable

Financial implications

Not Applicable

Associated Risks

Not Applicable

RACHEL GILL
MANAGER LIBRARY SERVICES

PETER RAINES
ACTING DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

13 January 2023

Attachments: Nil

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER