



ANNUAL REPORT

2024/2025

The Geelong Regional Library Corporation acknowledges the Wadawurrung People of the Kulin nation, and the Gulidjan and Gadubanud Peoples of the Maar nations as the Original Owners of the lands on which our library services operate. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and celebrate First Nations Peoples of this land as the custodians of learning, literacy, knowledge and story.

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CONNECTING AND THRIVING

The Geelong Regional Library Corporation Annual Report 2024/25 documents and celebrates our work and achievements over the past 12 months. This is the final year of our Library Plan 2021-25: *Connecting and Thriving*, which sets out our Purpose and our Vision under four pillars. This year, we have delivered on many of the objectives set out in *Connecting and Thriving*. In 2025, we launch the next Library Plan 2025-2029, and will continue to report back to the community and stakeholders on our progress against the plan.

OUR VISION

COMMUNITY

Geelong Regional Library Corporation is an innovative partner. We are addressing local needs with local solutions. You see us out and about in the region, focusing on vulnerable and hard to reach communities.

PLACES AND SPACES

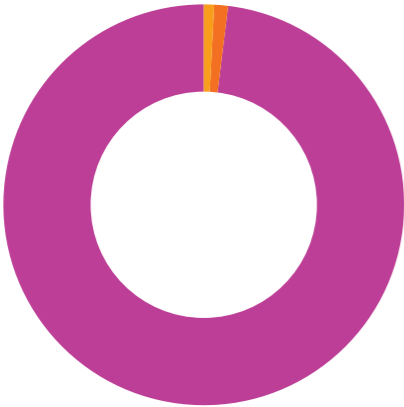
Our spaces are adaptable and democratic; uplifting and sustainable.

OUR PEOPLE

Our team is curious, caring and skilled. We exhibit a spirit of experimentation that matches transformative times.

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

Geelong Regional Library Corporation is known for leading regional recovery. We use our core strength for community good.



CONNECTING AND THRIVING:
LIBRARY PLAN 2021-2025
75 ACTIONS

On track	1%
Partially complete	1%
Complete and ongoing	98%

OUR PURPOSE

To be a thriving public library service that boosts our communities' health, prosperity, connectedness and belonging.



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR & CEO

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we live and work, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We are grateful to learn from and walk alongside the world's oldest living culture.

This year, we continued our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) journey, developing our draft Reflect RAP. We look forward to listening to and learning from Traditional Owners as we deepen our commitment to reconciliation.

This report reflects the exceptional work of our team in bringing to life the vision of our Library Plan *Connecting and Thriving 2021–25*. In the final year of this Plan, we are proud to have delivered all actions set in 2021 – at a time of great uncertainty as we emerged from the pandemic. Our programs and services continued to support community wellbeing, prosperity, connection and belonging, as evidenced by this report.

Libraries are a frontline service in combating social isolation. Almost one in three Australians experience loneliness at any given time, and one in six are severely lonely. Libraries offer accessible, welcoming, stigma-free spaces – whether attending a group session, accessing technology, or simply sharing space with others. Programs such as Chatty Café and Conversation Clubs demonstrate the many ways our libraries help foster human connection.

This year, we undertook extensive engagement with our communities and staff as we developed our forthcoming Library Plan. Through this, we heard clearly the diverse challenges and opportunities facing both our region and our library service.

“While we love books, public libraries are about so much more. This year, customer feedback overwhelmingly spoke about our libraries – and our staff – as an antidote to loneliness, and invaluable safe and welcoming places. For some, it might be their only social interaction in a day. For others, practical tech help, craft classes, or book groups offer connection and community.”

– Cr Liz Pattison, Geelong Regional Libraries Board Chair

Independent analysis again ranked us as Victoria's leading public library service, thanks to a combination of high-quality and well-used collections and programs, matched by efficient and forward-thinking operations (2024–25 *Public Libraries Victoria Annual Survey*).

In August, we proudly opened Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library – a vibrant, contemporary space designed in consultation with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners. We thank the City of Greater Geelong and the Victorian Government for their investment in this community-transforming infrastructure. Since opening, more than 112,000 people have visited – to work remotely, create, connect, learn or simply relax.

They love the collection of more than 34,000 new items and creative spaces including a podcast studio, Biyal-a exemplifies the modern library as a true community hub. It also became the first in our region to offer Out of Hours access, allowing inducted members to use the space beyond staffed hours – responding to the evolving needs of our community.

Collection usage across our service rose by 13% in both print and digital formats. Thanks to dedicated staff and smart systems, our collections worked harder than ever – over 14,000 items were transferred between branches, generating 43,768 loans valued at \$246,000.

We delivered a wide range of high-quality programs and events, from headline author talks to hands-on creative workshops, showcasing diverse voices and ideas. Our third *Local Word Writers Festival* drew its largest-ever audience, while the *Local Word Poetry Prize*, delivered in partnership with Deakin University, attracted more than 500 entries.

Partnerships continued to be a cornerstone of our work. With Kings Funerals, we hosted the *Talking About Death* series and curated a special Kings Collection on death and grief – supporting conversations around end-of-life with compassion and care. Additional furniture was purchased for the Youth Space at Geelong Library & Heritage Centre, with thanks to a donation from the Stuart Leslie Foundation.

Thanks to VicHealth and local partners Common Ground, Feed Me, and The Gordon TAFE, we rolled out *Food 4 Future* – a free youth workshop series teaching vital life skills including food planning, budgeting, shopping and meal preparation. This initiative will continue into the year ahead.

Early literacy remained a key focus. More than 77,000 people attended early years programs across the region – supporting strong foundations for school readiness and lifelong learning. We celebrated our biggest-ever National Simultaneous Storytime, welcoming over 1,100 people to listen to this year's story *The Cat Truck* by Deborah Frenkel. Children, carers and teachers at the Geelong Library and Heritage Centre enjoyed interacting with our guest story tellers the Hon Nick Staikos Minister for Local Government and Andrea Rowe the inaugural Public Libraries Ambassador. Other libraries across our region enjoyed hearing the story being read by Councillors from our 5 member Councils, including Mayors and GRLC Board Members.

Our Board, representing five member councils, continues to provide strong leadership to ensure our services remain responsive, inclusive and future-focused. We are progressing our transition to a Company Limited by Guarantee, with regular meetings of the Executive Steering Committee – comprising senior officers from our member councils – supporting this transition through clear governance and collaboration.

We are deeply grateful to our skilled and passionate staff. The daily positive feedback from our communities is a testament to the professionalism and care you show every day. Thank you.

We also acknowledge our generous and committed volunteers, whose contributions are invaluable.

And finally, thank you to our communities for continuing to embrace the library as your place. We are proud to present the *Geelong Regional Library Corporation Annual Report 2024–25*.

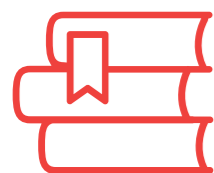
Cr Liz Pattison
Councillor, Surf Coast Shire
Chair, Geelong Regional Library Corporation Board

Vanessa Schernickau
Chief Executive Officer



THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

99,512



ITEMS ADDED TO
THE COLLECTION
INCLUDING eCOLLECTION

2,969,944



LOANS
INCLUDING eCOLLECTION

1,473,432

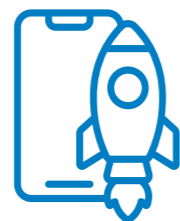
PHYSICAL LIBRARY VISITS



42

ITEMS ADDED
TO 'LIBRARY
OF THINGS'

556 ITEMS BORROWED



412,413
APP LAUNCHES

45,825

TOTAL HERITAGE ITEMS IN:
ARCHIVES.GRLC.VIC.GOV.AU



2,225

MEETING ROOM BOOKINGS

6,768 HOURS

55,393

MOBILE LIBRARY LOANS



3,252

ADULT EVENTS

18,445 ATTENDEES



114,894



LIBRARY
MEMBERS

14%

INCREASE IN eNEWSPAPER
AND eMAGAZINE USAGE



430,593

LOANS ON BORROWBOX

6%
GROWTH



5,952
NEW TITLES
ADDED

77,188



ATTENDED EARLY
LITERACY PROGRAMS

272



CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES
OUTREACH SESSIONS

8,535 ATTENDEES



1,031

VISITS FROM
SCHOOL GROUPS

27,972 ATTENDEES

MOST VISITED DAY WAS
24 OCTOBER 2024 WITH

8,615

VISITORS ACROSS
ALL BRANCHES

SO MUCH MORE THAN BOOKS

WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITIES – AND YOU LOVE US!

1.47 million people walked through our doors last year. Library members, community members, tourists, visitors, newborns and seniors – everyone is welcome at the library (and you don't need a fixed address).

ENTHUSIASTIC BORROWING

Across all collections and formats, we saw over **2.96 million** loans across our network and increased the number of items you can borrow up to 60 at any time – we provide free access to resources for all, with no fines for late items.

THE LIBRARY OF THINGS

We officially launched the Library of Things – an innovative collection of tech, tools and kits you can borrow for free. From thermal cameras to podcast kits, it's a new way we're keeping libraries relevant, practical and useful for everyday life, and encouraging a sustainable society.

CREATIVE SPACES AND TECHNOLOGIES

We hosted sewing classes, loaned thermal imaging cameras, welcomed young people to come and upcycle clothes, provided access to creative technologies: laser cutters, 3D printers, negative scanners and more. Our libraries are home to new technologies and we help you learn how to use them.

A SUSTAINABLE AND BUDGET CONSCIOUS CHOICE

Libraries are a sustainable choice at the core – borrowing collection items, trying new equipment and returning; so other members of the community can do the same. And in tough economic times, we offer access to resources, safe spaces, vast collections and more – for free.

A SAFE PLACE JUST TO BE

When the cost-of-living bites, libraries are here. We saw increases in people studying and working remotely from our spaces, and many turning to us simply as a safe and warm or cool place to be without spending a cent.

CRITICAL EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS

Libraries play a crucial role in early literacy for communities – **77,188** people attended an early literacy program at our libraries last year.

DIGITAL CONNECTION

Digital connection is essential to everyday life – from staying in touch to staying safe online. We actively support knowledge sharing in the digital world through regular sessions like tech help drop-ins, scam awareness sessions, and support digital learning for all. Many customers have embraced our invaluable Saving Family Stories service, digitising old photos, slides and videos to preserve precious memories. More than 137 people attended inductions to learn how to use this service.

OUR MAJOR AUTHOR EVENTS INFORM, ENTERTAIN, EDUCATE, INSPIRE, CONNECT

We had **25%** more people at our major events this year, and welcomed big name authors (Tim Winton, Virginia Trioli, Kasey Chambers), and partnered with organisations local and national.

KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE

We continue to work closely with the community to keep history alive and make it accessible and safe to explore. This year, the Heritage team brought their expertise and guidance into our local libraries through a series of history and local history drop-in days – making it easier than ever for people to connect.



ABOUT US

Geelong Regional Library Corporation proudly delivers public library services to people living, working in and visiting the G21 region. This dynamic and diverse region is home to around 381,432 people and covers a geographical area spanning 8,972km².

OUR CORPORATION

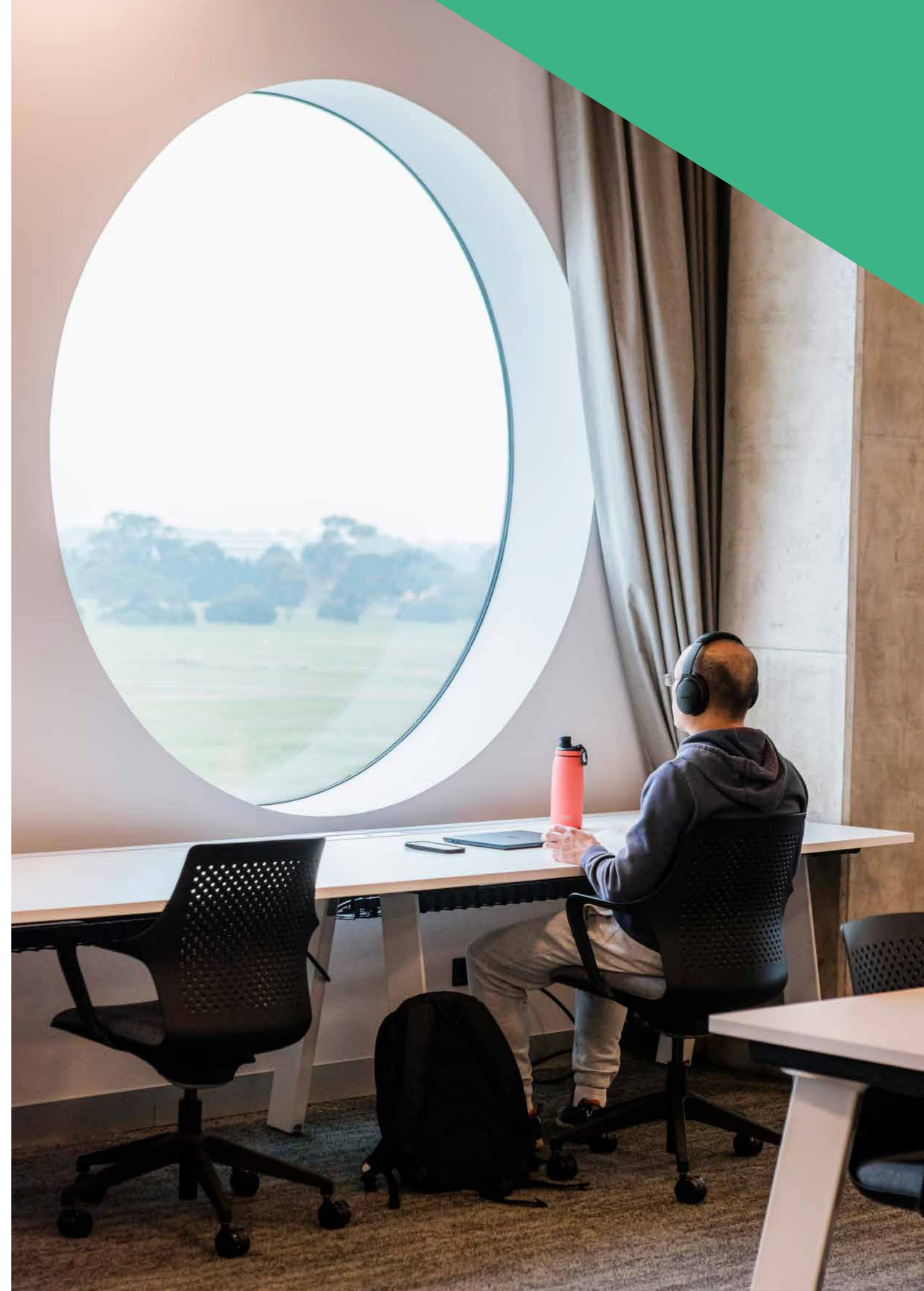
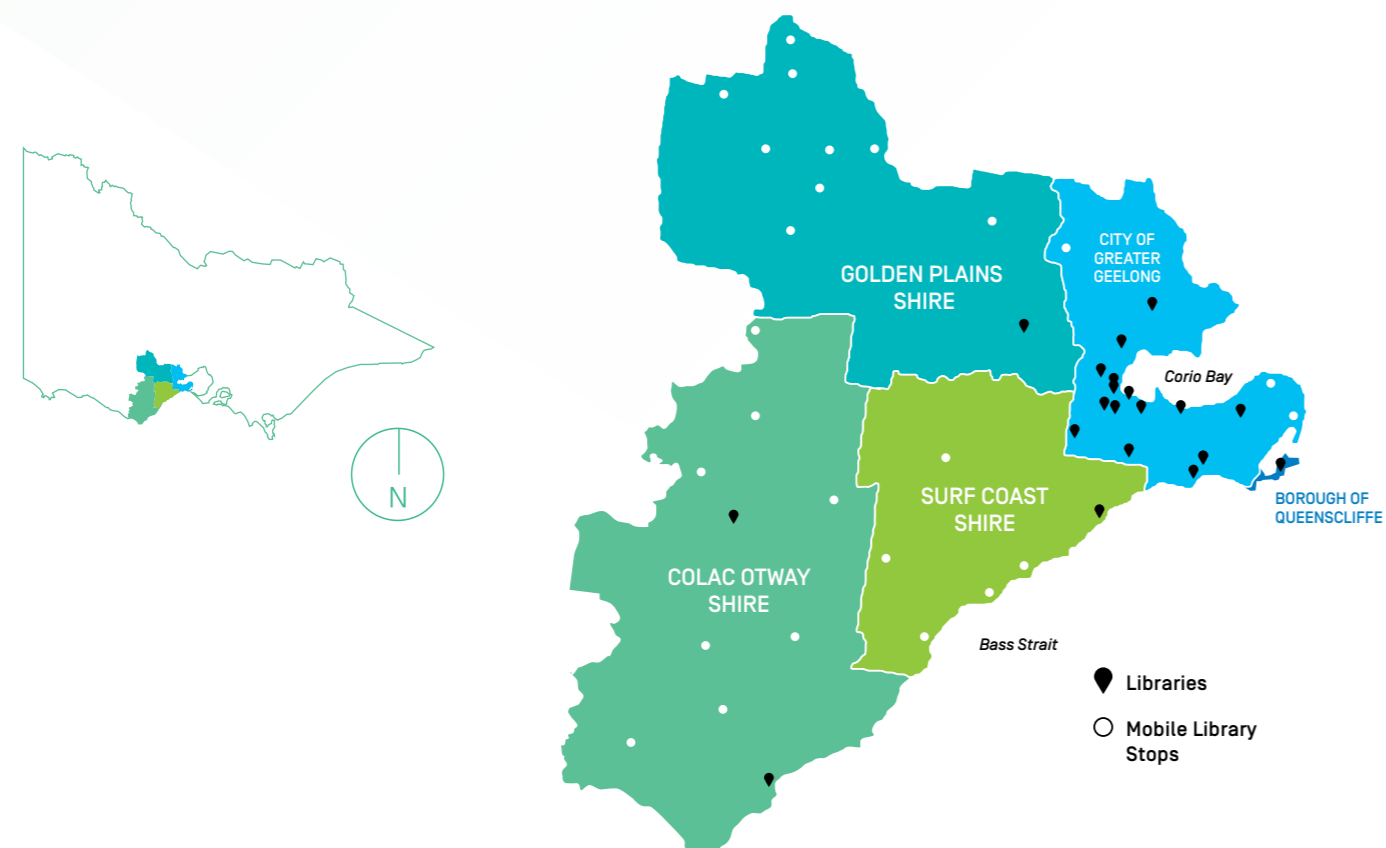
Our Corporation – formed in 1997 – represents a successful collaboration between our five Member Councils: The Borough of Queenscliffe, City of Greater Geelong, Colac Otway Shire, Golden Plains Shire and Surf Coast Shire.

OUR HISTORY

The GRLC network is situated on the lands of the Wadawurrung Peoples and the Eastern Maar Peoples. The history of GRLC can be traced back to the mid-1800s, when the first public libraries began operating in our region: in Corio in 1841, Colac in 1871, Geelong in 1876, Geelong West in 1884 and Queenscliff in 1887. In March 1997, following local government amalgamations, the GRLC was formed under the provisions of sections 196 and 197 of the Local Government Act 1989 to provide library services within the local government areas of Borough of Queenscliffe, City of Greater Geelong, Golden Plains Shire and Surf Coast Shire. In July 2021, Colac Otway Shire was incorporated as the GRLC's fifth Member Council.

OUR CORPORATION TODAY

Today, we are Victoria's largest public library service, operating a network of 20 libraries, three mobile library services, community outreach activities and extensive digital platforms. Our service is consistently recognised as one of the best in the State, and we work hard to ensure that everyone in our diverse – and rapidly growing – region has access to a high-quality community facing service. The success of the collaboration between our five Member Councils endures, providing financial and operational efficiencies, advocacy and a shared vision, to the benefit of all in our communities. We welcomed a new library – Biyal-a Armstrong Creek in 2024 – increasing our network to support the growing communities we serve. GRLC is a lead employer in the G21 region, and is proud to be a part of Geelong's Cultural Precinct where the Geelong Library & Heritage Centre is a popular destination for locals and visitors. As the world we live in changes and adapts to changing challenges, we will continue to play an important leadership role in the region and within the public library sector in Victoria.



GOVERNANCE

GRLC is governed by the Geelong Regional Library Board. Representation on the Board, and the selection of delegates, is determined by the Regional Library Agreement between our five Member Councils. The responsibilities and authorities of the Board are like those of local government councils and include policy determination, strategic planning and service evaluation. Board meetings are held regularly. Meeting dates are advertised and the agenda for each meeting appears on the GRLC website.

During 2024/25, the following Board initiatives, strategic planning and projects were undertaken by the GRLC.

OUR SUCCESSES


- Governance**
 - / Adopted annual priorities and implemented Year Four actions from our Library Plan 2021-25: Connecting and Thriving
 - / Drafted our next Library Plan 2025-29: Knowledge and connection for people and communities
 - / Adopted Annual Budget 2025/26 and Strategic Resource Plan 2025-29
 - / Adopted Annual Report 2023/24
- Library operations, programs and services**
 - / Completed our first Customer Experience (CX) Strategy and commenced implementation
 - / Opened the City of Greater Geelong's newest library, Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library
 - / Delivered year two of the Heritage Strategy
 - / Ongoing delivery of our Library of Things including the Seed Library, laptops and digital tools such as thermal cameras and devices to save photographic negatives and slides
 - / Successfully applied for a Living Libraries Infrastructure Grant to improve the accessibility of our services to rural communities
 - / Delivery of the VicHealth grant funded program 'Food 4 Future', supporting food literacy for young people across the region
 - / Delivered the Local Word Festival, with audiences increasing from the previous year
 - / Increased income generated from major events, attendance grew significantly, including new audience demographics
 - / Successful Local Word Writing and Poetry Prizes

- People and Culture**
 - / Successful negotiation of the GRLC Enterprise Agreement (2024) and its implementation
 - / Strengthened the Industrial Relations framework through the review and update of key policies to align with legislation and new Enterprise Agreement
 - / Implemented enhanced HSW framework by reviewing and updating key policies to ensure alignment with current legislation and best practices in workplace safety and wellbeing
 - / All Staff Survey (Feb 2025) showed an increase in staff engagement to 70% (up from 63%)
 - / Commenced development of Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and Gender Equity Action Plan (GEAP)
 - / Delivered year two of the Access & Inclusion Strategy (2024-28)
 - / Completed Impact 2024 leadership program (focus on senior leaders) and commenced Impact 2025 leadership program (focus on team leaders)
- Communications**
 - / Completed User Experience work and commenced build for website, to create a more accessible and user-friendly website, to be delivered in 2025/26
 - / Optimised enews communications, resulting in increased clicks and engagement, especially for Collections and Heritage content
 - / Began implementation of Digital Asset Management system to optimise image and design asset management, saving significant staff time and reducing privacy risks around image permissions
- Digital innovation**
 - / Cyber security action plan developed in conjunction with specialist consultant and first year actions near completion
 - / Continued to support over 1100 devices ensuring a high quality employee and customer experience
 - / Migration to new server and improvements to critical infrastructure
 - / Improved audio-visual equipment in Geelong Library & Heritage Centre and Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library.

OUR BOARD


Cr Liz Pattison [Chair]

Surf Coast Shire




Cr Elise Wilkinson [Deputy Chair]

City of Greater Geelong




Cr Isabelle Tolhurst

Borough of Queenscliffe




Cr Rowan Story

City of Greater Geelong




Cr Trent Sullivan

City of Greater Geelong




Cr Emma Sinclair

City of Greater Geelong




Cr Owen Sharkey

Mayor, Golden Plains Shire



Cr Mick McCrickard

Colac Otway Shire



BOARD MEMBER	MAX. POSSIBLE NUMBER OF BOARD MEETINGS TO ATTEND	MEETINGS ATTENDED
Cr Ross Ebbels	2	2
Cr Marg White	2	2
Cr Belinda Moloney	2	2
Cr Melissa Cadwell *	2	2
Cr Anthony Aitken	2	2
Cr Emma Sinclair **	4	4
Cr Isabelle Tolhurst **	4	4
Cr Rowan Story **	4	2
Cr Mick McCrickard **	4	3
Cr Elise Wilkinson **	4	4
Cr Liz Pattison ***	6	6
Cr Owen Sharkey	6	6
Cr Trent Sullivan	6	4

* Deputy Chair from 18/05/23 ** Joined 19/12/25 *** Re-elected Chair 19/12/25

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GEELONG REGIONAL LIBRARY CORPORATION

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FINANCES

The financial result for 2024/25 is a surplus of \$1,892,073, compared to a \$1,161,496 surplus in the previous year 2023/2024.

The result is mainly due to:

- / Additional unbudgeted term deposit income \$209k
- / Unfilled and temporary vacancies across the organisation \$832k
- / Reimbursement of capital expenditure incurred by GRLC when opening Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library \$1.166m.

Cash and term deposits increased to \$5.0m (from \$3.5m 2023/24). This is in part driven by the operating surplus as well as timing of payments. The closing cash balance represents 3.5 months of operating expenditure (which is within a benchmark range of 3-6 months).

In 2024/25 total income of \$21,534,827 (2023/24: \$18,320,172) was derived from the following sources:

Member Council contributions	84% [2023/24: 81%]
State Government grants	11% [2023/24: 13%]
Fees, charges, interest, asset disposals	5% [2023/24: 6%]

In 2024/25 total expenditure of \$19,642,754 (2023/24: \$17,158,676) was comprised as follows:

Employee costs	73% [2023/24: 73%]
Materials and services	14% [2023/24: 13%]
Depreciation, amortisation & asset write-downs	13% [2023/24: 13%]
Other expenses	>1% [2023/24: >1%]

GRANTS

The Geelong Regional Library Corporation received the majority of its funding from the five Member Councils: Borough of Queenscliffe, City of Greater Geelong, Colac Otway Shire, Golden Plains Shire and Surf Coast Shire. This year they contributed \$18,164,108 (2023/24: \$14,897,695).

The State Government provides recurrent and capital funding under the Public Libraries Funding Program \$2,374,220 (2023/24: \$2,374,220) and the Premiers' Reading Challenge Program \$56,417 (2023/24: \$56,417). We also received non-recurrent funding for specific community events and initiatives. In 2024/25, non-recurrent cash receipts were \$8,670 (2023/24: cash receipts \$700). This figure includes sponsorship and donation.

We are also grateful for the following grants and support received in 2024/25:

- / **2024 Children's Week Grant**
Dept of Education \$643
- / **Kings Funerals**
Talking About Dying \$4,000
- / **Australian Library and Information Association**
Aged Care Reform Hub \$6,000
- / **Australian Library and Information Association**
NBN SSBI Initiative \$7,500
- / **Stuart Leslie Foundation**
Youth space rejuvenation \$10,000
- / **VicHealth Growing Healthy Communities Grant**
Food 4 Future \$50,000
- / **Department of Government Services**
Birregurra Library Kiosk: Read. Connect. Grow. \$25,332.



GRLC 2025 ADDITIONAL INCOME

Story Box Hub – Filming Queenscliff	\$291
Department of Education, Childrens Week	\$643
City of Greater Geelong – Positive Ageing – Treasured Takes Seniors Festival	\$1,310
Surf Coast Shire – Torquay Library extended hours as advertised respite location on extreme weather days	\$1,444
Golden Plains Shire Council – NAIDOC Week Storytime sessions	\$1,504
Cash Donations	\$1,552
Kings Funerals, Talking About Dying Series	\$4,000
Australian Library and Information Association – Aged Care Reform Hub	\$6,000
Australian Library and Information Association – NBN SSBI Initiative	\$7,500
Sponsorship	\$8,670
Philanthropic	\$10,000
Shelf Love, Retail shop	\$16,178
Book Sales	\$23,631
Department of Government Services – Birregurra Library Kiosk: Read Connect. Grow.	\$25,332
VicHealth Growing Healthy Communities Grant – Food 4 Future	\$50,000
Total	\$158,056



COMMUNITY

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OUT AND ABOUT

HOME LIBRARY SERVICE

This year, the Home Library Service supported 182 customers facing illness or mobility issues, delivering 21,570 loans. The service reaches all local government areas, and helps reduce isolation, fosters connection and promotes inclusivity. Powered by 52 dedicated volunteers, as well as library staff who curate personalised selections, the service brings resources directly to those in need. This helps ensure equitable access to information, and support lifelong learning.

"I feel like I am getting a hug when my books arrive."

- Judy

HOME LIBRARY SERVICE AT A GLANCE



MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

We operate three mobile library vehicles:

- / Bellarine & Surf Coast Mobile Library
- / Colac Otway Mobile Library
- / Golden Plains Mobile Library

Year round, our mobile library team remained a dedicated and trusted presence at 25 regular stops across four local government areas in our region. Over the year, they welcomed 1,388 customers who made 15,240 visits and borrowed 55,393 items. These outreach services offer a consistent time and place for rural and regional communities to gather, connect, and access a broad range of library resources.

With expert knowledge of physical and digital collections and strong customer relationships, the team is at the heart of this valued service. By breaking down geographic barriers, our Outreach Services ensure inclusive and welcoming experiences that support reading enjoyment, well-being, and lifelong learning. They continue to bring the library to the heart of every community we serve, fostering a strong sense of belonging and equitable access across even the most remote areas.

"I really appreciate the mobile library and the service it provides to the community. The places in Lorne where people can connect and congregate as a community are few and far between. The mobile library is offers a wonderful atmosphere of inclusion & harmony."

- Lorne mobile library customer

POP UP LIBRARIES

Highlighting the library's free resources, services and programming, our successful pop-up libraries have continued to extend the library's reach and remove barriers by allowing staff to connect directly with people within their own community. Staff value the opportunity to speak directly with community members and connect with people who may not be aware of all that our libraries have to offer. During 2024/25, we ran pop-up libraries at many locations, including farmers markets, shopping centres and local festivals, across our region.

SEED LIBRARY

The Seed Library's popularity continues to grow, connecting people through gardening and sustainable living. It provides free flower, herb, and vegetable seeds, encouraging donations in a community-based sharing system. Seed Libraries are at seven locations, with three portable Seed Libraries at other locations.

We've seen a steady increase in donations of home-saved seeds, with almost 45% of the 19,000 packets borrowed this year being donated or home-harvested. We hosted 53 events, including the Spring Fling Day food swap at Geelong Library & Heritage Centre and new programs like Seed Saving for Beginners. Our Seed Library participated in the Royal Geelong Show, CultureFest, Golden Plains Shire Farmers Market, and Warralily Community Market.

DONATING WITHDRAWN BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

This year, the library has proudly donated a range of withdrawn items, including books and magazines, to various local institutions such as schools, Rotary, and the Marngoneet Correctional Centre.

These donations aim to foster education, community engagement, literacy, and the enjoyment of reading across diverse audiences. They also ensure the library's resources continue to have value beyond their time in our collection, reinforcing our commitment to serving the broader community.

SHELF LOVE

Shelf Love is a collection of quirky, high-quality gifts and apparel for library and book lovers. Launched in August 2022, it started with an online shop and a store at the Geelong Library & Heritage Centre. Now available at all library locations, our products include literary-themed items and an expanded size range. The top selling items last year were pins, tees and tote bags.

Proceeds from Shelf Love support our collections and programs, helping inspire and connect communities through a love of reading and learning.

GEELONG FRAGRANCE FAIR

The Geelong Fragrance Fair included interactive workshops, expert panels, and a marketplace to promote wellness, memory, and creativity through scent, and attracted almost 700 visitors to Geelong Library. Highlights included an international fragrance journalist conversation on scent writing, a lecture on scent and memory, and a panel featuring First Nations voices. The fair fostered strong community and business engagement, supported by 25 stakeholders and international sponsorships. Feedback praised the educational and emotional impact.

DISABILITY INCLUSION FAIRS – LEOPOLD & GEELONG

We partnered with key disability service providers to deliver two inclusive fairs that celebrated connection, accessibility, and community.

Leopold Library hosted the first Bellarine Disability Fair in July, in partnership with MatchWorks, featuring 12 local provider information stalls plus discussion sessions. Highlights included a popular visit from Harvey the Therapy Dog and an enthusiastic group of GenU clients.

In December, Geelong Library & Heritage Centre partnered with City of Greater Geelong and MatchWorks to hold the inaugural Fair to mark International Day of People with Disability. With 21 stalls showcasing disability support organisations, live music, workshops, and a reading from VALID's *Finding New Voices in our Diverse City*, the event drew 240 attendees.

"It's so nice that the library is doing something for 'my people' because there normally isn't anything that takes people that live with a disability or outside the norm into account."

- Attendee of Disability Inclusion Fair

BELLARINE COMMUNITY FAIR

In November, Boronggook Drysdale Library hosted the inaugural Bellarine Fair, bringing together local organisations – including community groups, clubs, and services. The event enabled these groups to connect with the community, share their work, and welcome new members and volunteers under one roof.

Snapshot of the day:

- / 17 community groups participated
- / 472 library visitors
- / 84 door prize entries

Exhibitors said they participated in the Fair to attract volunteers, promote their projects, provide information to the community, and more than three quarters agreed the event met their expectations of connecting with the local community.

ARTS AND CRAFT MARKET DAY

The 2024 Arts and Craft Market, held in December at Belmont, Leopold and Geelong Libraries, featured 48 stallholders. This initiative supports our local creative communities by providing a public space to sell their creations, promote connection and well-being and celebrate the diversity of creative talent in our region. Feedback from stallholders cited strong community engagement, inclusive atmosphere, valuable business exposure, and supportive library staff.

PROMOTING READING, LITERACY AND LEARNING

OUR COLLECTIONS

While the role of public libraries continues to grow and evolve with community need, access to collections – books, magazines, audiobooks, digital collections, tech items and more – remains a core part of what libraries do.

Our communities continued to enthusiastically borrow in all physical and digital formats. Through continually assessing community needs, we can direct resources where they are needed.

Across the region, physical loans increased by approximately 13% over the previous year, highlighting the community's strong engagement with literacy and lifelong learning.

The most significant growth was seen in our collections for junior readers: picture books, junior fiction and junior graphic novels. This indicates a growing reading culture amongst our younger members and their families. Adult fiction and adult non-fiction also experienced healthy loan increases. We continue to respond to community interest and demand to ensure the items on our shelves align with what our members want to borrow.

A highlight was installing the 32,537-item opening day collection at the new Bial-a Armstrong Creek Library. Curated specifically for the area's growing population, the collection was designed to reflect local needs, interests and demographics with strong engagement from the outset. These new items comprised part of the 99,512 total of new items added to our overall collection annually. All new items are now part of the floating collection, which means they can be requested and collected at any of our libraries.

Digital Collections

Our digital collection remains a significant and growing part of our service, ensuring that our customers have 24/7 access to our collection. We saw continued growth in the use of eCollections, particularly in eAudiobooks, which continue to experience strong and rising demand.

Recognising the importance of fast, equitable access, we introduced uLibrary this year, a new eAudiobook platform that offers no-wait borrowing. This strategic addition has been warmly received.

Our BorrowBox collection continues to provide good value for the community, being one of the hardest working digital collections across the state with 430,593 loans, a 6.38% increase on the previous year, and 5,952 titles were added.

Making our collection work effectively for our communities

As part of our Collections Strategy, we are committed to providing a thoughtful and data-driven approach to managing our collections across the network and making the most of every item.

Across our libraries, staff use clever technology and tools to identify underutilised items and move them to locations where demand is higher; this ensures our collection remains dynamic and accessible and responds to community demand. This proactive approach to collection management helps rotate stock, keeps collections fresh and delivers better value for all our customers, no matter which library they visit.

Library of Things

Our Library of Things continues to grow, offering customers the chance to borrow non-traditional items that support skill-building, inclusion, and well-being in our communities.

Items such as thermal imaging cameras, helpful in identifying heat loss and improving energy efficiencies in homes, remained consistently in high demand, with additional cameras added to meet the community's needs. Other popular additions include home energy efficiency kits, film and photo scanners, air quality detectors and projectors.

By sharing access to the Library of Things items, we continue to reduce financial barriers, promote sustainability and offer practical support towards reducing the cost of living.

Responding to our community

We analyse borrowing trends, looking at regional demographic data and responding to demand.

We continued to apply best value principles in selection, ensuring that all items added to our shelves reflect the demand from the community. We closely follow what members borrow and request, using data to inform purchasing decisions.

With a sharp increase in junior loans, particularly in junior graphic novels and junior fiction, we changed how we selected items, focusing on expanding these areas and having more copies of books by popular authors that younger readers want. Young people are less likely to put items on hold and perceive time differently than adults. This approach sought to improve the experience of our younger customers. The result was not only higher circulation with an increase in loans of 46% in junior graphic novels and 15% in junior fiction but happier, more confident young readers.

We expanded our Read Now collection to address the waiting time on high-demand items. These titles are selected for their popularity and relevance and are available for immediate borrowing with no holds or waiting, and a two-week loan period. This expansion has helped to meet the growing demand for high turnover content. Read Now is available for adults at Bannockburn, Colac, Geelong and Leopold Libraries and junior readers at Bannockburn and Leopold.

“From someone who has tried to explain a month long wait to a 7 year old voracious reader, this is brilliant! The kind of consideration and action that keeps little library lovers engaged! Love your work.”

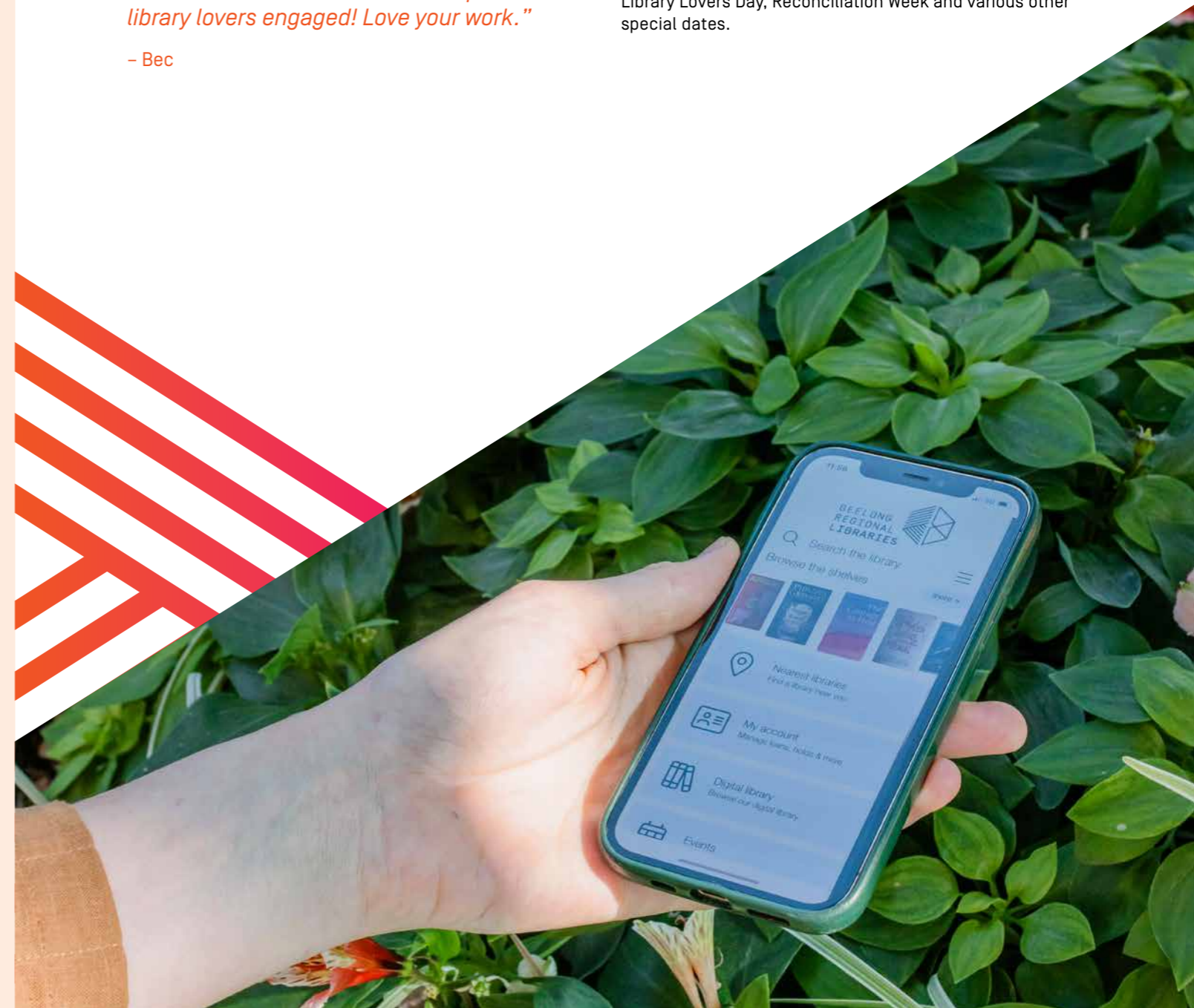
– Bec

READS update

Our Reader Engagement Advocacy and Development Strategy (READS) entered the final year, guiding how we address adult literacy and programming needs across our library network.

We engaged in major statewide reader development campaigns, including Warm Winter Read and Big Summer Read, supporting reading for health and wellbeing across the region. Encouraging participation in these incentivised and goal-focused 'challenges' helped build our reading community and awareness of the importance of literacy.

Staff further supported the goals of READS by participating in other events such as National Simultaneous Storytime, Library Lovers Day, Reconciliation Week and various other special dates.



CELEBRATING HISTORY & CULTURE

KIM BARNE THALIYU / GEELONG HERITAGE CENTRE

Reconciliation

GRLC's Reconciliation Action Plan is in development with expected completion at the end of 2026. We selected Reconciliation Week as one of our significant dates to acknowledge and celebrate with our libraries, inviting customers to share what reconciliation means to them. Staff members also participated in the National Reconciliation Week Cultural Precinct Walk & Talk and the Yoorrook Justice Commission's Walk for Truth.

Heritage Services Strategy

The *Heritage Services Strategy 2023–2025* concludes this year alongside the *Connecting and Thriving* Library Plan. It has defined our role as a research centre and improved online access through Euphemia, our archive system. Weekly social media content contribution has also showcased key items, helping connect the community with the heritage collection.

The next strategy will align with the upcoming Library Plan.

In 2024, 358 new items were added to Euphemia – up from 63 in 2023 – including 237 scanned images from the William (Bill) Smith photographic collection. The nationally significant *Fern Book* was also made available online.

Heritage volunteers

In 2024, we welcomed new members to our volunteer team, bringing the total to 18. Volunteers are now also contributing remotely, expanding the reach and flexibility of their work, and providing accessible options for people who want to volunteer. We celebrated their efforts with an end-of-year morning tea at Waurin Ponds Library and again during National Volunteer Week 2025 with an afternoon tea at Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library.

Student placements

Following a recommendation from the Heritage Volunteer Review, we introduced student placement opportunities. We participated in the Deakin Schools of Architecture, Built Environment (Construction Management), and Engineering Careers Fair Expo at the Geelong Waterfront Campus in September 2024. As a result, one placement student developed a tailored research guide to support students from this school accessing our collection. In 2025, students from the University of South Australia and Charles Sturt University began placements focused on reviewing our approximately 7,000-item reference collection, identifying items outside the collection scope and updating existing records.

Library visits

Between July 2024 and June 2025, the Heritage Services team visited seven libraries across the network to support local and family history research. These visits helped strengthen community access to our resources and expertise.

Exploring culture workshops

In October 2024, students took part in a series of cultural precinct workshops themed 'exploring culture'. Kim barne thaliyu, meaning 'here yesterday' in Wadawurrung, welcomed students who looked out over Johnstone Park while listening to a recorded story from Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Ash Skinner. This powerful audio experience is now available for all visitors via the cruiser table in our research room.

City collection audit

Heritage Services worked closely with the National Wool Museum and the City of Greater Geelong on the City Collection project. More than 300 City Collection items housed at the Geelong Heritage Centre were recorded, described, and digitised. This work supports sustainable collection management, a key principle of the Heritage Services Strategy.

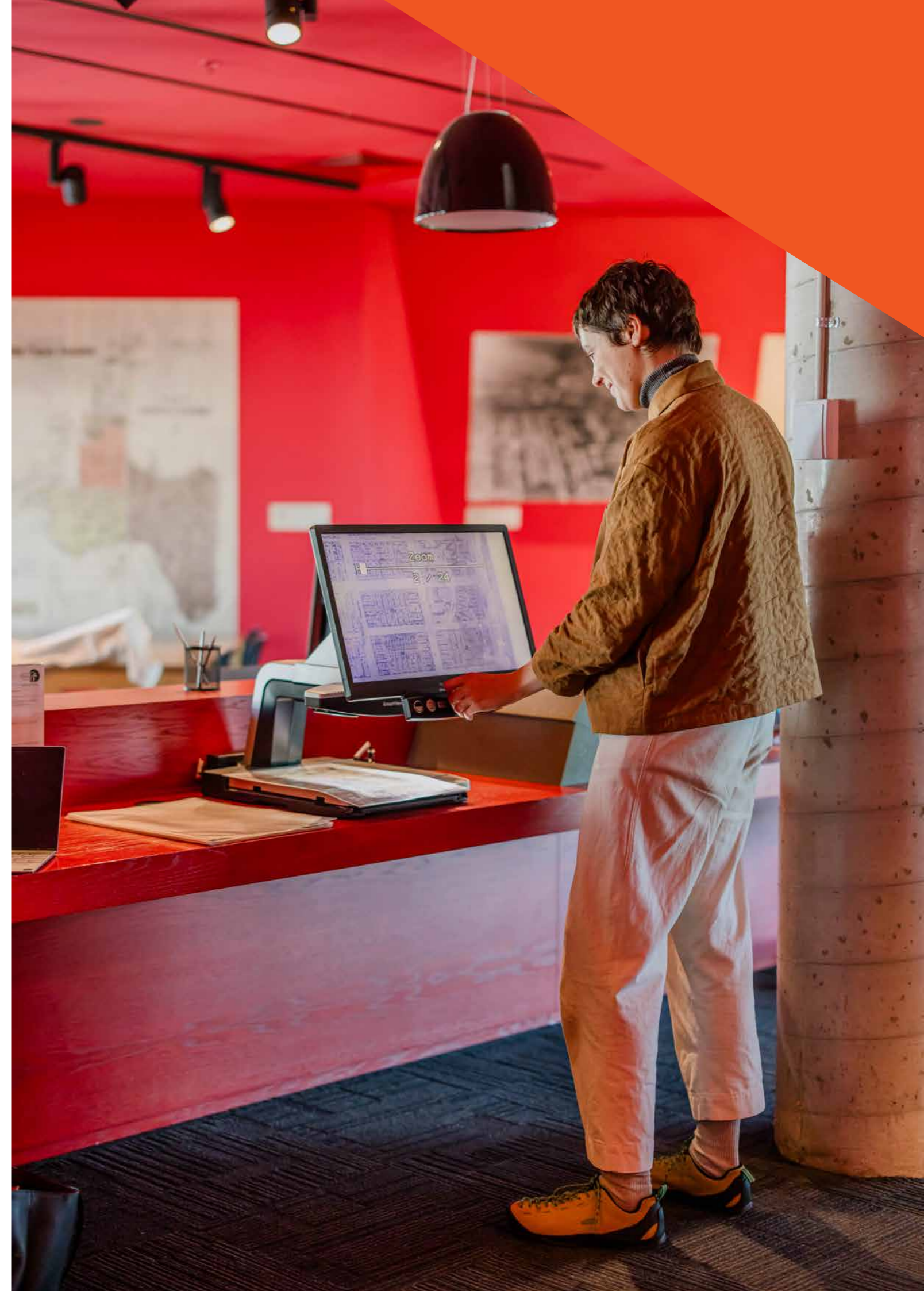
Heritage Services

Alongside our regular heritage research support service and book a specialist, we continue to strengthen our relationship with Wathaurong Co-operative and Bringing them Home support workers to deliver heritage services to the local First Nations community. Staff have undertaken training with Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Public Record Office Victoria, National Archives of Australia to provide a local service for First Nations people accessing these collections.

Donation highlights

A significant donation in 2024 was made by Dr Ruth Lee, who contributed her 1993 M.A. Thesis from Deakin University, titled "*Our fingers were never idle: Women and Domestic Craft in the Geelong Region 1900–1960*." The donation included the thesis, 26 audio interviews with local women, and around 200 colour slides showcasing domestic craftwork spanning from the 1880s to the 1960s.

Local photographer Darren Clarke donated a collection of photographs documenting the construction of the new Kardinia sports stadium.



Geelong Heritage Centre Collection Advisory Committee

Kim barne thaliyu / Geelong Heritage Centre Collection Advisory Committee continues to meet quarterly with new Councillors appointed at the end of 2024.

Committee members in 2025:

- / Cr Rowan Story (City of Greater Geelong)
- / Cr Adrian Schonfelder (Surf Coast Shire)
- / Cr Di Rule (Borough of Queenscliffe)
- / Cr Brett Cunningham / Proxy Cr Helena Kirby (Golden Plains Shire)
- / Charlie Farrugia (Public Record Office Victoria representative)
- / Padraic Fisher (Director National Wool Museum)
- / Jan Kinloch (National Council of Women – Geelong Branch)
- / Harry Roberts (Geelong Historical Society)
- / Phoebe Wilkens (Community Representative)
- / Pip Minney (Community Representative)
- / Professor Shurlee Swain (Community Representative)
- / Dr Stephen Ryan (Community Representative)

“Your professional, diligent and precise research has enabled me to gather appropriate and potential information to further my quest. I am amazed at how quickly you arrived at the source of my enquiry. I apologise for the brevity of this response which is an inverse reflection of my gratitude. I wish you a rewarding and satisfying day with the knowledge that someone on the planet appreciates you and your work.”

- Heritage Centre customer

HERITAGE CONTENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA: TOP 3 PERFORMING FACEBOOK POSTS



INFORMATION SERVICES – PARTNERSHIPS

The Information Services Librarians (ISL) design and deliver programs that promote digital literacy, improve access and promote library resources. These programs can improve health outcomes, help address loneliness, and support social connections across communities. Programs include creative learning such as painting and sewing, as well as literacy sessions, book clubs and digital literacy support: tech sessions, 3D printing, digital conversions and practical help with digital platforms and tools – from basic to advanced.

Through strategic partnerships, we have delivered a wide range of programming and events including:

- / The 'Geelong Short Film Festival @ Borongook' to showcase local creator films with the North Bellarine Film Festival
- / An 'escape room' session, that used library collections to create puzzles to be solved, encouraging teamwork and connection with a range of community members
- / We partnered with Barwon Water, working together to communicate vital information about the importance of water. This partnership has seen ongoing programming to support communities to access information and resources to improve health literacy and enhance community connection via digital and art-based programming
- / The University of Melbourne Law students facilitated workshops across multiple locations on tenancy law and protest rights
- / Our ongoing partnership with The Gordon Job and Skills Centre delivers workshops and drop-in sessions at several libraries that support community members' financial and legal literacy skills and referral pathways.

PHILANTHROPIC FUNDRAISING PARTNERSHIPS

Saving Family Stories

We sincerley appreciate our ongoing partnership with Kings Funerals.

Thanks to their ongoing support, this year we have:

- / continued to enable our community to save their family stories by providing free access to equipment and technical support to scan, save, edit and share old negatives, slides, photographs, video and film footage. This successful initiative at our Belmont, Newcomb and Leopold libraries ensures precious family stories and treasured memories can be shared, enjoyed, and digitally preserved for future generations
- / hosted community programs with the popular Talking About Dying series
- / curated a 'Donated by Kings' collection to directly support the themes explored in the Talking About Dying programs

These initiatives have made a tangible difference in the lives of countless individuals, empowering them with information on this important topic.

Stuart Leslie Foundation

Thanks to a generous donation from the Stuart Leslie Foundation we have invested in new flexible furniture options that better meet the social and developmental needs of young people in the Youth Space at the Geelong Library & Heritage Centre.

This support from the Stuart Leslie Foundation has helped create a more welcoming and functional environment where young minds can learn, connect, and grow.



COMMUNITY NETWORKS & PARTNERSHIPS

Alan David Lodge Aged Care
Allen and Unwin Books
Anakie Community House
Apollo Bay Wordfest
Arcare Aged Care - Portarlington & Point Lonsdale
ArtsGusto
Ashby Primary School
Australian Ballet
Australian Library and Information Association
Australian String Quartet
Back to Back Theatre
Bannockburn and District Garden Club
Bannockburn Bright Minds Kindergarten
Bannockburn Community Plan Group
Bannockburn Inclusive
Bannockburn Kardinia Kindergarten
Bannockburn Kinder
Bannockburn Nurture Learn and Play Kindergarten
Baptcare Coasthaven Community
Barongarook Gardens
Barwon Area Family Violence Committee
Barwon Area Integrated Family Violence Committee
Barwon Community Legal Service
Barwon Heads Primary School
Barwon Health
Barwon Health - Mental Health Colac
Barwon South West Homelessness Network
Barwon Water
Barwon Youth Services Connect
BATForce
Be Connected
Bellarine Catchment Network
Bellarine Community Health
Bellarine Living and Learning Centre
Bellarine Secondary College
Bellarine Training and Community Hub
Belmont Grange Aged Care
Best Start City of Greater Geelong
Bolinda Borrowbox
Bookgrove
Boomerang Bags

Boorai Centre
Boorai Playgroup
Bop Bop Karrong
Borough of Queenscliffe
BUPA Bellarine Lakes Aged Care
Busy Bees Early Learning, Lara
Calvary Aged Care - Balmoral Grove, Cordelia Grove, Elouera & Roccoco
Centre for Multicultural Youth
Children's Therapy Services
Chinese Association of Geelong
City of Greater Geelong
Cloverdale Community Centre
Colac Area Health - Neighbourhood house
Colac Community Hub Inc
Colac Neighbourhood House
Colac Otway L2P Learner Driver Program
Colac Otway Performing Arts & Cultural Centre
Colac Otway Shire
Colac Secondary College
Combined Refugee Action Group
Common Ground Project
Cook and Young Booksellers
Corangamarah Aged Care
Corio Bay Camera Club
Corio Village
Costa Foundation
Costa House Aged Care
CRAG [Refugee Action Group]
Cultura - Geelong & Colac
Deakin University
Deans Marsh Community Cottage
Dementia Australia
Drummond Street Services
Drysdale Preschool
Drysdale Primary School
Dymocks Wauron Ponds
Estia Health Aged Care - Bannockburn & Grovedale
Everyday Independence
Feed Me
Fern Artz
Flinders Kindergarten
Forrest Primary School & Early Years Centre

Freedom Aged Care Grovedale
GASP
Geelong Arts Centre
Geelong Bonsai Club
Geelong Botanical Gardens
Geelong F Stoppers
Geelong Field Naturalist Club
Geelong Food Relief
Geelong Foodshare
Geelong Gallery
Geelong One Fire Reconciliation Group
Geelong Sustainability
Geelong West Neighbourhood House
Geelong Writers Inc.
Gen U
GenU Gamer
Gforce
Give Where You Live Foundation
Golden Gumboot
Golden Pens Writers Group
Golden Plains Shire
Good Things Foundation Australia
Goodstart Early Learning, Lara
Great Ocean Road Health
Grovedale Neighbourhood House
GSODA
Guf Geelong
Gzines
Hachette Australia
Hardie Grant Publishing
Harper Collins Publishers Australia
headspace - Colac, Geelong & Ocean Grove
Headstart Early Learning Centre Ocean Grove
Hearing Australia
Highton Gardens Aged Care
Homestyle Aged Care - Kensington Grange & Seaviews Manor
Hope Bereavement Care
Housing for the Aged Action Group
Iona College
Journey Early Learning Childcare Ocean Grove
Journey Early Learning, Lara
Kensington Grange Aged Care
Kings Funerals
Kiwanis

Korayn Birrale Family Centre, Corio
Lara Heritage and Historical Museum
Lara Kinder
Lara Lake Community Kindergarten
Lazarus House
LBW Trust - National Backyard Cricket Grant
Leisure Networks
Leopold Child and Family Centre
Leopold Community and Learning Centre
Leopold Primary School
Leopold Toy Library
Lions Club of Corio Norlane
Little Lambs Playgroup, Lara
Little Teapot Café, Lara
Longest Book In the World
Mainly Music, Lara
MARCS Library Van [DET]
Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre
Marngoneet Correctional Facility
Matchworks
Maternal Child Health
mecwacare Elstoft House
Melbourne City of Literature
Melbourne Writers Festival
MELI (formally Bethany and Barwon Child Youth & Family)
Meli Colac
Mercy Health Rice Village Aged Care
Mercy Place Colac Aged Care
Meredith Community Centre
Meredith Kindergarten
Milville Early Childhood Education
Mingo Waloom Aboriginal Best Start
Monkey Baa Theatre Company
Mount Duneed Men's Shed
Museum of Australian Democracy
National Gallery of Victoria
National Museum of Australia
National Wool Musuem
New South Books
NGV Kids on tour
Nido Early Childhood Education
Norlane ARC [Aquatic Recreation Centre]
Norlane Community Centre

Norlane Community Initiatives (now The Good Neighbourhood Project)
Northerly Aspects
Northern Bay College
Northern Bay College - Early Years Centre
Ocean Grove Playgroup
Ocean Grove Primary School
Orange Door - Colac
Orchestra Geelong
Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School
Our Place, Northern Bay College
Outpost
Pan Macmillan Australia Publishers
Penguin Random House
Portarlington Neighbourhood House
Public Libraries Victoria
Queenscliff Primary School
Queenscliffe Historical Museum
Queenscliffe Literary Festival
Queenscliffe Visitor Information Centre
Queersways
Race Communications
Rosewall Community Centre
Royal Geelong Show
Rural Australians for Refugees
Schools and Communities Together [SACT] - DFFH
Springdale Neighbourhood House
St Aloysius Catholic Primary School
St Brendan's Primary School
St David's Newtown Uniting Church
St Ignatius College
St Joseph's Flexible Learning
St Laurence Park retirement village - Lara
St Leonards Primary School
St Mary MacKillop Primary School Bannockburn
State Library Victoria
Story Dogs
Storyhouse Early Learning, Lara
Stuart Leslie Foundation
Sunnyside Yoga
Surfside Primary School
SwimSafe Storytime [lifesavers/CoGG Pools]
Sydney Writers Festival

Tannoch Brae Aged Care
Text Publishing
The Australian Ballet
The Aviary
The Book Bird
The Bookshop at Queenscliff
The Brinary
The Chinese Association of Geelong
The Geelong Clinic
The Good Neighbourhood Project
The Good Things Foundation [as provider of Digital Devices and Digital Skills grants]
The Gordon
The Gordon Skills and Jobs Centre
The Hive Collective
The Hive Gallery
The Sexual Assault and Family Violence Centre
The Smith Family
The Vue Luson Aged Care
The Well- Smythesdale Digital Hub
The Wheeler Centre
TLC Aged Care - Belmont, Armstrong Creek, Wallington
Torquay Books
U3A - Colac
Uniting AgeWell Kalkee Murray
Victoria Police - Colac
Victoria Uni
Vines Road Community Centre
Vivid Art for Wellbeing
VMCH Star of the Sea Retirement Village
Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
Wallington Primary
Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative
Wauron Ponds Probus Club
WestVic Staffing Solutions
Wildlife Wonders - Apollo Bay
Winchelsea Community House
Woody Yallock Primary School
Woodlands Child Care
Woodlands Kindergarten
Writers Victoria
Wyndham Community Education Centre
Yarns on Pako



PLACES AND SPACES

Our spaces are adaptable and democratic;
uplifting and sustainable.

LIBRARIES FOR COMMUNITIES

GRLC continued to partner with its five Member Councils to facilitate and plan for current and upcoming capital projects. As set out in *Connecting and Thriving*, we seek to 'Inspire our communities with great library design: uplifting, sustainable, place-based.'

We work closely with member councils on all new library buildings. Council is responsible for the planning, development and building of libraries. We work closely with councils to agree on the hours of operation and staffing levels.

BIYAL-A ARMSTRONG CREEK LIBRARY

The new Bial-a Armstrong Creek Library opened in August 2024 and recorded over 1,900 loans and 927 visits on the first day. Since then, the library has continued to grow in popularity.

The building was designed in consultation with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and reflects and celebrates Wadawurrung culture. The Wadawurrung Traditional name for the new library, Bial-a, reflects the overall Armstrong Creek valley-scape and its watercourse as a place of many redgums. Bial-a also expresses that the 'red gums speak lots of stories'.

This impressive library spans three levels and features a range of clever, creatively designed coworking and collaborative spaces. There's something to suit everyone's needs, with large, medium, and small meeting rooms, quiet study areas, and shared workspaces.

The library also includes a creative studio, makerspace, and gaming and media rooms, offering the community exciting opportunities to explore technology and creative expression. Thoughtfully designed contemporary amenities, including an adult changing places facility and a parents' room, ensure the space is accessible and welcoming for all community members.

CHILWELL LIBRARY REDEVELOPMENT

Planning and detailed design for the upcoming Chilwell Library redevelopment is complete, with construction commencing in 2025. The new facility will be more than twice the size of the current building, offering a significantly improved space for the community to enjoy.

Key features of the new design include a bookable meeting room, public toilets and an outdoor deck connecting the library to the park, creating a seamless connection between indoor and outdoor spaces. These enhancements improve accessibility, functionality, and community engagement, creating a more welcoming and versatile space for all users.

This project represents an exciting development for our library services, demonstrating our continued commitment to delivering modern, welcoming, adaptable, inclusive and responsive spaces, creating a place where everyone truly feels at home.

LIBRARY REFURBISHMENTS

As part of our commitment to maintaining high-quality, accessible, and user-focused library environments, several asset renewal projects were completed during the year. These refurbishments ensure our spaces remain flexible, comfortable, and responsive to the evolving needs of our communities.

- / **Colac:** Mobile shelving was installed in the junior area to maximise space and accessibility, complemented by enhancements to flexible work and study areas to support a range of learning and working styles.
- / **Lara:** The introduction of accessible staff workstations and improvements to the floorplan and children's area enhanced operational efficiency and the overall user experience.
- / **Geelong Library & Heritage Centre:** We developed a flexible makerspace and refreshed furniture to enhance access to recreational reading, relaxation, and study areas.
- / **Torquay:** Mobile shelving was introduced in the adult fiction area to reduce the physical footprint and enhance layout flexibility. We upgraded study spaces to better support individual work and collaborative learning.
- / **Corio and Belmont:** Meeting room furniture was upgraded to enhance comfort and functionality.

These enhancements support inclusive, future-ready library spaces for all users.



OUR LIBRARY NETWORK

GRLC delivers services via a network of 20 libraries, three mobile libraries and outreach services. We provide library services to everyone who works, plays and lives in the five local government areas that are part of the G21 region: Borough of Queenscliffe, City of Greater Geelong, Colac Otway Shire, Golden Plains Shire and Surf Coast Shire. This growing region, spanning more than 8,950km², is home to around 381,432 people.

Our suburban, township and rural libraries are located at Apollo Bay, Armstrong Creek, Bannockburn, Barwon Heads, Belmont, Chilwell, Colac, Corio, Drysdale, Geelong West, Highton, Lara, Leopold, Newcomb, Ocean Grove, Waurin Ponds, Torquay, Queenscliff and at Western Heights College in Hamlyn Heights.

The Geelong Library & Heritage Centre is a community hub in the heart of Geelong's Cultural Precinct, and the site of GRLC's administrative headquarters.

The Colac Otway, Golden Plains and Bellarine Surf Coast Mobile Libraries visit 25 weekly or fortnightly stops across our region, ensuring people in remote or isolated communities, or those who are unable to get a static library, can access our services and collections.

Our libraries are staffed with a vibrant mix of people who are highly skilled and dedicated to serving our communities.



APOLLO BAY

Apollo Bay Library is a hidden gem for visitors and an essential hub to the community. This year, Geelong Regional Libraries sponsored Apollo Bay Wordfest, with more than 70 people attending to hear emerging authors Anna Kate Bair (*The Modern*) and Rijn Collins (*Fed to Red Birds*) and the theme of 'Crisis and Hope'. We then hosted a Book Club event for 30 eager attendees at the library with Rijn Collins, encouraging people to join the library and a book club. Author Isobelle Carmody visited and over 40 people of all ages attended to chat and listen to the beloved young adult writer.

Regular community library highlights are Purl Jam and Lego Club, where people create, teach and support each other. We also employed our first student shelvee, giving them real employment skills and experience in our local community.

We do like to be beside the seaside, at the Bay.



BANNOCKBURN

This year we successfully partnered with Golden Plains Shire to run various programs, including 10 art-based workshops, and delivered sessions to primary students and kinder groups, including for Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week. Our regular programs - early years, Garden Chat, Book Chat, Book Club - continue to make strong connections with community groups.

We hosted events for the Sydney Writers Festival, and the Heritage team provided local history drop-in sessions for the local community. Intergenerational Storytime was a highlight engaging our community in stories, followed by a morning tea. We also represented the library at the local farmer's market, promoting the library to new members.

"Thank you to all the mobile library staff for all their hard work, all the staff present & those who have retired in the past year thank you for having lovely long chats with me, about movies and books."

- Mobile library customer



BARWON HEADS

The local community loves our library and especially embraces our children's programs, with Penny delighting young audiences with her impressive collection of book-themed costumes. We were also lucky to welcome Fern Smith, who invited everyone to participate in the Longest Book in the World project – an inspiring opportunity for creative contribution, enjoyed by the local community members of all ages.



BELLARINE SURF COAST MOBILE

From the countryside to the coastline, our mobile library hits the road six days a week, delivering library magic to users of all ages. With a vibrant collection onboard, plus access to Wi-Fi, printing, iPads, and a public computer, it's a one-stop mobile hub for learning, connection, and fun. This year, we've prioritised truly connecting with our community – listening closely and responding to your needs. Whether they're after the next great read, a binge-worthy TV series, or a must-have magazine subscription, our team adapt, evolves, and delivers what matters most to our customers.



BELMONT

Belmont Library remains a dynamic and popular local resource for books, learning, social interaction, engagement and fun. The regular programs on offer are thriving, from children to adults, and customers often tell us how much they love them. We hosted some great programs this year, including the Arts and Crafts Market and the Nature, *Nurture and Nourished* event series. The team works enthusiastically to support our local community with expertise, kindness and patience. Customers also appreciate the practical services, such as printing directly from their phones. The team love serving and connecting with the local community, especially as it grows.



BIYAL-A ARMSTRONG CREEK

Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library opened in August last year. It quickly became one of the busiest in the region, with high visitation and borrowing rates. Since then, the team has activated the space with inductions for public use of sewing machines, overlockers, and a Media Room – where one local even recorded her first audiobook. The library also introduced Geelong Regional Libraries' first Out of Hours access service, allowing inducted users to visit outside staffed hours. This service supports those with full-time jobs or other commitments by offering flexible access to library resources. Biyal-a has become a creative hub, with spaces like the Makers Room hosting regular classes and enabling independent learning and connection among the community.



BORONGGOOK DRYSDALE

Boronggook Drysdale is hitting its stride in its second year of operation. The monthly Drysdale Film Circle has grown steadily to a vibrant group requiring our largest meeting space. The event fosters community, connection, and inclusion, particularly valued by those who live alone. Building on this success, we presented the Geelong Short Film Festival, in partnership with the North Bellarine Short Film Festival, to showcase local creators, drawing 55 attendees with the event to return this year. Our monthly Family History Chat has a core group of avid family historians and continues to connect those endeavouring to learn more about their families.



CHILWELL

Chilwell Library has been buzzing with activity this year! Our weekly knitting circle every Monday and monthly book chat sessions continue to draw dedicated groups to the library.

Our team has been preparing for the upcoming redevelopment which will see new updated facilities for the community, including a meeting room and covered outdoor area. We look forward to the Chilwell Library reopening in 2026.



COLAC

We've had a busy and vibrant year. We have increased workspaces for the public and refreshed the children's area with art and new furniture. Our most popular programs for adults are Craft Connect Collage and Chatty Café - 185 customers have attended Chatty Café, which is proving a valuable social connection in a world where loneliness is on the rise.

Friends of the Library Australia awarded us a grant to purchase STEAM resources for the community to use both in the library and for outreach in the greater Colac Otway Shire. Most recently, we obtained another grant for citizen science.

There has also been great success in outreach with robotic programs at local primary and alternative schools.



COLAC OTWAY SHIRE MOBILE

We've focused on inspiring a love of learning and literacy in our youngest community members through strong partnerships with Forrest Early Years Centre, Birregurra Primary School, and the Colac Library - bringing the magic of songs and stories to even our most remote areas. At the same time, we've continued offering a vibrant and diverse collection, ensuring there's something on board to enjoy for everyone.



CORIO

Corio Library continues to thrive as a vital community hub for Geelong's northern suburbs. We saw a steady increase in visitor numbers and growing participation in our early years' programs and school holiday activities. Our creative workshops, from painting and sewing to gardening, have also been a big hit with customers, drawing enthusiastic attendance and fostering new skills.

Beyond our walls, we strengthen connections with local schools, community centres, and support services. We're proud of our strong relationships with Norlane ARC, Rosewall Community Centre, Our Place, and Northern Bay College. In addition, our collaboration with The Gordon Skills and Jobs Centre continues to bring valuable opportunities and support to the library and the wider community.



GEELONG

Geelong Library had a vibrant and inspiring year! We continued to work with local partners to increase our reach and support the community. December saw the Arts and Craft Market and the Disability and Inclusion Fair. Spring brought the lively Spring Fling Food Swap with the Geelong Food Assistance Network, and the Sustainability Market raised vital funds for Lazarus Community Centre. We gazed at the stars with the Astronomical Society, talked bikes and maintenance, and stitched sustainably in our recycling-focused sewing workshop. The Geelong Fragrance Fair attracted creative businesses from across Australasia and big crowds. We continued to host a wide offering of ever popular digital literacy programming, including VR and AR programs, coding, 3D printing and laser cutting.

What a year of creativity, community, and connection.



GEELONG HERITAGE CENTRE

The Heritage Services team responded to an average of 200 research enquiries each month and retrieved almost 500 items from the repository. We visited seven libraries to support customers in researching family and local history. The team added 358 new items to Euphemia, our online archive management system. We worked with MELI, the City of Greater Geelong and the National Wool Museum to support sustainable collection management and deliver a trauma-informed community service. The digitisation equipment is now available for booking through the Saving Family Stories page and has been popular with customers - one person used the upright scanner to digitise family heirloom recipes dating back to 1927! We also continue to share photos and stories from our collection as weekly social media content.



GEELONG WEST

Geelong West Library is a vibrant hub for the local community, hosting events that foster connection and inclusivity. Notably, the extended opening hours for Pako Festa attracted over 1000 visitors to the library in a day. We hosted a social inclusion afternoon tea, providing a welcoming space for all to share experiences. Our continued collaboration with Newtown Uniting has provided an avenue for the community to meet and develop their skills.

Our outreach opportunities beyond the four walls of the library continue to grow, and this year we connected with local community centres, health and education organisations, and support services.



GOLDEN PLAINS MOBILE

This year, we hit the road running with our new vehicle – fine-tuning our collection to ensure there's something onboard for everyone. From bestsellers to hidden gems, we've worked hard to keep our shelves fresh, diverse, and ready to delight readers of all ages. The service continues to offer community members a valuable opportunity to connect and exchange knowledge, and many have made a visit to the mobile part of their routine, often planning their day and activities around the scheduled times.



HIGHTON

Our library is a great community hub - customers catch up with the daily newspapers, use Wi-Fi and computers for study, print and scan services, and borrow from the collection. The library looks great after a facelift with a new roof and exterior painting. Story Time and school holiday programs continue to be popular, as was our after school program Lego Spike. We've offered various adult programs, with highlights including Colour Your Stress Away and Get to Know War Poetry. The Heritage team hosted a drop-in session, allowing our community to discuss local or family history with an expert.



LARA

It's been a big year at the Lara Library. From Story Time to home-schooling events, we've been busy building connections and creating a welcoming space for learning, creativity, and fun. Crafting and book groups, school holiday programs, mind-body wellness sessions, and author talks have all brought contagious energy into the library.

We shook things up with a layout redesign, moving collections to make the space more accessible and inviting, feedback has been fantastic.

None of it would be possible without our amazing, friendly staff, always ready with a smile and a great book recommendation. The library remains a true community hub, and we're proud to be part of everyday life in Lara.



LEOPOLD

It has been a satisfying year as the hardworking Leopold Library team has continued to provide meaningful activities for locals. This included the Bellarine Disability Fair, a record number of author events and a series of programs highlighting career pathways for school leavers as well as our new Shadow Judging for the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards program for young readers.

We continue the valuable Saving Family Stories service offering free digitisation of family photos and films. This self-service facility plays a vital part in raising digital confidence in the community.

We continue to share our love of reading recommendations to locals and offer a safe space for them to meet, work and play.



NEWCOMB

Newcomb Library continues to thrive as a welcoming space where all ages can learn, create, and connect. From Baby Time sessions that spark the love of reading in our youngest visitors to technology workshops that empower adults to learn new skills, we deliver fun and creative programs to appeal to a variety of interests, including veggie gardening, Chair Yoga, 3D printing, and special author events with Mal Walden and Caz Carter. We hosted the Food 4 Future program, a series of free workshops, plus a TAFE food handling certificate funded by VicHealth, designed to help young people build practical life skills related to food.

Our Saving Family Stories digitising service, supported by Kings Funerals, remains popular and allows anyone to digitise their family photos, slides, negatives, Super 8mm film and home videos.



OCEAN GROVE

The past twelve months have seen a lot of activity at Ocean Grove Library, with plenty on offer for our community of library enthusiasts. In addition to our much-loved children's programs, we hosted various engaging events, including author talks, a 3D printing workshop, hands-on kids' activities, and a fascinating presentation on local birdlife. In collaboration with the Bellarine Catchment Network, we delivered a well-attended session on creating wildlife-friendly gardens, and the Astronomical Society of Victoria gave us a glimpse into the wonders of the night sky. As always, the summer months brought an influx of holidaymakers, many of whom enjoyed using our library as a cool retreat from the sun and surf.



QUEENSLIFF

Queenscliff Library hosted three major author talks and diverse events, such as a morning tea for Library Lovers and contributing to the Longest Book in the World. With the Queenscliffe Historical Museum, customers could use green screen technology to put themselves in historical photos, the Queenscliff Gallery owner spoke about printing never-before-seen images from original plates by Arthur Streeton. The highlight was launching the Queenscliff Literary Walking brochure with a facilitated walk, exploring the local areas through a literary lens. The Seed Library remained popular, as did our regular Book Chats, Story Times, and after school Lego sessions. There was always a jigsaw on the go, and our front room continued to attract people to use it as a quiet working space.

2025 also marked the retirement of long-serving team member Hilary Stennett, whose steady leadership and ties to the community shaped the character and success of Queenscliff Library for over two decades.



TORQUAY

Torquay Library is a well-loved community haven and is anything but silent! Our library offers a vibrant community space with books, free Wi-Fi, and printing services. We host regular programs like Baby Time, Toddler Time, and Story Time sessions, when the library is bustling with joy, songs and community connection, and many programs for adults, such as Book Chat and Book Club. Recently refurbished with lots of new furniture and zones, we provide a welcoming environment for learning, creativity, and connection. The library also offers safe refuge on extreme heat alert days, extending the opening hours to cater to residents, visitors, and holidaymakers. We regularly connect with local partners, such as U3A Surf Coast and Torquay Community House.



WAURN PONDS

Waurm Ponds Library has something for everyone, from two popular book clubs to our monthly Jigsaw Jam and the Knot Just Knitting group.

We've introduced a new series of Art Therapy sessions. We continue offering the ever-popular Cricut craft workshops, keeping our community engaged and excited.

The Write Stuff writing program continues to inspire children, by giving them the opportunity to have a short story they write catalogued and available to borrow on the library shelf. These budding authors learn all about the writing process from plot development to editing and illustrations. Shadow judging was an exciting addition, inviting young voices to join the conversation about the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards.

We hosted several events and author talks, including Eat Well, Live Well: Meal Planning Essentials, The State of the World in Graphics – Esther Gonstalla, The First Week After a Death by Kings Funerals and Natasha Lester – *The Mademoiselle Alliance* – that were all popular with our local community.



WESTERN HEIGHTS COLLEGE

The library at Western Heights College includes two separate collections, one belonging to the college and one belonging to GRCL. The library is run by the school and receives collections support from GRCL. We work collaboratively with all stakeholders at the centre and attend regular monthly meetings to maximise opportunities for collaboration and the sharing of knowledge.



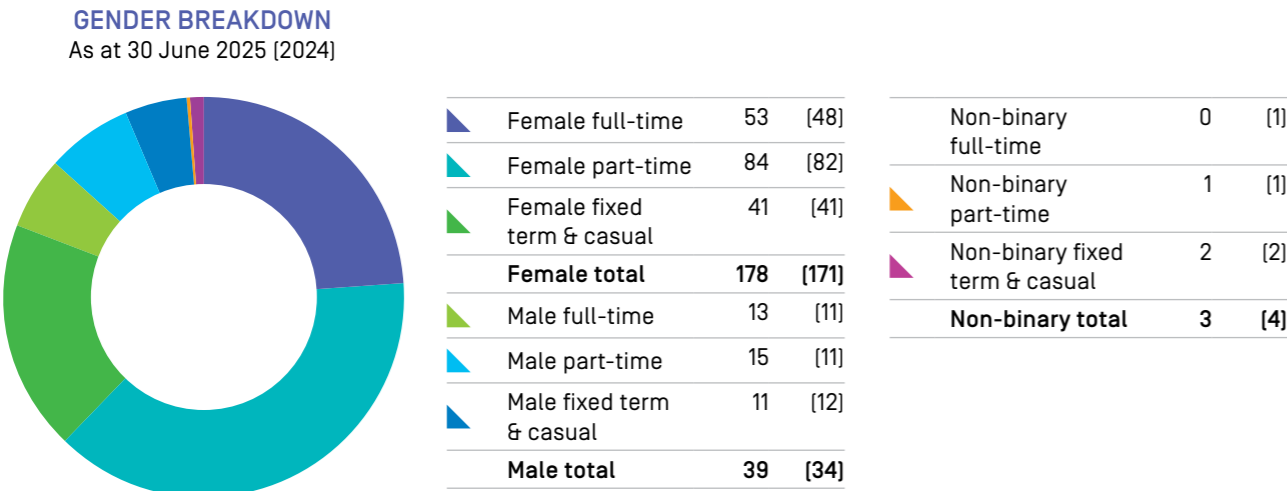
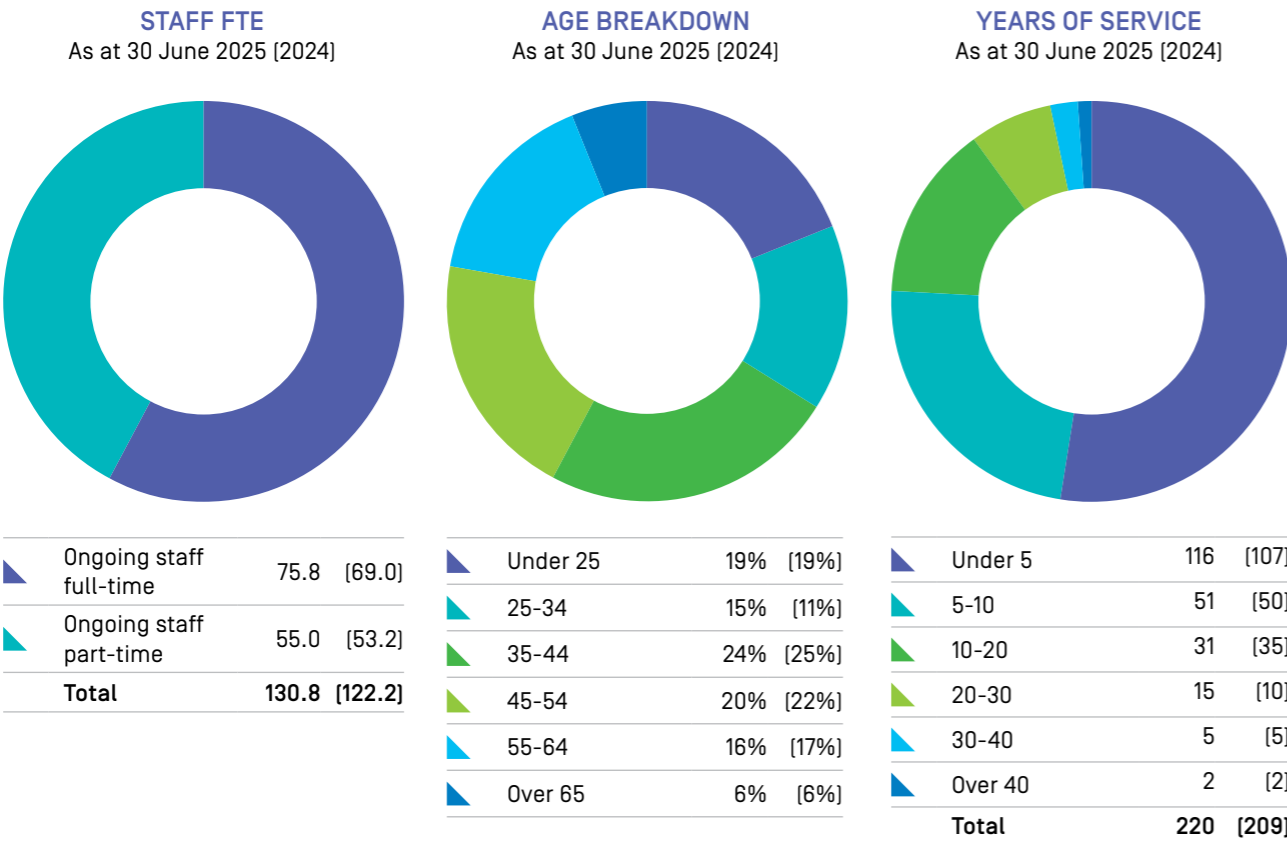


OUR PEOPLE

Our team is curious, caring and skilled. We focus on developing and supporting our people, so they are ready to apply their skill and leadership ability to the task of providing exemplary and innovative library services to our communities at a transformative time.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR PEOPLE

The Geelong Regional Library Corporation employed a total of 220 staff compared to 209 in 2023/24. Our ongoing Full Time Effective [FTE] is 130.



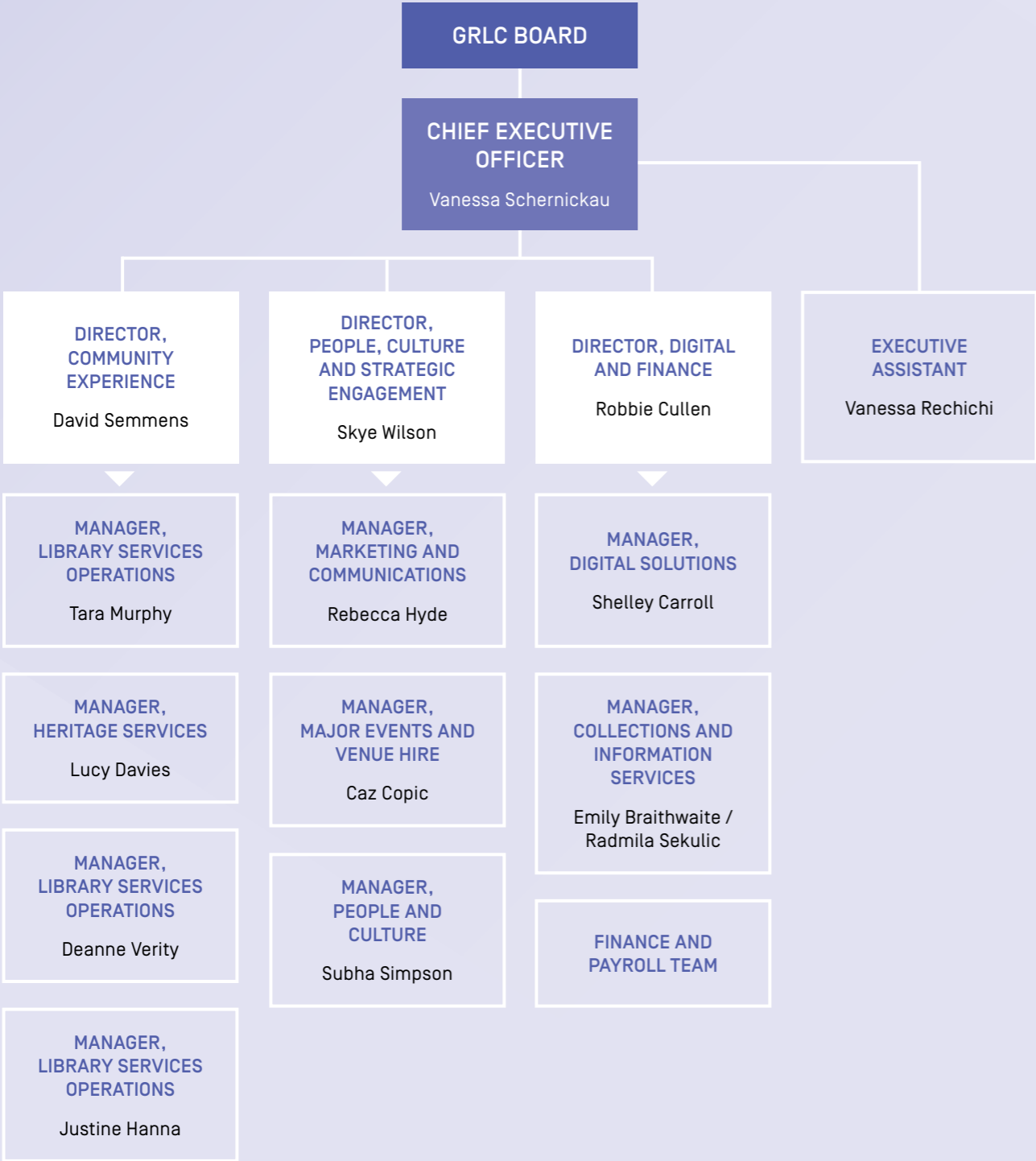
ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- / Australian Library and Information Association
- / Arts Hub
- / Australian HR Institute
- / Australian Society of Archivists
- / Children's Book Council of Australia (Victoria)
- / Copyright Agency
- / G21 Geelong Regional Alliance
- / Geelong Chamber of Commerce
- / Tourism Greater Geelong & the Bellarine
- / Public Libraries Victoria
- / Roadshow Public Performing Licencing
- / VALA Libraries Technology and the Future Inc.
- / Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- / Local Government Professionals
- / SPUN Spydus Users Network
- / The Grants Hub
- / Volunteering Geelong Inc.
- / Institute of Public Administration Australia (Victoria).



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

AS AT 30 JUNE 2025



CURIOUS, CARING AND SKILLED

Our people are at the heart of everything we do. Their curiosity drives innovation, their care shapes meaningful connections with our community, and their skills ensure we deliver high-quality services daily. In 2024-2025, we've focused on supporting our staff to grow, stay well, and feel recognised – both as individuals and as valued members of our organisation.

We are proud of the commitment and resilience shown across our workforce. From professional development opportunities and wellbeing initiatives to new ways of working and recognition of everyday excellence, we continue to invest in building a culture where people can thrive.

Highlights for the year included:

- / We continued to build our culture, measuring it through CultureAmp. The annual All Staff Survey indicated an engagement score of 70% in January 2025, a 2% increase from the previous year, reflecting our ongoing efforts for sustainable change.
- / Collaborated with staff and the Australian Services Union to negotiate a new Enterprise Agreement that includes competitive pay, improved leave, flexibility provisions, and better support for work-life balance. This agreement reflects our commitment to a workplace where staff feel valued and supported. We also reviewed and updated our policies to align with the new agreement and current legislation, working alongside the Staff Consultative and the Health, Safety, and Wellbeing committees.
- / We launched a new People & Culture ticketing system to streamline how staff raise queries, request support, and order health, safety and wellbeing materials. The system provides a clear and consistent process, ensuring timely responses and better tracking of requests. It reflects our ongoing commitment to making it easier for our people to get the support and resources they need to work safely and confidently.
- / Developed, delivered and embedded staff capability training across our libraries, including Child Safety and Wellbeing policy, procedures and related training.

INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY

Our commitment to becoming an inclusive organisation continued this year as we completed the first year of our Access and Inclusion Plan. This plan outlines actions to remove barriers, raise awareness, and ensure everyone feels welcomed and supported. We are committed to understanding and valuing diverse backgrounds, perspectives and the needs of our team and community in an ongoing journey.

We are on track to achieve the Plan outcomes, with a focus on improving our physical and digital spaces and embedding inclusive practices in our services and programs. We continue to strengthen how we support of staff and customers of all abilities and backgrounds.

This work reflects our values of care, curiosity, and continuous learning – and we remain committed to listening, adapting, and taking action to ensure accessibility and inclusion are part of everything we do.

We continually assess progress and adapt strategies to prioritise inclusivity where everyone can thrive. We've focused on creating an inclusive and accessible environment to all groups who may experience barriers to inclusion (people with disability, carers, first nations, CALD communities, LGBTIQ+, people with mental health needs, ageing, young people, those who live remotely, etc.) within our workplaces, and for the community.

We reduced barriers to accessing goods, services and facilities by:

- / **Diverse collections:** Curating materials that represent various cultures, languages, and perspectives. Ensuring resources cater to different ages, abilities, and interests.
- / **Inclusive programming:** Developing programs and events that celebrate diversity and the needs of all community members, including multilingual Story Times, cultural heritage celebrations, and programs for differently-abled individuals.
- / **Staff training:** Ongoing training on diversity, equity, and inclusion to promote cultural competency, unconscious bias awareness, trauma-informed practices, and inclusive customer service.
- / **Community engagement:** Seeking input from diverse community groups to understand their needs, and partnering with local organisations to co-create relevant services and programs.

- / **Accessible services:** Ensuring our libraries are physically accessible to everyone, including those with disabilities, by providing assistive technologies, accessible materials, and navigable spaces.
- / **Inclusive policies:** Developing and enforcing policies that promote inclusivity, regularly reviewing and updating these policies to reflect best practices.
- / **Representation:** Promote diversity in staff and leadership to reflect the community served. Implement fair hiring practices and provide opportunities for professional growth and advancement for all.
- / **Feedback mechanisms:** Created channels for customers and staff to provide feedback on inclusivity efforts and use insights to improve services and address any issues of exclusion or discrimination.

We reduced barriers to access and inclusion by:

- / **Gender Equity Action Plan:** This year, we began our Gender Equity Action Plan, which aligns with the Victorian Gender Equality Act 2020. This work fosters a more equitable, respectful, and inclusive workplace where gender is not a barrier to opportunity, safety, or belonging. We started with data gathering to understand our obligations, including participating in the Victorian Public Sector Commission's People Matter Survey, which looks at gender representation, workplace experiences, and access to career development. This forms the foundations for meaningful, long-term progress. We recognise that advancing gender equity is not just a compliance requirement – it's part of our broader commitment to fairness, inclusion, and the wellbeing of all staff and community members.

HEALTH SAFETY AND WELLBEING

Health, safety and wellbeing are essential to a secure, inclusive and welcoming library environment. Focusing on physical and psychological safety safeguards individuals. It strengthens our role as a trusted public space for learning, connection and engagement.

We continue to prioritise the mental and physical health, safety and wellbeing of our people and our facilities meet the needs of our diverse users.

Highlights from the year include:

- / **Health and Safety Training:** Regular training in safety protocols, including fire warden duties, first aid, manual handling, and the safe use of equipment. Training ensures a shared understanding of our responsibilities and readiness to respond.
- / **Workplace ergonomics:** We supported the design and adjustment of workspaces to reduce strain and injury risk, including ergonomic furniture, task lighting, and tools that promote safe and comfortable working conditions.
- / **Emergency preparedness:** Our emergency plans were reviewed and tested through regular drills and updates, familiarising staff and customers with procedures for fire, medical emergencies, and other potential risks.
- / **Clean and hygienic environments:** We maintained high standards of cleanliness, with regular cleaning of high-touch surfaces, well-stocked hygiene stations, and clean, accessible restrooms.
- / **Mental health support:** Our Employee Assistance Program continued to offer confidential support and counselling services, with ongoing promotion of resources that support mental wellbeing and work-life balance.
- / **Safe and accessible facilities:** A site audit of all libraries identified physical hazards and ensured accessibility, with regular inspections for continuous improvement.
- / **HSW framework and strategy:** We commenced work on an HSW framework and strategy for a clear direction for future initiatives, promoting a structured approach to employee wellbeing.
- / **Feedback and continuous improvement:** Staff are encouraged to report health and safety concerns and provide feedback, which helps us improve practices, systems, and spaces.
- / **Maintained safety equipment:** including fire extinguishers, first aid kits, and defibrillators; ensured regular checks and staff training.

LEADERS ARE LEARNERS

We continue to deliver programs that meet the needs of our people and support positive community outcomes. Areas of development included orientation and induction; health, safety and wellbeing; leadership development; role-based learning; professional development and compliance training, with programs being well received and highly rated.

NEW EMPLOYEES

We welcomed 37 new employees via our online onboarding program. Staff completed 333 induction training courses, supporting learning in their new roles.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In January 2025, we launched *Impact 2025* – our flagship professional development program designed to strengthen leadership capability and align staff with our strategic vision. This program supports the development of key skills and behaviours that will enable participants to confidently lead, navigate complexity, and contribute meaningfully to the organisation's long-term goals.

Staff have participated in workshops, group coaching sessions, and mentoring focused on strategic thinking, adaptive leadership, innovation, and driving positive change. The program also provides space for reflection, peer learning and connection across different teams and levels.

Impact, now in its fourth year, is a long-term investment in our people and reflects our belief that growing our people helps grow our organisation. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with staff reporting increased confidence and clarity.

COMPLIANCE

Compliance remains a priority, with over 1135 course completions relating to varying risk areas such as Child Safety, Health, Safety and Wellbeing, Sexual Harassment, Psychosocial Hazards, Equal Opportunity, Bullying and Harassment and more.

KNOWLEDGE ACQUISITION AND STUDY

GRLC supported five staff with study leave in the 2024-25 financial year in the following courses:

Masters in Information Studies	University of South Australia
Graduate Certificate in Cyber Security	Charles Sturt University
Graduate Diploma in Information Management (Archives and Record Management)	University of South Australia
Bachelors in IT	La Trobe University
Masters of Information Studies	Charles Sturt University

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Throughout the year, a number of our people reached significant employment milestones. Congratulations to the following staff and others. Thank you for your service to Geelong Regional Libraries and our communities.

50 years of service / Kimbra Neill

This year, we proudly celebrated an extraordinary milestone – the 50th work anniversary of Kimbra Neill, a valued team member whose commitment, warmth and professionalism have left a lasting mark on generations of colleagues and customers.

To honour this achievement, a special function was held on 17 March at Wurdi Youang at the Geelong Library & Heritage Centre, bringing together friends, current and former colleagues, and leadership team members. The event was a heartfelt tribute to Kim's five decades of service and her impact across the organisation. Stories were shared, laughter echoed, and deep appreciation was expressed for her dedication and passion for libraries.

Kim's knowledge, positive attitude and unwavering commitment have inspired many and contributed significantly to our culture and community spirit. Her celebration was a recognition of the enduring relationships and contributions that have shaped our organisation over time. We thank Kim for her remarkable service.

30 years of service	20 years of service	10 years of service
Doris Periera & Stacey Birch	Melody McDonald	Moira Whelan

Retirement / Hilary Stennett

After more than 27 years of dedicated service, we farewelled Hilary Stennett. She began in 1997 and, from 2000, led Queenscliff Library, including through two major renovations and many community milestones. Hilary's knowledge, leadership and community connection leave a lasting legacy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We live on the lands of the Wadawurrung People
We play on the lands of the Wadawurrung People
We read on the lands of the Wadawurrung People
And we say "thanks for caring for land"
We touch the ground to say "hello"
We reach for the sky to say "hello"
We touch our hearts to pay respect
And we say "thanks for caring for land"





How a library officer can attach or connect to a customer who is not good in communication which include language barriers, disability or cultural barriers.

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

Geelong Regional Library Corporation is known for leading regional recovery. We use our core strength for community good.

DIGITAL INNOVATION

We continue to roll out actions in our Digital Strategy 2023-2027, a roadmap to guide the organisations digital transformation.

NEW HARDWARE IN LIBRARIES

We made a number of hardware improvements over the year, including:

- / Completed the installation of all equipment at Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library.
- / Major server infrastructure replacement project
- / New 3D printers for Drysdale, Geelong and Newcomb libraries
- / New laser cutter at Geelong Library & Heritage Centre
- / Ocean Grove and Geelong West laptop banks for customer use and programs
- / Heritage touch screen for digital interactive displays
- / New printers at Corio, Lara, Leopold and Waurin Ponds libraries

- / Installation of new people counters at Geelong Library & Heritage Centre
- / New smart bin at Lara
- / Improvements to the Heritage Centre: Removed gates to improve access, installed a new touch wall TV screen and added Saving Family Stories scanning PC
- / Saving Family Stories: Added support for conversion of Camcorder video tapes at Belmont, Newcomb and Leopold Libraries.
- / Video conferencing equipment at more libraries.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

- / Cyber security upgrades
- / Kicked off SharePoint integration to improve document management, which will modernise our workflows and improve collaboration
- / Continued migration to cloud platforms for faster and more reliable services.



PROGRAMS, EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS FOR ADULTS

Major Events for Adults

This year has been prolific in terms of high profile and bestselling authors who have included the G21 region on their publishing tour circuit, and thanks to our strong reputation for hosting high quality author events, Geelong Library & Heritage Centre is consistently their preferred venue of choice for this region.

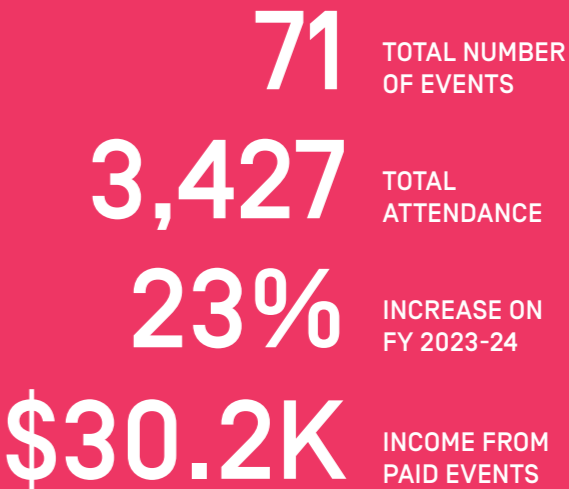
Author talks are an important part of our programming mix because they foster a deeper connection between authors and readers, encourage a love of reading and writing, and provide valuable insights into the creative process and the author's perspective – as well as allowing our customers to get up close and personal to some of their favourite authors for book signings and selfies!

To cite a few notable examples in September we hosted Australian and international storyteller **Markus Zusak**, best known for *The Book Thief* and *The Messenger*, two novels that became international bestsellers and ABC radio host Jacinta Parsons interviewed her friend and former ABC presenter, author **Virginia Trioli** for an event in Wurdi Youang to promote her new cookbook/memoir, *A Bit on the Side*. In October, Wurdi Youang at the Dome hosted perhaps Australia's best known and best-loved author, **Tim Winton**, for a discussion on his new book, *The Juice*, in-conversation with local author Jock Serong.

In April 2025 we hosted acclaimed author **Kate Grenville** to discuss with local author Jock Serong her new book *Unsettled*, where she asks, 'What does it mean to be on land that was taken from other people? Now that we know how the taking was done, what do we do with that knowledge?' The following week we hosted international bestseller **Dervla McTiernan**, discussing her new book *The Unquiet Grave*, the much-anticipated next instalment of her Cormac Reilly series.

In partnership with The Wheeler Centre in Melbourne, in May we delivered an event with two hugely popular authors and social media influencers, **Jamila Rizvi** and **Rosie Waterhouse**, in a heartfelt discussion about the challenges of living with illness and their co-authored book, *Broken Brains*.

Major events program statistics this financial year



During 2024-25 we have continued to increase audience attendance figures at major events. Our figures show this financial year's results of 3,427 attendees at 71 major events throughout the year, which is an increase of 23% on last financial year's strong attendance figures of 2,783.

This includes the annual Local Word Writers Festival, which comprised 14 events and an overall audience attendance of 444, an increase of 22% for the Festival attendance.

Income from paid events

This financial year, the major events program generated \$30,240 in income – a 59% increase from the previous year's \$19,000. This includes \$8,526 from the 2024 Local Word Festival. Since paid events began in 2021, ticket prices have remained unchanged until now: \$20 or \$10 for members for talks, and \$30/\$20/\$10 for workshops

From 1 July 2025, event pricing will increase to \$20 for members and \$10 for concession holders for panel discussions and author talks. Workshops will be \$40 (members) and \$20 (concession). All attendees must be library members. The change supports membership growth, audience diversification, and has reduced no-show rates to 6% (down from 27% prior to paid events).

Approximately 66% of attendees currently use their free library membership for discounted tickets. Requiring membership for all event attendees is expected to drive membership growth, supporting vital library funding.

World Poetry Day and Local Word Poetry Prize

World Poetry Day in March 2025 provided the ideal opportunity for us to announce the winner of the second Local Word Poetry Prize, with all four shortlisted entrants invited to read their poems as part of the festivities (either in person or via pre-recorded video), which added a special live element to the poetry celebrations.

From a starting point of almost 600 entries (the biggest response to any of our prizes so far!) to a longlist of 21 entries, we announced Panda Wong as the winner for her work titled *Dank Abecedarian*. Panda attended the event in person to receive her prize, as did another of the finalists, local Linda Judge, who received a Highly Commended prize.

The judging panel comprised of our CEO Vanessa Schernickau, Professor David McCooley of the Faculty of Arts and Education in the School of Communication & Creative Arts at Deakin University, and local poet and writer Charlotte Guest. All judging was carried out anonymously.

We published all four works on our website, allowing everyone to read and enjoy these wonderful poems. You can also view the event on our YouTube Channel.

Local Word Writers Festival 2024

Meeting our Library Plan objective of "supporting collaborative practitioners, entrepreneurs and start-ups to access work and makerspaces, collections and specialist expertise, and opportunities for collaboration," and our Events Strategy requirement to "develop and deliver a creative writing showcase event in our region," the third annual Festival was held on Friday 23, Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 August 2024

Involving 15 events with 8 writers' workshops across our five local government areas, plus a full day of panel discussions on the final day at Geelong Library, the intention was to involve the entire library network and to showcase the breadth of literary and creative talent across the south-west of Victoria. The highlight event was evening entertainment, featuring the anthology "Into Your Arms – the Words and Music of Nick Cave", with readings by three local authors and music provided by Stereo Stories. The intention was to involve the entire library network and to showcase the breadth of literary and creative talent across the south-west of Victoria.

Ticket sales for the second year of the Local Word Festival were robust, resulting in a 23% increase in revenue and a 4% increase in capacity bookings from 2023.

Data shows that 42% had attended a previous Local Word Festival, vs 22% in 2023, indicating an increasingly loyal audience base. Also encouraging was that 56% of attendees had not attended before, so this year's Festival successfully attracted a new audience. Survey respondents gave Local Word an average rating of 4.6 out of 5 stars overall (4.3 stars in 2023 and 2022), and a resounding 97% of respondents said they would attend the Local Word Festival again.

"The event we attended was fantastic, it was the first event of this kind that we've attended and we were unsure what to expect. The reading of the stories by the authors was moving and the band playing and singing created a fantastic evening. The drinks and food provided with the event were very nice and a substantial amount was provided. The location of the event at the top level of the Geelong Library was also a fabulous location."

– Local Word 2024 attendee



YouTube Channel

For those unable or unwilling to attend our major events program in person, we have continued to build our YouTube Channel catalogue of recorded events, with over 3,200 views of our events this financial year, and ensuring that all events remain free to attend online if not in person.

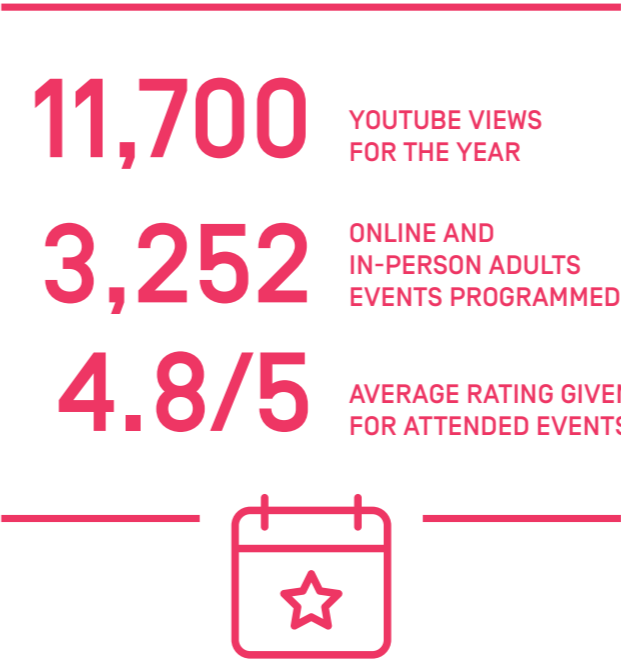
Post-event survey feedback from attendees:

For the 2024-25 financial year, our post-event survey respondents gave an average rating of 4.8 out of 5 stars for the events they attended [Q: How would you rate the event you attended?]

"Keep the well-priced events coming, the Dome is a perfect setting, love going to these events with friends."

"Your program is wonderful, always something of value to look forward to. Staff are always very welcoming!"

"I am so grateful for what the library is doing for the community!"



Partnership Events Program

A major focus of the Major Events program is our Partnership Events program, which allows us to partner with leading community organisations throughout the G21 region. Strategically, this enables us to involve the community in public conversation on contemporary issues of importance to them, promoting the library as a place of innovative thinking and robust discussion and contributing to an emphasis on lifelong learning and community engagement.

In the 2024-25 calendar year, we have worked with various community, not-for-profit and arts organisations from across the region to present partnership events about topics including gender equality in democracy, climate change and sustainability, the involvement of First Nations concepts in new building design, and reconciliation, as well as supporting local arts organisations including Orchestra Geelong and Overflow Theatre Company.

We continued to build our partnerships and support of local literary festivals by sponsoring the Apollo Bay Wordfest, Mid-Winter Words at Drysdale, the Queenscliff Literary Festival and the Sydney Writers Festival , with 16 events livestreamed to Geelong Library & Heritage Centre for free viewing. By supporting other literary festivals and arts organisations, we further demonstrate our commitment to developing literacy, local literature and community connection to the arts.



EXHIBITIONS

We have dedicated exhibition spaces at Geelong, Colac, Boronggook Drysdale and the newly opened Biyal-a Armstrong Creek libraries, alongside Kim barne thaliyu/Geelong Heritage Centre and occasionally other community branches.

Exhibitions often attract new audiences and fostering strong community connections. Kim barne thaliyu now houses the permanent installation *Gathering Place: Western Gully*, which features Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Ash Skinner sharing stories of the waterway prior to colonisation.

Biyal-a Armstrong Creek’s busy exhibition schedule included solo artist showcases such as Maly Scruggs’ *Tiny Abode Atelier*, Craig Watson’s black-and-white photography, and textile works by Angysa Echeto and Julie Crees. The venue also fostered community creativity through group exhibitions, partnerships and the establishment of a monthly Artist’s Social Group.

Boronggook Drysdale celebrated local creativity through exhibitions by the Bellarine Camera Club, a local Men’s Shed who showcased *Men (Not) at Work*, and Artisans of Australia. Colac library hosted works including Tim Henshall’s *Look Me in the Eye* and Tell Arstargazer’s *Cosmology*. Many libraries hosted *Meli’s Hearts of Kindness* displays.

Looking ahead, upcoming exhibitions include the Surf Coast Arts Trail Taster, Geelong Camera Club photography, artworks from the Geelong Clinic’s Creative Arts Therapy program, and displays as part of the Royal Geelong Show – ensuring our libraries remain dynamic cultural hubs at the heart of their communities.



PROGRAMS AND EVENTS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The Children’s and Youth Services (CYS) librarians continue to focus on providing support, engagement and increased access for children, youth and families, whilst engaging with services working with those who may be experiencing vulnerabilities or challenges to access.

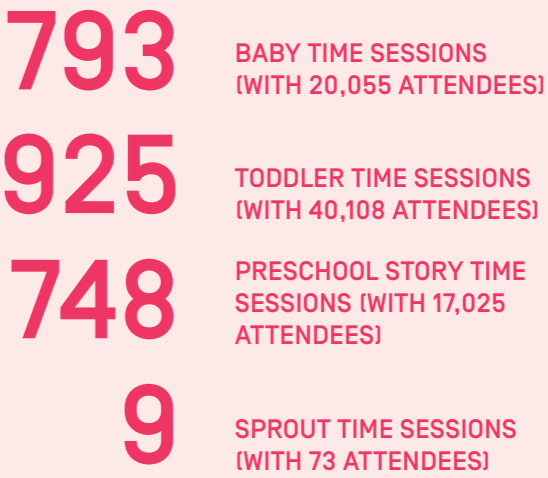
This requires the CYS librarians to design and deliver programs to suit the differing needs of our different communities. These focus on ensuring access to social impact programs, technology, and STEM-based programming, as well as improving literacy outcomes, cognitive development, and social awareness. They also promote ongoing connection to the community, contributing to improved school readiness and engagement, as well as enhanced social and intergenerational health outcomes.

There is an ongoing growing need to utilise library spaces and programming as free, safe, and inclusive services that provide children and their families support, increase social engagement and community connection, and contribute to improved health outcomes. The CYS offers an outreach service to those unable to access library services, including attending schools, family days, and festivals that support families.

This year we delivered 4,392 sessions for children and youth, including 2,466 early literacy programs, 1,004 after school programs and 32 home school programs. Additionally, we delivered 272 outreach sessions and 1,031 school visits, which resulted in 8,535 students and teachers attending our library spaces during school hours for facilitated visits.

Early Literacy

Early literacy programs are a core library programming feature that supports parents and caregivers in being their child’s first teacher. Our early literacy programs continue to meet and exceed the standards set by the Early Years Literacy Framework for Australian Public Libraries. Our programs promote the importance of literacy development, support brain development, and encourage school readiness and connection. Attendances have increased by 9042 (13.3%) to 77,183 this year (compared to 68,141 attendees last year). We delivered 2,466 sessions across our 20 libraries.



School holiday programs

School holiday programs engage and inspire children and youth across our library network. The 2024-2025 school holiday programs were designed around themes that promoted connection to nature, community and children and youth looking forward to their future. We continue to engage local artists through our biannual CYS Expression of Interest to facilitate events and programs during school holidays and beyond. We also partner with external stakeholders, such as Story Dogs, who deliver the much-loved school holiday sessions and a special treat with the annual Festive Dogs.





*“Love! Lego Club is so great for the kids.
Helps to build their confidence & socialise with
their friends outside of school & staff are amazing.”*

– Colac Library customer

Additional programs

We offer programs for children and youth throughout the year, which include after school programs, codesigned and community-focused programs, and a suite of home school and health promotion programs. There were over 1,004 after school programs and 7,767 attendances. Sessions included phonics-based programs to support the school curriculum, clubs for chess, Lego and writing, art-based programs, and STEM programming such as 3D printing, coding, robotics and Virtual Reality. In one program, children were delighted to see photos of their teddy bears having a library sleepover.

Events included panels to support youth employment pathways such as 'World of Work' with the Gordon TAFE and a suite of industry-led panels to promote specific career opportunities (e.g. So you want to be a VET nurse). Additionally, the 'Exploring Culture' partnership with Geelong Arts Centre and Geelong Gallery saw 200 children visit the Arts Precinct and immerse themselves in First Nations culture for a day of workshops encompassing performing arts, visual arts, and language.

The Food 4 Future program, funded by Vic Health, is a health literacy program that partners with FeedMe, Common Ground Project and The Gordon TAFE and has been successful in bringing in young people from across our region to learn practical life skills, develop health literacy, and complete a TAFE food handling certificate to support employability.

National Simultaneous Storytime

This year, we celebrated National Simultaneous Storytime across 16 libraries, with 1,172 people attending these sessions. Local Mayors, Board members, Councillors, library leadership team and CYS Librarians read across our locations to schools, kindergartens, child-care centres and members of the public who attend this year's event with a 26% increase in attendance for this year. This year's book was *The Truck Cat* by Deborah Frenkel, illustrated by Danny Snell.

Partnerships in the community

- / Australian Ballet
- / Story Dogs
- / Common Ground Project
- / SwimSafe Storytime (lifesavers/CoGG Pools)
- / Feed Me
- / National Wool Museum
- / Barwon Water
- / Maternal Child Health
- / National Gallery of Victoria
- / Geelong Gallery
- / Geelong Arts Centre
- / Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-Operative
- / Matchworks
- / The Gordon TAFE
- / genU
- / BATForce
- / Cultura
- / Geelong Foodshare
- / Mackillop Family Services
- / Headspace
- / Stride
- / Bellarine Community Health
- / Skills and Jobs Centre (separate to the Gordon)
- / Sexual Assault and Family Violence Centre
- / Barwon Health
- / Q Hub

Networks we are part of:

- / Geelong Settlement Planning Committee
- / Best Start Partnership
- / Mingo Waloom Aboriginal Best Start
- / CAOS Network
- / LGBTQAI+ Providers Network
- / Barwon Early Years CALD Community of Practice
- / Barwon Youth Services Connect
- / Geelong Aboriginal Employment Taskforce.



OUR PERFORMANCE

OUR PERFORMANCE

INDICATOR	MEASURE	TARGET/STANDARD	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	Library members as % of population	60%	39%	35%	33%	28%	30%
Collection	Number of collection items per capita	2.2	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Library use	Number of annual library visits (virtual) per capita	Equal to or above average for Victorian Public Library Services					
		- GRLC	3.8	3.8	4.7	3.8	4.7
		- State Average	2.4	3.2	3.2	4.1	*
	Number of annual library visits (physical) per capita	Equal to or above average for Victorian Public Library Services					
		- GRLC	2.2	2.7	3.6	3.5	3.9
		- State Average	1.4	1.8	3.1	3.4	*
Access to information technology	Number of public access Internet computers per 2,500	1 computer per 2,500 population (from 2020/21)					
		- Number of computers required to meet standard	131	142	146	149	153
		- Number of computers held	215	224	180	181	194
		- (Shortfall)/excess	84	82	34	32	41
Program participation	Number of participants in library programs and activities	Increased number of participants	33,909	74,593	128,151	144,709	160,657
Social Inclusion	New library members in targeted areas	Increased membership of 'hard to reach' groups					
		- New members in Colac		534	679	766	785
		- New members in Corio	507	565	886	1,138	1,207
		- New members in Newcomb	363	402	526	599	565
	Participation in library programs in targeted areas	Increased participation of 'hard to reach' groups in library programs					
		- Participants in Colac		3,385	4,914	5,120	5,360
		- Participants in Corio	1,678	3,276	6,274	5,338	5,976
		- Participants in Newcomb	4,251	4,130	4,918	5,691	4,513

INDICATOR	MEASURE	TARGET/STANDARD	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Partnerships	Scope and level of engagement of community organisations and groups in library service planning and delivery	Measured by involvement of community organisations and groups					
		- Number of program and service partners	138	168	221	297	166
Funding	Library funding per capita from Member Councils	Equal to or above the average level per capita for Victorian Public Library Services					
		- GRLC	36.27	37.17	38.40	37.85	46.55
		- State Average	30.06	31.95	33.04	33.81	*
Facilities	Floor area per capita	39m ² per 1,000 population	42.3m ²	42.5m ²	43.7m ²	42.8m ²	48.6m ²

- * The annual survey of public libraries 2023/24 will be available early 2025
- ◆ Survey conducted on a biennial basis. Survey not run in since 2018/19
- From 2020/21 the measure changed from one computer per 2,000 to one computer per 2,500 in line with National Public Library Standards
- From 2018/19 the overall satisfaction measure changed to a rating out of 10 in line with statewide survey practices. Survey has not run since 2018/19 due to COVID-19

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

INDICATOR	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	% CHANGE SINCE LAST YEAR	% CHANGE OVER LAST 5 YEARS
Population - Regional (ABS ERP)	326,894	355,137	365,405	373,430	381,432	2%	17%
Members ¹	105,573	102,585	98,942	103,201	114,894	11%	9%
Visits ²	702,914	959,451	1,281,942	1,302,873	1,473,432	13%	110%
Loans ^{3,4}	1,715,510	1,997,286	2,198,823	2,637,794	2,969,944	13%	73%
eCollection loans ⁵	319,358	374,916	441,752	493,634	542,518	10%	70%
Collection (items)	410,309	401,865	415,432	413,238	434,782	5%	6%
Opening hours (weekly)	805	877	839	839	887	6%	10%
Unstaffed opening hours (weekly)					79		
Mobile library locations	17	25	25	25	25	0%	47%
Library floor space (m ²)	13,827	15,092	15,973	15,973	18,537	16%	34%
Total operating expenses (\$)	15,257,703	16,518,835	17,337,691	17,158,676	19,642,754	14%	29%
Total operating expenses per capita (\$)	46.67	46.51	47.45	45.95	51.50	12%	10%
Total capital expenses (\$)	1,717,610	1,510,994	2,436,630	2,978,637	2,565,330	-14%	49%
Lending materials (\$) capital expenditure ⁶	1,154,864	1,057,087	1,714,155	2,211,228	1,856,389	-16%	61%
Staff (EFT)	109.3	119.7	122.3	126.1	130.5	3%	19%
Lifelong learning and cultural programs ⁷	1,812	5,057	6,858	8,321	9,397	13%	419%
Lifelong learning and cultural program attendances	33,909	74,593	128,151	144,709	160,657	11%	374%
Website and catalogue visits	1,235,127	1,275,336	1,709,997	1,402,384	1,783,612	27%	44%

1 Membership numbers reflects active members in the past 3 years. Values for previous years have been adjusted to match the new methodology.

2 Figure from 2022/23 revised to exclude visits, sessions and attendance attributed to White Night in 2022 (23k) due to White Night not taking place in 23/24

3 Physical and eCollection loans

4 Automatic renewals of non reserved items introduced from Sep 2023

5 eCollection loans include eAudiobook, eBook, Streaming Video and Digital Magazine loans

6 Lending materials capital expenditure includes end processing of items from 23/24. 23/24 figure also includes purchasing for Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Opening Day Collection.

There was a reclassification of assets that resulted in a decrease of lending materials by \$2,387 in FY24-25.

7 Lifelong learning and cultural programs include major events, branch events, school-holiday and school term recurring programs, outreach, visits and e-knowhow programs. Excludes exhibitions.

MEMBERSHIP

LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	% CHANGE SINCE LAST YEAR	% CHANGE OVER LAST 5 YEARS
Borough of Queenscliffe	1,387	1,281	1,259	1,411	1,518	8%	9%
City of Greater Geelong	82,763	76,705	73,086	77,088	86,337	12%	4%
Colac Otway Shire		5,276	6,032	5,040	5,393	7%	
Golden Plains Shire	4,229	3,991	3,716	3,911	4,186	7%	-1%
Surf Coast Shire	10,596	10,045	9,904	10,764	11,591	8%	9%
Other Local Government Areas	6,598	5,287	4,945	4,987	5,869	18%	-11%
Total Members	105,573	102,585	98,942	103,201	114,894	11%	9%
Population	326,894	355,137	365,405	373,430	381,432	2%	17%

MEMBERS BY PREFERRED BRANCH	LIBRARY MEMBERS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE						
	BOROUGH OF QUEENSCLIFFE	CITY OF GREATER GEELONG	COLAC OTWAY SHIRE	GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE	SURF COAST SHIRE	NON RESIDENTS	TOTAL MEMBERS
Borough of Queenscliffe	1,179	682	0	0	2	299	2,162
City of Greater Geelong	331	84,763	261	908	2,800	4,366	93,429
Colac Otway Shire	2	138	5,106	15	170	614	6,045
Golden Plains Shire	0	185	10	3,245	26	108	3,574
Surf Coast Shire	6	569	16	18	8,593	482	9,684
Totals	1,518	86,337	5,393	4,186	11,591	5,869	114,894
Members by place of residence as a % of total members	1%	75%	5%	4%	10%	5%	100%

Members do not necessarily belong to a library within the local government area in which they reside

LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP AS A PERCENTAGE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA POPULATION			
PLACE OF RESIDENCE	POPULATION	MEMBERS	% MEMBERS
Borough of Queenscliffe	3,302	1,817	55%
City of Greater Geelong	289,565	90,703	31%
Colac Otway Shire	22,300	6,007	27%
Golden Plains Shire	26,337	4,294	16%
Surf Coast Shire	39,928	12,073	30%
Totals	381,432	114,894	30%

In line with Local Government Reporting methodology, 5869 non-resident members have been assigned to the local government area of their preferred branch

LIBRARY USAGE

LIBRARY	MEMBERS	VISITS	LOANS	RESERVATIONS	PUBLIC ACCESS INTERNET SESSIONS	WIRELESS SESSIONS
Apollo Bay	1,198	10,730	15,530	4,080	258	2,501
Bannockburn	3,217	41,382	64,202	12,728	1,059	2,986
Barwon Heads	1,622	8,500	40,478	5,243	246	597
Belmont	8,223	125,422	235,917	35,167	10,858	11,620
Biyal-a Armstrong Creek	4,908	112,611	261,918	12,533	4,656	21,793
Chilwell	1,157	20,655	38,584	8,443	1,092	2,060
Colac Home Library Service	51		1,892	244		
Colac	4,660	63,909	111,747	18,218	4,451	8,491
Corio	5,993	80,161	100,544	17,272	10,552	19,064
Drysdale	8,551	119,166	187,547	33,515	6,286	13,969
Geelong	20,447	242,185	173,166	45,384	16,920	45,731
Geelong West	8,000	134,666	193,146	38,430	6,100	19,194
Highton	2,305	26,006	50,084	14,941	623	5,716
Home Library Services	92		8,014	4,266		
Lara	4,425	47,258	71,481	16,179	3,392	6,530
Leopold	3,911	74,733	98,921	14,243	4,946	7,000
Newcomb	4,100	52,347	78,958	14,977	5,130	9,014
Ocean Grove	8,295	82,426	175,458	32,377	2,963	6,253
Queenscliff	2,162	29,210	43,956	9,745	1,105	3,506
Torquay	8,400	83,534	193,611	41,115	3,311	7,946
Waurin Ponds	10,496	98,043	219,732	41,166	4,742	13,984
Western Heights College	404	4,235	7,147	1,628		
All Static Libraries	112,617	1,457,179	2,372,033	421,894	88,690	207,955
City of Greater Geelong Mobile Library stops	500	3,212	10,885	3,964		36
Colac Otway Shire Mobile Library stops	136	978	4,022	1,448		
Golden Plains Shire Mobile Library stops	357	2,227	12,051	3,832		
Surf Coast Shire Mobile Library stops	1,284	9,836	28,435	8,487		69
All Mobile Libraries	2,277	16,253	55,393	17,731	-	105
Total Static and Mobile libraries	114,894	1,473,432	2,427,426	439,625	88,690	208,060
Website visits, eCollection loans		785,010	542,518	-	-	-
Total usage	114,894	2,258,442	2,969,944	439,625	88,690	208,060

VISITS

VISITS OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

LIBRARY	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	% CHANGE SINCE LAST YEAR	% CHANGE OVER LAST 5 YEARS
Barwon Heads	4,745	6,511	9,434	9,753	8,500	-13%	79%
Belmont ²	73,780	95,824	132,957	132,555	125,422	-5%	70%
Biyal-a Armstrong Creek ³	0	0	0	0	112,611	n/a	n/a
Chilwell ⁴	12,412	16,867	18,668	20,372	20,655	1%	66%
Corio ⁵	45,682	57,338	67,938	70,038	80,161	14%	75%
Drysdale ⁶	55,429	62,948	89,529	117,591	119,166	1%	115%
Geelong ⁷	138,922	170,229	238,852	229,356	242,185	6%	74%
Geelong West ⁸	68,208	103,073	126,276	102,695	134,666	31%	97%
Grovedale (closed)						n/a	n/a
Highton ⁹	16,949	20,423	24,655	25,193	26,006	3%	53%
Lara	26,104	32,461	43,793	45,741	47,258	3%	81%
Leopold	23,243	40,088	64,265	70,838	74,733	5%	222%
Newcomb ¹¹	34,616	37,321	50,072	54,510	52,347	-4%	51%
Ocean Grove ¹²	51,145	62,805	80,643	75,610	82,426	9%	61%
Waurin Ponds ¹⁴	59,805	76,832	109,790	109,521	98,043	-10%	64%
Western Heights College ¹⁵	2,170	2,902	3,486	4,879	4,235	-13%	95%
City of Greater Geelong Mobile Library stops ¹⁷	3,358	3,626	4,101	3,901	3,212	-18%	-4%
All City of Greater Geelong visits	616,568	789,248	1,064,459	1,072,553	1,231,626	15%	100%
Apollo Bay	-	5,914	7,164	9,438	10,730	14%	n/a
Colac	-	40,509	53,867	58,001	63,909	10%	n/a
Colac Otway Shire Mobile Library Stops ^{17,20}	-	899	1,010	1,030	978	-5%	n/a
All Colac Otway Shire visits	-	47,322	62,041	68,469	75,617	10%	n/a
Bannockburn	19,249	28,385	39,112	39,303	41,382	5%	115%
Golden Plains Shire Mobile Library stops ^{17,18}	2,529	2,338	2,841	2,339	2,227	-5%	-12%
All Golden Plains Shire visits	21,778	30,723	41,953	41,642	43,609	5%	100%
Torquay ¹³	43,077	66,029	78,297	81,680	83,534	2%	94%
Surf Coast Shire Mobile Library stops ^{17,19}	8,964	10,886	11,510	11,433	9,836	-14%	10%
All Surf Coast Shire visits	52,041	76,915	89,807	93,113	93,370	0%	79%
Queenscliff ¹⁶	12,527	15,243	23,682	27,096	29,210	8%	133%
All Borough of Queenscliffe visits	12,527	15,243	23,682	27,096	29,210	8%	133%
Total Library Visits ¹	702,914	959,451	1,281,942	1,302,873	1,473,432	13%	110%
Website visits	692,104	717,814	758,366	792,679	785,010	-1%	13%
Total visits	1,395,018	1,677,265	2,040,308	2,095,552	2,258,442	8%	62%

See footnotes on page 77

LOANS

LOANS OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

LIBRARY	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	% CHANGE SINCE LAST YEAR	% CHANGE OVER LAST 5 YEARS
Barwon Heads	39,142	38,950	39,682	43,464	40,478	-7%	3%
Belmont ²	170,542	187,656	201,721	235,114	235,917	0%	38%
Biyal-a Armstrong Creek ³	0	0	0	0	261,918	n/a	n/a
Chilwell ⁴	34,263	40,354	35,887	41,120	38,584	-6%	13%
Corio ⁵	75,859	78,854	80,265	87,404	100,544	15%	33%
Drysdale ⁶	103,441	108,597	133,205	197,151	187,547	-5%	81%
Geelong ⁷	147,030	143,678	141,420	174,524	173,166	-1%	18%
Geelong West ⁸	129,903	140,452	147,245	168,602	193,146	15%	49%
Grovedale [closed]						n/a	n/a
Highton ⁹	35,238	39,962	40,079	45,799	50,084	9%	42%
Home Library Service ¹⁰	15,170	7,159	4,672	7,632	8,014	5%	-47%
Lara	43,921	49,593	54,130	70,044	71,481	2%	63%
Leopold	47,673	69,046	80,749	94,833	98,921	4%	107%
Newcomb ¹¹	61,699	63,282	71,714	83,122	78,958	-5%	28%
Ocean Grove ¹²	114,653	125,429	133,243	154,520	175,458	14%	53%
Waurm Ponds ¹⁴	154,638	173,441	200,997	256,640	219,732	-14%	42%
Western Heights College ¹⁵	2,986	3,988	3,837	6,480	7,147	10%	139%
City of Greater Geelong Mobile Library stops ¹⁷	10,493	10,634	10,494	13,252	10,885	-18%	4%
All City of Greater Geelong loans	1,186,651	1,282,689	1,379,340	1,679,701	1,951,980	16%	64%
Apollo Bay	-	9,426	10,425	13,754	15,530	13%	n/a
Colac	-	82,195	93,040	106,371	111,747	5%	n/a
Colac Home Library Service ¹⁰		1,614	1,908	1,557	1,892	22%	n/a
Colac Otway Shire Mobile Library Stops ^{17,20}	-	2,876	2,794	3,436	4,022	17%	n/a
All Colac Otway Shire loans	-	94,497	108,167	125,118	133,191	6%	n/a
Bannockburn	36,570	42,258	51,084	60,024	64,202	7%	76%
Golden Plains Shire Mobile Library stops ^{17,18}	9,989	13,436	16,551	15,556	12,051	-23%	21%
All Golden Plains Shire loans	46,559	55,694	67,635	75,580	76,253	1%	64%
Torquay ¹³	114,579	135,850	145,036	191,735	193,611	1%	69%
Surf Coast Shire Mobile Library stops ^{17,19}	26,992	29,477	30,445	33,115	28,435	-14%	5%
All Surf Coast Shire loans	141,571	165,327	175,481	224,850	222,046	-1%	57%
Queenscliff ¹⁶	21,371	24,163	26,448	38,911	43,956	13%	106%
All Borough of Queenscliffe loans	21,371	24,163	26,448	38,911	43,956	13%	106%
Total Static and Mobile Libraries Loans¹	1,396,152	1,622,370	1,757,071	2,144,160	2,427,426	13%	74%
eCollection loans ^{21,22}	319,358	374,916	441,752	493,634	542,518	10%	70%
Total loans	1,715,510	1,997,286	2,198,823	2,637,794	2,969,944	13%	73%

NOTES

- 1 ALL LIBRARY BRANCHES AND MOBILE LIBRARIES**

 - / All library branches and mobile libraries closed due to COVID-19 from 19 Mar 2020. Reopened Tue 09 Jun 2020 with shorter opening hours [except Western Heights College].
 - / Temporary post-COVID opening hours in effect Tue 02 Jun 2020 - Sun 05 July 2020. Barwon Heads Library remained on these hours until Mon 27 Jul 2020.
 - / Following the Opening Hours Review, revised opening hours commenced Mon 06 Jul 2020.
 - / All library branches and mobile libraries closed due to COVID-19 from Thu 06 Aug 2020. Reopened Mon 26 Oct 2020 with reduced hours [except Western Heights College].
 - / Click & Deliver service offered to all patrons within local LGAs from Wed 12 Aug 2020. Limited to vulnerable members only effective Fri 18 Sep 2020.
 - / All library branches returned to normal opening hours from Sat 02 Jan 2021 [except Western Heights College]. Mobile libraries returned to normal opening hours from Mon 04 Jan 2021.
 - / All library branches and mobile libraries closed due to COVID-19 from Sat 13 Feb 2021 - Wed 17 Feb 2021. Reopened Thu 18 Feb 2021.

2 Belmont Library
Closed for refurbishment from Sat 22 May 2021 to Sun 06 Jun 2021. Reopened Mon 07 Jun 2021.

3 Biyal-a Armstrong Creek

 - Opening on 1-August 2024.
 - Out of hours access available from April 2025.
 - Visitation affected by works on the shopping precinct starting on June 2025.

4 Chilwell Library

 - Closed for refurbishment Mon 18 Mar 2019 - Wed 03 Apr 2019. Reopened Thu 04 Apr 2019.
 - Extended Friday opening hours to 5:00pm [instead of 1:00pm] effective Fri 11 Nov 2022.
 - Closed for renovation starting on 29 June 2025.

5 Corio Library

 - Closed due to planned electrical works from Sun 23 May 2021 to Fri 28 May 2021. Reopening postponed until Mon 07 Jun 2021 due to COVID-19.
 - Experienced disruptions from Jul 2023 to Feb 2024 to access to the car park and building due to nearby construction works for the Northern Aquatic and Community Hub project.
 - The main entrance was unavailable for access on the 11 Nov 2024 due to work on the building's A/C.

6 Drysdale Library

 - Closed from Sat 25 Mar 2023 to Wed 12 Apr 2023 for relocation to the new Boronggook Drysdale Library. Reopened Thu 13 Apr 2023.

7 Geelong Library

 - Level 1 closed for recarpeting on the 15-July-2024
 - Visits impacted by the flooding of Geelong Library & Heritage Centre on January 2025. Partial opening of the Library between 2-January-2025 until 8-January-2025.

8 Geelong West Library

 - Closed for unplanned maintenance Thu 05 Sep 2019 - Sun 22 Sep 2019. Reopened Mon 23 Sep 2019.
 - Closed for safety reasons due to flooding Fri 28 Jan 2022. Reopened Mon 31 Jan 2022.
 - Closed for safety reasons due to flooding 3 and 4 Feb 2025
 - Closed for safety reasons due to flooding Fri 24 Nov 2023 to Mon 04 Dec 2023. Click & Collect offered during this time. Reopened Tue 05 Dec 2023.
- / Further changes to evening operating hours:

 - Effective Thu 13 April 2023, Drysdale Library open until 8:00pm on Wednesdays [instead of 6:00pm].
 - Effective Thu 20 April 2023, Leopold Library will close at 5:30pm [instead of 8:00pm].
 - Effective Mon 29 May 2023, Waurm Ponds Library, Belmont Library & Corio Library will close at 5:30pm weekdays.

/ New Library Management System Spydus went live Tue 08 Aug 2023

 - Library Management System operating in offline mode with limited functionality in preparation for transition from Tue 01 Aug 2023 - Mon 07 Aug 2023

/ Automatic renewals of non reserved items introduced from Sep 2023

/ Loan limits increased to 60 items from Wed 07 Feb 2024

9 Highton Library

- Closed for refurbishment Mon 25 Nov 2019 - Sun 22 Dec 2019. Reopened Mon 23 Dec 2019.
- Extended Friday opening hours to 6:00pm (instead of 1:00pm) effective Fri 11 Nov 2022.
- Impacted with shorter opening hours for Highton Library on 21-September-2024 due to staff shortage.

10 Home Library Service

- Service delivery paused from Mon 02 Oct 2023 to Sat 04 Nov 2023.

11 Newcomb Library

- Visitation affected by Woolworths Newcomb Store Renovations between July 2024 and May 2025.

12 Ocean Grove Library

- Closed for refurbishment from Mon 02 May 2022 to Sun 07 May 2022. Reopened Mon 08 May 2022.

13 Torquay Library

- Service disruption on the 27-November-2024 due to weather related event on the 28-November-2024.

14 Waurm Ponds Library

- Shorter opening hours for Waurm Ponds Library on 11-April-2025 due to staff shortage.

15 Western Heights College Library

- Closed due to COVID19 from Thu 18 Mar 2020. Reopened Wed 28 Oct 2020 with reduced hours.
- Closed due to flooding from Mon 30 Jan 2023 to Sun 30 Apr 2023. Reopened Mon 01 May 2023.
- Visitation estimated based on last year's data (Average visits for that day of the week, on that month) between 28-January-2025 to 19-March 2025.
- Counting of visitor methodology changed from actual to estimated based on sampling started on April 2025.

16 Queenscliff Library

- Closed from Wed 21 Oct 2020 due to construction of the Queenscliffe Hub project. Services made available at temporary location from Wed 02 Dec 2020 until Tue 21 Jun 2022.
- Queenscliff Library closed for transition to the new Queenscliffe Hub from Wed 22 Jun 2022. Reopened Mon 26 Sep 2022.
- Queenscliff Library closed for essential building works from Mon 14 Aug 2023 to Fri 18 Aug 2023. Reopened Sat 19 Aug 2023.

17 MOBILE LIBRARIES

- / Mobile Libraries offered contactless pickup/return of items from usual stops effective Mon 28 Sep 2020 with small reduction in weekend hours.
- / Mobile Libraries returned to normal opening hours from Mon 04 Jan 2021.
- / Mobile Libraries unable to provide service during extreme fire danger days throughout Feb-Mar 2024.

18 Golden Plains Mobile Library

- Not operating on a Saturday due to closure of Smythesdale market from Mon 26 Oct 2020 to Fri 19 Feb 2021. Normal Saturday hours resumed Sat 20 Feb 2021.
- Impacted by vehicle maintenance and staff shortages throughout 2023-24. Service replaced with an alternate vehicle where possible.
- 19 Cancelled Services during Financial Year 2024-2025.

19 Bellarine/Surf Coast Mobile Library

- Reduced Saturday hours to fortnightly (instead of weekly) effective Mon 26 Oct 2020 to Fri 08 Jan 2021. Normal Saturday hours resumed Sat 09 Jan 2021.
- Impacted by vehicle maintenance throughout 2023-24. Service replaced with an alternate vehicle where possible.
- Impacted service by extreme fire rating danger on the 22-February-2025
- 28 Cancelled Services during Financial Year 2024-2025.

20 Colac Otway Mobile Library

- 12 Cancelled Services during Financial Year 2024-2025.

21 eCollection loans include eAudiobook, eBook, Streaming Video and Digital Magazine loans.

22 Increased limit to no. of loans per borrower from 4 to 8 effective Tue 17 Mar 2020 across all eBook/eAudio platforms.

COLLECTIONS

COLLECTION SIZE BY LOCATION

LIBRARY	TOTAL
Apollo Bay	4,819
Bannockburn	14,568
Barwon Heads	5,286
Belmont	33,822
Biyal-a Armstrong Creek	32,537
Chilwell	5,631
Colac	24,753
Corio	23,191
Drysdale	27,074
Geelong	46,707
Geelong West	26,442
Highton	8,221
Lara	14,691
Leopold	17,313
Mobile Libraries	7,660
Newcomb	16,935
Ocean Grove	23,521
Queenscliff	7,960
Torquay	22,028
Waurm Ponds	30,241
Western Heights College	3,459
Online eCollections	37,923
Totals	434,782

COLLECTION BY TYPE

LIBRARY		
Junior	156,834	36.1%
Adult Fiction	82,255	18.9%
Adult Non Fiction	66,307	15.3%
eCollections	37,923	8.7%
DVDs	27,995	6.4%
Young Adult	21,695	5.0%
Large Print	15,812	3.6%
Magazines	8,423	1.9%
Audio books	6,954	1.6%
LOTE	4,309	1.0%
Music CDs	3,272	0.8%
Reference	1,301	0.3%
Geelong Local Area Collection	1,116	0.3%
Library of Things and Devices	586	0.1%
Total	434,782	100.0%

LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

We continued to embed our Child Safe policies and practices to maintain compliance with the updated Victorian Child Safe Standards and to further embed Child Safety principles throughout our operations. As part of this project:

- / Our Child Safety policies and procedures were read and signed by all staff, Board and volunteers
- / All new staff and volunteers underwent mandatory child safe training
- / We continue to publicly articulate our commitment to Child Safety on our website and in our spaces
- / We have maintained channels community members can use to report child safety concerns directly to Geelong Regional Libraries
- / We maintain a designated Child Safe Officer role, principally held by our People and Culture Manager, with a dedicated phone line to support our responses to child safety concerns and any reporting requirements.

ACCESS AND INCLUSION

The new Access and Inclusion Plan 2024-2028 was approved by the Board in April and is now on our website. We engaged with staff, volunteers, other organisations, and community to inform the new plan. We've started work to deliver on identified outcomes within the plan.

The plan establishes our vision for:

- / An accessible and inclusive library service where everyone can use our services, and everyone can participate
- / A place where everyone in our community can see themselves represented and reflected in our collections, materials, spaces, programs, and events
- / An organisation that engages a workforce that mirrors the diversity in our community.

We have developed this Access and Inclusion plan for everyone who may interact with our organisation, from our staff and volunteers to those who access our services. Our services are for anyone who works, studies, volunteers, or visits in the communities we serve.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

We are committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for staff and volunteers, while continuing to advocate for the right of all people who work or engage with our organisation to be treated with dignity and respect. Not only are we committed to continuing to meet our legal obligations and responsibilities with regards to educating and seeking to prevent discrimination and harassment, we strongly believe we also play a role in educating and modelling appropriate behaviours in our community. All new employees undertake the following modules as part of our online onboarding process: Equal Employment Opportunity, Workplace Bullying and Sexual Harassment.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

Under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, the community has the right to access certain documents from the GRLC. This general right of access is only limited by exceptions and exemptions which have been prescribed to protect essential public interests and the private and business affairs of people about whom the library holds information. One application was received during the 2024/25 year.

INSURANCE POLICY STATEMENT

GRLC insurance cover protects our organisation, library collection and other assets, Board members, officers, employees and volunteers against claims arising from our activities or from natural occurrences such as storm damage, vehicle impact, etc. We maintained the following insurances for 2024/25:

- / Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance, which protects the organisation against claims for negligence arising out of its operations and out of errors or omissions in professional advice. This cover is provided through the Municipal Association of Victoria
- / Directors and Officers Liability Insurance, which protects Board members and officers against any civil claims arising out of their normal functions as an officer or Board member. The policy also covers the organisation for any employment law claims from its employees. This cover is provided by AXA XL Insurance Company SE, with broking services provided by JLT Risk Solutions Pty Ltd

- / Commercial Crime Insurance is provided through the Municipal Association of Victoria
- / A WorkCover Insurance Policy is maintained in accordance with the requirements of the Victorian WorkCover Insurance legislation with Gallagher Bassett Services Workers' Compensation Pty Ltd
- / Library contents, such as furniture, IT equipment, shelving and other equipment is insured by an Industrial Special Risks policy provided by Zurich Australian Insurance Ltd, with broking services provided by JLT Risk Solutions Pty Ltd
- / The City of Greater Geelong maintains insurance policies for the Library collection, some Heritage items, volunteer staff, motor vehicles and mobile libraries.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* (Vic), GRLC is required to notify certain serious incidents to the Victorian health and safety regulator, WorkSafe Victoria. During 2024/25, GRLC was not required to notify any incident to WorkSafe Victoria and no calls were made to WorkSafe Victoria.

PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION ACT 2014

GRLC has adopted policies and processes that meet the requirements of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*. This includes privacy principles that relate to the collection of information, along with use and disclosure of information. Our Privacy Statement can be downloaded from our website. No complaints were received during the 2024/25 year.

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES ACT 2012

In accordance with the provisions of s58 of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*, the Corporation has a procedure for dealing with disclosures made under the Act. The GRLC Coordinator Finance and Payroll is the Corporation's Protected Disclosure Coordinator. The Corporation has not received any disclosures directly nor has it received any referrals from the Ombudsman.

RISK MANAGEMENT

GRLC has a Risk Management Framework and Register that sits alongside the Library Plan as a key risk management tool. Risk updates are provided to the board regularly. Controls are documented in the risk register, continually updated, and regularly monitored by both management and the board.

FINANCIAL REPORT

For the year ended 30 June 2025

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CERTIFICATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*, (as per the transitional provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*), and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*, Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

Robbie Cullen CA
Principal Accounting Officer

Date: 18/09/25
Geelong

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of the Geelong Regional Library Corporation for the year ended 30 June 2025 and the financial position of the Corporation as at that date.

As at the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the Geelong Regional Library Corporation and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* to certify the financial statements in their final form.

Cr Liz Pattison
Board Member

Date: 18/09/25
Geelong

Cr Elise Wilkinson
Board Member

Date: 18/09/25
Geelong

Vanessa Schernickau
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 18/09/25
Geelong



Independent Auditor’s Report

To the Board members of Geelong Regional Library Corporation

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of Geelong Regional Library Corporation (the corporation) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">balance sheet as at 30 June 2025comprehensive income statement for the year then endedstatement of capital works for the year then endedstatement of cash flows for the year then endedstatement of changes in equity for the year then endednotes to the financial statements, including material accounting policiescertification of the financial statements. <p>In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the corporation as at 30 June 2025 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>, the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the corporation in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board’s APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Board members’ responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Board members of the corporation are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>, the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014</i> and for such internal control as the Board members determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Board members are responsible for assessing the corporation’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the corporation's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board members
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Board members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the corporation's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the corporation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Board members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



MELBOURNE
23 September 2025

Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	NOTE	2025 \$	2024 \$
Income			
Contributions	2.1	18,164,108	14,897,694
Grants - operating	2.2	2,403,995	2,533,249
User fees	2.3	411,619	346,972
Other income	2.4	475,057	442,266
Grants - capital	2.2	56,417	64,197
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of plant and equipment		23,631	35,794
Total income		21,534,827	18,320,172
Expenses			
Employee costs	3.1	14,258,793	12,597,298
Materials and services	3.2	2,837,659	2,312,772
Depreciation	3.3	2,123,552	1,924,857
Book value of assets written off	3.3	285,824	186,199
Depreciation - right of use assets	4.5	86,541	87,323
Amortisation - computer software	4.6	18,081	16,154
Finance costs - leases		3,804	6,073
Auditors' remuneration	3.4	28,500	28,000
Total expenses		19,642,754	17,158,676
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		1,892,073	1,161,496
Total comprehensive result		1,892,073	1,161,496

The above comprehensive income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

	NOTE	2025 \$	2024 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4.1	33,480	988,278
Other financial assets	4.1	5,038,715	2,502,843
Trade and other receivables	4.1	461,070	2,873
Prepayment		225,754	192,709
Inventory		43,077	28,563
Total current assets		5,802,096	3,715,266
Non-current assets			
Plant and equipment	5	10,715,114	10,559,160
Right-of-use assets	4.5	82,922	163,432
Intangible assets	4.6	146,576	164,657
Total non-current assets		10,944,612	10,887,249
Total assets		16,746,708	14,602,515
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	4.2	243,185	111,173
Provisions	4.3	2,273,744	2,163,254
Lease liabilities	4.5	92,242	86,757
Total current liabilities		2,609,171	2,361,184
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	4.3	244,427	151,341
Lease liabilities	4.5	-	88,951
Total non-current liabilities		244,427	240,292
Total liabilities		2,853,598	2,601,476
Net assets		13,893,110	12,001,037
Equity			
Members contributions		3,886,011	3,886,011
Accumulated surplus		10,007,099	8,115,026
Total Equity		13,893,110	12,001,037

The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	TOTAL \$	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS \$	MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS \$
2025			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	12,001,037	8,115,026	3,886,011
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,892,073	1,892,073	-
Balance at end of the financial year	13,893,110	10,007,099	3,886,011
2024			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	10,839,541	6,953,530	3,886,011
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,161,496	1,161,496	-
Balance at end of the financial year	12,001,037	8,115,026	3,886,011

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	NOTE	2025 INFLOWS/ (OUTFLOWS) \$	2024 INFLOWS/ (OUTFLOWS) \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
User fees		430,632	381,669
Grants - operating		2,445,445	2,374,190
Grants - capital		56,417	64,197
Contributions - monetary		17,091,731	15,123,884
Interest received		335,181	304,334
Other receipts		117,490	151,725
Net GST refund/(payment)		271,221	469,518
Employee costs		[13,421,463]	[12,397,473]
Materials and services		[3,252,673]	[5,200,918]
Other payments		[30,250]	[58,509]
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	4.7	4,043,730	1,212,617
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for plant and equipment		[2,428,856]	[2,936,228]
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment		23,631	35,794
Investments in new term deposits		[12,000,000]	[2,502,843]
Proceeds from matured term deposits		9,500,000	4,011,486
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		[4,905,225]	[1,391,791]
Cash flows from financing activities			
Interest paid - lease liability		[3,804]	[6,073]
Repayment of lease liabilities		[89,497]	[83,900]
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		[93,301]	[89,973]
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		[954,796]	[269,148]
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		988,278	1,257,423
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	4.1(a)	33,480	988,278

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF CAPITAL WORKS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Plant and equipment		
Plant, machinery and equipment	154,941	57,058
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	126,367	78,331
Computers and telecommunications	427,633	632,019
Lending materials	1,856,389	2,211,228
Total plant and equipment	2,565,330	2,978,636
Total capital works expenditure		
	2,565,330	2,978,636
Represented by:		
New asset expenditure	330,760	921,736
Asset renewal expenditure	2,091,428	2,056,900
Asset upgrade expenditure	143,142	-
Total capital works expenditure	2,565,330	2,978,636

The above statement of capital works should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

OVERVIEW

Introduction

The Geelong Regional Library Corporation was established by the member Councils to provide library services in the member's municipalities on 4th March 1997 and is a body corporate. The member Councils are the Greater Geelong City Council, Surf Coast Shire, Borough of Queenscliffe, Golden Plains Shire and Colac Otway Shire.

The Geelong Regional Library Corporation's main office is located at 51 Little Malop Street, Geelong.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

These financial statements are a general purpose financial reports that consists of a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and Notes accompanying these financial statements. The general purpose financial report complies with the Australian Accounting Standards (AAS), other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, the *Local Government Act 1989 [as per the transitional provisions of the Local Government Act 2020]*, and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

The Geelong Regional Library Corporation is a not-for-profit entity and therefore applies the additional AUS paragraphs applicable to a not-for-profit entity under the Australian Accounting Standards.

MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICY INFORMATION

Basis of accounting

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported. Specific accounting policies applied are disclosed in sections where the related balance or financial statement matter is disclosed.

The accrual basis of accounting has been used in the preparation of these financial statements, except for the cash flow information, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The financial statements are based on the historical cost convention unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The financial statements are in Australian dollars. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar unless otherwise specified. Minor discrepancies in tables between totals and the sum of components are due to rounding.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated judgements are based on professional judgement derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in the application of AAS's that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates relate to:

- / the determination of depreciation for plant and equipment [refer to Note 5];
- / the determination of employee provisions [refer to Note 4.4];
- / the determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether an arrangement is within the scope of *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* or *AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* [refer to Note 2];
- / the determination, in accordance with *AASB 16 Leases*, of the lease term, the estimation of the discount rate when not implicit in the lease and whether an arrangement is in substance short-term or low value [refer to Note 4.6]; and,
- / other areas requiring judgments.

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those applied in the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation, and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

NOTE 1 / PERFORMANCE AGAINST BUDGET

The performance against budget notes compare the Corporation's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* requires explanation of any material variances. The Corporation has adopted a materiality threshold of the lower of 10 percent or \$250k where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

The budget figures detailed below are those adopted by the Corporation on 24th June 2024. The budget was based on assumptions that were relevant at the time of adoption of the budget. The Corporation sets guidelines and parameters for income and expense targets in this budget in order to meet the Corporation's planning and financial performance targets for both the short and long-term.

These notes are prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

1.1 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	BUDGET 2025 \$	ACTUAL 2025 \$	VARIANCE \$	VARIANCE %	REF
Income					
Contributions	16,724,019	18,164,108	1,440,089	9%	1
Grants - operating	2,374,220	2,403,995	29,775	1%	
User fees	323,276	411,619	88,343	27%	2
Other income	243,800	475,057	231,257	95%	3
Grants - capital	186,417	56,417	[130,000]	-70%	1
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of plant and equipment	-	23,631	23,631	100%	4
Total income	19,851,732	21,534,827	1,683,095	8%	
Expenses					
Employee costs	15,237,603	14,258,793	978,810	6%	5
Materials and services	2,740,225	2,837,659	[97,434]	-4%	
Depreciation	1,886,578	2,123,552	[236,974]	-13%	6
Book value of assets written off	242,193	285,824	[43,631]	-18%	7
Depreciation - right of use assets	78,912	86,541	[7,629]	-10%	
Finance costs - leases	3,034	3,804	[770]	-25%	8
Amortisation - Computer Software	-	18,081	[18,081]	-100%	9
Other expenses	30,000	28,500	1,500	5%	
Total expenses	20,218,545	19,642,754	575,791	3%	
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	[366,813]	1,892,073	2,258,886	616%	

(i) Explanation of material variations

VARIANCE REF	ITEM	EXPLANATION
1	Contributions	\$1.166m was received from the City of Greater Geelong as reimbursement of Capital Expenditure associated with opening Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library. Golden Plains contributed \$143k for the new Mobile Library. \$130k capital grant was budgeted under Grants - capital however in the actual result this was recorded as a Member Contribution towards the lending collection for Biyal-a Armstrong Creek and Western Heights libraries.
2	User Fees	Branch income was \$32k favourable to Budget due to an increase in use of photocopying facilities. GRLC increased focus on making spaces ready and available to the public resulting in Venue Hire income \$56.3k favourable to budget.
3	Other income	Interest income was \$222.9k above budget. Cash holdings and interest rates both exceeded the budgeted levels.
4	Net gain/(loss) on disposal of plant and equipment	\$23.6k was gained on the sale of books withdrawn from the library collection.
5	Employee Costs	Unfilled roles and temporary vacancies across the organisation resulted in \$519k decreased spend to budget. Staff with flexible working arrangements or secondments not requiring backfill resulted in a reduced FTE to budget equating to \$402k reduced spend on salaries.
6	Depreciation	Increased investment in assets compared to budget is reflected in an increase in depreciation. The lending collection depreciation is up \$123k. Plant & equipment, Furniture and IT is up \$85k on last year.
7	Book value of assets written off	The budgeted cost is based on the actual written off value for the 2023-24 financial year.
8	Finance costs - leases	The variance is due to a higher interest rate than budgeted.
9	Amortisation - Computer Software	First full year of Software assets for Library Management System, not accounted for in budget.

1.2 CAPITAL WORKS

	BUDGET 2025 \$	ACTUAL 2025 \$	VARIANCE \$	VARIANCE %	REF
Plant and equipment					
Plant, machinery and equipment	-	154,941	154,941	100%	1
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	125,000	126,367	1,367	1%	
Computers and telecommunications	300,000	427,633	127,633	43%	2
Lending materials	1,627,345	1,856,389	229,044	14%	3
Total plant and equipment	2,052,345	2,565,330	512,985	25%	
Total capital works expenditure					
	2,052,345	2,565,330	512,985	25%	
Represented by:					
Asset renewal expenditure	1,932,345	2,091,428	159,083	8%	4
New asset expenditure	120,000	330,760	210,760	100%	5
Asset upgrade expenditure	-	143,142	143,142	100%	6
Total capital works expenditure	2,052,345	2,565,330	512,985	25%	

(i) Explanation of material variations

Due to a substantial operating surplus (explained in Note 1.1), additional Capital Expenditure could be approved; providing long term community benefit. Detailed explanations are included in the table below:

VARIANCE REF	ITEM	EXPLANATION
1	Plant, machinery and equipment	Golden Plains Shire contributed a new mobile vehicle for GRLC, valued at \$143k. The remaining \$11.8k spend was on library equipment which was budgeted to fixtures, fittings and furniture.
2	Computers and telecommunications	\$85k of approved additional spending on new and upgraded equipment including video conferencing, printers, and new laptops for library programs. \$20k represents current development of the new website and an additional \$15k for equipment at the new library; Biyal-a Armstrong Creek.
3	Lending materials	Lending materials purchased for Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library exceeded budget in this financial year by \$210k due to timing. All Biyal-a lending materials are supported by funding from the City of Greater Geelong.
4	Asset renewal expenditure	Includes computer equipment, new website costs and lending materials.
5	New asset expenditure	Includes computer hardware, lending materials and equipment for Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library.
6	Asset upgrade expenditure	New Golden Plains Mobile Library.

NOTE 2 / FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

2.1 CONTRIBUTIONS

	2025 \$	2024 \$
City of Greater Geelong	15,648,712	12,627,180
Surf Coast Shire	826,281	764,557
Golden Plains Shire	593,040	439,501
Borough of Queenscliffe	236,987	230,361
Colac Otway Shire	859,088	836,095
Total contributions	18,164,108	14,897,694

Contributions are recognised as revenue when the Corporation obtains control over the contributed asset.

2.2 GRANTS

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Grants were received in respect of the following:		
Summary of grants		
State funded grants	2,444,572	2,553,036
Other grants	15,840	44,410
Total grants received	2,460,412	2,597,446
[a] Operating grants		
<i>Recurrent - State Government</i>		
Public Libraries Funding Program	2,374,220	2,374,220
<i>Non-recurrent</i>		
State Government	13,935	122,399
Other grants	15,840	36,630
Total operating grants	2,403,995	2,533,249
[b] Capital grants		
<i>Recurrent - State Government</i>		
Premiers Reading Challenge	56,417	56,417
<i>Non-recurrent - Other Grant</i>		
Other grants	-	7,780
Total capital grants	56,417	64,197
Total grants	2,460,412	2,597,446

Recognition of Grant Income

Before recognising funding from government grants as revenue the Corporation assesses whether there is a contract that is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers. Where both these conditions are satisfied, the Corporation:

- / identifies each performance obligation relating to revenue under contract/agreement
- / determines the transaction price
- / recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations, at the point in time or over time when services are rendered.

Where the contract is not enforceable and/or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Corporation applies AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities. Grant revenue with sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised over time as the performance.

Obligations specified in the underlying agreement are met. Where performance obligations are not sufficiently specific, grants are recognised on the earlier of receipt or when an unconditional right to receipt has been established. Grants relating to capital projects are generally recognised progressively as the capital project is completed.

2.3 USER FEES

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Venue hire	212,169	196,710
Business service fees	12,604	27,711
Photocopying revenue	179,885	118,791
Other user fees	6,961	3,760
Total user fees	411,619	346,972

User fees are recognised as revenue at a point in time, or over time, when (or as) the performance obligation is satisfied. Recognition is based on the underlying contractual terms.

2.4 OTHER INCOME

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Fines	14,274	51,554
Literary Festival and other event income	34,168	29,565
Interest	371,053	304,334
Other	55,562	56,813
Total other income	475,057	442,266

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

Other income is recognised when the Corporation gains control over the right to receive the income.

NOTE 3 / THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES

3.1 EMPLOYEE COSTS

	2025 \$	2024 \$
[a] Employee costs		
Wages and salaries	12,780,210	11,290,262
WorkCover	87,768	81,916
Superannuation	1,379,023	1,206,534
Fringe benefits tax	11,792	18,586
Total employee costs	14,258,793	12,597,298
[b] Superannuation		
The Corporation made contributions to the following funds:		
Defined benefit fund		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	23,702	22,152
	23,702	22,152
Employer contributions payable at reporting date	5,911	5,822
Accumulation funds		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	774,938	632,299
Employer contributions - other funds	564,500	508,623
	1,339,438	1,140,923

Refer to note 10 for further information relating to the Corporation's superannuation obligations.

3.2 MATERIALS AND SERVICES

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Contract payments	519,060	404,352
Building maintenance	20,400	34,908
General maintenance	127,072	69,113
Utilities	153,737	173,326
Office administration	1,062,125	833,464
Information technology	673,490	637,950
Insurance	51,561	42,160
Consultants	230,214	117,499
Total materials and services	2,837,659	2,312,772

Expenses are recognised as they are incurred and reported in the financial year to which they relate.

3.3 DEPRECIATION

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Plant and equipment	72,171	53,454
Fixtures fittings and furniture	218,808	212,616
Computers and telecomms	559,135	449,227
Lending materials	1,273,438	1,209,560
Total depreciation	2,123,552	1,924,857
Book value of assets written off	285,824	186,199
	285,824	186,199

Refer to Note 5 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation and amortisation charges and accounting policy.

3.4 AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements	28,500	28,000
Total other expenses	28,500	28,000

NOTE 4 / OUR FINANCIAL POSITION

4.1 FINANCIAL ASSETS

	2025 \$	2024 \$
[a] Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand	3,458	4,443
Cash at bank	30,022	983,835
Total cash and cash equivalents	33,480	988,278

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of less than 90 days, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Other financial assets are valued at fair value at balance date. Term deposits are measured at original cost. Any unrealised gains and losses on holdings at balance date are recognised as either a revenue or expense.

[b] Other financial assets		
Term deposits - current	5,038,715	2,502,843
Total other financial assets	5,038,715	2,502,843
Total financial assets	5,072,195	3,491,121

[c] Trade and other receivables		
Current		
Current account - Greater Geelong City Council	431,512	-
Other trade receivables	29,558	2,873
Total trade and other receivables	461,070	2,873

Short term receivables are carried at invoice amount. No provision for doubtful debts is recognised as there is no evidence that an impairment has occurred.

[d] Ageing of Receivables		
The ageing of the Corporation's trade & other receivables that are not impaired was:		
Current (not yet due)	461,070	2,873
Total trade & other receivables	461,070	2,873

4.2 TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2025 \$	2024 \$
[a] Trade and other payables		
Trade payables	116,212	17,030
Accrued expenses	59,933	27,500
Unearned income	67,040	17,340
Current account - City of Greater Geelong	-	49,303
Total trade and other payables	243,185	111,173

Unearned income/revenue represents consideration received in advance for grant agreements. Unearned income/ revenue will be recognised as revenue when the grant performance criteria is met. Refer to Note 2.

4.3 EMPLOYEE PROVISIONS

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months		
Annual leave	692,435	708,452
Long service leave	170,157	153,534
Time in lieu	2,440	5,717
	865,031	867,703
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
Annual leave	3,880	17,423
Long service leave	1,404,832	1,278,128
	1,408,713	1,295,551
Total current employee provisions	2,273,744	2,163,254
Non-current		
Long service leave	244,427	151,341
Total non-current employee provisions	244,427	151,341
Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:		
Current	2,273,744	2,163,254
Non-current	244,427	151,341
Total aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions	2,518,171	2,314,595

The calculation of employee costs and benefits includes all relevant on-costs and are calculated as follows at reporting date.

Annual leave

A liability for annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits as a current liability because the Corporation does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability. Liabilities for annual leave are measured at:

- / nominal value if the Corporation expects to wholly settle the liability within 12 months; or,
- / present value if the Corporation does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

Liabilities that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits as current liabilities, measured at the present value of the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Long service leave

Liability for long service leave [LSL] is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability as the Corporation does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement. Unconditional LSL is measured at nominal value if expected to be settled within 12 months or at present value if not expected to be settled within 12 months. Conditional LSL that has been accrued, where an employee is yet to reach a qualifying term of employment, is disclosed as a non-current liability and measured at present value.

Key assumptions:		
- discount rate	4.20% - 4.50%	4.09% - 4.35%
- index rate	3.44%	3.44%

4.4 COMMITMENTS

Commitments are not recognised in the Balance sheet. The Corporation has no commitments to disclose.

4.5 LEASES

At inception of a contract, all entities would assess whether a contract is, or contains a lease. A contract is, or contains a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. To identify whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset, it is necessary to assess whether:

- / The contract involves the use of an identified asset;
- / The customer has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the asset throughout the period of use; and
- / The customer has the right to direct the use of the asset.

This policy is applied to contracts entered into, or changed, on or after 1 July 2019.

As a lessee, the Corporation recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for:

- / any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received; plus
- / any initial direct costs incurred; and
- / an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located.

The right-of-use asset is subsequently depreciated using the straight-line method from the commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. The estimated useful lives of right-of-use assets are determined on the same basis as those of property, plant and equipment. In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any, and adjusted for certain measurements of the lease liability.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, an appropriate incremental borrowing rate. Generally, the Corporation uses an appropriate incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise the following:

- / Fixed payments;
- / Variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- / Amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee; and
- / The exercise price under a purchase option that the Corporation is reasonably certain to exercise, lease payments in an optional renewal period if the Corporation is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option, and penalties for early termination of a lease unless the Corporation is reasonably certain not to terminate early.

When the lease liability is remeasured in this way, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

Under AASB 16 Leases, the Corporation as a not-for-profit entity has elected not to measure right-of-use assets at initial recognition at fair value in respect of leases that have significantly below-market terms.

4.5 LEASES continued

	PROPERTY \$	TOTAL \$
Right-of-Use Assets		
Balance at 1 July 2023	236,737	236,737
Additions	14,018	14,018
Depreciation charge	[87,323]	[87,323]
Balance at 30 June 2024	163,432	163,432
Balance at 1 July 2024	163,432	163,432
Additions	6,031	6,031
Depreciation charge	[86,541]	[86,541]
Balance at 30 June 2025	82,922	82,922
	2025 \$	2024 \$
Lease Liabilities		
Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows		
Less than one year	92,242	86,757
One to five years	-	88,951
More than five years	-	-
Total undiscounted lease liabilities as at 30 June:	92,242	175,708
Lease liabilities included in the Balance Sheet at 30 June:		
Current	92,242	86,757
Non-current	-	88,951
Total lease liabilities	92,242	175,708

4.6 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	SOFTWARE \$	TOTAL \$
Gross carrying amount	180,811	180,811
Balance at 1 July 2024	-	-
Additions from internal developments	-	-
Other additions	180,811	180,811
Balance at 30 June 2025	164,657	164,657
Accumulated amortisation and impairment		
Balance at 1 July 2024	(16,154)	(16,154)
Amortisation expense	(18,081)	(18,081)
Balance at 30 June 2025	[34,235]	[34,235]
Net book value at 30 June 2024	164,657	164,657
Net book value at 30 June 2025	146,576	146,576

Intangible assets with finite lives are amortised as an expense on a systematic basis over the assets's useful life. Amortisation is generally calculated on a straight line basis, at a rate that allocates the asset value, less any estimated residual value over its estimated useful life. Estimates of the remaining useful lives and amortisation method are reviewed at least annually, and adjustments made where appropriate.

4.7 RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO SURPLUS

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,892,073	1,161,496
Contributions - Non-monetary assets	[143,142]	-
Depreciation	2,123,552	1,924,857
Profit/(loss) on disposal of plant and equipment	[23,631]	[35,794]
Book value of assets written off	285,824	186,199
Depreciation - right of use assets	86,541	87,323
Amortisation - computer software	18,081	16,154
Finance costs - leases	3,804	6,073
Change in assets and liabilities:		
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables	[494,069]	[1,418]
Decrease/(increase) in prepayments	[7,425]	126,604
Decrease/(increase) in Inventory	[14,514]	[2,116]
[Decrease]/increase in trade and other payables	113,059	[2,456,586]
[Decrease]/increase in provisions	203,576	199,825
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	4,043,730	1,212,617

NOTE 5 / PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	AT COST 30 JUNE 2025	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	CARRYING AMOUNT 30 JUNE 2025		
Plant and equipment	1,492,894	(1,256,176]	236,717		
Fixtures fittings and furniture	3,157,393	(2,555,691]	601,702		
Computers and telecomms	6,105,388	(4,996,433]	1,108,955		
Lending materials	14,232,864	(5,485,714]	8,747,150		
	24,988,538	(14,294,014]	10,694,524		
	OPENING WIP	ADDITIONS	WRITE-OFF	TRANSFERS	CLOSING WIP
Work in progress					
Plant and equipment	818	-	-	(818]	-
Fixtures fittings and furniture	-	-	-	-	-
Computers and telecomms	104,547	20,590	-	(104,547]	20,590
Lending materials	680,339	-	-	(680,339]	-
Total	785,705	20,590	-	(785,705]	20,590
Total plant and equipment					10,715,114

	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	FIXTURES FITTINGS AND FURNITURE	COMPUTERS AND TELECOMMS	LENDING MATERIALS	WORK IN PROGRESS	TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT
Plant, lending materials and equipment						
At fair value 1 July 2024	1,326,682	3,038,892	7,248,116	13,464,655	785,705	25,864,049
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2024	(1,180,157)	(2,342,963)	(6,091,058)	(5,690,711)	-	(15,304,888)
	146,525	695,929	1,157,058	7,773,944	785,705	10,559,160
Movements in fair value						
Acquisition of assets	154,941	126,367	407,043	1,856,389	20,590	2,565,331
Transfers	13,338	-	104,547	667,820	(785,705)	-
Assets disposed	(2,068)	(7,866)	(1,654,318)	(1,755,999)	-	(3,420,251)
	166,211	118,501	(1,142,728)	768,209	(765,115)	(854,920)
Movements in accumulated depreciation						
Depreciation	(72,171)	(218,808)	(559,135)	(1,273,438)	-	(2,123,552)
Transfers	(4,726)	-	-	4,726	-	-
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	878	6,080	1,653,760	1,473,709	-	3,134,427
	(76,019)	(212,728)	1,094,625	204,997	-	1,010,875
At fair value 30 June 2025	1,492,894	3,157,393	6,105,388	14,232,864	20,590	25,009,128
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2025	(1,256,176)	(2,555,691)	(4,996,433)	(5,485,714)	-	(14,294,014)
Carrying amount	236,717	601,702	1,108,955	8,747,150	20,590	10,715,114

Acquisition

The purchase method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets, being the fair value of assets provided as consideration at the date of acquisition plus any incidental costs attributable to the acquisition. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

In accordance with the Corporation's policy, the threshold limits have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year.

Depreciation and amortisation

Plant and equipment having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to the Corporation in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of remaining useful lives and residual values are made on a regular basis with major asset classes reassessed annually. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and residual values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Straight line depreciation is charged based on the residual useful life as determined each year.

Depreciation periods used are listed below and are consistent with the prior year unless otherwise stated.

	DEPRECIATION PERIOD	THRESHOLD LIMIT
Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods		
Plant and equipment		
plant and equipment	6.67 - 8 years	No limit
fixtures, fittings and furniture	3 - 10 years	1,000
computers and telecommunications	4 years	1,000
lending materials	2 - 15 years	No limit
Right-of-use asset	5 years	No limit

NOTE 6 / SHARE OF EQUITY

The percentage of equity held by participating Councils making up the Geelong Regional Library Corporation is based on original contributions made at the time the Corporation came into being on 4th March 1997 plus a percentage of profits based on contributions made for each year. The percentage is as follows:

	2025	2024
City of Greater Geelong	88.22%	88.21%
Surf Coast Shire	2.68%	2.87%
Golden Plains Shire	5.99%	5.59%
Borough of Queenscliffe	1.36%	1.51%
Colac Otway Shire	1.75%	1.82%

Control of the Geelong Regional Library Corporation

The Geelong Regional Library Corporation is financially dependent on the contributions from the Greater Geelong City Council. However, the Greater Geelong City Council does not control the Geelong Regional Library Corporation under the guidance of AASB 10. The Greater Geelong City Council does not have discretion to direct the activities of the Geelong Regional Library Corporation.

NOTE 7 / PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS

7.1 KEY MANAGEMENT REMUNERATION

[a] Key Management Personnel

Details of persons holding the position of Board Member or other members of key management personnel at the Corporation at any time during the year are:

	2025 NO.	2024 NO.
Board Members		
Cr Liz Pattison (Surf Coast Shire)		
Cr Ross Ebbels (Borough of Queenscliffe) - until 25 November 2024		
Cr Isabelle Tolhurst (Borough of Queenscliffe) - from 25 November 2024		
Mayor Owen Sharkey (Golden Plains Shire)		
Cr Marg White (Colac Otway Shire) - until 27 November 2024		
Cr Mick McCrickard (Colac Otway Shire) - from 27 November 2024		
Cr Melissa Cadwell (Greater Geelong City Council) - until 11 December 2024		
Cr Belinda Moloney (Greater Geelong City Council) - until 11 December 2024		
Cr Trent Sullivan (Greater Geelong City Council)		
Cr Anthony Aitken (Greater Geelong City Council) - until 11 December 2024		
Cr Rowan Story (Greater Geelong City Council) - from 19 December 2024		
Cr Elise Wilkinson (Greater Geelong City Council) - from 19 December 2024		
Cr Emma Sinclair (Greater Geelong City Council) - from 19 December 2024		
Total Number of Board Members	13	8

Other Members		
Vanessa Schernickau (Chief Executive Officer)		
Skye Wilson (Director, People, Culture & Strategic Engagement)		
David Semmens (Director, Community Experience) - from 13 January 2024		
Robbie Cullen (Director, Digital & Finance) - from 16 December 2024		
Pam Newton (Director, Community Experience) - until 1 September 2023		
Jeff Cole (Chief Operating Officer) - until 1 September 2023		
Andrew Parker (Chief Operating Officer) - from 8 November 2023 until 31 January 2024		
Total of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel	4	6
Total Number of Key Management Personnel	17	14

	2025 \$	2024 \$
[b] Remuneration of Key Management Personnel		
Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:		
Short-term benefits	731,435	660,681
Long-term benefits	17,750	16,045
Post employment benefits	82,689	70,146
Termination benefits	-	7,692
Total	831,874	754,565

7.1 KEY MANAGEMENT REMUNERATION Continued

The numbers of key management personnel whose total remuneration from the Corporation and any related entities, fall within the following bands:

	2025 NO.	2024 NO.
\$0 - \$9,999	13	8
\$40,000 - \$49,999	-	2
\$60,000 - \$69,999	-	1
\$90,000 - \$99,999	-	1
\$100,000 - \$109,999	1	-
\$200,000 - \$209,999	-	1
\$210,000 - \$219,999	2	-
\$290,000 - \$299,999	1	1
	17	14

[c] Senior Officer Remuneration

A Senior Officer is an officer of the Corporation, other than Key Management Personnel, who:

- a) has management responsibilities and reports directly to the Chief Executive; or
- b) whose total annual remuneration exceeds \$170,000.

There were no Senior Officers, other than Key Management Personnel, in 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Board members received no remuneration from the Geelong Regional Library Corporation.

7.2 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURE

[a] Transactions with related parties

Contributions were paid by the member Councils, as outlined in note 2.1.

The Greater Geelong City Council provides accounting and payroll services to the Geelong Regional Library Corporation for an annual administrative fee. The annual service fee for 2024-25 was \$184,144.

A lease exists between the Greater Geelong City Council and the Geelong Regional Library Corporation with regard to the office space, as outlined in note 4.6.

Library buildings are provided by member Councils free of charge for library facilities.

[b] Outstanding balances with related parties

There are shared services paid by the City of Greater Geelong on behalf of the library, which is subsequently reimbursed. The outstanding balance as at 30th June 2025 is \$431,512 payable to the Geelong Regional Library Corporation, as outlined in Note 4.1[c].

[c] Commitments to/from related parties

New library facilities are provided by member Councils including initial funds for furniture, equipment and collection materials. There is an existing commitment by the Greater Geelong City Council to reimburse the collection for the new Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library which opened on 1 August 2024.

NOTE 8 / MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES

8.1 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed and if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable, respectively.

Contingent liabilities are:

- / possible obligations that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the GRLC; or,
- / present obligations that arise from past events but are not recognised because:
- / it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; or
- / the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

The Corporation does not have any contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2025.

Superannuation

The Corporation has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme, matters relating to this potential obligation are outlined below. As a result of the volatility in financial markets the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists.

Future superannuation contributions

In addition to the disclosed contributions, Geelong Regional Library Corporation has not paid unfunded liability payments to Vision Super, has no contributions outstanding and there are no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2025.

8.2 CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2025 reporting period. The Corporation assesses the impact of these new standards. As at 30 June 2025 there were no new accounting standards or interpretations issued by the AASB which are applicable for the year ending 30 June 2025 that are expected to impact the Corporation.

In December 2022 the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) issued AASB 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities to modify AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement. AASB 2022-10 amends AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement for fair value measurements of non-financial assets of not-for-profit public sector entities not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash inflows.

The AASB 13 modifications:

- / are applicable only to not-for-profit public sector entities;
- / are limited to fair value measurements of non-financial assets not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash inflows;
- / are to be applied prospectively for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024;
- / would not necessarily change practice for some not-for-profit public sector entities; and
- / do not indicate that entities changing practice in how they measure relevant assets made an error in applying the existing requirements of AASB 13.

The Corporation determined that there is no impact of the modifications to AASB 13 on the 2024-25 reporting period

In September 2024 the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) issued two Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards (ASRS). This followed Commonwealth legislation establishing Australia's sustainability reporting framework. Relevant entities will be required to undertake mandatory reporting of climate-related disclosures in future financial years. Public sector application issues remain under consideration and the Corporation will continue to monitor developments and potential implications for future financial years.

8.3 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

[a] Objectives and policies

The Corporation's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables (excluding statutory payables). Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in the notes of the financial statements. Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by the Corporation. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to the Corporation and appropriate procedures, controls and risk minimisation.

[b] Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of the Corporation's financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Corporation's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with only insignificant exposure to other price risks and no exposure to foreign currency risk.

[c] Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. The Corporation's interest rate liability risk arises primarily from long term loans and borrowings at fixed rates which exposes the Corporation to fair value interest rate risk. The Corporation does not hold any interest bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value, and therefore has no exposure to fair value interest rate risk. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Corporation has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits that are at floating rates.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the *Local Government Act 1989*. The Corporation manages interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

- / diversification of investment product;
- / monitoring of return on investment; and
- / benchmarking of returns and comparison with budget.

There has been no significant change in the Corporation's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing interest rate risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

Interest rate movements during the year has had a favourable impact on the Corporation's year end result.

[d] Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause the Corporation to make a financial loss. The Corporation has exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in the balance sheet. To help manage this risk:

- / the Corporation has a policy for establishing credit limits for the entities the Corporation deals with;
- / the Corporation may require collateral where appropriate; and,
- / the Corporation only invests surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating.

Receivables consist of a small number of customers. Credit risk associated with the Corporation's financial assets is minimal.

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired.

The Corporation may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when the Corporation provides a guarantee for another party. Details of our contingent liabilities are disclosed in Note 8.1.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. The Corporation does not hold any collateral.

[e] Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of the Corporation's operational liquidity requirements it will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction when required or will be forced to sell a financial asset at below value or may be unable to settle or recover a financial asset.

To help reduce these risks the Corporation:

- / uses liquidity ratios which targets a minimum and average level of cash and cash equivalents to be maintained;
- / has readily accessible standby facilities and other funding arrangements in place;
- / has a liquidity portfolio structure that requires surplus funds to be invested within various bands of liquid instruments; and,
- / monitors budget to actual performance on a regular basis.

There has been no significant change in the Corporation's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing liquidity risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

All financial liabilities are expected to be settled within normal terms of trade.

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amounts of financial instruments reflect their fair value.

8.4 EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER BALANCE DATE

No matters have occurred after balance date that require disclosure in the financial report.

8.5 ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The Corporation is dependent on contributions from the member Councils for its continued existence and ability to carry out its normal activities.

NOTE 9 / CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

There have been no changes to accounting policies in the 2024-25 year.

NOTE 10 / SUPERANNUATION

The Corporation makes the majority of its employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (the Fund). This Fund has two categories of membership, accumulation and defined benefit, each of which is funded differently. Obligations for contributions to the Fund are recognised as an expense in Comprehensive Operating Statement when they are made or due.

Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation category, Vision MySuper/ Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2025, this was 11.5% as required under Superannuation Guarantee (SG) legislation [2024: 11.0%]).

Defined Benefit

The Corporation does not use defined benefit accounting for its defined benefit obligations under the Fund's Defined Benefit category. This is because the Fund's Defined Benefit category is a pooled multi-employer sponsored plan.

There is no proportional split of the defined benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of the Corporation in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Fund Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB 119.

Superannuation contributions

Contributions by the Corporation (excluding any unfunded liability payments) to the above superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2025 are detailed below:

SCHEME	TYPE OF SCHEME	RATE	2025 \$	2024 \$
Vision Super	Defined benefits	11.5% [2024:11.0%]	23,702	22,152
Vision Super	Accumulation	11.5% [2024:11.0%]	774,938	632,299

IMAGE CREDITS

Cover	CYS team members get into the spirit of the 2025 National Simultaneous Storytime with the official book "Truck Cat" by Deborah Frenkel <i>[credit: Monika Berry]</i>	33	Book club members at Waurm Pond Library <i>[credit: Pam Hutchison]</i>
3	Young customers enjoying their books at Waurm Ponds Library <i>[credit: Pam Hutchinson]</i>	47	Customer using sewing machines at Corio Library <i>[credit: Monika Berry]</i>
8/9	A lively Story time sessions at Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library <i>[credit: Monika Berry]</i>	48-49	GRLC staff enjoy all staff day in 2024 <i>[credit: Monika Berry]</i>
10/11	Staff enjoy the annual All Staff Development Day in 2024 <i>[credit: Monika Berry]</i>	51	Staff day in 2024 <i>[credit: Monika Berry]</i>
13	Customer using Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library as a working space <i>[credit: Monika Berry]</i>	53	Staff day in 2024 <i>[credit: Monika Berry]</i>
17	Staff member guiding customer in the Makerspace at Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library <i>[credit: Monika Berry]</i>	57	Staff at Bannockburn Library leading Acknowledgment of Country
18/19	Young customers enjoy a game of Connect4 at Corio Library <i>[credit: Monika Berry]</i>	58-59	Staff Development Day keynote speakers <i>[credit: Monika Berry]</i>
25	Customers at Kim barne thaliyu / Geelong Heritage Centre browse one the rotating display items <i>[credit: Monika Berry]</i>	60	3D printed items. 3D printing services are available at several library locations
27	Young customers making use of the Youth Space at Geelong Library. The furniture is thanks to a generous donation from the Stuart Leslie Foundation <i>[credit: S. Wilson]</i>	62	Local Word Writers Festival event at Geelong Library & Heritage Centre
31	Beautiful Boronggook Drysdale Library <i>[credit: Monika Berry]</i>	64	Clifton Springs Men's Shed displayed images as part of the Men [Not] at Work exhibition at Boronggook Drysdale Library <i>[credit: GRLC staff]</i>
		66	Inter-generational customers at enjoying Storytime at Bannockburn Library <i>[credit: Monika Berry]</i>
		68/69	Geelong West Library team member teaching a customer about computer scams <i>[credit: Pam Hutchison]</i>

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T 4201 0600

www.grlc.vic.gov.au

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6 Pengilley Avenue
T 5237 1013

Armstrong Creek
Biyal-a Armstrong Creek
20 Main Street
T 4201 0672

Bannockburn
25 - 27 High Street
T 4201 0661

Barwon Heads
Barwon Heads Primary School,
Golf Links Road
T 4201 0653

Belmont
163 High Street
T 4201 0665

Chilwell
51 Russell Street,
Newtown
T 4201 0651

Colac
173 Queen Street
T 5231 4613

Corio
Cox Road
[cnr Moa Street],
Norlane
T 4201 0658

Drysdale
Borongook Drysdale Library
2-8 Wyndham Street
T 4201 0656

Geelong West
153A Pakington Street
T 4201 0660

Highton
Roslyn Road
[cnr Bell Vue Avenue]
T 4201 0662

Lara
5 Walkers Road
T 4201 0668

Leopold
31-39 Kensington Road
T 4201 0675

Newcomb
Bellarine Highway
[cnr Wilsons Road
]T 4201 0657

Ocean Grove
Presidents Avenue
[cnr The Avenue]
T 4201 0655

Queenscliff
55 Hesse Street
T 4201 0663

Torquay
Surf City Plaza,
Beach Road
T 4201 0667

Wairn Ponds
230 Pioneer Road
T 4201 0670

Western Heights
Western Heights College,
Vines Road, Hamlyn Heights
T 5277 1177

Mobile Library Stops

Aireys Inlet
Anakie
Anglesea
Beeac
Beech Forest
Birregurra
Cape Clear
Coragulac
Cressy
Deans Marsh
Dereel
Enfield
Forrest
Gellibrand
Grenville
Haddon
Lavers Hill
Linton
Lorne
Meredith
Portarlington
Rokewood
Smythesdale
St Leonards
Winchelsea

