



# BOARD AGENDA

MEETING OF THE  
GEELONG REGIONAL LIBRARY  
CORPORATION

Thursday 1 May 2025, 5.30pm

Geelong Library and Heritage Centre  
Boardroom and MS Teams

*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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## **ATTACHMENTS**

ATTACHMENT 1      MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING 27 FEBRUARY 2025





## SECTION A - PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
2. ATTENDEES

BOARD MEMBERS	
Cr Isabelle Tolhurst	Borough of Queenscliffe
Cr Elise Wilkison	City of Greater Geelong
Cr Emma Sinclair	City of Greater Geelong
Cr Rowan D. Story AM RFD	City of Greater Geelong
Cr Trent Sullivan	City of Greater Geelong
Cr Mick McCrickard	Colac Otway Shire
Cr Owen Sharkey	Golden Plains Shire
Cr Liz Pattison (Chair)	Surf Coast Shire
COUNCIL OFFICERS	
Damian Waight	General Manager, Community Life, SCS
Amie Higgs	Manager Community Participation, CoGG
Anthony Basford	Executive Director City Life, CoGG
Gayatri Baskaran	Finance Coordinator, CoGG
Ian Seuren	General Manager Development & Community Services, COS
Martin Gill	CEO, BoQ
Jo Wilson	Director Community Planning & Growth, GPS
GRLC Officers	
Vanessa Schernickau	Chief Executive Officer
Skye Wilson	Director, People, Culture and Strategic Engagement
David Semmens	Director, Community Experience
Robbie Cullen	Director, Finance and Digital
Vanessa Rechichi	Executive Assistant
Guests	
Lee Blashki	VAGO





3. APOLOGIES
4. INTERESTS, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS
5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES DATED 27 February 2025 (ATTACHMENT 1)

**Recommendation:**

That the draft minutes of the Board Meeting held 27 February 2025 be confirmed.





## **SECTION B – PRESENTATIONS**

### **DRAFT AUDIT STRATEGY MEMORANDUM 2024-25 (CONFIDENTIAL)**

Lee Blashki - VAGO





## **SECTION C – REPORTS**

### **DRAFT BUDGET 2025-26 AND STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN 2025-2029**

Robbie Cullen, Director Digital and Finance

#### **Purpose**

Provide the Board with a draft budget for 2025-26 for discussion and approval.

#### **Recommendation**

- a) That the Draft GRLC Budget 2025-26, incorporating any changes agreed at the Board meeting, be approved and advertised for public comment and submissions in accordance with sections 158 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*
- b) That a Board meeting be held on 12 June for any public submissions to be heard
- c) That the draft Budget will be presented for adoption by the Board at the meeting on 26 June
- d) That the GRLC CEO forward a copy of the Draft Budget 2025-26 to all Member Council CEOs.





GEELONG  
REGIONAL  
LIBRARIES



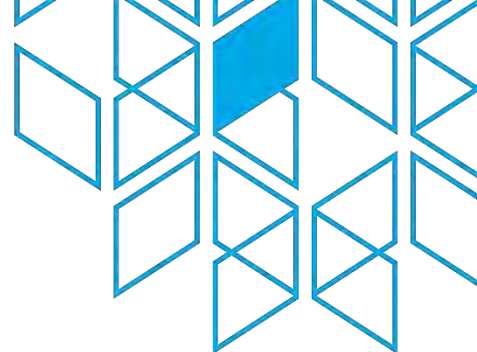
**BUDGET 2025-2026  
STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN 2025-2029  
DRAFT MAY 2025**



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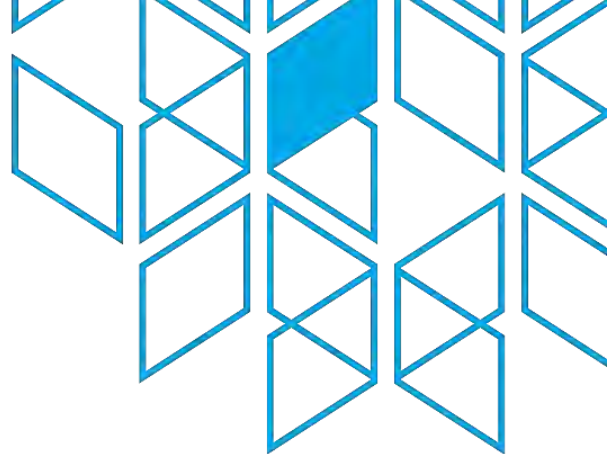
# 1 INTRODUCTION

Geelong Regional Library Corporation (GRLC) was created in March 1997 in accordance with sections 196 and 197 of the *Local Government Act 1989*. The Corporation provides library services to all residents of the Borough of Queenscliffe, City of Greater Geelong, Colac Otway Shire, Golden Plains Shire and Surf Coast Shire. The network covers an area of almost 9,000 square kilometres, with 20 libraries located at Apollo Bay, Armstrong Creek, Bannockburn, Barwon Heads, Belmont, Chilwell, Colac, Corio, Boronggook Drysdale, Geelong, Geelong West, Highton, Lara, Leopold, Newcomb, Ocean Grove, Queenscliff, Torquay, Waurn Ponds and Western Heights College. There are three mobile libraries, a Home Library Service and an inter library loans service.

GRLC's annual recurrent income is comprised as follows:

	ACTUAL 2023-24 \$	BUDGET 2024-25 \$	BUDGET 2025-26 \$	Change \$ Increase/ (Decrease)	Change % Increase/ - Decrease	% of 2025-26 Income	Comments
Member Council contributions	14,883,092	16,724,019	17,153,961	429,942	2.6%	84.7%	Based on a 3% increase across Member Councils, excluding City of Greater Geelong with a 2.5% increase.
State Government Grant - Public Libraries Funding Program	2,374,220	2,374,220	2,374,220	-	0.0%	11.7%	No increase in PLFP funding is anticipated for 2025-2026.
User fees	346,972	323,276	375,615	52,339	16.2%	1.9%	Comprises 50% venue hire income and 50% library income.
Interest and other income	514,690	243,800	350,732	106,932	43.9%	1.7%	Includes \$258.0k interest income on cash and term deposits.
<b>Total recurrent income</b>	<b>18,118,975</b>	<b>19,665,315</b>	<b>20,254,528</b>	<b>589,213</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	





The Library Service is funded by Member Councils, the State Government and its own operations:

- Member Council contributions: 84.7% (2024-25: 85.0%)
- State Government Grant – Public Libraries Funding Program: 11.7% (2024-25: 12.1%)
- Fees & Charges: 2.3% (2024-25: 1.6%)
- Interest & Sundry Income: 1.3% (2024-25: 1.3%)

The Library Service is mindful of the cost pressures on Member Councils, with a rate cap this coming financial year of 3%. We are continually reassessing processes to ensure that value is being achieved.

Visitation to our libraries and access to our collections, programs and services continues to grow across the region as we work with our member Councils and partners to deliver community benefit.

- 32% or 120,111 people are library members from a total population of 381,432 across the five Member Councils at 31 March 2025;
- Over the last 12 months (to 31 March 2025) there has been:
  - 1.44 million visits to 20 libraries and 3 mobile libraries
  - over 1.4 million website and catalogue visits;
  - 2.4 million loans of collection items
  - 528,847 loans of e-Collection items
  - 9,219 programs and events, attracting over 155,000 participants

**120K**  
library members

**1.4M+**  
visits to libraries

**155K**  
events & programs  
attendees



## 2 LINK TO THE LIBRARY PLAN

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### 2.1 Library Plan

GRLC is currently developing a new Library Plan, to commence in the 2025-26 financial year. This Budget has been developed with this in mind and no revisions are expected. GRLC will continue to revise the four-year strategic resource plan with each annual budget.

Until the next Library Plan is adopted, The Library Plan 2021-25 *Connecting and Thriving* will continue to be the primary strategic document of GRLC. This Plan contains 61 actions. As at 30 June 2024, 84% of the actions were completed, with a further 10% partially completed and the remaining 6% on track for completion.

#### SUMMARY OF THE LIBRARY PLAN 2021-2025:

##### PURPOSE

A thriving public library service that boosts our communities' health, prosperity, connectedness and belonging. The Plan is built around four interconnected pillars: Community, Places and Spaces, Our People and Regional Leadership. These pillars aim to strengthen and expand what we already do so well as a leading public library service – providing spaces, tools and know-how to help our communities to connect and thrive.

##### FOUR PILLARS

#### 1. Community

Geelong Regional Libraries 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.

#### 2. Places and Spaces

Our spaces are adaptable and democratic; uplifting and sustainable.

#### 3. Our People

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

#### 4. Regional Leadership

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



## 2.2 Planning and Accountability Framework

### BUDGET PROCESSES

The preparation of the Budget begins with library officers preparing the Annual Budget in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* and submitting the Draft Budget to the Board for approval in principle.

GRLC is then required to give public notice that it intends to adopt the Budget. It must give at least 28 days' notice of its intention to adopt the proposed Budget and make the Budget available for inspection at its Offices. A person has a right to make a submission on any proposal contained in the Budget and any submission must be considered before adoption of the Budget by the Board.

The Budget is required to be adopted by the Board by 30 June and a copy submitted to the Minister for Local Government within 28 days of adoption each year. The key dates for the budget process are summarised below:

Action	Description	Date
1	Preliminary Budget presentation at Board Meeting	27 February 2025
2	Proposed Budget submitted to the Board for approval	1 May 2025
4	Public notice advising intention to adopt Budget	2 May 2025
5	Budget available for public inspection and comment for at least 28 days	2 May to 30 May 2025
6	Meeting to consider public submissions (if required)	12 June 2025
7	Budget and submissions presented to the Board for adoption (subject to final adopted Budgets of Member Councils)	26 June 2025
8	Copy of Adopted Budget submitted to the Minister for Local Government within 28 days of adoption	By 24 July 2025



## LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Under the *Local Government Act 1989*, GRLC is required to prepare and adopt an Annual Budget for each financial year. The Budget is required to disclose the fees and charges that GRLC intends to levy as well as a range of other information required by the *Local Government (Finance and Reporting) Regulations 2014* which support the Act. The 2025-26 Budget, which is included in this report, is for the year 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 and is prepared in accordance with the Act and Regulations.

This Budget document incorporates the Strategic Resource Plan (SRP) for the 3 years to 2028-29. In preparing the SRP, the GRLC has complied with the following principles of sound financial management as contained in the Act:

- Prudently manage financial risks relating to debt, assets and liabilities;
- Consider the financial effects of the library service's decisions on future generations; and,
- Provide full, accurate and timely disclosure of financial information.

## 2.3 Budget Influences

In preparing the Budget a number of overarching budget principles are followed and budget assumptions are made about the internal and external environment within which the library service operates. Known factors and influences which are likely to impact significantly on the services delivered in the budget period are also taken into consideration. These include:

- The Victorian State Government rate cap is 3% for the 2025-26 financial year (2024-25: 2.75%)
- Funding from the State Government public library recurrent grant has remained unchanged since July 2019. This funding has not kept pace with GRLC's expanding network and the increase in employee costs over that time.

## 2.4 Budget Principles

The following principles have been incorporated in the 2025-26 Budget:

### SERVICE LEVELS

- Library services are not significantly changed for the member councils providing a 3% increase to member contribution (all except City of Greater Geelong).
- The City of Greater Geelong (CoGG) provide a 2.5% increase to their member contribution; the direct service impacts from the increase being less than the rate cap will result in approximately 200 less programs being delivered to the CoGG community within libraries and in other community facilities, over the course of the year. The savings will be found through current vacancies and will not impact current staff.

### BUDGET PARAMETERS

- Achieving a recurrent surplus (prior to depreciation) that is sufficient to maintain a financially sustainable capital expenditure program.
- Maintaining an acceptable level of cash reserves at the end of each year to cover anticipated employee leave commitments and asset renewal.
- Expenditure Budget has been thoroughly reviewed and is considered realistic and achievable.
- Set income budgets that are realistic and continue the achievement of the Library Plan.
- Costs are distributed to Member Councils in accordance with the Library Agreement between the five Member Councils.



## 2.5 Budget and Strategic Resource Plan Assumptions

### INCOME

- Member Council contributions for 2025-26 reflect an overall increase of 3%, which is equal to the rate cap for the year. The exception to this is the contribution from the City of Greater Geelong which has been budgeted at 2.5%. The SRP assumes member contribution increases in future years of 3%.
- State Government Grants - Public Libraries Funding Program grants to Member Councils are estimated to be the same as 2024-25. The Department of Government Services will confirm these grants in mid-late 2025. The SRP assumes State Government Grants increases in future years by 3% (commencing 2026-27).
- Interest income for 2025-26 is estimated at \$257,982, lower in future years as term deposit rates may decrease.
- User Fees & Charges – increase from the prior year Budget is primarily driven by increased volume (printing, bookings)
- Sundry Income – some grants are expected to continue in 2025-26.
- The 2024-25 confirmed level of capital grants for collections of \$66,417 is assumed to continue in each year of this SRP. If these grants do not continue, the capital expenditure on collections will be adjusted accordingly.

### SALARIES

The current Enterprise Agreement Number 9 2024 (EA) commenced on 4 March 2025.

The legislated rate of superannuation will increase from 11.5% to 12.0% from 1 July 2025. This increased the budgeted expense by \$64.6k.

The Workcover insurance premium rose by 58% in 2023-24 and a further 15% in 2024-25. The 2025-26 Draft Budget assumes a further increase of 14%.

Also included in salaries are banding increment increases for eligible employees and Fringe Benefits Tax. There will be expense reductions due to flexible work arrangements and the end of some fixed term contracts.

The overall result is an increase in salary costs of 2.1% for 2025-26 when compared to the 2024-25 Adopted Budget.

The SRP assumes an increase in salary cost of 2.5% for each year from 2026-27 onwards. This assumes that Geelong Regional Libraries achieves efficiency of 0.5% per year (to achieve an overall 2.5% cost increase despite 3% enterprise agreement rate increases).

### OTHER EXPENDITURE

- Specific expenditure line items relating to existing contracts such as courier services and digital communications agreements are based on known costs.
- Depreciation costs are estimated to be 2.2% lower than the 2023-24 actual result, as discussed in sections 4.1.7 'Depreciation' and 4.5 'Financial Resources'.



## BALANCE SHEET

The 2025-26 budgeted balance sheet is based on the most recently completed financial year (2023-24), and the current projection of the 2024-25 balance sheet. This will enable the budgeted balance sheet to more closely reflect the expected actual balance sheet at 30 June 2026. The calculation is as follows:

### **Actual 2023-24 Balance Sheet**

- + Projected 2024-25 Income Statement & Capital Expenditure**
- + Budgeted 2025-26 Income Statement & Capital Expenditure**
- = Budgeted 2025-26 Balance Sheet**

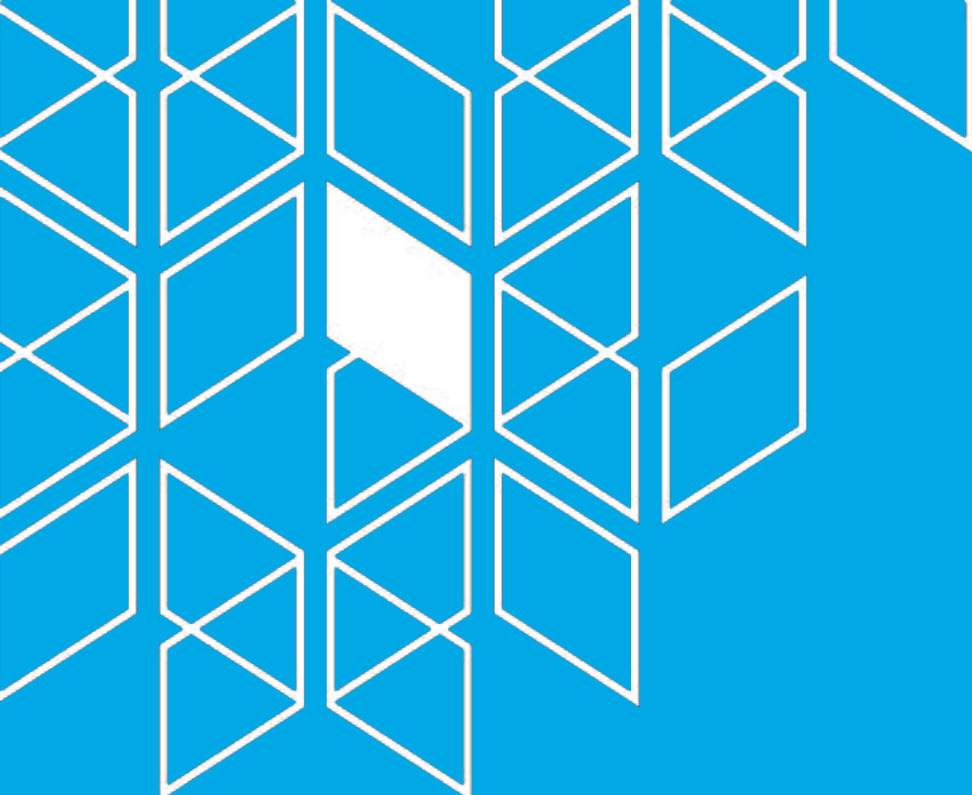
The result is a gradually decreasing net asset value over the four years of the SRP, which is mainly due to a continuing (although improving each year to a surplus in the final year) net deficit after depreciation.

## CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

- Capital expenditure allows for an annual increase of 3% in Collections spending across the four years of the SRP;
- Computer and Communications investment is \$250,000 per year. Geelong Regional Libraries provide over 500 PC/laptop devices (for employee and public use) along with various other IT assets (such as printers, laser cutter, 3D printer).

Fixtures, furniture and fittings annual expenditure of \$175,000; this is for the ongoing renewal and replacement of the assets across the 20 libraries and 3 mobile libraries.





## 3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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This section presents information in regards to the Financial Statements and Statement of Human Resources. The Budget information for the year 2024-25 incorporates the Strategic Resource Plan for the three years ending 30 June 2028.

This section includes the following financial statements prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* and the Local Government Model Financial Report:

- Comprehensive Income Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Statement of Capital Works
- Statement of Human Resources



### 3.1 COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDING 30 JUNE 2029

	NOTES	BUDGET 2025-26 \$	PLAN 2026-27 \$	PLAN 2027-28 \$	PLAN 2028-29 \$
<b>Income</b>					
Member Council contributions	4.1.1	17,163,961	17,678,580	18,208,637	18,754,596
Grants - State Government	4.1.2	2,430,637	2,503,556	2,578,663	2,656,023
User fees	4.1.3	375,615	386,884	398,490	410,445
Other income	4.1.4	350,732	321,826	298,918	278,302
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4.1.1</b>	<b>20,320,945</b>	<b>20,890,846</b>	<b>21,484,708</b>	<b>22,099,365</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Employee costs	4.1.5	15,559,336	15,948,319	16,347,027	16,755,703
Materials & services	4.1.6	2,871,283	2,943,065	3,016,642	3,092,058
Depreciation	4.1.7	1,821,377	1,821,377	1,821,377	1,821,377
Book value of items written off	4.1.7	242,193	242,193	242,193	242,193
Amortisation - intangible assets	4.1.8	18,081	43,081	43,081	43,081
Depreciation - right of use assets	4.1.9	84,853	84,853	84,853	84,853
Finance costs - leases		1,345	1,345	1,345	1,345
Other expenses	4.1.10	31,000	33,000	35,000	37,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>20,629,468</b>	<b>21,117,233</b>	<b>21,591,518</b>	<b>22,077,610</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>					
		<b>(308,522)</b>	<b>(226,388)</b>	<b>(106,810)</b>	<b>21,755</b>



## 3.2 BALANCE SHEET FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDING 30 JUNE 2029

	NOTES	BUDGET 2025-26 \$	PLAN 2026-27 \$	PLAN 2027-28 \$	PLAN 2028-29 \$
<b>Current assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	4.3	1,970,806	1,811,124	1,723,048	1,714,122
Trade and other receivables		2,873	2,873	2,873	2,873
Other financial assets		2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Inventory		28,563	28,563	28,563	28,563
Prepayments		192,709	192,709	192,709	192,709
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>4,194,951</b>	<b>4,035,269</b>	<b>3,947,193</b>	<b>3,938,267</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>					
Property, plant & equipment		10,402,730	10,369,302	10,383,848	10,447,809
Right-of-use assets - Property		465,827	379,628	293,430	207,232
Intangible assets		378,495	335,414	292,333	249,252
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>11,247,051</b>	<b>11,084,344</b>	<b>10,969,611</b>	<b>10,904,292</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	4.2.1	<b>15,442,002</b>	<b>15,119,614</b>	<b>14,916,805</b>	<b>14,842,559</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Trade and other payables		111,173	111,173	111,173	111,173
Provisions		2,163,254	2,163,254	2,163,254	2,163,254
Lease liabilities - Property		88,571	88,571	88,571	88,571
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>2,362,998</b>	<b>2,362,998</b>	<b>2,362,998</b>	<b>2,362,998</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>					
Provisions		151,341	151,341	151,341	151,341
Lease liabilities - Property		377,255	281,255	185,255	89,255
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>528,596</b>	<b>432,596</b>	<b>336,596</b>	<b>240,596</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	4.2.2	<b>2,891,594</b>	<b>2,795,594</b>	<b>2,699,594</b>	<b>2,603,594</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>12,550,408</b>	<b>12,324,019</b>	<b>12,217,210</b>	<b>12,238,965</b>
<b>Equity</b>					
Members contribution		3,886,011	3,886,011	3,886,011	3,886,011
Accumulated surplus		8,664,398	8,438,010	8,331,200	8,352,955
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>12,550,409</b>	<b>12,324,021</b>	<b>12,217,211</b>	<b>12,238,966</b>



### 3.3 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDING 30 JUNE 2029

	NOTES	BUDGET 2025-26 \$	PLAN 2026-27 \$	PLAN 2027-28 \$	PLAN 2028-29 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Member Council contributions		17,407,900	17,929,837	18,467,432	19,021,155
User fees		413,177	425,572	438,339	451,489
Grants - operating		2,430,637	2,503,556	2,578,663	2,656,023
Interest received		257,982	229,076	206,168	185,552
Other income		102,025	102,025	102,025	102,025
Employee costs		(15,559,336)	(15,948,319)	(16,347,027)	(16,755,703)
Materials & services		(3,158,412)	(3,237,372)	(3,318,306)	(3,401,264)
Other payments		(34,100)	(36,300)	(38,500)	(40,700)
Net gst refund / (payment)		197,809	201,400	205,057	208,780
<b>Net cash flows provided by/used in operating activities</b>	4.3.1	<b>2,057,682</b>	<b>2,169,475</b>	<b>2,293,852</b>	<b>2,427,357</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>					
Payments for/proceeds from investments		-	-	-	-
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(2,181,922)	(2,233,157)	(2,285,928)	(2,340,283)
Payments for intangible assets		(250,000)	-	-	-
<b>Net cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities</b>	4.3.2	<b>(2,431,922)</b>	<b>(2,233,157)</b>	<b>(2,285,928)</b>	<b>(2,340,283)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>					
Interest paid - lease liability		(1,345)	(1,345)	(1,345)	(1,345)
Repayment of lease liability		(94,655)	(94,655)	(94,655)	(94,655)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities</b>	4.3.3	<b>(96,000)</b>	<b>(96,000)</b>	<b>(96,000)</b>	<b>(96,000)</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash &amp; cash equivalents</b>		<b>(470,240)</b>	<b>(159,682)</b>	<b>(88,076)</b>	<b>(8,926)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		2,441,046	1,970,806	1,811,124	1,723,048
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>		<b>1,970,806</b>	<b>1,811,124</b>	<b>1,723,048</b>	<b>1,714,122</b>
Other financial assets		2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
<b>TOTAL CASH AND TERM DEPOSITS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>		<b>3,970,806</b>	<b>3,811,124</b>	<b>3,723,048</b>	<b>3,714,122</b>



### 3.4 STATEMENT OF CAPITAL WORKS FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDING 30 JUNE 2029

	NOTES	BUDGET 2025-26 \$	PLAN 2026-27 \$	PLAN 2027-28 \$	PLAN 2028-29 \$
Lending collection		1,552,565	1,599,142	1,647,117	1,696,530
Computers and telecommunications		250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Fixtures, fittings and furniture		175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000
Plant, machinery and equipment		6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>	4.4	<b>1,983,565</b>	<b>2,030,142</b>	<b>2,078,117</b>	<b>2,127,530</b>
<b>Represented By:</b>					
New asset expenditure		-	-	-	-
Asset renewal expenditure		1,983,565	2,030,142	2,078,117	2,127,530
Asset upgrade expenditure		-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>	4.4	<b>1,983,565</b>	<b>2,030,142</b>	<b>2,078,117</b>	<b>2,127,530</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>					
Grants		56,417	56,417	56,417	56,417
GRLC cash		1,927,148	1,973,725	2,021,700	2,071,113
<b>TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES</b>	4.4	<b>1,983,565</b>	<b>2,030,142</b>	<b>2,078,117</b>	<b>2,127,530</b>



### 3.5 STATEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDING 30 JUNE 2029

	NOTES	BUDGET 2025-26 \$	PLAN 2026-27 \$	PLAN 2027-28 \$	PLAN 2028-29 \$
<b>Staff expenditure</b>					
Employee costs - operating		15,559,336	15,948,319	16,347,027	16,755,703
Employee costs - capital		43,923	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL STAFF EXPENDITURE</b>	4.1.5	<b>15,603,258</b>	<b>15,948,319</b>	<b>16,347,027</b>	<b>16,755,703</b>
<b>Staff numbers</b>		<b>FTE</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>FTE</b>
Library & Heritage Services		145.7	145.0	144.3	143.6
<b>TOTAL FTE AT 30 JUNE</b>	4.1.5	<b>145.7</b>	<b>145.0</b>	<b>144.3</b>	<b>143.6</b>



## 4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This section presents detailed information on material components of the financial statements.

### 4.1 Comprehensive Income Statement

#### 4.1.1 MEMBER COUNCIL CONTRIBUTIONS

According to the Library Agreement between the five Member Councils, the direct costs of each service point and mobile service are borne by the Member Councils in whose municipal district the service is delivered. Indirect costs – i.e. regional costs – are apportioned across the councils.

MEMBER COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION	ACTUAL 2023-24 \$	BUDGET 2024-25 \$	BUDGET 2025-26 \$	2024-25 to 2025-26 \$ Increase/ (Decrease)	2024-25 to 2025-26 % Increase/ -Decrease
Golden Plains Shire	434,899	446,859	460,265	13,406	3.00%
City of Greater Geelong	12,600,000	14,338,025	14,696,875	358,850	2.50%
City of Greater Geelong – Western Heights Library recurrent	17,180	17,653	17,695	42	0.24%
Borough of Queenscliffe	230,361	236,696	243,797	7,101	3.00%
Surf Coast Shire	764,557	825,698	850,469	24,771	3.00%
Colac Otway Shire	836,095	859,088	884,861	25,773	3.00%
<b>Member Council Contributions - Annual Operating Allocations</b>	<b>14,883,092</b>	<b>16,724,019</b>	<b>17,153,961</b>	<b>429,942</b>	<b>2.57%</b>
City of Greater Geelong – Western Heights Library capital	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	0.00%
City of Greater Geelong – Armstrong Creek Collection	-	120,000	-	(120,000)	-100.00%
Golden Plains Shire - new Mobile Library vehicle expenses	4,602	-	-	-	0.00%
<b>TOTAL MEMBER COUNCIL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>14,897,695</b>	<b>16,854,019</b>	<b>17,163,961</b>	<b>309,942</b>	<b>1.84%</b>



MEMBER COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION	RECURRENT	CAPITAL	TOTAL
Golden Plains Shire	460,265	-	460,265
City of Greater Geelong	14,714,570	10,000	14,724,570
Borough of Queenscliffe	243,797	-	243,797
Surf Coast Shire	850,469	-	850,469
Colac Otway Shire	884,861	-	884,861
<b>TOTAL MEMBER COUNCIL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>17,153,961</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>17,163,961</b>

The increase in Member Council contributions has been set in line with the 3% rate cap for 2025-26. While this increase is less than the rate of increase of many of GRLC's expenses (such as wage rate increase of 3.5% when allowing for the 0.5% Superannuation Guarantee increase), GRLC is committed to finding efficiencies to enable to current levels of opening hours and programming to continue.

The exception to this is City of Greater Geelong who have a budgeted 2.5% increase. A reduction in service of approximately 200 programs over the year will occur in City of Greater Geelong libraries as a result of the lower funding increase (as compared to the 3% rate cap increase).

#### 4.1.2 GRANTS – STATE GOVERNMENT

STATE GOVERNMENT GRANT PER MEMBER COUNCIL	ACTUAL 2023-24 \$	BUDGET 2024-25 \$	BUDGET 2025-26 \$	2024-25 to 2025-26 \$ Increase/ (Decrease)	2024-25 to 2025-26 % Increase/ -Decrease
Golden Plains Shire	210,060	210,060	210,060	-	0.0%
City of Greater Geelong	1,613,050	1,613,050	1,613,050	-	0.0%
Borough of Queenscliffe	80,579	80,580	80,580	-	0.0%
Surf Coast Shire	261,327	261,327	261,327	-	0.0%
Colac Otway Shire	209,203	209,203	209,203	-	0.0%
<b>Total - Public Libraries Funding Program</b>	<b>2,374,220</b>	<b>2,374,220</b>	<b>2,374,220</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>STATE GOVERNMENT GRANTS RECURRENT</b>	<b>2,374,220</b>	<b>2,374,220</b>	<b>2,374,220</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Capital Grant - Premiers Reading Challenge Book Fund	56,417	56,417	56,417	-	0.0%
Other Grants	122,399	-	-	-	0.0%
<b>TOTAL STATE GOVERNMENT GRANTS</b>	<b>2,553,036</b>	<b>2,430,637</b>	<b>2,430,637</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>



State Government grants are received from two funding programs:

- Public Libraries Funding Program – Grants to Member Councils are budgeted to not increase for 2025-26 then increase 3% per year over the remaining years of the SRP. The Department of Government Services will confirm the grants for the following year in mid-late 2025; and,
- Premier's Reading Challenge Book Fund –The funding per municipality is expected to remain unchanged throughout the SRP.

## DISTRIBUTION OF PLFP FUNDING

The allocation of funding is based on a two-component formula:

- 87.5% is based on the size of the municipal population
- 12.5% is based on five Council factors:
  - Percentage of population with low English proficiency
  - Rate of population dispersion
  - Level of remoteness from metropolitan or regional centres
  - Level of socio-economic disadvantage
  - Percentage of population over 60 years of age.

### 4.1.3 USER FEES

USER FEES	ACTUAL 2023-24 \$	BUDGET 2024-25 \$	BUDGET 2025-26 \$	Change \$ Increase/ (Decrease)	Change % Increase/ -Decrease
Venue hire	196,710	155,827	200,440	44,613	28.6%
Business service fees	150,262	167,449	175,175	7,726	4.6%
<b>TOTAL USER FEES</b>	<b>346,972</b>	<b>323,276</b>	<b>375,615</b>	<b>52,339</b>	<b>16.2%</b>

#### Venue hire

Venue hire income is earned from the use of meeting rooms and other spaces by external businesses, community groups and members of the public. These facilities are available at Geelong, Armstrong Creek, Bannockburn, Belmont, Colac, Corio, Drysdale, Newcomb, Waurn Ponds and the addition of Chilwell during 2026.

#### Business service fees

This category includes photocopying revenue, book club kits, professional research by Heritage Centre staff, interlibrary loans, earphones and USB sticks. Photocopying services are easier to access with a more efficient payment system resulting in increased utilisation.



#### 4.1.4 OTHER INCOME

OTHER INCOME	ACTUAL 2023-24 \$	BUDGET 2024-25 \$	BUDGET 2025-26 \$	Change \$ Increase/ (Decrease)	Change % Increase/ -Decrease
Reimbursements and recoveries	51,554	-	10,000	10,000	100.0%
Literary & other event income	18,452	-	18,000	18,000	100.0%
Interest on investments	304,334	145,250	257,982	112,732	77.6%
Contributions - non-monetary	22,590	-	-	-	0.0%
Other Income	45,336	98,550	64,750	(33,800)	-34.3%
<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>442,267</b>	<b>243,800</b>	<b>350,732</b>	<b>106,932</b>	<b>43.9%</b>

##### Reimbursements and recoveries

GRLC ceased charging fines for overdue items in 2021-22. Income has been received to replace lost or damaged items. In 2024, GRLC also received reimbursements from insurance claims.

##### Interest on investments

Interest rates are gradually reducing. Investments are currently earning 4.0% - 4.5%.

##### Literary & other event income

Income from the major events program.

##### Other income

This category includes a number of sundry items including grants from non-government entities.

#### 4.1.5 EMPLOYEE COSTS

Employee costs comprise 76.1% of total cash expenditure for 2025-26. This is similar to the 75.9% in the prior year Budget.

Employee costs include all labour related expenditure such as salary and wages, and on-costs such as allowances, leave entitlements, employer superannuation, WorkCover insurance and Fringe Benefits Tax. Long service and annual leave are statutory requirements and provisions for the payments of these items are included in the Budget. Salaries and wages are reflective of salary banding increments. Employer superannuation includes the increase in the statutory Superannuation Guarantee Charge from 11.5% to 12.0% from 1 July 2025.

Employee expenses are expected to increase by 2.1% in 2025-26. Refer to 'Salaries' in Section 2.5 'Budget and Strategic Resource Plan Assumptions' for further discussion.



A summary of employee expenditure and the number of full time equivalent (FTE) staff relating to the provision of library services is included below:

EMPLOYEE COSTS	ACTUAL 2023-24 \$	BUDGET 2024-25 \$	BUDGET 2025-26 \$	Change \$ Increase/ (Decrease)	Change % Increase/ -Decrease
Wages and salaries	11,290,262	13,654,757	13,891,928	237,171	1.7%
WorkCover	81,916	120,903	108,052	(12,851)	-10.6%
Superannuation	1,206,534	1,460,943	1,549,368	88,425	6.1%
Fringe benefits tax	18,586	1,000	9,988	8,988	898.8%
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEE COSTS</b>	<b>12,597,298</b>	<b>15,237,603</b>	<b>15,559,336</b>	<b>321,733</b>	<b>2.1%</b>

	BUDGET 2025-26 \$	COMPRISES:		BUDGET 2025-26 FTE	COMPRISES:	
		FULL TIME \$	PART TIME \$		FULL TIME FTE	PART TIME FTE
Permanent Staff	14,131,505	8,926,793	5,204,713	131.9	76.2	55.7
Casual and Other Staff	1,427,830			13.7		
<b>TOTAL <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>15,559,335</b>			<b>145.7</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Includes Superannuation, WorkCover Insurance and Fringe Benefits Tax

#### 4.1.6 MATERIALS AND SERVICES

MATERIALS AND SERVICES	ACTUAL 2023-24 \$	BUDGET 2024-25 \$	BUDGET 2025-26 \$	Change \$ Increase/ (Decrease)	Change % Increase/ -Decrease
Contract payments	404,352	532,383	518,272	(14,111)	-2.7%
Building maintenance	34,908	35,142	29,260	(5,882)	-16.7%
General maintenance	69,113	57,930	87,692	29,762	51.4%
Utilities	173,326	224,551	215,351	(9,200)	-4.1%
Office administration	833,463	883,964	1,001,861	117,897	13.3%
Information technology	637,950	846,370	806,950	(39,420)	-4.7%
Insurance	42,160	47,887	55,577	7,690	16.1%
Consultants	117,499	112,000	156,320	44,320	39.6%
<b>TOTAL MATERIALS AND SERVICES</b>	<b>2,312,772</b>	<b>2,740,227</b>	<b>2,871,283</b>	<b>131,056</b>	<b>4.8%</b>

##### Contract payments

This expenditure category relates to external businesses and contractors engaged for a range of services including shelf-ready processing of collection items, couriers, and security services. Increases only where required.



## Building maintenance and General maintenance

These expenditures include minor plant, furniture and equipment, and the running costs of GRLC vehicles and mobile libraries.

## Utilities

Utilities largely reflect library communications costs, with the budget reflecting phone provider and internet service provider contracts.

## Office administration

This category of expenditure includes eCollection subscriptions, health and safety items, printing, office stationery, photocopier/printer costs, minor IT upgrades, staff training and development, bank fees, corporate advertising and marketing, recruitment advertising, events and programming costs.

The budget increase is primarily explained by an increase in eCollection subscriptions – responding to ongoing increases in demand from library members for digital collection items.

## Information technology

IT comprises computer support, and minor hardware and software. Budget reflects a reduction in cost of some contracted services.

## Insurance

GRLC incurs a direct expense for some insurance policies. Other insurances are included in policies held and paid by City of Greater Geelong.

## Consultants

This category also includes legal expenses.

## 4.1.7 DEPRECIATION

DEPRECIATION	ACTUAL 2023-24 \$	BUDGET 2024-25 \$	BUDGET 2025-26 \$	Change \$ Increase/ (Decrease)	Change % Increase/ -Decrease
Lending collection	1,209,808	1,150,637	1,173,293	22,656	2.0%
Computers and telecommunications	505,585	398,868	400,579	1,711	0.4%
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	172,990	294,054	212,343	(81,711)	-27.8%
Plant, machinery and equipment	36,474	43,019	35,162	(7,857)	-18.3%
<b>TOTAL DEPRECIATION</b>	<b>1,924,857</b>	<b>1,886,578</b>	<b>1,821,377</b>	<b>(65,201)</b>	<b>-3.5%</b>

<b>Book value of items written off</b>	<b>186,199</b>	<b>242,193</b>	<b>242,193</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
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Depreciation is the decrease in value of the current library collection and other assets over time for accounting purposes. GRLC's capital expenditure seeks to replenish the collection as obsolete items are withdrawn, in order to maintain a high-quality collection which meets the needs of the communities we serve.

For 2025-26, the depreciation expense is budgeted to be lower than the expense incurred in the 2023-24 financial year. This is due to some assets being fully depreciated, such as the Geelong Library and



Heritage Centre where most furniture and fittings will complete their depreciation upon the 10 year anniversary in November 2025.

#### 4.1.8 AMORTISATION – INTANGIBLE ASSETS

AMORTISATION - INTANGIBLE ASSETS	ACTUAL 2023-24 \$	BUDGET 2024-25 \$	BUDGET 2025-26 \$	Change \$ Increase/ (Decrease)	Change % Increase/ -Decrease
Library management system	16,154	-	18,081	18,081	100.0%
<b>TOTAL AMORTISATION - INTANGIBLE ASSETS</b>	<b>16,154</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,081</b>	<b>18,081</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

#### 4.1.9 DEPRECIATION – RIGHT OF USE ASSETS

DEPRECIATION - RIGHT OF USE ASSETS	ACTUAL 2023-24 \$	BUDGET 2024-25 \$	BUDGET 2025-26 \$	Change \$ Increase/ (Decrease)	Change % Increase/ -Decrease
Property lease	87,323	78,912	84,853	5,941	7.5%
<b>TOTAL DEPRECIATION - RIGHT OF USE ASSETS</b>	<b>87,323</b>	<b>78,912</b>	<b>84,853</b>	<b>5,941</b>	<b>7.5%</b>

GRLC leases office space on Level 4 of GLHC for the Regional Library Support Centre. This is a 'right of use' asset that is amortised over the life of the lease.

#### 4.1.10 OTHER EXPENSES

OTHER EXPENSES	ACTUAL 2023-24 \$	BUDGET 2024-25 \$	BUDGET 2025-26 \$	Change \$ Increase/ (Decrease)	Change % Increase/ -Decrease
Audit services	28,000	30,000	31,000	1,000	3.3%
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>31,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>3.3%</b>

Audit services are provided by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office or their representative.



## 4.2 Balance Sheet

BALANCE SHEET	ACTUAL 2023-24 \$	BUDGET 2024-25 \$	BUDGET 2025-26 \$
<b>Assets and Liabilities</b>			
Total Assets	14,602,509	11,525,758	15,442,002
Total Liabilities	2,601,476	2,766,445	2,891,594
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>12,001,034</b>	<b>8,759,313</b>	<b>12,550,408</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>	<b>12,001,037</b>	<b>10,759,314</b>	<b>12,550,409</b>

### 4.2.1 ASSETS

The Corporation's major assets comprise its bank balance, the lending collection, vehicles, furniture and office equipment. GRLC does not own any land or buildings.

The value of GRLC assets is expected to slowly decline as the rate of depreciation (\$2.1m - \$2.2m per year) continues to exceed capital expenditure (\$2.0m - \$2.1m).

The investment gap ratios in section 5 'Financial Indicators' provide further detail.

### 4.2.2 LIABILITIES

The major liability is employee provisions.

### 4.2.3 BORROWINGS

GRLC had no borrowings during the financial year 2024-25 and will not be taking out any borrowings for the 2025-26 financial year.



## 4.3 Cash

Overall, total cash and term deposits are forecast to be \$4.0m as at 30 June 2026.

This exceeds the employee leave provisions (\$2.3m) and is equivalent to almost 3 months cover of operating expenditure.

Please refer to the Statement of Cash Flows in section 3.

### 4.3.1 NET CASH FLOWS PROVIDED BY/USED IN OPERATING ACTIVITIES

The surplus of net cash from day to day operations is used for capital expenditure.

### 4.3.2 NET CASH FLOWS PROVIDED BY/USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES

In addition to the 2025-26 Capital budget, we also expect to spend the majority of the \$250,000 previously approved by the GRLC Board at the February 2024 meeting from Reserves. This will primarily be spent on new Finance and Human Capital Management systems, an intangible capital asset.

### 4.3.3 NET CASH FLOWS PROVIDED BY/USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES

GRLC does not have any borrowings. The financing activity relates to the lease of office space.

## CASH AT END OF THE YEAR

CASH FLOWS	ACTUAL 2023-24 \$	BUDGET 2024-25 \$	PROJECTED 2024-25 \$	BUDGET 2025-26 \$
Operating activities	1,212,617	2,049,137	3,095,574	2,057,682
Investing activities	(1,391,791)	(2,257,580)	(4,052,345)	(2,431,922)
Financing activities	(89,973)	(84,880)	(93,302)	(96,000)
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash held</b>	<b>(269,147)</b>	<b>(293,323)</b>	<b>(1,050,073)</b>	<b>(470,240)</b>
Cash at beginning of financial year	1,257,423	1,841,117	3,491,119	2,441,046
Term deposits end of year	2,502,843	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
<b>Total cash and term deposits at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>3,491,119</b>	<b>3,547,794</b>	<b>4,441,046</b>	<b>3,970,806</b>



## 4.4 Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure over the 4 year period (2025-26 to 2028-29) is forecast to total \$8.2m as outlined on 3.4 (Statement of Capital Works).

The following table outlines the capital expenditure budget for 2025-26 and associated sources of funding.

See Section 2.5 for further commentary.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	ACTUAL 2023-24 \$	BUDGET 2024-25 \$	BUDGET 2025-26 \$	Change \$ Increase/ (Decrease)	Change % Increase/ -Decrease
Lending collection	2,233,328	1,627,345	1,552,565	(74,780)	-4.6%
Computers and telecommunications	637,079	300,000	250,000	(50,000)	-16.7%
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	97,127	125,000	175,000	50,000	40.0%
Plant, machinery and equipment	11,104	-	6,000	6,000	100.0%
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2,978,637</b>	<b>2,052,345</b>	<b>1,983,565</b>	<b>(68,780)</b>	<b>-3.4%</b>



## 4.5 Financial Resources

The following table summarises the key financial results for the Budget years 2024-25 and proposed 2025-26, plus the next 3 years as set out in the Strategic Resource Plan for 2026-27 to 2028-29.

KEY FINANCIAL RESULTS	BUDGET 2024-25 \$	BUDGET 2025-26 \$	PLAN 2026-27 \$	PLAN 2027-28 \$	PLAN 2028-29 \$
Operating Result - Surplus / (Deficit)	(366,815)	(308,522)	(226,388)	(106,810)	21,755
Cash & Investments	1,547,794	3,970,806	3,811,124	3,723,048	3,714,122
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash	(293,323)	(470,240)	(159,682)	(88,076)	(8,926)
Capital Expenditure	2,052,345	1,983,565	2,030,142	2,078,117	2,127,530

The key outcomes of the Strategic Resource Plan are as follows:

- Financial sustainability

While the operating result is a deficit from 2024-25 onwards (returning to a surplus in 2028-29), it is noted that this includes the non-cash expense of depreciation. Given the current rate capping environment, Member Council contributions are not sufficient to cover the depreciation expense and achieve a net surplus/deficit of zero. The popularity of our collection of over 400,000 items requires ongoing capital expenditure to maintain the collection. The budget will be closely monitored in future years in order to ensure that cash reserves remain at an acceptable level;

- Cash and investments

The cash balance is expected to decline across the SRP (though the rate of decrease is slowing each year). The closing cash position on the SRP is close to 3 months cover of operating expenditure and exceeds GRLC's employee leave liability.



## 5 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The following table is a summary of budgeted financial ratios for the years 2025-26 to 2028-29. These ratios are used as a guide to assess trends in GRLC's financial health. They show that the Corporation must carefully manage its resources with particular emphasis on cash flow and relies heavily on the continued support of Member Councils to meet the commitments reflected in the Strategic Resource Plan.

FINANCIAL RATIOS	BUDGET 2025-26 \$	PLAN 2026-27 \$	PLAN 2027-28 \$	PLAN 2028-29 \$
<b>UNDERLYING RESULT %</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
Recurrent surplus-deficit / Total recurrent income				
Measures surplus/-deficit as a % of revenue.				
<b>WORKING CAPITAL</b>	<b>1.78</b>	<b>1.71</b>	<b>1.67</b>	<b>1.67</b>
Current assets / Current liabilities				
Assesses GRLC's ability to meet current commitments.				
<b>INVESTMENT GAP RATIOS</b>				
<b>TOTAL</b> - Capital expenditure / Depreciation	<b>0.96</b>	<b>0.98</b>	<b>1.01</b>	<b>1.03</b>
Capital expenditure / Depreciation				
<b>COLLECTIONS</b> - Collection expenditure / Collection depreciation	<b>1.10</b>	<b>1.12</b>	<b>1.14</b>	<b>1.16</b>
Collection expenditure / Collection depreciation				

At 30 June 2026, GRLC will have \$1.78 cents of current assets for every \$1.00 of current liabilities. This will reduce to \$1.67 by the end of the SRP, suggesting GRLC will continue to be well placed to meet its obligations.

The investment gap ratio highlights that GRLC is investing \$0.96 on capital assets to replace every \$1.00 depreciated, written down or withdrawn. At an asset class level, the ratio exceeds 1 for collection items (the largest asset type) and is less than 1 for other asset types (furniture and IT assets).



## 6 SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES

User fees and charges are comprehensively reviewed and benchmarked with public libraries and other local businesses offering similar services.

Overdue fees were removed during the 2021-22 financial year.

GRLC is proposing the introduction of consumable costs for public use of maker space equipment (laser cutters/3D printing etc). The fees and charges are proposed to offset the costs of the materials/consumables used in these activities and encourage a more sustainable approach to the use of consumables. Consumables will continue to be supplied as part of organised programs and activities.

Fees for Earphones have been increased to cover the cost of purchase.

No changes are proposed for photocopying, printing and all other library services not mentioned above in 2025-26.

PROPOSED 2025-26	
<b>INTER LIBRARY LOANS (ILL)</b>	
From non-GRLC public libraries	\$3.00
Where an ILL cost is charged by a non-GRLC lending library - will be charged to the library member plus postage	\$35.50 plus postage
Loans from interstate libraries	\$3.00 plus postage
Book Club Kit Loans	\$10.00 per kit
<b>CHARGES FOR DAMAGED MATERIALS*</b>	
Rejacketing	\$8.50
CD & DVD case or slick replacement	\$8.50
RFID tags and barcode replacement	\$8.50
<b>CHARGES FOR LOST/TOTALLY DAMAGED ITEMS*</b>	Item cost plus \$8.50 admin fee
<b>REPLACEMENT MEMBERSHIP CARDS</b>	No fee
<b>PHOTOCOPYING &amp; PC PRINTING</b>	
A4 page (B&W)	\$0.30
A3 page (B&W)	\$0.60
A4 page (Colour)	\$1.00
A3 page (Colour)	\$2.00
<b>EARPHONES</b>	\$1.10
<b>USB STICK</b>	\$10.00
<b>WITHDRAWN COLLECTION ITEMS FOR SALE</b>	
Adult fiction and non-fiction	\$2.00
Children's materials and magazines	\$1.00
<b>PROFESSIONAL HERITAGE RESEARCH</b>	
Professional Research by Heritage Centre staff	\$50.00 per hour
High resolution digital or hard copy prints images from heritage collection	\$20 per image
<b>3D PRINTING</b>	
Filament	\$1.00 up to 10g
	\$2.00 up to 20g
	\$4.00 up to 40g
	\$6.00 up to 60g



<b>CRICUT</b>		
Vinyl		\$3.00 per sheet
Cardstock		\$0.30 per card
<b>CNC/LASER CUTTER</b>		
Balsa wood		\$6.00 per metre
<b>THERMOFORMER</b>		
Sheets		\$3.00 per sheet
<b>SEWING MACHINES</b>		
Material		\$8.00 per metre
Thread		\$5.00 per bobbins



## Community Libraries

The following schedule lists venue hire fees and charges for the Community Library hire spaces including standard and discounted hire rates.

### COMMUNITY LIBRARY SCHEDULE OF FEES 2025-26

VENUE	STANDARD HOURLY RATE MON-FRI	STANDARD HALF DAY RATE MON-FRI (4 TO 6 HRS)	STANDARD FULL DAY RATE MON-FRI (6 TO 9 HRS)
<b><u>Small Room</u></b>			
Corio Discussion Room	\$25.00	\$100.00	\$150.00
Waurin Ponds Discussion Room			
<b><u>Medium Room</u></b>			
Bannockburn Meeting Room			
Biyal-a Taark Meeting Room 1			
Biyal-a Taark Meeting Room 2			
Biyal-a Media Room	\$35.00	\$140.00	\$210.00
Boronggook Discussion Room 1			
Boronggook Discussion Room 2			
Leopold Discussion Room			
<b><u>Large Room</u></b>			
Biyal-a Taark Rooms 1 & 2 (combined)			
Biyal-a Kitjarra Boardroom			
Colac Meeting Room 1*			
Colac Meeting Room 2*			
Colac Meeting Room 3*	\$45.00	\$180.00	\$270.00
Colac Meeting Room 4*			
Colac Meeting Room 5*			
Newcomb Multipurpose Room (North)			
Newcomb Multipurpose Room (South)			
<b><u>Extra Large Room</u></b>			
Belmont Meeting Room			
Biyal-a Getjawil Multipurpose Room			
Biyal-a Wanga Creative Studio			
Boronggook Multipurpose Room			
Colac Meeting Rooms 1-5* (combined)	\$65.00	\$260.00	\$390.00
Colac Activities Room 1*			
Colac Activities Room 2*			
Corio Meeting Room			
Leopold Multipurpose Room			
Newcomb Multipurpose Room			
Waurin Ponds Multipurpose Room			
<b><u>Kitchen</u></b>			
Biyal-a Kitchen	\$10.00	\$40.00	\$60.00



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**DISCOUNTS**

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Standard (Individuals, Businesses, Government Organisations)	0%
Not for Profit (NFPs, Charities, GRLC Members)	25%
Concession (Concessions, Seniors, Students, Interest Groups)	70%

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**BONDS (IF APPLICABLE)**

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Bond - Key/Swiper	\$50.00
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\*Colac meeting room charges are subject to planned consultation with joint use committee

Other fees may be charged at an hourly rate for cleaning, set up, technical support and security on a cost recovery basis.

Cancellation fees will be applied where appropriate.

Usage agreements outside these fees may be made with member councils and select partners.

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## Geelong Library and Heritage Centre

The following schedule lists venue hire fees and charges for the Geelong Library and Heritage Centre spaces including standard and discounted hire rates.

### GEELONG LIBRARY & HERITAGE CENTRE SCHEDULE OF FEES 2025-26

VENUE	STANDARD HOURLY RATE MON-FRI	STANDARD HALF DAY RATE MON-FRI (UP TO 5 HRS)	STANDARD FULL DAY RATE MON-FRI (UP TO 9 HRS)
Level 5 - Wurdi Youang (3 hrs+)	\$190.00	\$705.00	\$1,405.00
Level 5 - High Ground Wurdi Youang North (3 hrs+)	\$125.00	\$515.00	\$890.00
Level 5 - High Ground Wurdi Youang South (3 hrs+)	\$105.00	\$435.00	\$825.00
Level 4 - Board Room (by special request only)	\$75.00	\$290.00	\$425.00
Level 2 - Meeting Room	\$45.00	\$165.00	\$310.00
Level 2 - Discussion Rooms (1,2,3,4)	\$35.00	\$125.00	\$250.00
Level 1 - Activities Room (limited availability)	\$75.00	\$325.00	\$520.00
<b>DISCOUNTS</b>			
Standard (Individuals, Businesses, Government Organisations)	0%		
Not for Profit (NFPs, Charities, GRLC Members)	25%		
Concession (Concessions, Seniors, Students, Interest Groups)	50%		
Other fees may be charged at an hourly rate for cleaning, set up, technical support and security on a cost recovery basis.			
Cancellation fees will be applied where appropriate.			
Usage agreements outside these fees may be made with Member Councils, Cultural Precinct partners and others by agreement.			



## Major Events

The following schedule lists fees for paid events. Since the introduction of paid events in 2021, ticket prices have remained at their introductory price of \$20 or \$10 for GRLC Members (membership is free and available via a link immediately online) for panel discussions and author talks, or \$30 / \$20 for GRLC Members / \$10 for Concession holders for workshops.

In 2025 we are increasing pricing to \$20 for GRLC Members (with the requirement that everyone attending paid events be members), and \$10 for Concession holders for panel discussions and author talks. Workshops will increase to \$40 for GRLC Members and \$20 for Concession holders. This will help to build membership and diversify our audience for future growth, and also positively impacts our event attrition (ie. 'no-show') rate which is currently tracking at 6%, compared to averaging around 27% prior to the introduction of paid events.

### PAID EVENT SCHEDULE OF FEES 2025-26

EVENT	GENERAL (GRLC MEMBERS)	CONCESSION
<b><u>Major author events</u></b>	\$20.00	\$10.00
<b><u>Workshops</u></b>	\$40.00	\$20.00

Most of our programs remain free, and all major author events are recorded and available to watch later for free on YouTube.

From time to time we may run special events and workshops with different ticket prices, dependent on associated costs





**Geelong Library  
& Heritage Centre**  
51 Little Malop Street  
T 4201 0600

**Apollo Bay**  
6 Pengilley Avenue  
T 5237 1013x

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

**Bannockburn**  
25-27 High Street  
T 5281 2367

**Barwon Heads**  
Barwon Heads Primary School,  
Golf Links Road  
T 5254 2143

**Belmont**  
163 High Street  
T 5243 2655

**Chilwell**  
51 Russell Street, Newtown  
T 5221 5129

**Colac**  
173 Queen Street, Colac  
T 5231 4613

**Corio**  
Cox Road (cnr Moa Street) Norlane  
T 5275 2388

**Borongook Drysdale**  
2-8 Wyndham Street  
T 5251 3855

**Geelong West**  
153A Pakington Street  
T 5229 1939

**Highton**  
Roslyn Road (cnr Belle Vue Avenue)  
T 5243 4864

**Lara**  
5 Walkers Road  
T 5282 4182

**Leopold**  
Leopold Community Hub  
31-39 Kensington Road  
T 4201 0675

**Newcomb**  
cnr Bellarine Highway & Wilsons Road  
T 5248 1802

**Ocean Grove**  
Presidents Avenue (cnr The Avenue)  
T 5255 4218

**Queenscliff**  
55 Hesse Street  
T 5258 2017

**Torquay**  
Surf City Plaza, Beach Road  
T 5261 3049

**Wairn Ponds**  
140 Pioneer Road  
T 5244 0048

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

#### Mobile Library Stops

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

## GEELONG REGIONAL LIBRARIES



**Geelong Library &  
Heritage Centre**  
51 Little Malop Street  
Geelong Victoria 3220  
T 4201 0600

[www.grlc.vic.gov.au](http://www.grlc.vic.gov.au)







## **MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT (CONFIDENTIAL)**

Robbie Cullen, Director – Digital and Finance

### **Recommendation**

That the MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT be noted.

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## CEO REPORT

Vanessa Schernickau, Chief Executive Officer

### Recommendation

That the CEO REPORT be noted.

### Purpose

To provide information for noting on some key highlights, activities and projects.

### Connecting and Thriving

The CEO Report demonstrates how we deliver against our Purpose:

*A thriving public library service that boosts our communities' health, prosperity, connectedness and belonging*

This is a snapshot of highlights across our library services and programs during the last four months.

### CONNECTING AND THRIVING: COMMUNITY

#### High Profile Authors Appearing in Geelong

The 2024-25 year to date has been prolific in terms of well-known authors who have included the Geelong 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.

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!



On Thursday 12 September 2024 we hosted Australian and international storyteller **Markus Zusak** (above), best known for *The Book Thief* and *The Messenger*, two novels that became international







ABC radio host Jacinta Parsons interviewed her friend and former ABC presenter, author **Virginia Trioli** (above) on Thursday 26 September for an event in Wurdi Youang to promote her new cookbook/memoir, *A Bit on the Side*.



On Thursday 24 October, we hosted perhaps Australia's best known and best loved author, **Tim Winton** (above), for a discussion about his latest book, *The Juice*, in-conversation with local author Jock Serong.



And in early December, we once again hosted best-selling perennial favourite, **Peter FitzSimons** (above), for his latest book, *The Legend of Albert Jacka*.





## YouTube Channel

We continue to build our [YouTube Channel](#) catalogue of recorded events, with over 3,200 views of the events we have posted there so far this financial year. This allows free viewing of all our events at any time.

## Program for Remainder of 2025 Calendar Year

It's an exciting time ahead with several high profile and quality author and partnership events on the horizon.



On Wednesday 23 April we will be hosting 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?*'



On Tuesday 29 April we will host 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, on Thursday 8 May we will be delivering an event with hugely popular **Jamila Rizvi and Rosie Waterhouse**, in a heartfelt discussion about the challenges of living with illness and their co-authored book, *Broken Brains*. Jamila and Rosie have strong podcast and social media followings, and this event is a members-only event that continues to build our diverse and younger audience.

Stay tuned to receive your invites as these events draw closer!

### **The 2025 Local Word Writers Festival and Sponsorships**

For the fourth year in a row, in 2025 Geelong Regional Libraries will host our local author's showcase, The Local Word Writers Festival.

This year's Festival will be held over two days on Friday 22 and Saturday 23 August, featuring writers workshops and author events at libraries across the G21 region; an evening showcase event featuring local authors, and various panel discussions and author events at Geelong Library & Heritage Centre.

The program will be announced in full in early July, with tickets on sale simultaneously.

We are also continuing to build our partnerships and support of local literary festivals by sponsoring the Sydney Writers Festival in May (with 16 events livestreamed to Geelong Library & Heritage Centre for free viewing), Apollo Bay Wordfest in late July, Mid-Winter Words at Drysdale in early August, plus the Queenscliff Literary Festival in October. By supporting other literary festivals, we further demonstrate our commitment to developing literacy, local literature and community connection to the arts.



## Local Word Poetry Prize – Winner Announced



*Announcing the Local Word Poetry Prize 2024-25 shortlist, from L to R: Judges Vanessa Schernickau and Charlotte Guest, Winner Panda Wong, Highly Commended entrant Linda Judge, and Judge David McCooey*

At our annual World Poetry Day celebrations on Wednesday 19 March 2025 we announced the outcome of the second Geelong Regional Libraries and Deakin University Local Word Poetry Prize.

From a starting point of almost 600 entries, to a longlist of 21 entries, the overall winner was announced as Panda Wong for her work titled “Dank Abecedarian”. Panda attended the event in person to receive her prize, as did another of the finalists, local resident Linda Judge, who received a Highly Commended prize.

The four finalists read their poems at the event (either in person or via pre-recorded video) which added a special live element to the poetry celebrations.

The judging panel was comprised of Vanessa Schernickau, Professor David McCooey 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 received a total of 599 entries to this year’s competition, our biggest response to any prize so far! All four works are [published on our website](#), where everyone can read and enjoy these wonderful poems, and the event is available for viewing on our YouTube Channel.

## Local Word Prizes – future funding

At this stage, no further future prizes have been announced. Deakin University has decided not to continue its sponsorship of the prizes and we are looking for a new sponsor. We thank Deakin University sincerely for its support of the prizes over the past three years.

The Local Word Writing Prizes were originally conceived as a way to support and engage emerging writers and poets at a time of great isolation and uncertainty, as we came out of the Covid era and into the new ‘normal’. They were also conceived as a way to help promote our new Local Word Writers Festival, originally sponsored





by Deakin University as part of its ongoing commitment to a writers festival for the Geelong region, which was previously the Word for Word National Non-Fiction Festival.

The first Local Word Writing Prize garnered 597 entries and the second generated 536, while the Poetry Prize had 360 entries in its first year and 599 in its second. That's a total of over 2,000 pieces of original work that have been entered into the prizes and approx. \$12,000 in prize money generated for our creative writing communities.

Geelong Regional Libraries would very much like to continue to offer these important writing prizes, based on securing of sponsorship, as they have generated significant interest and opportunities for emerging and established writers, and are important in terms of promoting Geelong Regional Libraries as a key supporter of literary arts in this region.

### **Post-event Surveys:**

- We had 68 responses to our October 2024 post-events survey, which is one of our strongest responses for the year to date (the average response for monthly surveys this financial year has been 45).
- Recent surveys show an increase in younger attendees, with 21% of October 2024 survey respondents aged under 49 years of age. The largest age category was 31% aged 60 to 69.
- 29% of October 2024 survey respondents indicated this was the first time they had attended a major event at GRLC – indicating that we are continuing to build new audiences with our program selections.
- Most respondents listed the Library website, social media and the e-newsletter as their source of information about major events.
- 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?)

Individual Comments (in response to “What else would you like us to offer on our events program?”):

- *It has been an extraordinarily great year of events. Super work by the Events Team. I'd love another event like the Nick Cave one. Any chance of hosting Charlotte Wood?*
- *More high quality author events.*
- *Keep the well priced events coming, the Dome is a perfect setting, love going to these events with friends.*
- *Really great space to hear artists/authors speak. Stage setup is visible and engaging.*
- *Well organised, great venue, information regarding arrival times etc. communicated effectively. Guests and presenters very engaging and entertaining.*
- *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 are doing for the community!*





## Partnership Events

Every year we run an expression of interest for partnership events that will support existing programs or develop and implement new programs.

The following partnership events have now been confirmed for our 2025 calendar:

Partner Organisation	Event	Date
Overflow Theatre Company	“No Fear in Shakespeare: Breaking Down Barriers to the Bard” - Acting Seminar and Workshop for emerging actors.	Wednesday 16 April, 2025 6.00-8.00pm
Geelong One Fire Reconciliation Group	Wangala Balit Ngarra – Reconciliation activity with select Geelong Schools, run in conjunction with Koorie Engagement Support Officers.	Wednesday 7 May, 2025 9.00-2.30pm
Women in Local Democracy (WILD)	“Empowering Women 50/50” - inaugural annual Network oration to be delivered by Dr Niki Vincent, Victoria's Public Sector Gender Equality Commissioner.	Wednesday 9 July, 2025 5.30-7.30pm
Give Where You Live	“Pitch Up Geelong 2025” - annual crowd funding event bringing together local businesses and people from the wider community to support innovative community projects.	Wednesday 6 August, 2025 5.00-8.45pm
Geelong Gallery	Archibald Prize Lecture Series – focusing on the stories of the painters and portrait sitters from the 2025 Archibalds.	Saturday 6 September, Saturday 20 September, Saturday 11 October & Saturday 1 November 11.00am-12noon
Geelong and Region National Trust	Exploring the future of Geelong's built environment heritage looking at: restoration vs renovation; commercial development; private vs corporate adaptive reuse; and recent church developments.	Thursday 9 October, 2025 3.00-5.30pm
City of Greater Geelong	<a href="#">ROAM Geelong</a> Festival event - <i>The Australian Dream?</i> live show with Tim Ross. A multi-decade story of Australian homes – how they're sold to us, why we buy them, and how we make them our own.	Saturday 11 October, 2025 5.30-7.30pm ( tbc)
Orchestra Geelong	Annual concert sessions with Geelong's longest running and much-loved community orchestra.	Saturday 18 October, 2025





Geelong Sustainability	Climate Resilience Forum – seminar presenting experts in climate adaptation and resilience, sustainable design, climate advocacy, etc.	Saturday 25 October, 2025 1.30-3.30pm
Meli	Launch of 16 Days of Activism campaign for Geelong - an annual global campaign to raise awareness about violence against women.	Thursday 27 November, 2025 Time tbc

In addition, we are supporting the following **literary events** this year:

Partner Organisation	Event	Date
Sydney Writers Festival	16 author events over four days, livestreamed to Geelong Library & Heritage Centre for people to come in and watch.	Thursday 22 to Sunday 25 May, 2025 10.00-5.00pm (x 4 per day)
Apollo Bay Wordfest	Sponsoring Warm Winter Words author panel discussion, and Wordfest Book Club event at Apollo Bay Library.	Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 July All day in Apollo Bay
MidWinter Words	Partnering with organisers to present a flash fiction writers workshop at Borrongook Drysdale Library	Saturday 26 July
Queenscliff Writers Festival	Sponsoring author discussion event (program to be confirmed)	17-26 October 2025

And to confirm once again, the **2025 Local Word Writers Festival** will be held on Friday 22 August and Saturday 23 August at Geelong Library & Heritage Centre and community libraries across the region – full program and tickets on sale from 1 July 2025.

More information on our Partnership Events program can be found [here](#).

Expressions of Interest for the 2026 calendar year will open again from 1 October to 30 November, 2025, with successful applicants to be confirmed by the end of January 2026.









## Corio

Women can access the free program *WorkWise Women* boosting their ability to return to work thanks to our partnership with The Gordon.

The WorkWise Women program is a free, four-week course supporting women returning to paid work, particularly after time spent away from work due to parenting or caring responsibilities.

Beginning Tuesday, April 29, the program will be held at Corio Library over four weekly sessions of two and a half hours.

The WorkWise Women program, which returns after a first successful run in November 2024, is based on research highlighting the significant barriers faced by women, particularly new migrants, when attempting to return to the workforce after unpaid caregiving.

One of last year's participants, a first-generation immigrant, encouraged other women to sign up.

*I knew nothing about the local job market and felt desperate and helpless, now, I feel confident about searching for a job.*

The Connect and Construct school holiday program has provided a fun outlet for local kids at Corio as they imagined what their car could be.







The recent Henna Hands session at Corio Library was part of celebrating Harmony Day that included a delicious lunch.



### **Boronggook Drysdale**

Light Odyssey is the latest exhibition by a local photographer.







## Biyal-A Armstrong Creek

English Conversation Cafe is taking off. One the participants mentioned that he plays the guitar and everyone encouraged him to bring the guitar and play. Here is a small snippet of his performance. The group proved so popular that it has now split into two sessions.

### [English Conversation Cafe - Biyal-a Armstrong Creek](#)



The *Creative Wellness Haven* art workshops are running every month. Benett the artist, allows participants to explore and express their unique journey through intuitive art. We have applied for federal funding through Creative Australia for an Artist in Residence at Biyal-a and anticipate more such programs as a community outcome.







WHAT IS YOUR FEEDBACK?

This is such a great workshop - I would never have access to a 3D printer otherwise. The practical application doing a name tag and the presented were fabulous! I loved this! I will now be able to do this with my kids also!

THANK YOU.

LIBRARY Armstrong Creek. DATE 21/2/25

WOULD YOU LIKE A RESPONSE? ☐ YES ☐ NO

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE NEWS AND UPDATES FROM THE LIBRARY? ☒ YES ☐ NO

## Belmont

Our beekeeping events are always popular, this recent event at Belmont was no exception.



## Leopold

The Junior Read Now collection is a hit at Leopold with multiple titles of new releases walking out the door, particularly after every visit from the classes at the primary school next door. The *Pokemon Encyclopedia* is a particular hit.

## Geelong Library and Heritage Centre

The Geelong Fragrance Fair brought many new visitors to our library who enjoyed learning more about fragrance as well as taking the opportunity to wonder around our library, become a member and borrow from our collection.





## Ocean Grove

Some lovely feedback that captures our diverse services and highly valued staff.

**ACK** LIBRARY BRANCH OCEAN GROVE DATE 14-2-25

These days we're quick to voice our displeasure over matters, but often forget to praise the positives we encounter.

I find the O.G. staff so helpful, so courteous and friendly — they are only too ready in assisting with the computer catalogue queries (showing great patience!); in assisting with photocopying; in helping find/source wanted items; in tech help — nothing appears beyond their ability to

If you wish to receive a response, please include your name and email address or telephone number below.

assist/solve with a kind and pleasant touch. Well done and thank you to all the O.G. library staff. It is much appreciated.

NAME  
EMAIL OR TELEPHONE

## Waurn Ponds

Lego Spike encouraged participants to assemble and test their creations and to think critically about how to make their robots work. Some even came up with innovative modifications to their projects, showcasing their creativity in engineering.







## CONNECTING AND THRIVING: PLACES AND SPACES

### **Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Out of Hours Access**

Out of Hours access at Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library officially launched on 29 March. Following a successful trial, we've received some great feedback from customers who appreciate the flexibility to visit the library when it suits them and have already responded to their comments by extending Wednesday and Thursday nights to 10.00pm.

Library members can upgrade to Out of Hours access by completing an induction, allowing them to enter Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library outside staffed hours using their card and PIN. This secure access to the Ground floor only lets members borrow books, use study spaces, connect to Wi-Fi, and access PCs and printing services at times that suit them.

Out of Hours access times:

Mon–Fri:	8:00am–10:00am	6:00pm–10:00pm
Thu:	8:00am–10:00am	8:00pm–10:00pm
Sat:	1:00pm–3:00pm	
Sun:	12:00pm–2:00pm	





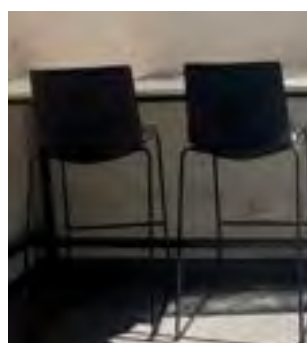
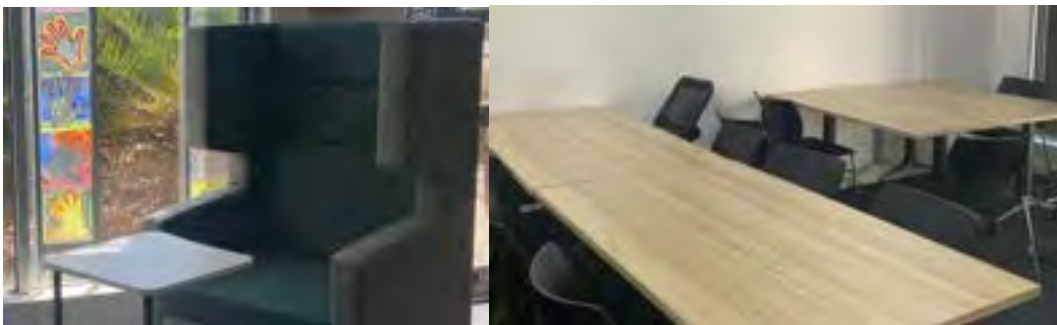
## Colac

New furniture at Colac Library is providing more acoustically sympathetic spaces, for those wanting a quiet place to work.



## Torquay

Torquay library also has some new furniture.







## Lara

Some exciting changes are coming to Lara Library. Work will be undertaken throughout May to improve some of the spaces.

This involves relocating books, dismantling and rebuilding shelves, and redesigning the children's and other collection areas. Whilst the library will be open, the team will manage some disruption, including noise and limited collection access for our customers during the work.

The update will mean a much-improved layout, with a larger children's area and better access to the collection for customers in general.



## Libraries further afield

SBS has published an *Australia Explained* story on public library services, featuring Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation. The stories provide practical information to assist new migrants settling in Australia.



The English version is now available, with translations to follow, along with social media.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/language/english/en/podcast-episode/beyond-books-how-libraries-build-and-support-communities-in-australia/vbod0yfyb>

Further afield, some interesting data re. who is challenging books held in collections in the United States of America. In particular:

*Pressure groups and government entities that include elected officials, board members and administrators initiated 72% of demands to censor books in school and public libraries. Parents only accounted for 16% of demands to censor books, while 5% of challenges were brought by individual library users.*

<https://www.ala.org/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/top10>

## CONNECTING AND THRIVING: OUR PEOPLE

### Fifty Years

Kimbra Neill, our Collections Support and Information Support Officer celebrated fifty years working with our Library service in March. We marked this significant milestone with an afternoon tea so that we could formally thank Kim for her dedication and contribution for over half a century.







Kim at Belmont Library

## **Impact 2025**

The Impact 2025 Coordinator Development Program is an interactive program focussed on leadership, communications and customer experience. It builds on the Impact series launched in 2022 that our Executive and Senior Leaders have participated in. The senior leaders are now applying their learnings as mentors in this program.

## **Library Plan**

We received 6,400 community responses and 89 staff responses in the customer and staff surveys that have just closed and informed the very first cut of our new Plan.

Our Library Plan working group comprises 22 people from across our organisation who are keen to participate in drafting our new Library Plan 2025 – 29. They all attended a workshop at Waurin Ponds to hear about the feedback and provide input to this first draft.



The workshop was the opportunity to dig deeper and to share opinions, ideas and 'what else' that will influence the draft plan that will be presented at the Board workshop in May.



## COMMUNITY – Insights from 3,407 responses



## STAFF – Insights from 89 responses







## **Turning the Page**

The Executive Steering Committee, with representatives from our member Councils, continues to work together and plan for the transition by the Geelong Regional Library Corporation to a not-for-profit entity, as required by State Government legislation. A report will be presented at the June Board meeting, prior to Councillor briefings at each of our member Councils scheduled for July.

## **Finance and HR Information Systems Migration**

We are working closely with the City of Greater Geelong to migrate our finance and HR information systems in-house. A streamlined, integrated solution will enhance operational performance, ensure regulatory compliance and adapt to our evolving needs.

The Project Working Group (PWG) has been busy identifying our requirements for the future payroll, rostering and HR information systems that will best meet our specific needs. The PWG analysis has included a workshop, staff interviews, business analysis and benchmarking to scope our needs and inform the Expression of Interest for prospective software suppliers that is currently advertised. We are applying a similar process for our finance system. It is likely that there isn't a single right-size software solution that will meet our finance requirements in addition to our HR/Payroll/Rostering needs; we are currently investigating finance systems and working towards a target cutover date of 1 October.

## **Philanthropic Fundraising Plan**

We continue to develop partnerships and increase alternative revenue streams to ensure the long-term delivery of our programs and services, and to deliver positive outcomes to our communities. We now need to understand the work and resources required to engage with and grow alternative funding opportunities – particularly as we move to a company limited by guarantee entity with charitable status, noting our current DGR status.

We have engaged Campitelli Consultancy to develop a Philanthropic Fundraising Plan including an approach for us to plan and successfully implement the Plan.

The Plan will likely focus on four key areas of philanthropic activity:

- Major Gifts from High Net Worth Individuals
- Corporate Partnerships via targeted partners
- Philanthropic Trusts & Foundations
- Bequest Program

Specifically, the following will be outlined for each philanthropic activity:

- Objectives
- Identify target demographic
- Explain strategy rationale
- Detail methodology
- Detail implementation steps
- Itemise all key collateral required





- Key performance indicators

Deliverables include a medium – long term budget projection and timeline. It is likely the Plan will cover the three year period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2028.

Most importantly, interviews with 25 key stakeholders have been conducted to inform the plan. Feedback was provided on:

- GRLC's purpose (reason for being, why it exists) and uniqueness
- what could fundraising success look like for GRLC; 'the dream' for GRLC?
- how will GRLC's needs resonate with potential donors and the region?
- what could GRLC potentially raise funds for?

The Plan will be presented to the Board later in 2025.

## **CONNECTING AND THRIVING: REGIONAL LEADERSHIP**

### **International Women's Day**

The Surf Coast Shire event with author and journalist Jane Gilmore provided the opportunity to reflect on gender equality in the media and the role we can all play. Her [FixedIt campaign](#) continues to show leadership in this space.

The Colac Police Community Engagement team held a morning tea at Colac Lake View Cafe to which we were invited. I was joined by our Colac and Apollo Bay Library Coordinator who was interviewed by Mixx FM Colac Radio and shared the role we play in providing safe spaces for everyone, as well as some of our events and activities.

### **Geelong Aboriginal Employment Taskforce**

I attended the Taskforce discussion as part of feedback to inform the new Governance Model.





## **Board Visit to Libraries**

Thanks to the library teams who welcomed some of our Board members for a library tour to Boronggook Drysdale, Queenscliff, Torquay and Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library.



*Ann-Maree Library Coordinator Boronggook Drysdale with Cr Pattison (Surf Coast), Chair GRLC and Cr Story (Geelong)*

## **Public Libraries Victoria (PLV)**

PLV contributed to the attached article advocating for increased State government funding that acknowledges population growth and communities of need.

<https://www.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/the-space-squeeze-shutting-families-out-from-libraries-public-pools-20250304-p5lqvt.html>





## **ACTIVITY REPORT**

David Semmens, Director, Community Experience

### **Recommendation:**

That the ACTIVITY REPORT UPDATE be noted.



GEELONG  
REGIONAL  
LIBRARIES



# **LIBRARY ACTIVITY REPORT JULY 2024 - MARCH 2025**

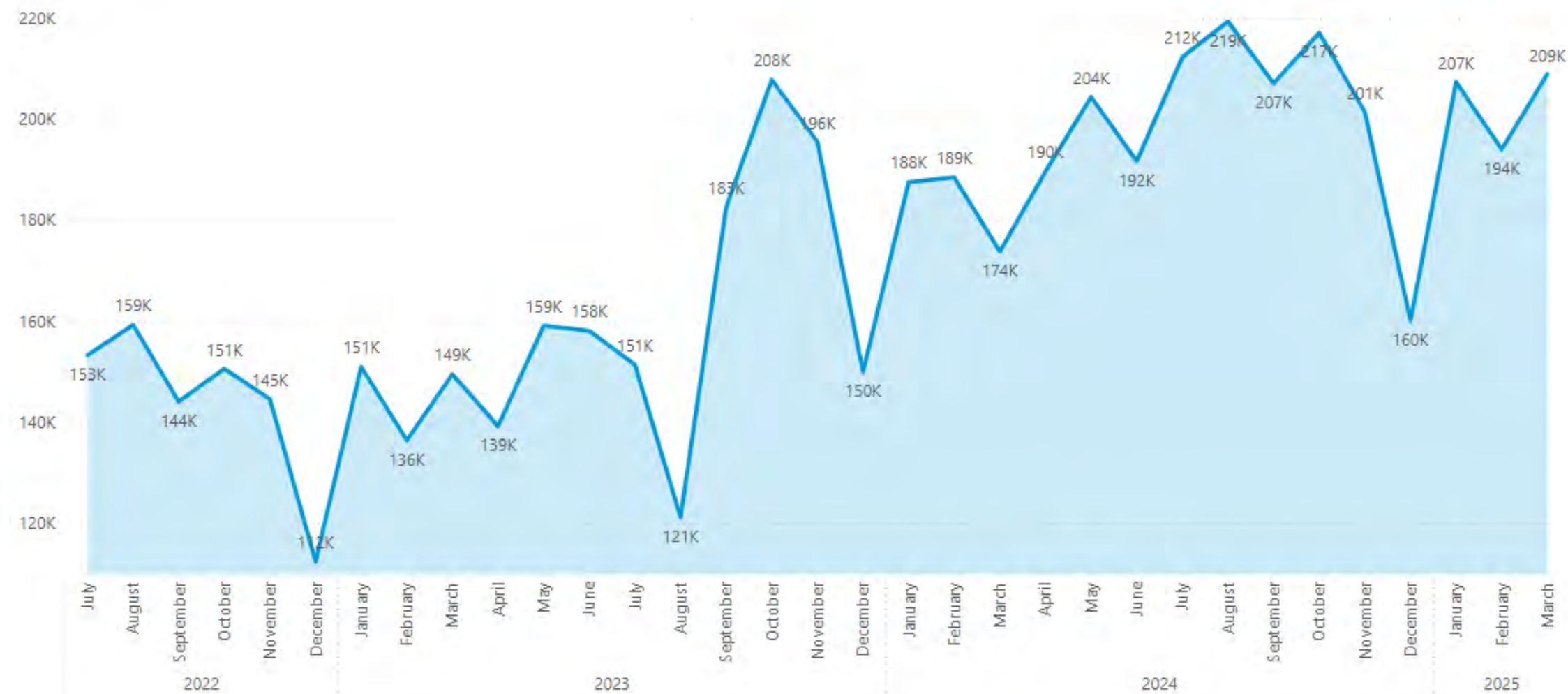




# LOANS AND COLLECTION



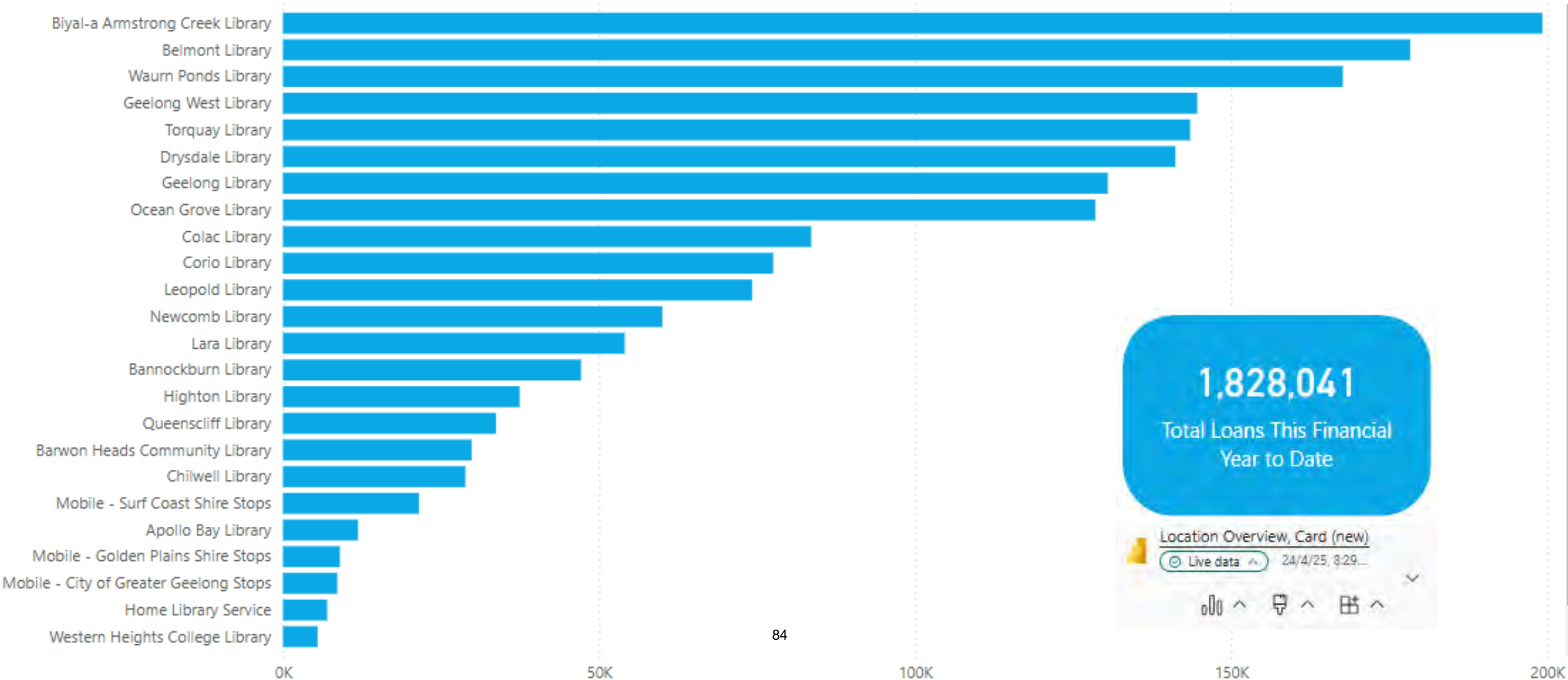
# TOTAL LOANS OVER TIME





# TOTAL LOANS BY SERVICE AREA – TO MARCH 2025

< Back to report





Location	Prior Financial Year to Date	Selected Financial Year to Date	+/-	% +/-	
<b>Borough of Queenscliffe</b>	<b>28,482</b>	<b>33,704</b>	<b>5,222</b>	<b>18.33%</b>	↑
Queenscliff Library	28,482	33,704	5,222	18.33%	↑
<b>City of Greater Geelong</b>	<b>1,215,014</b>	<b>1,466,179</b>	<b>251,165</b>	<b>20.67%</b>	↑
Barwon Heads Community Library	31,501	29,845	-1,656	-5.26%	↓
Belmont Library	172,198	178,346	6,148	3.57%	↑
Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library		199,248	199,248		
Chilwell Library	30,227	28,861	-1,366	-4.52%	↓
Corio Library	61,151	77,555	16,404	26.83%	↑
Drysdale Library	147,764	141,190	-6,574	-4.45%	↓
Geelong Library	125,870	130,486	4,616	3.67%	↑
Geelong West Library	120,998	144,650	23,652	19.55%	↑
Highton Library	32,957	37,438	4,481	13.60%	↑
Lara Library	51,204	54,065	2,861	5.59%	↑
Leopold Library	69,011	74,225	5,214	7.56%	↑
Mobile - City of Greater Geelong Stops	9,667	8,592	-1,075	-11.12%	↓
Newcomb Library	61,069	60,021	-1,048	-1.72%	→
Ocean Grove Library	112,067	128,504	16,437	14.67%	↑
Waurin Ponds Library	184,952	167,668	-17,284	-9.35%	↓
Western Heights College Library	4,378	5,485	1,107	25.29%	↑
<b>Colac Otway Shire</b>	<b>92,458</b>	<b>99,993</b>	<b>7,535</b>	<b>8.15%</b>	↑
Apollo Bay Library	9,958	11,876	1,918	19.26%	↑
Colac Home Library Service	1,175	1,467	292	24.85%	↑
Colac Library	79,024	83,576	4,552	5.76%	↑
Mobile - Colac Otway Shire Stops	2,301	3,074	773	33.59%	↑
<b>Golden Plains Shire</b>	<b>55,267</b>	<b>56,145</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>1.59%</b>	→
Bannockburn Library	43,985	47,150	3,165	7.20%	↑
Mobile - Golden Plains Shire Stops	11,282	8,995	-2,287	-20.27%	↓
<b>Home Library Service</b>	<b>5,340</b>	<b>6,991</b>	<b>1,651</b>	<b>30.92%</b>	↑
<b>Surf Coast Shire</b>	<b>161,787</b>	<b>165,029</b>	<b>3,242</b>	<b>2.00%</b>	→
Mobile - Surf Coast Shire Stops	23,832	21,511	-2,321	-9.74%	↓
Torquay Library	137,955	143,518	5,563	4.03%	↑
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,558,348</b>	<b>1,828,041</b>	<b>269,693</b>	<b>17.31%</b>	↑

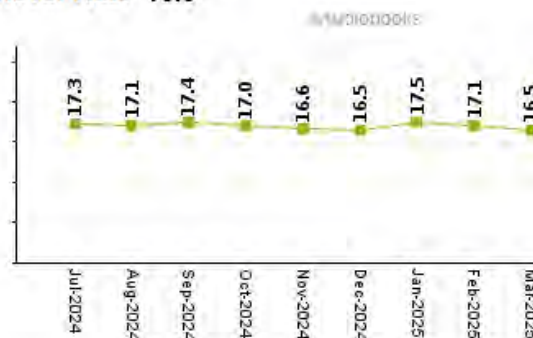
**Total Loans  
July to March  
Compared to same  
time last year**



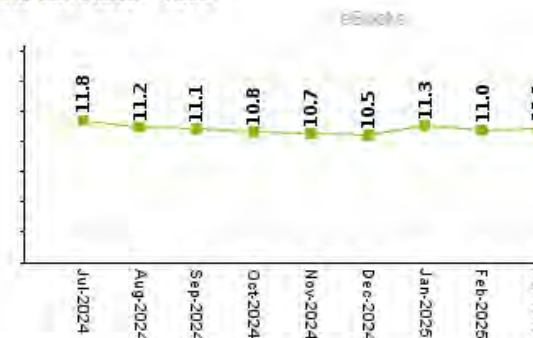
# ECOLLECTIONS

- Sustained High Demand: eBook and eAudiobook usage remains consistently strong
- Access Model Exploration: onboarded uLibrary as an additional platform and collection. 665 users have signed up borrowing 482 items since Jan.
- Introducing uLibrary has not impacted Borrowbox usage

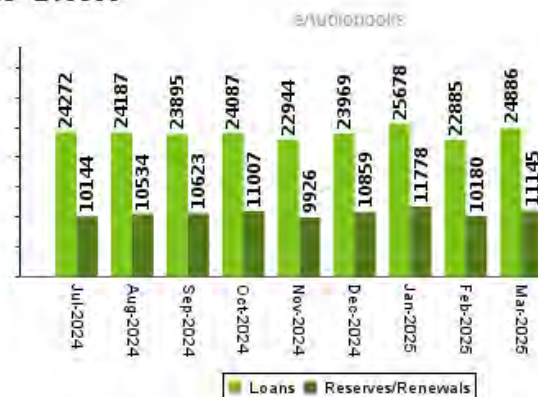
Turnover Rate 16.0



Turnover Rate 10.5



Loans 216803



Loans 102466



*"I don't drive anymore & have poor eyesight so I couldn't live without the online library service. I love it. The physical library was a place I used to study many years ago & regularly take my daughter to."*

- Online User



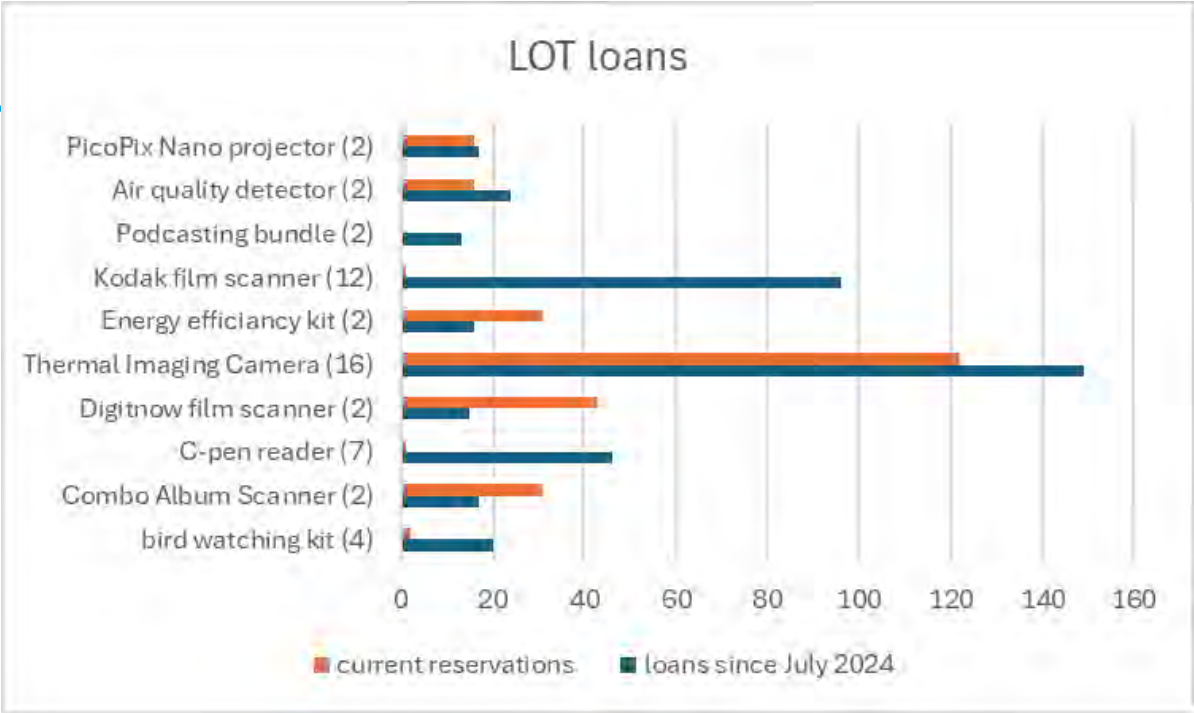
# LIBRARY OF THINGS

## Spending plan 2024/25

Additional items to meet reservations

- Thermal cameras x 12
- Energy efficiency kits x 6
- Combo Album scanner x 3

Currently investigating additional items to be purchased through grant opportunities



	loans since July 2024	current reservations
bird watching kit (4)	20	2
Combo Album Scanner (2)	17	31
C-pen reader (7)	46	1
Digitnow film scanner (2)	15	43
Thermal Imaging Camera (16)	149	122
Energy efficiency kit (2)	16	31
Kodak film scanner (12)	96	1
Podcasting bundle (2)	13	
Air quality detector (2)	24	16
PicoPix Nano projector (2)	17	16





**VISITS**



# TOTAL VISITS

## Visits Summary - Selected Financial Year



1,095,493

Visits This Financial Year to Date

*“I actually walk 3ks to and from the Library to collect and return my books. That’s 6ks and I do that at least twice a week. It is a great physical and mental resource for me. I’m 80 years old.”*  
- Torquay Library User

Select Financial Year

This Financial Year

Other Available Filters

LGA

All

Location

All

Month

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun



# Visits - Financial Year to Date Comparison

Location	Prior Financial Year to Date	Selected Financial Year to Date	+/-	% +/-
<b>Borough of Queenscliffe</b>	<b>20,547</b>	<b>21,711</b>	<b>1,164</b>	<b>5.67% ↑</b>
Queenscliff Library	20,547	21,711	1,164	5.67% ↑
<b>City of Greater Geelong</b>	<b>784,282</b>	<b>914,209</b>	<b>129,927</b>	<b>16.57% ↑</b>
Barwon Heads Community Library	7,061	6,450	-611	-8.65% ↓
Belmont Library	98,200	93,466	-4,734	-4.82% ↓
Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library		82,381	82,381	
Chilwell Library	15,059	15,170	111	0.74% →
Corio Library	49,537	59,501	9,964	20.11% ↑
Drysdale Library	86,830	89,917	3,087	3.56% ↑
Geelong Library	166,750	185,216	18,466	11.07% ↑
Geelong West Library	73,698	93,216	19,518	26.48% ↑
Highton Library	18,576	19,351	775	4.17% ↑
Lara Library	33,727	34,857	1,130	3.35% ↑
Leopold Library	51,656	55,332	3,676	7.12% ↑
Mobile - City of Greater Geelong Stops	2,922	2,549	-373	-12.77% ↓
Newcomb Library	40,601	39,302	-1,299	-3.20% ↓
Ocean Grove Library	55,462	60,954	5,492	9.90% ↑
Waurm Ponds Library	80,810	73,218	-7,592	-9.39% ↓
Western Heights College Library	3,393	3,329	-64	-1.89% →
<b>Colac Otway Shire</b>	<b>49,901</b>	<b>56,552</b>	<b>6,651</b>	<b>13.33% ↑</b>
Apollo Bay Library	6,891	8,490	1,599	23.20% ↑
Colac Library	42,266	47,359	5,093	12.05% ↑
Mobile - Colac Otway Shire Stops	744	703	-41	-5.51% ↓
<b>Golden Plains Shire</b>	<b>30,339</b>	<b>32,371</b>	<b>2,032</b>	<b>6.70% ↑</b>
Bannockburn Library	28,588	30,704	2,116	7.40% ↑
Mobile - Golden Plains Shire Stops	1,751	1,667	-84	-4.80% ↓
<b>Surf Coast Shire</b>	<b>68,585</b>	<b>70,650</b>	<b>2,065</b>	<b>3.01% ↑</b>
Mobile - Surf Coast Shire Stops	8,272	7,601	-671	-8.11% ↓
Torquay Library	60,313	63,049	2,736	4.54% ↑
<b>Total</b>	<b>953,654</b>	<b>1,095,493</b>	<b>141,839</b>	<b>14.87% ↑</b>

Select Financial Year

This Financial Year

Other Available Filters

LGA

All

Month

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Report currently displaying visits data for the selected financial year up to:

4/23/2025

Previous financial year to date displays data up to the same date in the prior financial year

Note: data prior to this date may still be incomplete. Check to see what months have been signed off as complete before using data for any external reporting.





# ACTIVITIES, EVENTS AND PROGRAMS



## COMMUNITY IMPACT

---

*“Emilio attended Pre-School Storytime with his mother to practice his English. They have recently moved to Australia from Sweden, with English being his third language after Swedish and Spanish.*

*Emilio was initially very shy but began guessing words in English during a literacy activity, after the CYSL encouraged him by name.*

*The family joined the library that day and spent two hours at the library. The mother also expressed how grateful she was to be able to borrow from the Parenting Collection.”*

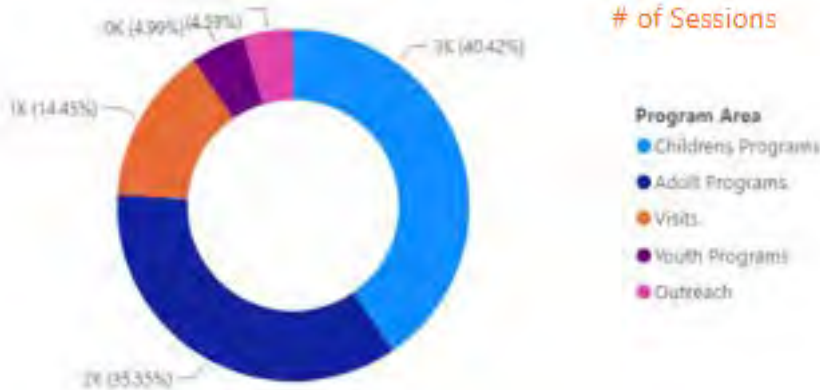
*- Leopold Library (Feb 2025) - Ilona*





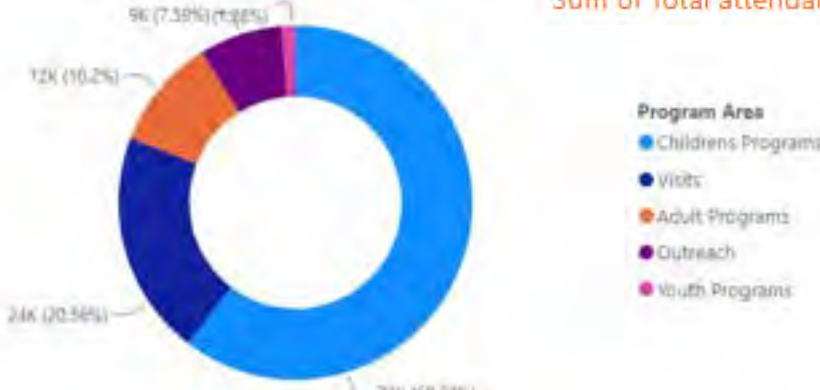
# PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

#Sessions  
BY PROGRAM AREA



Sessions  
**6,971**  
# of Sessions

Attendance  
BY PROGRAM AREA

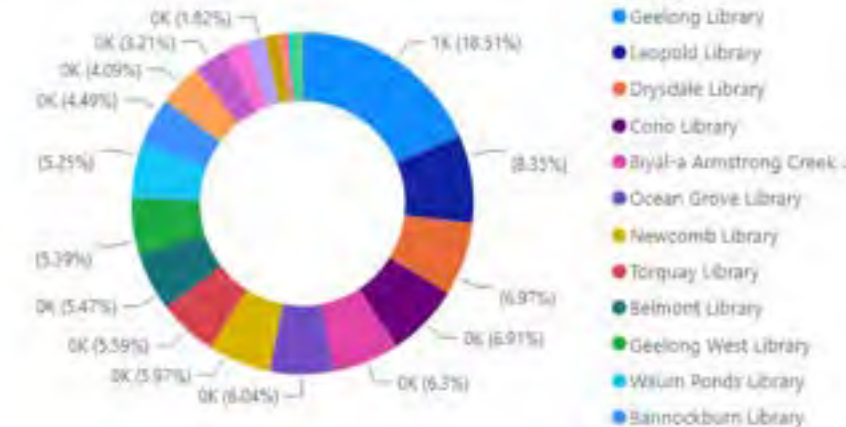


Attendee Breakdown  
**115,708**  
Sum of Total attendance

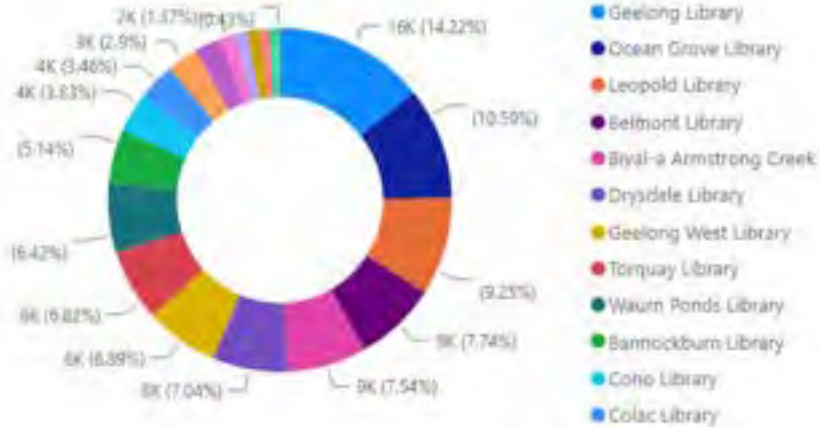
**63,880**  
Child Attendance

**3,296**  
Youth Attendance

#Sessions  
BY LOCATION



**48,532**  
Adult Attendance





# MAJOR EVENTS

Total Attendance – 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025	2,349
Total Attendance - extrapolated to end June 2025	3,132
Total Number of Events	72
Increase on FY2023-24 Attendance - estimated	12.5%
Income from Paid Events – actual to 31 March only	\$20,300

Total Attendance - 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024	2,783
Total Number of Events	83
Increase on FY2022-23 Attendance	10.7%
Income from paid events	\$19,000

Total Attendance - 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	2,513
Total Number of Events	74
Increase on 2021-22 Attendance	10.1%
Income from paid events	\$4,641

Our audience attendance at major events continues to grow.

The first table shows the results for the first 9 months of this financial year, to March. If we extrapolate out for the full financial year, we estimate attendance of approximately 3,132; an increase of approximately 12.5% on last year's strong attendance figures.







# OUTREACH SERVICES



# MOBILE LIBRARIES

## Mobile Libraries - Total Loans Summary - Graph



*“life can be isolating sometimes - even though surrounded by people, we can still feel alone. I love the library (including mobile library) as it is a safe and happy community where I can discover, learn and find like minded people who are always willing to provide suggestions and tips for my next best read.”*

*- Aireys Inlet Member*

Select Location

All

Other Available Filters

Financial Year

This Financial Year

Month

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

-10.43%

change for Total  
Loans on the  
previous year to date



# MOBILE LIBRARIES

## Mobile Libraries - Visits - Financial Year to Date Comparison

Location	Prior Financial Year to Date	Selected Financial Year to Date	+/-	% +/-
<b>Mobile - City of Greater Geelong Stops</b>	<b>2,922</b>	<b>2,549</b>	<b>-373</b>	<b>-12.77%</b>
Anakie	126	156	30	23.81%
Portarlington	2,066	1,843	-223	-10.79%
St Leonards	730	550	-180	-24.66%
<b>Mobile - Colac Otway Shire Stops</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>-41</b>	<b>-5.51%</b>
Beeac	62	47	-15	-24.19%
Beech Forest	34	22	-12	-35.29%
Birregurra	133	175	42	31.58%
Coragulac	124	95	-29	-23.39%
Cressy	78	88	10	12.82%
Forrest	80	50	-30	-37.50%
Gellibrand	103	87	-16	-15.53%
Lavers Hill	130	139	9	6.92%
<b>Mobile - Golden Plains Shire Stops</b>	<b>1,751</b>	<b>1,667</b>	<b>-84</b>	<b>-4.80%</b>
Cape Clear	215	145	-70	-32.56%
Dereel	145	142	-3	-2.07%
Enfield	149	106	-43	-28.86%
Grenville	10	11	1	10.00%
Haddon	269	232	-37	-13.75%
Linton	163	247	84	51.53%
Meredith	382	328	-54	-14.14%
Rokewood	115	94	-21	-18.26%
Smythesdale	303	362	59	19.47%
<b>Mobile - Surf Coast Shire Stops</b>	<b>8,272</b>	<b>7,601</b>	<b>-671</b>	<b>-8.11%</b>
Aireys Inlet	1,440	1,525	85	5.90%
Anglesea	4,361	3,802	-559	-12.82%
Deans Marsh	426	282	-144	-33.80%
Lorne	1,128	1,150	22	1.95%
Winchelsea	917	842	-75	-8.18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,689</b>	<b>12,520</b>	<b>-1,169</b>	<b>-8.54%</b>

### Available Filters

#### Financial Year

This Financial Year

#### Month

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

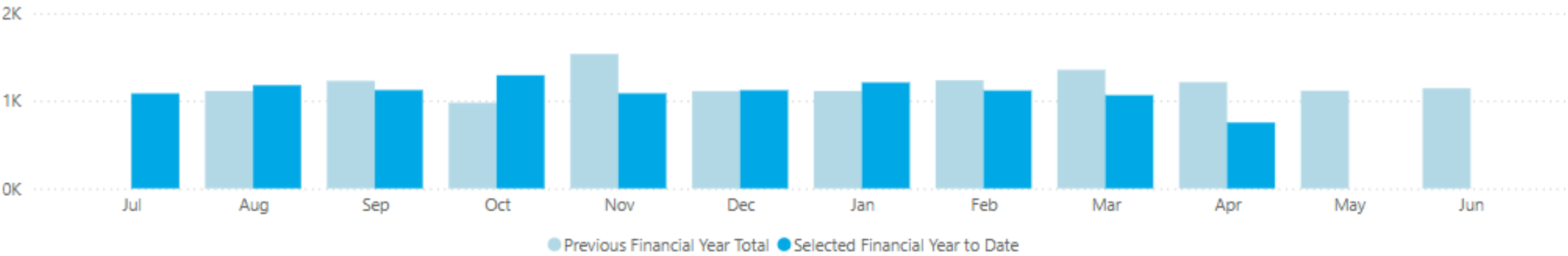
Jun




# HOME LIBRARY SERVICE

< Back to report

INITIAL LOANS








Home Library Service, Initial Loans Over Time


Live data

Data updated on 24/4/25, 8:29 am

 ^

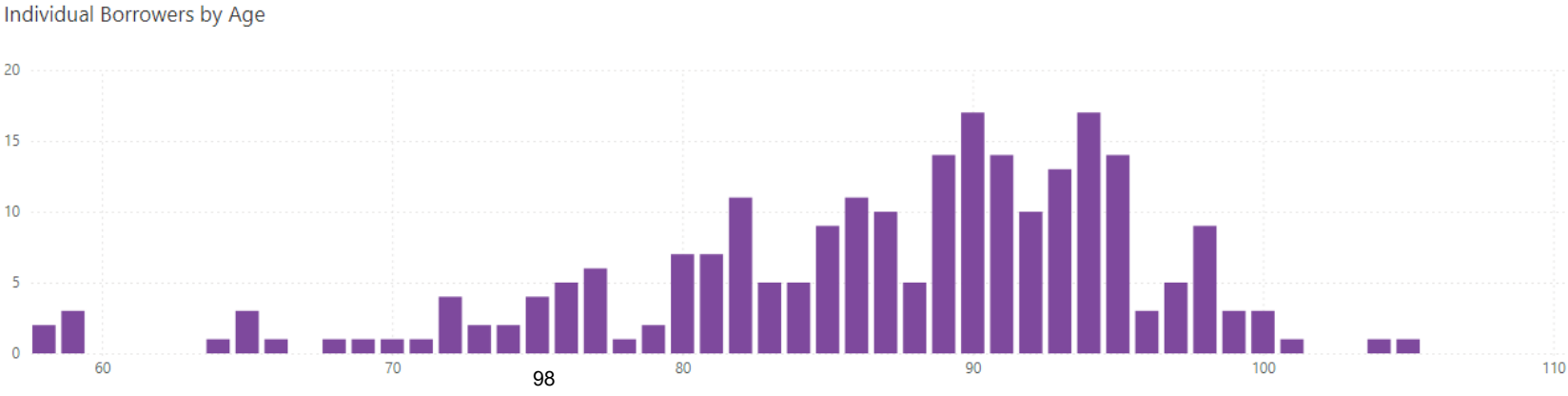
 ^

 ^



87

the average age of borrowers







## **ACCESS AND INCLUSION UPDATE (CONFIDENTIAL)**

Skye Wilson, Director, People, Culture and Strategic Engagement

### **Recommendation:**

That the ACCESS AND INCLUSION UPDATE be noted.





## OTHER BUSINESS

**Next meetings**     **12 June 5.30 – 6.30pm (ONLINE)**

**26 June 5.30pm**

**Location**             **GRLC Boardroom, Level 4**





# MINUTES

## MEETING OF THE GEELONG REGIONAL LIBRARY CORPORATION

Thursday 27 February 2025  
Board Members and Officers only

*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.*







## SECTION A - PROCEDURAL MATTERS

At 5.33pm GRLC Chair, Cr Liz Pattison (Mayor) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone .

The meeting was held in person and via MS Teams. It was closed to the public and opened and closed in camera.

### 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Cr Pattison acknowledged the Traditional Owners of this land and paid respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

*'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.'*

The Chair welcomed Jo Wilson, Director Community Planning & Growth Golden Plains. Thank you Lynnere Gray for her contribution.







## 2. ATTENDEES

		Attendance		
Name	Council	In person	Online	Apology
<b>BOARD MEMBERS</b>				
Cr Isabelle Tolhurst	Borough of Queenscliffe (BoQ)	X		
Cr Elise Wilkison	City of Greater Geelong (CoGG)	X		
Cr Emma Sinclair	City of Greater Geelong (CoGG)	X		
Cr Rowan D. Story AM RFD	City of Greater Geelong (CoGG)			X
Cr Trent Sullivan	City of Greater Geelong (CoGG)			X
Cr Mick McCrickard	Colac Otway Shire (COS)		X	
Cr Owen Sharkey	Golden Plains Shire (GPS)	X		
Cr Liz Pattison (Chair)	Surf Coast Shire (SCS)	X		
<b>COUNCIL OFFICERS</b>				
Damien Waight	General Manager, Community Life, SCS	X		
Amie Higgs	Manager Community Participation, CoGG			X
Anthony Basford	Executive Directory City Life, CoGG	X		
Gayatri Baskaran	Finance Coordinator, CoGG			X
Ian Seuren	General Manager Development & Community Services, COS		X	
Martin Gill	CEO, BoQ		X	
Jo Wilson	Director Community Planning & Growth, GPS		X	
<b>GRLC OFFICERS</b>				
Vanessa Schernickau	Chief Executive Officer	X		
David Semmens	Director, Community Experience	X		
Skye Wilson	Director, P&C and Strategic Engagement		X	
Robbie Cullens	Director, Digital and Finance	X		
Vanessa Rechichi	Executive Assistant	X		
<b>GUEST</b>				
Ian J Phillips	I&J Management Services		x	







### 3. APOLOGIES

Cr Rowan Story, Cr Trent Sullivan, Amie Higgs

### 4. INTERESTS, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil

### 5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES DATED 19 DECEMBER 2024 (ATTACHMENT 1)

**Recommendation:**

That the draft minutes of the Board Meeting held on 19 December 2024 be confirmed.

Moved: Cr Isabelle Tolhurst  
Second: Cr Emma Sinclair  
Passed: unanimously

For noting, the 19 December minutes to be amended: *Cr Rowan Story as attended in person.*

## SECTION B – PRESENTATIONS

### LGV Benchmarking Presentation Ian Phillips, I & J Management Services

Benchmarking Update Financial Year 2023/24 for Geelong Regional Libraries presented by Ian Phillips.

Ian informed the Board in 2013 he was engaged to collect annual statistical data for all Victorian libraries on behalf of Local Government Victoria and provides benchmarking analysis as part of this. He also provides this data for individual library services as requested.

This independent analysis found that overall GRLC was the number one ranked public library in Victoria, across a range of key measures. GRLC has ranked number one for ten years.

The focus of the presentation:

- To provide information on how well GRLC performed in 2023/24
- Where does GRLC sit relative to other libraries?
- What changed?
- What lies ahead?







Conclusion:

- GRLC is a very good library service because it is best overall.
- GRLC know scale delivers efficiencies and you take it
- GLRC know customer experience is critical
- Good capital investment = good facilities = customer appeal
- Good funding = good staffing = good customer service
- Good customer experience = repeat use = maximum value to the community = maximum return on investment
- Library of things is growing across public libraries, it's not just books
- Social and digital inclusion – keep investing and working in this space.

The CEO confirmed that these statistics are taken into consideration for planning and budget, our staffing and EFT in understanding how efficient we are. The review that was conducted Craig Kenny in 2023 used this data, it's an indicator re. efficiency that we are still delivering good service.

It helps understand where we sit, comparatively to the rest of the state and where we are falling behind. For example, our e-collections is falling behind and our teams use this data to inform their planning and resourcing.

The Chair thanked Ian for his insights and presentation.

**ACTION: Benchmarking Update slides to be distributed to the Board.**

## SECTION C – REPORTS

### 1. CEO REPORT

Vanessa Schernickau, Chief Executive Officer

#### Recommendation

**That the CEO Report be noted.**

The CEO report is important to show the qualitative data in how we add value to our communities. ULibrary – new platform to increase access to eBooks. 100 members can read the same book at the same time.

The CEO provided an update on the Geelong Library and Heritage Centre flood, acknowledging the great work of the CoGG team who did a great job responding during the holiday period. We held a morning tea for the reopening of Heritage Services on 4 February and invited the CoGG Facilities team to say thank you for their support.







The customer survey that will inform our new Library Plan is about to go live. We are required to adopt a library plan under the Local Government Act. When a new entity is formed, the new Board may decide to do another plan.

The Board raised the question about funding and if there is an opportunity for additional advocacy as we prepare the budget.

The Board may decide to meet with the Minister or local members. The Board may also send correspondence to their local member or the Minister.

## 2. **GRLC PRELIMINARY BUDGET FY26 (CONFIDENTIAL)**

Robbie Cullen, Director Digital and Finance

Recommendation:

That the GRLC Preliminary Budget FY26 Report be noted.

## 3. **MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT (CONFIDENTIAL)**

Robbie Cullen, Director Digital and Finance

Recommendation:

That the Monthly Financial Report be noted

## 4. **TURNING THE PAGE (CONFIDENTIAL)**

Vanessa Schernickau, Chief Executive Officer

Recommendation:

That the Turning the Page report be noted.

## 5. **ACTIVITY REPORT**

David Semmens, Director Community Experience

Recommendation:

That the Activity Report be noted.

The Activity report was taken as read.

Allowing for Biyal-a Armstrong Creek library opening in August, total loans are still up overall. In summary:

- Corio – impacted by the redevelopment of the Norlane Aquatic and Recreation Centre and closure of the car park.







- Drysdale usage has balanced out, after its first busy year. The Ocean Grove community that travelled to visit the new library is returning to their local library with their numbers returning to the previous year level.
- Torquay visitation and loans has gone up since the opening of Biyal-a Armstrong Creek.
- eCollections – ULibrary is popular and in the library of things, thermal cameras that help identify hot and cold spots in housing to help with insulation have a long waiting list.
- Geelong Library and Heritage Centre, continues to be a popular destination, including for school groups.
- We continue to work with Council officers to plan our outreach services and better understand how communities access the mobile library services and how we plan for future service provision to smaller communities.

## **6. RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE (CONFIDENTIAL)**

Robbie Cullen, Director Digital and Finance

Recommendation:

That the Risk Management Update be noted.

## **7. P&C REPORT (CONFIDENTIAL)**

Skye Wilson, Director People and Culture

Recommendation:

That the P&C Report be noted.

## **8. HEALTH SAFETY AND WELLBEING REPORT - OCT (CONFIDENTIAL)**

David, Director People, Culture & Strategic Engagement

Recommendation:

That the Health Safety and Wellbeing Report be noted.

The report was noted as read.

### **Other Business:**

Due to the public holiday on Friday 25 April, the next Board meeting is rescheduled to 1 May commencing with a Board Workshop to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 7.43pm.

**Next Meeting:**







**Thursday 1 May, 5.30pm Geelong Library and Heritage Centre.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cr Liz Pattison  
Chair

Date of Confirmation:        /        / 2024

DRAFT

