During 2009-2010, Lake Macquarie City Library received recognition for our development, promotion, and delivery of programs.

The Lake Macquarie Seniors Program won the Marketing Awards for Public Libraries, presented at the SWITCH Public Libraries Conference, Sydney, in November 2009. The Program, developed in partnership with Council’s Social Planner, Aged and Disability, provides a range of events and information to Lake Macquarie residents aged 55 years and over.

Scheduled programs, talks and seminars have a focus on health, finance, housing, recreation, local and family history, literature, safety and technology. Library staff are directly involved in the development and delivery of technology, local history, and literature talks and sessions.

Since commencing the program, significant gains in library membership for residents aged 55 years and over have been noted with a 15% increase when compared with last year’s figures. Currently, the average attendance at programs is at 92% capacity, exceeding the 85% benchmark.

Lake Macquarie City Library was invited to talk about Sustainability initiatives at the SWITCH Public Libraries Conference. Like many other local government areas, the City of Lake Macquarie faces a variety of environmental, climate change, and sustainability issues.

By building a relationship with Council’s Sustainability team, Lake Macquarie City Library has been able to facilitate and collaborate on the delivery of a range of education programs across the City, and provide a range of tools and resources for the community to access. This relationship has been mutually beneficial as Sustainability can access library facilities, staff and promotional tools, and the Library has the opportunity to engage non-users as they come to participate in programs or access resources such as Power Usage Meters available through the library catalogue.

Cathy Shay, represented Lake Macquarie City Library at the 12 to 24’s @ Your Public Library Conference held in Logan, Queensland in June 2010. Cathy’s presentation titled “The Twilight Zone: bringing youth into libraries”, provided insight to Swansea Library’s efforts to engage local youth with a focus on investigations, interactions, surveys, planning and promotion, and outcomes for the branch. This session was well received, with attendees appreciating the practical nature of the presentation and the humour and honesty with which it was presented.

It is through these opportunities for professional development, networking, information sharing, and recognition that library staff continue to develop and provide relevant, quality programs to the residents of Lake Macquarie.

These programs are possible due to the support of Library staff. I thank you for your enthusiasm and commitment, and for helping strengthen our community connections.

Navelle Reichert

Library Managers Report 2009-2010
Library Branches

Belmont Library 02 4945 4329
Cardiff Library 02 4954 8575
Charlestown Library 02 4943 5555
Edgeworth Library 02 4958 2026
Information Services 02 4921 0446
Mobile & Special Needs Services 02 4956 7569
Morisset Library 02 2973 1248
Speers Point Library 02 4921 0493
Swansea Library 02 4921 0780
Toronto Library 02 4959 2077
Wangi Wangi Library 02 4975 2794
Windale Library 02 4948 9210

Lake Macquarie City Library
Library Headquarters
Main Road Speers Point NSW 2284
Phone: 02 4921 0452 Fax: 02 4950 8110
Email: lakelibraries@lakemac.nsw.gov.au
Website: library.lakemac.com.au

VISION
To be the information and leisure gateway for the community

PURPOSE
• Generalist resources to the community
• Gateway to knowledge
• Recreational centre
• Community centre

VALUE
• Community learning centre
• Lifelong learning facilitator
• Collectors and surveyor of culture
• Linkage between the past, present and future
• One stop Council shop and shop front for the Council

STRATEGIC FOCUS
• Provision of information and leisure
• Gateway for the community
• Council information centre
• First reference point-virtual or physical
• Community learning/development centre

Lake Macquarie City Library
2009/2010 ANNUAL REPORT
Lake Macquarie City Library supported core focus areas of literacy, life-long learning and local history through innovative programs and community engagement.

- Parents and carers learnt about the importance of reading to young children when Dr John Irvine launched the Read With Me suite of children’s early literacy programs on 4 May 2010. Funding from the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation provided additional resources and promotional material for the Library’s programs for children - Books and Babies, Read & Rhyme Time, Storytimes, and BaPK (Building Reading Confidence for Kids).

- The joy of giving was highlighted at Speers Point, Charlestown, Swansea and Toronto libraries - collection points for the annual Mayoress’ Toy and Food Appeal. A special storytime session presented by library staff at the Lake Macquarie Variety playground on 13 November 2009 launched the Appeal.

- Lake Macquarie City Library connected with our virtual members on Facebook and MySpace, and via a new monthly E-newsletter. A new-look designated Library website library.lakemac.com.au was prepared for user testing in June 2010.

- Teens discovered an outlet for personal expression at Zine (mini-magazine) Workshops presented as part of Lake Macquarie City Council’s Youth Week program. The program was acknowledged with the Most Innovative Youth Week Program Prize at the 2010 Local Government Awards.

- 838 seniors were entertained and informed at a series of targeted talks and events focused on health, finance, housing, recreation, local and family history, and literature. The Lake Macquarie Seniors Program won the Public Libraries Marketing Award at the 2009 SWITCH Conference.

- The Hunter Institute of Mental Health’s Access to Mental Health Information Initiative provided a new Mental Health Resource Collection housed across all branches. Lake Macquarie City Library, partnered with Kaiyu Enterprises, to develop the collection of books and DVDs.

- Lake Macquarie City Library was invited to speak about our initiatives in the areas of Sustainability and programming for young adults at the NSW Public Libraries SWITCH Conference in Sydney, November 2009 and the 12 to 24’s @ Your Public Library Australia and New Zealand Conference, June 2010 in Beenleigh. Joanne Smith and Cathy Shay presented papers at these events.
The Library responded to community needs with new spaces and targeted programs

- 210 local schoolchildren celebrated NAIDOC Week at Toronto Library with groundbreaking indigenous performer, Auriel Andrew and Ruben Andrew.
- Residents learnt how to access relevant and timely health information at Health Online sessions developed for Adult Learners Week (1-8 September).
- The Library celebrated with the community at special events: Seniors in The Park, Senior’s Week festival; NAIDOC Week celebrations on Toronto foreshore; Morisset Street Beat and the Swansea “2281 Day”.
- Library members in 23 remote locations across the City enjoyed the convenience of fortnightly visits by the Mobile Library. Residents of 25 local nursing homes and retirement villages appreciated monthly deliveries of fresh reading materials, and 160 people received individual reading selections bought to their home each month.
- 14,927 people asked a question, and found the answer, at the Library’s Information Services.
- Renovations to library buildings provided inviting spaces for both research and relaxation. Customers and staff gained a more open and welcoming space at the Information Services with building renovations providing a half-wall opening to the staff area and a glass-fronted meeting room. Readers can enjoy a good book, newspaper, or conversation in new intimate reading areas provided by Charlestown Library’s fiction shelving redesign. Refurbishment of office space attached to Morisset Library provided a meeting room for library programs and public hire.
- Children laughed and learnt at a variety of school holiday workshops and shows including clowning and drawing workshops, reptile and magic shows, craft and science workshops.
- Teens and Seniors enjoyed playing and exercising on the Wii gaming systems introduced to Swansea Library in August 2009.
During 2009-2010 Lake Macquarie City Library championed learning and entertainment opportunities for all age groups

- 14,082 children were introduced to books and reading at early literacy programs in 2009/2010 – an increase of 5.5% from the previous year.
- 202 parents and children attended unique age-specific early literacy workshops and programs presented by Dr James Thomas. Parents learnt the value of reading to children of all ages and gained ideas and skills for reading with their child.
- Local school children discovered the best of Australian children’s literature with a Book Safari presented by staff during Children’s Book Week 2009. 1063 children were entertained and educated at 23 shows featuring short-listed titles from the Children’s Book Council Awards.
- Popular children’s author, Andrew Daddo shared his passion for creative writing with 412 schoolchildren when he spoke at Swansea Library in March 2010.
- 43 children gained reading confidence and literacy skills whilst reading to a Delta Pet Partners trained therapy dog at the BaRK (Building Reading Confidence for Kids) program. Grant funding from the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation allowed the program to expand in 2010 to four locations – Toronto, Speers Point, Edgeworth and Swansea libraries.
- 80 cub scouts completed their literacy badges at special sessions conducted during Library and Information Week 2010.
- Readers and potential writers met the people behind the literature at twelve author talks. Visiting authors included Richard Harland (Worldshaker), Virginia Lloyd (The Young Widow’s Book of Home Improvement), Toni Jordan (Addition), Sharyn Kilens and Lindsay Lewis (An Inconvenient Child) and Susannah Fullerton. Large crowds supported local authors Patrick Cullen, (What Came Between) Jean Kent, Vic Levi, and Alan Moore.
- Food lovers discovered new recipes and learnt to foster a healthy lifestyle, when Belmont Library hosted the State Library of NSW travelling Australian Cookbook Display in October 2009. Special information sessions featuring Dude Where’s The Food?, authors Anne Geddes and Kerri Larken, and Biggest Loser dietician, Clare Collins celebrated the Library’s Month of Food.
- 208 seniors developed computer skills and a further 302 residents were introduced to the Internet at small group classes held in branch libraries.
- Book lovers explored and discussed new and classic reads at 13 book groups held in library branches.
Library programs and services facilitated connections to Lake Macquarie City’s past for future generations

- **Next in Line** memoir writing workshop sessions inspired and motivated 228 seniors to record their life story for future generations.


- 241 seniors embarked on their **family history research** journey at popular ancestry.com, *Family History on the Net and Getting Started in Family History* sessions presented by Information Services staff.

- **Genealogy** researchers received invaluable assistance from Lake Macquarie Family History Group volunteers. Volunteers provide guidance on using library resources at Speers Point Library every Friday.

- Residents maintained visual links to the past through the Library’s collection of **over 6000 photographs** of local historical interest.

- 21 volunteers created a unique legacy for future generations when they volunteered to discuss their life experiences. Three interviews were conducted and a further 16 personal accounts were transcribed to create permanent **first-voice records of a social history of Lake Macquarie**.
SERVICES
Programs presented 1,290
Program attendance 18,894
Total weekly hours of opening 477.5
Branch Libraries 10
Mobile Libraries 1

STATISTICS
Expenditure
Population: 199,277 (Estimated at 30 June 2010)
Net cost of library service: $8,038,650
Expenditure-Library Materials: $695,000 inclusive of books, serials, AV and special needs.

QUICK FACTS
866,967 visits were made to the library’s 10 locations
1,505,761 items were borrowed.
18,894 people attended 1290 public programs
53,824 reservations were placed using the online catalogue

COLLECTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP
Library visits 866,967
Loans 1,505,761
Loans per capita 7.55
Membership 56,268
New registrations 10,268
Total stock 324,798
Stock per capita 1.63
Annual stock acquisitions 45,023 (includes 12,041 serials & 4,796 donations)
Annual stock acquisition per capita 0.23