

Yarra Plenty Regional Library
Annual Report 2023–2024

Telling Our Story

#ThisLibraryHas



Acknowledgement of Country

Yarra Plenty Regional Library acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation, the traditional owners of this Country, paying respect to Elders past, present, and emerging, who have been an integral part of the region's history. We acknowledge the leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the right to self-determination in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect. We support the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Recognition of Diversity and Inclusion

Yarra Plenty Regional Library is committed to equality, inclusivity, and respect. We welcome and respect everyone in our communities irrespective of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, ability, or generation.

Our Vision

Informed creative communities:
connected, empowered and well.

Our Purpose

To provide opportunities for our diverse communities to read, learn, create, connect and live well. Supported by equitable access to collections, technology, programs, and welcoming and safe spaces.

Our Role

To facilitate: working with our diverse communities to support and realise opportunities.

To connect: creating places where everyone is welcome, a safe place for all.

To listen: ensuring our communities are part of everything we do.

To build capability: empowering our diverse and vibrant communities to participate.

To share and create stories: ensuring our local stories are created, shared, and heard.

Our Values

Respect for all: promoting connection and fairness.

Integrity: honest and trustworthy.

Service: community focused, accessible, valued by our customers and team members.

Empower: supportive, innovative and inclusive of diversity of thought.

Contact Us

Bag 65 Bundoora VIC 3083
ypmail@ypri.vic.gov.au



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About Us

Yarra Plenty Regional Library (YPRL) continues to serve as a vital part of the community, fostering connection, learning and creativity for all ages. Over the past year, we have focused on enhancing our services to meet the evolving needs of the residents of Banyule City, City of Whittlesea, and Nillumbik Shire. Our libraries are vibrant community hubs, offering a wide array of resources, programs, and events that reflect our commitment to inclusivity, sustainability and innovation. From borrowing your child's first board book, learning to sew or cook, using the internet to study, applying for a job or streaming a film from one of our many digital applications, the library is a free and safe place for everyone.

This year, YPRL has made significant strides in reaching out to communities that have not been previously serviced, ensuring that everyone has access to the resources and support they need. We have also invested in refurbishing and upgrading our infrastructure to create more welcoming and functional spaces for our patrons. These improvements reflect our commitment to providing high-quality services and a comfortable environment where all members of the community can engage, learn and connect.

This is the story of our commitment to the communities we have served over the past year. Through innovation and growth, we remain dedicated to ensuring that our spaces and services continue to empower the community to learn, grow and explore new opportunities every day. Our focus on adapting to changing needs has allowed us to better support and enrich the lives of those we engage with.



Each borrower kept an average of **\$282 in their wallet this year** by borrowing the books they needed.



our Plan on a Page

our Vision

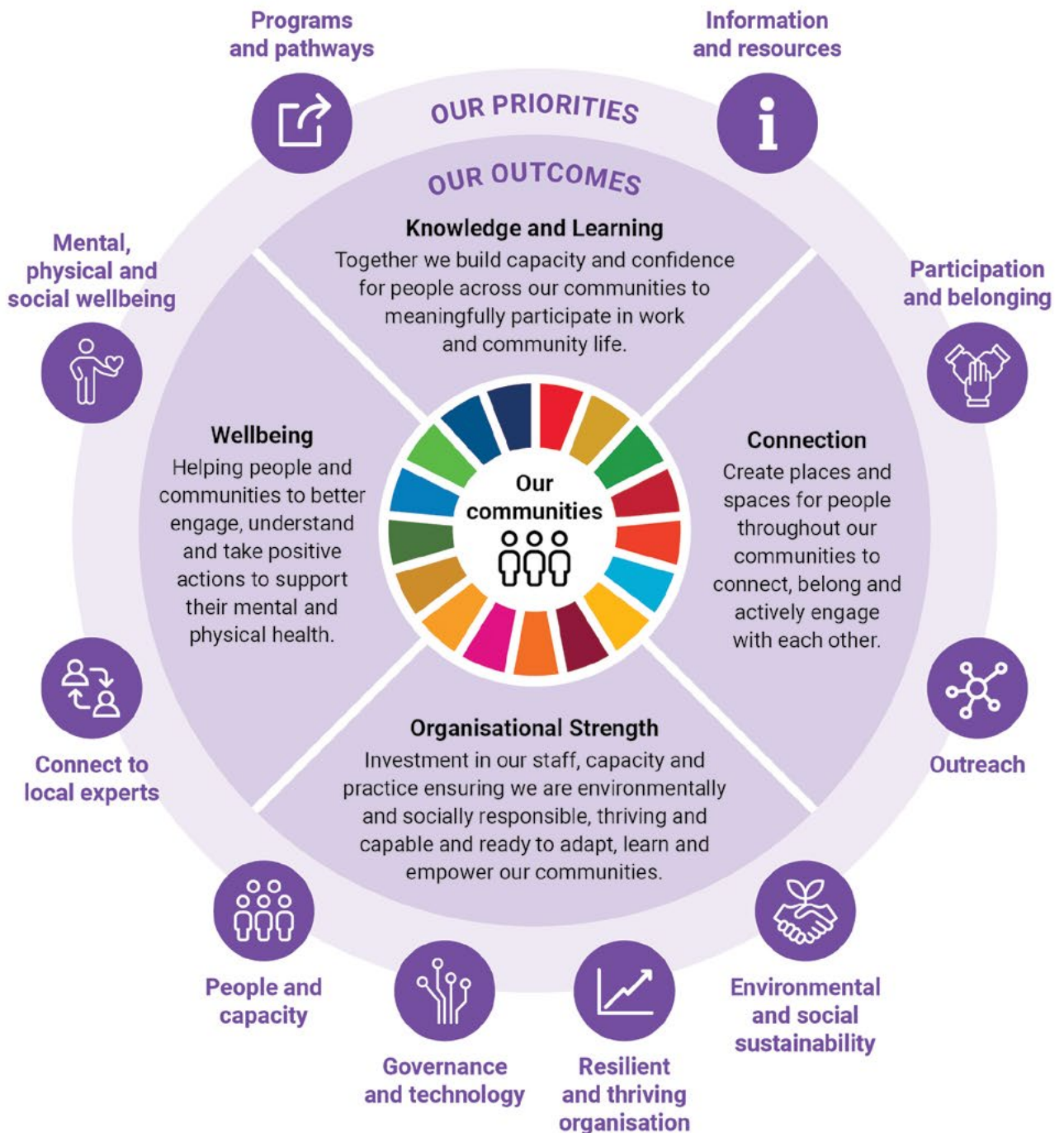
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Facilitate
Connect
Listen
Build capability
Share and create stories



#ThisLibraryCan: Communities connected, empowered and well

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



THE PRINCIPLES THAT SHAPE OUR SERVICE

We welcome and are *here for everyone* in our communities

We always work *together*

We are not afraid to try, *test and learn*

We always seek *continuous improvement* in what and how we deliver

We *innovate* to help our service grow and create positive outcomes

We undertake *radical collaboration* to make the most of everything we have

Message from the Chair



As the Chair of the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Corporation, I am delighted to present the 2023–24 Yarra Plenty Regional Library (YPRL) Annual Report. I welcome Cr Peter Perkins to the Board and thank the departing Board Member Cr Natalie Duffy for her significant contribution to the library.

This past year has presented many challenges for our communities, but has also been one of significant growth for YPRL. The work of YPRL showcased in this year's annual report, highlights the important role of libraries. The opening of Mernda Library has been a milestone in expanding access to resources and services, and the significant investment from the Board to refurbish Eltham and Lalor has enhanced the communities' experiences.

Recognising the significant impacts of the rising cost of living and climate change, YPRL launched a series of targeted programs across Banyule, Nillumbik and Whittlesea Councils to support our communities in navigating these issues. These initiatives were aimed at providing practical assistance, promoting financial literacy, supporting small businesses, and encouraging sustainable living. Programs such as basic car maintenance and cooking-for-one sessions empowered participants with hands-on skills to reduce daily expenses. Similarly, events such as the Sew, Chat and Repair sessions taught community members how to mend clothes and embrace a repair-over-replace mindset.

In June 2023, the YPRL Board endorsed the Uluru Statement from the Heart, demonstrating our commitment to supporting and amplifying First Nations voices and rights. During the 2023–24 period, we marked this significant step

with visible actions including the launch of our Deadly Collection at SNAICC Day celebrations in August 2023. YPRL's Deadly Collection, which has been co-designed with First Nations people, was awarded a Special Mention in the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and PressReader International Marketing Awards in June 2024. We also hosted events with Shelley Ware and Aunty Janine Coombs and community forums with the First People's Assembly, discussing Treaty. Throughout these initiatives, YPRL provided tailored support and communication for First Nations staff, reinforcing our commitment to accessible and reliable information.

At YPRL, social inclusion is a year-round commitment to celebrating our diverse communities and promoting inclusion, understanding and acceptance. During Pride Month, we highlighted LGBTQIA+ voices in our collections, and our *Queer Icons* exhibit, featuring Patrick Boyle's work, will continue to tour our branches throughout the rest of 2024.

During Cultural Diversity Week, we hosted a series of events across the region to celebrate our local multicultural communities. This celebration culminated in the 14th Annual Indian Festival of Holi, held at Ivanhoe Library in partnership with the Northern Region Indian Seniors Association. The Festival, which continues to grow in attendance each year, is just one example of the vibrant cultural diversity within our community.

Promoting wellbeing and independence for older adults is an important aspect of healthy ageing and, with a State Government of Victoria grant in May 2023, YPRL supported the digital literacy of seniors by providing hands-on training, including language-specific sessions, benefiting over 1,030 participants. This project helped older adults to connect with family, access services, manage finances and stay safe and confident online.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank my fellow Board members and our Member Councils for the significant role they individually and collectively play in the success of YPRL. I would also like to thank CEO, Jane Cowell for her leadership and innovation in bringing such vital and contemporary library services to the community and the work of our dedicated and hardworking library staff. We are extremely fortunate to have such an engaged and collaborative team working so hard to deliver for the residents of Banyule, Nillumbik and Whittlesea.

Chief Administrator Lydia Wilson
Chair

Message from the CEO



This year at Yarra Plenty Regional Library (YPRL), we have continued to enhance the services and activities offered to the community. It is with great pride that I share the success we've witnessed, as our services have increasingly resonated with the residents of our three councils. Over the past year, we welcomed nearly 25,000 new members, bringing our total membership to an impressive 180,592 across our network of branches and hubs. This surge in new memberships, event attendance, and book borrowings underscores the growing value our libraries bring to the community.

At YPRL, our commitment to creating inviting spaces where all members of our diverse community feel safe, respected, and included remains strong. This year, we expanded our service points, opening a new library in Mernda and a Click & Collect Hub in Bellfield, both of which have been warmly embraced by their local communities. Additionally, we completed significant refurbishments at Eltham and Lalor libraries, much to the delight of their users. These upgrades have led to an immediate increase in visitation and borrowing, demonstrating the community's enthusiasm for these revitalised spaces. We've also commenced the refurbishment of Thomastown Library and, in partnership with Nillumbik Council, begun work on the Learning and Sensory Garden at Diamond Valley Library, ensuring that these spaces are equipped to serve our community now and into the future.

Our digital transformation efforts also reached new milestones this year. We installed business-grade Wi-Fi across all branches, enhancing the experience for

those who work or study at our libraries. After three years of dedicated work by our ICT team, we successfully migrated to cloud-based services, retiring our physical computer infrastructure. This transition has improved accessibility, scalability, and reliability of our business systems. Additionally, we invested in cybersecurity measures, technical projects to create digitally native workflows, and upgraded our Library Management System to a new version, further improving user experience and service reliability.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all YPRL staff and volunteers for their hard work, innovation, and dedication over the past year. I would also like to thank the Board for their unwavering support in empowering YPRL to deliver innovative and modern library services and the commitment to invest funds to upgrade our spaces to support this outcome. Our customer service staff deserve special recognition for their relentless efforts in developing and delivering culturally safe, inclusive programs and services tailored

to the diverse communities we serve. The success of these initiatives is evident in the stories shared throughout this report and the enduring value our community places on their local libraries.

Jane Cowell
CEO

YPRL Board Members 2023–2024



Cr Alison Champion



Cr Rick Garotti



Cr Karen Egan



Cr Natalie Duffy



Cr Peter Perkins



Ms Lydia Wilson



Ms Agata Chmielewski

July 2023 – November 2023	November 2023 – February 2024	February 2024 – March 2024	March 2024 – June 2024
Banyule City Council			
Cr Alison Champion (Chair)	Cr Alison Champion (Chair)	Cr Alison Champion	Cr Alison Champion
Cr Rick Garotti	Cr Rick Garotti	Cr Rick Garotti	Cr Rick Garotti
Kath Brackett (ex officio) Director Community Wellbeing	Kath Brackett (ex officio) Director Community Wellbeing	Kath Brackett (ex officio) Director Community Wellbeing	Joseph Tabacco (ex officio) Director Community Wellbeing
Nillumbik Shire Council			
Cr Karen Egan	Cr Karen Egan	Cr Karen Egan (Deputy Chair)	Cr Karen Egan (Deputy Chair)
Cr Natalie Duffy	Cr Peter Perkins	Cr Peter Perkins	Cr Peter Perkins
Corrienne Nichols (ex officio) Director Communities	Corrienne Nichols (ex officio) Director Communities	Corrienne Nichols (ex officio) Director Communities	Corrienne Nichols (ex officio) Director Communities
City of Whittlesea			
Administrator Lydia Wilson (Deputy Chair)	Administrator Lydia Wilson (Deputy Chair)	Administrator Lydia Wilson (Chair)	Administrator Lydia Wilson (Chair)
Agata Chmielewski Director Community Wellbeing	Agata Chmielewski Director Community Wellbeing	Agata Chmielewski Director Community Wellbeing	Agata Chmielewski Director Community Wellbeing
Anthony Traill, (ex officio) Manager Active and Creative Communities	Anthony Traill, (ex officio) Manager Active and Creative Communities	Anthony Traill, (ex officio) Manager Active and Creative Communities	Anthony Traill, (ex officio) Manager Active and Creative Communities

Attendance at Scheduled and Special Board Meetings

Attendee	Meetings
Cr Alison Champion	5/6
Cr Rick Garotti	5/6
Cr Karen Egan	4/6
Cr Natalie Duffy	0/2
Cr Peter Perkins	3/4
Administrator Lydia Wilson	5/6
Agata Chmielewski	3/6

1,395,569 visitors to library branches and the mobile library, an increase of 118,196 from last year.



Our Book Express titles were borrowed 69,125 times.



Charlie visited the Chocolate Factory 430 times!

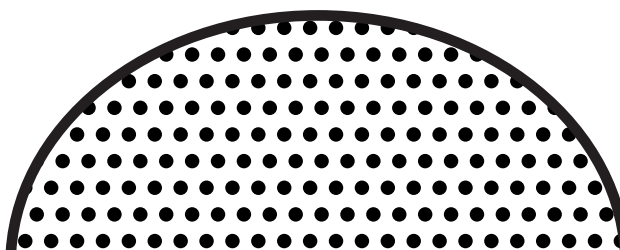


21,478 people opened the YPRL app 444,633 times – an average of 1,218 times a day – to place 117,073 reservations and renew 64,548 loans.

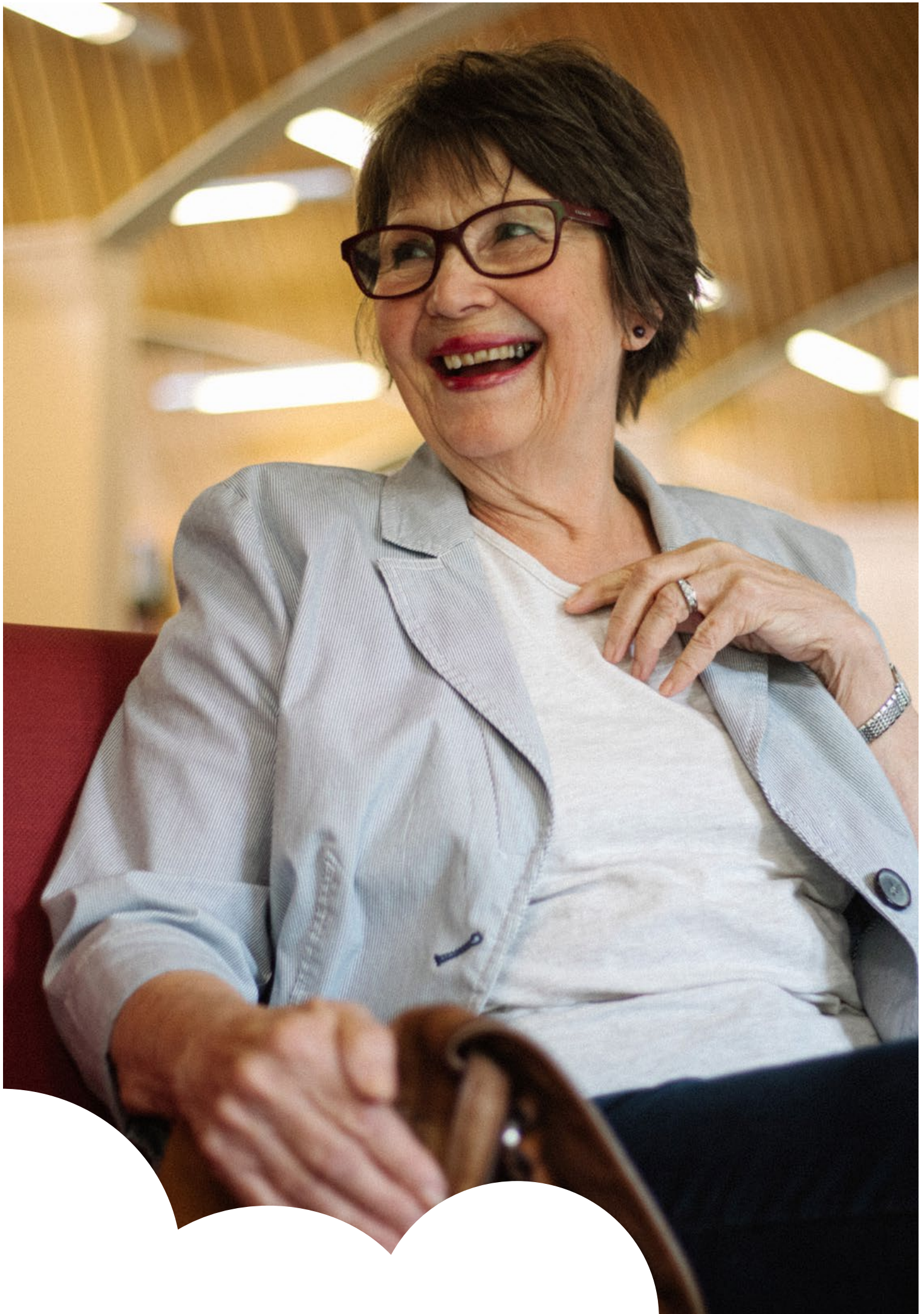
YPRL Library Plan Supports these Strategies for our Member Councils

Banyule Council Plan 2021–2025	City of Whittlesea Community Plan 2021–2025	Nillumbik Shire Council Plan 2021–2025
<p>Priority Theme 1: Our Inclusive and Connected Community</p> <p>Priority Theme 2: Our Sustainable Environment</p> <p>Priority Theme 3: Our Well-Built City</p> <p>Priority Theme 4: Our Valued Community Assets and Facilities</p> <p>Priority Theme 5: Our Thriving Local Economy</p> <p>Priority Theme 6: Our Trusted and Responsive Leadership</p>	<p>Goal 1: Connected Community</p> <p>Goal 2: Liveable Neighbourhoods</p> <p>Goal 3: Strong Local Economy</p> <p>Goal 4: Sustainable Environment</p> <p>Goal 5: High-performing Organisation</p>	<p>Community and Connections</p> <p>Sustainable and Resilient Place and Space</p> <p>Responsible and Accountable</p>

'A library visit can be a welcomed reset for myself and toddler if we're having a bad day – we leave our troubles behind, get to engage with our community and come away with a fresh bunch of books to enjoy at home.'







Year in Review

Outcome: Wellbeing

Help individuals and communities to better engage in, understand, and take positive actions to support their mental and physical health.

Creating safe and inclusive spaces is fundamental to how YPRL engages with local communities. We offer free and accessible resources, expertise, and information on crucial topics such as health and wellbeing, early literacy, and reading for enjoyment. These services enhance mental health, foster skill development, and improve individuals' ability to achieve better health outcomes throughout their lives.



Priority: Mental, Physical, and Social Wellbeing

Contribute to the wellbeing of local communities through inclusive and safe programs, spaces, and opportunities, promoting health literacy, health and wellbeing programming and collections, and programs for those experiencing social isolation.

Services Snapshot

Indicator	Measure	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Physical Loans	Number of Physical Items borrowed	2,291,906	1,391,280	1,835,001	2,289,237	2,278,423
Digital Loans	Number of Digital Items borrowed	247,245	318,416	383,051	404,309	543,542
Program Attendance	Number of participants in programs	132,941	30,555	72,299	118,289	127,404
Visitation Total	Door count	1,147,140	537,335	714,864	1,263,489	1,395,569
Opening Hours	Hours per week	537.5	628.0	723.0	741.0	823.0

Positive and Healthy Ageing

The past year, YPRL has been promoting healthy ageing and connection through Geri-Fit™, known at YPRL as Fitness Over 50. Geri-Fit™ is an evidence-based health and fitness program for older adults, aiming to help rebuild physical strength ensuring a higher level of function as people age. We delivered a pilot program at Eltham Library over 12 weeks, with nine participants attending two 45-minute sessions each week. The program is part of the research into physical activity programs in Australian public libraries, *A Novel Exercise Initiative for Seniors to Improve Balance and Physical Function*, conducted by Curtin University. Participating in this program with Curtin University provided YPRL free access to the Geri-Fit™ platform and three study videos as well as the ability to use them at all branches in perpetuity.

There is currently no comparable program in Australia. Nationally funded exercise programs for older adults are predominantly delivered in gyms and recreation centres at a cost to the participant, resulting in barriers to older adults engaging with regular physical activity. With Geri-Fit™, participation is completely free, contributing to removing these barriers and encouraging more older adults to participate and support healthy ageing.

Participants at Eltham Library reported an improvement in their physical and social health, and YPRL has expanded the program to additional branches throughout 2024.

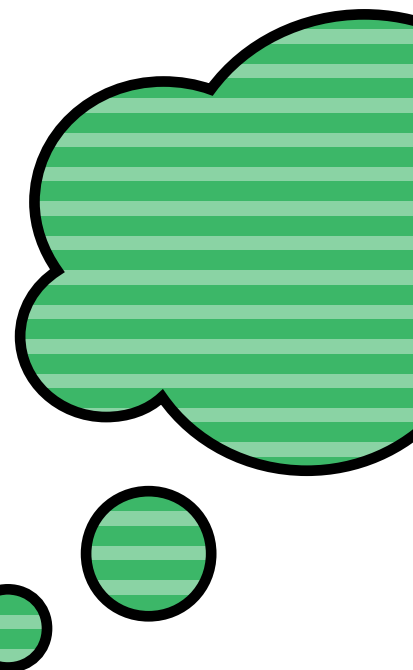




Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds

With a grant from VicHealth, YPRL co-designed a program with young people to support them during busy and stressful exam periods. Delivered regionally over the October and November exam period, the sessions encouraged students to take a 'brain break' to promote self-care and mental, physical and emotional wellbeing. Activities included cooking, mindfulness, physiotherapy, clothing swaps and more. We visited two high schools in the region and provided Blend 'n Bike smoothies and promoted the in-branch activities. Sessions were delivered at Diamond Valley, Eltham, Lalor, Thomastown, Watsonia and Whittlesea libraries, and Blend 'n Bikes went to St Helena Secondary College, Whittlesea Secondary College and Ivanhoe Library.

Feedback from students told us that they valued the much-needed break from school stress, and as a result new partnerships have emerged. We are seeing an increase regionally in students using the libraries to study, and this project provided a fantastic opportunity for YPRL to consider how we can best support students in stressful times.



Welcoming Communities

Thomastown Library hosted a wellbeing workshop for South–East Asian women, facilitated by Veera Brave Girl and supported by The Orange Door in August 2023. Focusing on topics such as consent and healthy relationships, gender identities, contraception and menstrual health, the event also provided information regarding divorce, intervention orders, legal entitlements, reporting avenues and migrant rights. Participants reported that despite the serious topics, they felt safe to discuss them in the library.



'The library is an accessible, vibrant place open to all community members. I am particularly pleased with the way library resources and programs have developed in response to changing community needs and growth.'

Social Stories

In 2023, YPRL developed Social Stories, also known as social scripts, for all of our branches. Social Stories are a way to provide information about our locations and services to reduce barriers to access and participation for neurodiverse people. By better communicating what is to be expected at our locations, Social Stories help visitors to navigate the environment in a way that is more comfortable and accessible. We developed a social story for each branch, and drafts were sent to Araluen Primed, who provided positive feedback and expressed how pleased they were that we were creating them. They are now all available on the website on individual branch webpages, alongside additional information about the branch, so neurodiverse visitors, as well as carers and family members, can better prepare for visits to the library and feel welcomed into the space.



Library Overview

Indicator	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Population – Regional (ABS Estimates Resident Population)	426,963	433,698	422,629	427,062	436,513
Total Members	118,443	120,899	135,957	156,426	180,592
Members as % of population	27.00%	28.00%	32.17%	36.63%	41.37%
Active Users	64,518	53,113	56,439	67,243	77,163
Mobile Library Locations	13	13	13	13	15
Collection items total	403,799	436,944	506,751	492,186	513,847
New Collection items	116,424	72,809	91,987	119,802	95,396
eCollection Usage	549,086	587,028	547,682	539,419	733,798
Wi-Fi Sessions	210,152	75,508	76,464	125,694	145,601
Public Access Internet sessions	131,834	37,998	42,941	87,682	95,294
Total eAccess	2,341,531	1,918,946	2,443,293	3,168,125	4,171,007
Programs total	4,383	1,613	2,209	4,605	4,962
Staff (EFT)	93.19	96.32	97.34	99.92	99.94



Our **youngest new member** joined at just **one day old!**

'My local library is FREE. It has supported my physical and mental health. The staff are friendly and helpful and most of all I feel welcomed and safe.'

Cards and Butterflies of Kindness

In the lead up to Christmas, YPRL partnered with artist Heidi Everett and the Banyule Arts & Culture Team to provide a regional Cards of Kindness program and facilitate card-making workshops across our branches. The cards were designed to give the community the opportunity to offer words of comfort to those in hospital over Christmas. The Cards of Kindness program saw over 200 cards sent to patients in psychiatric wards and 350 paper butterflies decorated by children sent to wards at the Austin Hospital. An additional 200 cards were sent to residents at St Vincent's Care, promoting mental and social wellbeing throughout the community.



LIB-CON 2023

In October 2023, YPRL hosted its fifth comic book convention. Inspired by similar conventions worldwide like Comic-Con, LIB-CON is a beloved annual event where visitors can meet fellow fans, attend workshops and discuss comic books. On Sunday 21 October over 1,800 people attended LIB-CON at Mill Park Library. Attendees met superheroes, entered a cosplay competition sponsored by ComicsPlus, participated in Star Wars light saber workshops and chatted with merchandise stall holders. They could also get their face painted, marvel at LEGO® displays and browse our comic and graphic novel collection. People of all ages and abilities dressed up for this hugely popular free event that promotes a love for comics and stories, encourages social wellbeing and fights social isolation. We also launched ComicsPlus at LIB-CON, a platform where readers can access over 25,000 comics, manga and graphic novel titles as part of our digital library. Since the launch, there have been almost 1,000 loans on the platform.





Library Usage

Location	Members	Loans	Reservations	Public Access Internet Sessions	Wi-Fi connections
Diamond Valley	10,905	110,277	19,730	3,951	5,448
Eltham	27,595	279,270	43,338	12,714	27,479
Ivanhoe	24,125	267,618	48,494	18,742	51,799
Lalor	20,644	70,165	8,327	11,941	6,934
Mernda	5,014	34,023	5,394	1,226	1,665
Mill Park	33,082	281,403	31,893	16,981	29,207
Rosanna	13,599	49,922	20,839	2,284	940
Thomastown	10,808	56,326	9,736	12,925	7,846
Watsonia	15,720	192,259	35,175	11,698	11,447
Whittlesea	4,444	37,554	6,338	2,711	2,836
Mobile Library	4,943	56,117	5,171	121	
Outreach Vehicle	1,009	6,081	1,190		
Digital Members	8,183	819,880	39		
Bellfield		1,368	271		
Donnybrook		423	127		
Galada		8,651	1,787		
Hurstbridge Hub		7,086	3,381		



Priority: Connect to Local Experts

Work alongside experts to bring the best to local communities by inviting, including, and hosting wellbeing partners within our spaces, and partnering with member councils to deliver better outcomes.

'The library is a means to access large amounts of informational and entertaining content which, having illness issues which keep me stuck at home, I would be otherwise unable to access and unable to afford on my own. I'm very grateful to be able to access this.'

Addressing the Rising Cost of Living

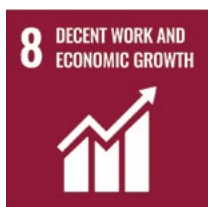
In response to the rising cost of living, YPRL launched a series of targeted programs across the region to provide practical assistance, promote financial literacy and foster a sustainable lifestyle. Author Ana Kresina discussed her book *Kids Ain't Cheap* at Eltham Library, helping families to manage their budgets effectively and offering attendees valuable financial planning tips for parenthood. Local mechanic Rich ran a Basic Car Maintenance workshop at Thomastown Library, providing participants with hands-on car maintenance skills to help them save on costly car services. Also at Thomastown Library, our Sew, Chat and Repair sessions were hugely successful, teaching participants how to repair their own clothes and promoting repair over replacement. These programs, alongside more initiatives across the region, contribute towards our broader commitment to support community resilience during challenging economic times and reducing some of the financial pressures that local community members face.



Connecting to Employment Opportunities

In July 2023, YPRL hosted a Jobs Fair at Lalor and Thomastown libraries to connect community members with industry and employment opportunities. Over two weekday mornings, 200 community members met representatives from several industries ranging from caravans to logistics, as well as organisations such as Melbourne Polytechnic. Attendees could access financial counselling and resume review sessions, and industry representatives networked with each other. At Lalor Library, a community member was even offered two jobs on the spot after discussions with service providers.

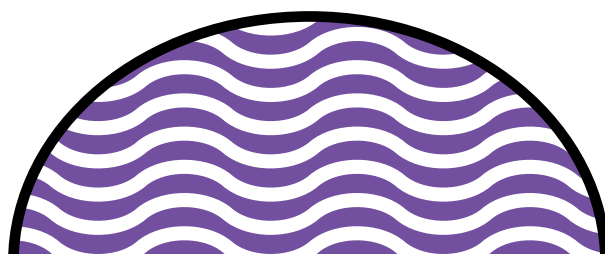
Thomastown Library also hosts monthly Skills and Jobs Centre Pop Ups in partnership with Melbourne Polytechnic. Providing advice and career counselling to support job and apprenticeship applications, the sessions are well-attended and provide vital support to members of the community. The Skills and Job Centre also provides advice to people with overseas qualifications, helping newly arrived migrants find job opportunities in Australia.



Connecting Communities to Services

Mill Park Library hosted both the Bringing Up Kids Expo and the Community Health and Safety Expo, which were wonderful opportunities for the community to learn about what local services are available. The Bringing Up Kids Expo brought 15 local services for families to the library alongside Storytimes, an early literacy information session and kids activities. It brought new families into the library for the first time, many of whom commented on what a wonderful safe space the library is for family events.

The Community Health and Safety Expo connected the community to additional emergency and local services, increasing community awareness of what services are available to support them in an emergency. The CFA, Victoria Police and Victoria State Emergency Service showcased their equipment and services in front of Mill Park Library. Inside, attendees accessed information from council services, Neami, Northern Health, Mill Park Leisure and more. Participants learnt self-defence, attended a reptile safety awareness session and enjoyed a jumping castle.

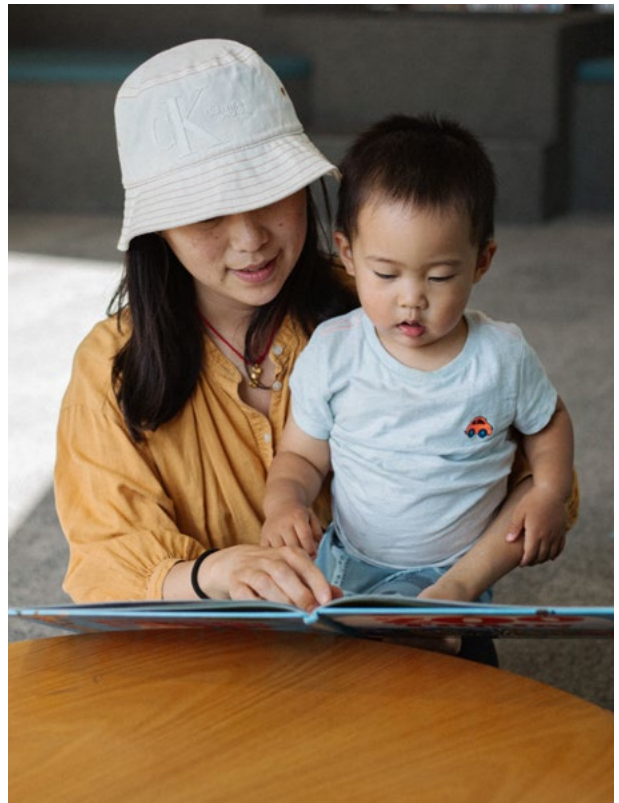




Outcome: Connection

Create places and spaces for people to connect, belong and actively engage with each other.

YPRL has a strong focus on fostering connection. By implementing targeted outreach programs and inclusive initiatives, we've been able to engage with diverse groups, including those who may have previously felt disconnected from library services. By creating welcoming spaces and offering tailored events, we've encouraged greater participation and ensured that everyone can connect, belong, and actively engage.



Priority: Participation and Belonging

Deliver places, spaces, and services that provide safe, accessible digital environments and programs, volunteering, and other opportunities to participate, and increased participation in our service.

Library Membership

Location	Banyule	Nillumbik	Whittlesea	Murrindindi	Out-Area	Total
Diamond Valley	2,843	6,767	572	10	713	10,905
Eltham	4,052	20,546	713	51	2,281	27,595
Ivanhoe	19,134	192	567	7	4,225	24,125
Lalor	239	65	18,660	7	1,673	20,644
Mernda	101	37	4,250	5	621	5,014
Mill Park	801	366	28,850	1,306	1,759	33,082
Rosanna	12,110	157	364	5	963	13,599
Thomastown	224	29	8,967	3	1,585	10,808
Watsonia	13,028	399	1,194	16	1,083	15,720
Whittlesea	342	50	3,615	135	302	4,444
Mobile Library	311	2,199	2,262	21	150	4,943
Home Library	20	7	17	0	0	44
Outreach Vehicle	287	265	452	1	4	1,009
Online & Hubs	639	304	1,151	372	6,161	8,627
Total	54,131	31,383	71,634	1,924	21,520	180,592



180,592 library members – that's more than **double the amount of people** who attended the NRL Grand Final in 2023.

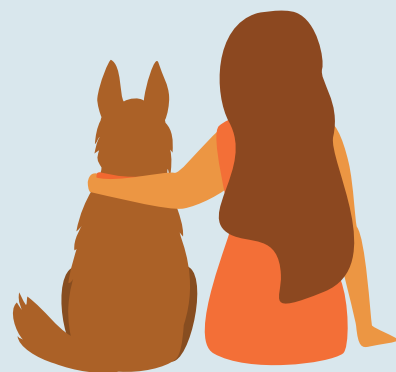


Recognising our Volunteers

YPRL offers a large range of programs and services, and it would not be possible to deliver them all without the generous assistance of our team of 88 volunteers, who commit countless hours to providing Tech Help, bringing in their reading dogs and teaching rock and roll dancing, just to name a few. Our programs and services are instrumental in developing meaningful connections with all our visitors and members, and our volunteers play a truly vital role.

In April, volunteers attended a cheese tasting and pairing event at Eltham Library, a morning tea at Thomastown and Lalor libraries and an afternoon Paint and Sip workshop at Diamond Valley Library, where they made delicious smoothies and completed paint-by-numbers canvases. Ivanhoe, Watsonia and Whittlesea libraries also hosted morning or afternoon teas. We recognise

and thank our volunteers for their commitment and unwavering support of our local library service.



1,388 people spent around **152 hours** reading to our reading dogs.



The Telegraph Historical Archive was the **most popular database** for researchers, with **2,778 searches**

Meaningful Connections

YPRL hosts events for seniors across the region and throughout the year but our Family History Month and Local History Month programs in August and October respectively are hugely popular, especially with seniors. From book launches and guest speakers to cemetery tours and workshops, we provide a range of programs to encourage people to learn about where they come from and where they now live, work and play. Connecting through common interests and easy access to local activities helps fight social isolation.

Victoria Seniors Festival saw 28 events held across Seniors Month, including Intergenerational Storytimes at Lalor, Ivanhoe and Diamond Valley libraries and a Trivia Challenge at Whittlesea Library. Forty seniors gathered at the Diamond Valley Library for high tea, delivered in partnership with Nillumbik Positive Ageing team, to reminisce and form meaningful connections with other members of the community. Mill Park and Watsonia libraries also fight social

isolation through Chatty Cafe, a national program that aims to bring people together in public spaces like libraries.

In March, YPRL again partnered with Nillumbik Positive Ageing to host a series of monthly events developed for seniors. The series began with a mini plant pot decorating session and was attended by 17 participants. They enjoyed a fun, social morning full of creativity and connection alongside a delicious morning tea. Participants designed and painted terracotta plant pots and then planted flowering seeds or succulents in them, resulting in creations that were colourful and inspiring. The event was met with amazing feedback, with one attendee stating that the event left them with a feeling of inclusivity and pride.



'I love that Rainbow Families are celebrated and welcomed. Libraries and librarians connect people to ideas and creativity. I love that they remain free to access and are places of hope and connection. Thank you.'

Pride at YPRL

Year round, YPRL champions and celebrates the diverse experiences of the LGBTQIA+ community, promoting inclusion, understanding and acceptance. Pride Month in June saw branches highlight LGBTQIA+ voices in collection displays, and events included a community art project at Eltham Library and a cupcake decorating and bracelet making session at Diamond Valley Library. All branches offered Rainbow Shoelace Project bead kits for members of the community to proudly wear on their shoelaces, and a *Queer Icons* exhibit, showcasing images from author Patrick Doyle's book of the same name, began circulating. This exhibit will continue to travel around YPRL branches into the future.

Additionally, events were hosted across the region to celebrate IDAHOBIT. Attendees made pronoun badges and learnt about cyanotype printing at Ivanhoe Library, enjoyed a panel conversation with authors Michael Earp, Hannah McElhinney and Will Kostakis at Eltham Library; participated in a tie-dye and beading workshop at Diamond Valley Library; and practiced mindfulness colouring at Whittlesea Library. An exhibition titled *In My Shoes*, celebrating the diverse lived experiences of the LGBTQIA+ community, was held at Eltham Library and saw members of the community decorate shoes to reflect and celebrate their lived experiences.



Library members spent **788,900 minutes** streaming on Kanopy!



Turning the Next Chapter

The Next Chapter Book Club returned to the library in 2024. Starting at Watsonia Library in 2020, and pausing during the COVID-19 pandemic, it was developed in partnership with Araluen and is now more popular than ever. The book club sees groups of eight to ten participants and carers read aloud together and discuss the books, improving reading and comprehension skills and supporting social connection and wellbeing. This project is part of a statewide Pierre Gorman Grant from 2019 to develop book clubs for people with an intellectual disability. The Next Chapter Book Club, originating in the United States, was the model chosen as it is sustainable and uses trained volunteers.



'Everyone loved it, so much fun and laughter. It was really wonderful to see how everyone got involved.'

Next Chapter Book Club
volunteer



Readers listened to Rebecca Yarros' *Iron Flame* on Libby for **17,870 hours**. That's equivalent to almost **745 days!**

'The library is definitely my happy place! I always feel welcome and know there is ready help available if needed. Being surrounded by books is a wonderful feeling, and I am so grateful for the library service.'



Celebrating Cultural Diversity

The Cultural Diversity Week theme was *Our Stories – Celebrating Together*. To celebrate, YPRL hosted a series of events across the region celebrating local multicultural communities. Mill Park Library hosted an Indian cooking workshop, Diamond Valley Library enjoyed a Tai Chi workshop, a traditional dance session, and a dumpling making demonstration, and participants at Whittlesea Library attended an Islamic Tessellation workshop, and Watsonia Library hosted a Chinese cooking workshop.

The 14th Annual Indian Festival of Holi was a partnership event in collaboration with the Northern Region Indian Seniors Association held at Ivanhoe Library, and attendance continues to increase each year. This Holi, 110 people attended live dance and musical performances in both traditional and modern styles, encouraging community connection and celebration.



International Women's Day

To celebrate International Women's Day, YPRL hosted events across the region acknowledging and celebrating local women and their contributions to their community, alongside the International Women's Day 2024 theme *Count Her In: Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress*. Art Therapist Jacqui Lewis ran an art workshop at Mill Park Library and Aisha Khurram from Whittlesea Food Collective spoke at Whittlesea Library in partnership with Whittlesea Community Connections. At Eltham Library, 50 participants attended Women Write History, a full day event that included conversations, workshops and a panel discussion featuring writers and bestselling authors Christine Bell, Robyn Cadwallader, Wendy J Dunn, Alison Goodman, Keren Heenan, Leah Kaminsky and Marion Taffe. Women Write History was delivered in partnership with Wendy J Dunn and Swinburne University.



'A great and safe place to bring my 2 young kids to explore new books and join in play groups. All the staff has been so welcoming and won't judge even if the kids are having a hard time, really appreciate it.'

Celebrating the Festive Season

Sensitive Santa, one of YPRL's most beloved annual initiatives, is a program in which neurodiverse children and their families can meet Santa in a library environment that is customised for each family to be sensory friendly. Sensitive Santa celebrated its 10th year in 2023, and for two weekends in November and December, 44 families had the opportunity to meet with Santa and get photos taken in a sensory friendly and accessible setting. With twice the number of sessions in 2023 than the previous year, families with neurodiverse children experienced a private 20-minute session with Santa without long queues and loud noises.



'The highlight of his year is always meeting Santa, he looks forward to it every year.'



Priority: Outreach

Look beyond our existing places to build strong links with local communities, engage with youth, CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse), and First Nations communities, and explore and test colocation and integration of services.



Highlighting our Hubs

The new Bellfield Community Hub Click & Collect Service (Bellfield Hub) opened on 9 January 2024. Situated within the Bellfield Community Hub, facilities include services such as Maternal and Child Health and a kindergarten. A soft launch was held on 23 January 2024 welcoming 11 new members. One of these new members was born in 1924 and explained to staff that it was her first ever library card at 99 years of age!

The Galada Community Centre Hub Click & Collect Service (Galada Hub) and Hurstbridge Hub Click & Collect Service (Hurstbridge Hub) continue to grow, with steadily increasing loans and reservations. Galada Hub loans increased by 53% this year, and Hurstbridge Hub had its fourth consecutive year of annual loan growth. The positive response to our Hubs has reinforced YPRL's dedication to providing services beyond our branches.

Galada Hub connects primarily with families and our youngest members, predominantly loaning items from our junior collection. In contrast, Hurstbridge Hub's demographic is largely adult readers, with the majority of items loaned being adult fiction. At Bellfield Hub's soft launch, community and kindergarten staff expressed excitement at being able to visit the Hub and attend Storytime sessions.

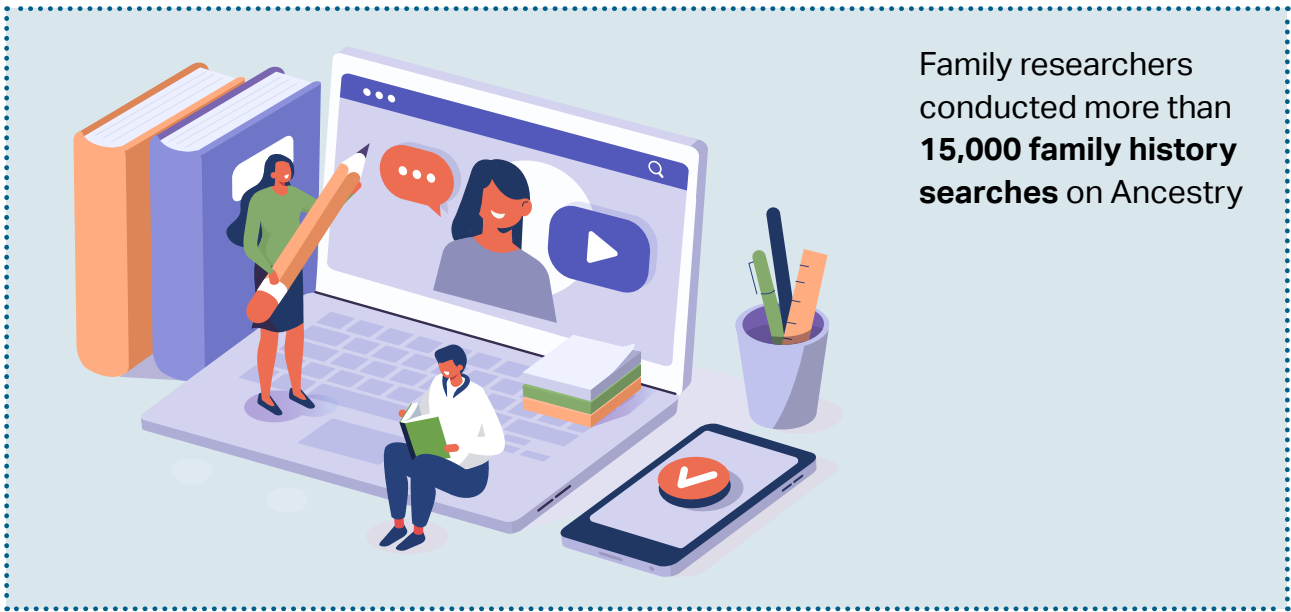




Mobile Library Service Schedule Review

YPRL reviewed the Mobile Library service schedule in 2023 to better meet evolving community needs, strengthening connections across the region. The updated schedule, launched in February 2024, incorporates new stops that address the service needs identified by the community. Changes, such as merging duplicate stops, created opportunities to introduce locations previously not serviced by YPRL which has led to increased visitation. These improvements, along with tailored programming such as Storytimes, have helped build stronger links with the community. The Mobile Library continues to provide a personalised, friendly service that keeps residents connected and engaged.





Family researchers conducted more than **15,000 family history searches** on Ancestry

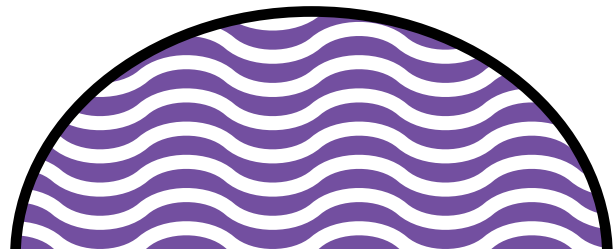
Social Media

Social Media Followers

Platform	2022/23	2023/24	Growth
eNewsletter	58,315	66,163	13.46%
Facebook	7,269	7,717	6.16%
Instagram	3,923	4,345	10.76%
LinkedIn	958	1,040	8.56%
Total	70,465	79,265	12.49%

Digital Interactions

Platform	2022/23	2023/24	Growth
Website	1,613,496	2,134,969	32.32%
Online catalogue	415,322	537,447	29.40%
YPRL App	386,512	444,633	15.04%





School Holiday Programs

Our School Holiday Programs continue to be hugely popular and highly anticipated by families, and we are proud to host a variety of events over each school holiday period, providing free and educational activities for families across the region. In the last year, almost 3,800 participants attended 157 events across branches and outreach locations, including First Nations activities, STEAM and craft events, and active programs.

We are proud to deliver our school holiday events beyond our branches and hubs, further establishing partnerships in the community. Outreach locations included Edendale Farm, Banyule Nillumbik Tech School, Jindi Family and Community Centre, Macleod Community Hall, Rosanna Fire Station Community House, Laurimar Community Activity Centre, Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre, and Loyola Reserve.

Families met 'real' dinosaurs at Mill Park Library, created jewellery with First Nations artist Emmy Webbers at Hurstbridge Hub, practiced mindful LEGO® with Annie from *LEGO® Masters Australia* at Rosanna Fire

Station, and attended drop in movie and craft sessions. Participants learnt how to draw dragons with local author and illustrator Marc McBride, created their own books with artist Phia Larsen, and explored Indigenous hip hop with Nikki Visaj Movement.



'Please keep the school holiday program going as it's so appreciated by families who are struggling with costs to still have these wonderful opportunities for something special with our kids.'



Bluey was taken home for a visit
3,659 times

'It opens up the world of opportunity for learning and imagination, for my son who is learning to read. It creates a sea of wonder and enthusiasm about reading, for him.'

Grants Received

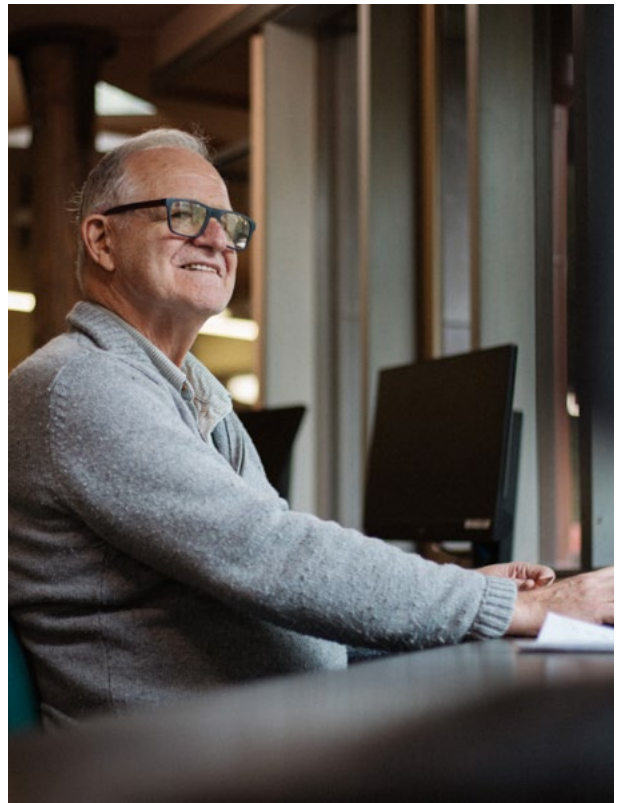
Grant	Funding	Stage
SLV/PLV: Talking Together	\$77,960	Acquitted Jul 2023
Public Records Office Victoria: Local History Grant (Homeland)	\$14,882	Received Oct 2023
State Government: Digital Literacy for Seniors	\$91,216	Acquitted Jan 2024
VicHealth: Jump Start	\$12,500	Acquitted Jan 2024
State Government Living Libraries Infrastructure Grant: Thomastown Refurbishment	\$178,806	Received Jun 2024
Medicare's 40th Anniversary	\$2,000	Received June 2024
School Student Broadband Initiative (SSBI) Collaboration Agreement	\$7,500	Received June 2024
Aged Care Reform Information Hub Grant	\$6,000	Received June 2024



Outcome: Knowledge and Learning

Together we build capacity and confidence for people to meaningfully participate in work and community life.

YPRL builds capacity and confidence across local communities, enabling meaningful participation in both work and community life. Through our diverse programs and resources, we empower individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive. By offering educational opportunities, skill-building workshops, and supportive learning environments, we help people engage more fully and successfully in their personal and professional lives.



Priority: Programs and Pathways

Develop programs and pathways that focus on partnerships for youth capacity building, pathways to employment, community resilience, and community-led programming and collections.

Bringing our Communities Together

Our Homegrown Summer program aims to encourage local community members to spend their summer days at the library through events and activities promoting wellbeing and connection. Now in its fourth year, this year's Homegrown Summer highlighted local businesses and artists across the region. Participants attended a Sip and Paint workshop at Diamond Valley Library, garden pot decorating at Thomastown Library, and botanical printing workshops with local artist Irianna Kanellopoulou. Cooking, jam making and fruit preservation workshops were held by local makers at Mill Park, Thomastown and Whittlesea libraries.

Our Homegrown Summer program was successful across the region, but many Swifties flocked to one event in particular. Over 100 kids immersed themselves in a Taylor Swift event at Eltham Library by creating friendship bracelets and badges, making Taylor Swift themed artworks and watching a Taylor Swift documentary on Kanopy, available through our Digital Library.





Reaching Local Communities

In March, YPRL participated in the City of Whittlesea's Community Festival at the Plenty Ranges Arts & Convention Centre (PRACC). A fun-filled family day with over 8,000 attendees, it was an excellent opportunity for us to showcase a curated selection of our collection and speak to attendees about library services and programs. Alongside activities, staff delivered multiple Storytime sessions throughout the day that were very popular with families.

Also held at PRACC in March was the Career Networking Expo, developed for young people by the Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and Employment Network. We partnered with Charles Sturt University (CSU) to talk to high school students and recent school-leavers about career pathways into Library and Information Services. Attendees learnt about the varied and dynamic roles in

libraries, particularly in YPRL branches where a library staff member's day might include customer service, running a Storytime or an art program for kids, developing content for our social media channels and creating an exciting and engaging display showcasing our collection.

Students asked many questions to discover how a career in libraries could intersect with their career goals. Almost 1,000 attendees participated in the event, with many drawn to the library stall, where they made friendship bracelets and learnt about the industry with YPRL and CSU staff.



'Holiday programs for the kids are fantastic. The programs for adults are also great. Offering a wide range of topics. There is something for everyone.'



We ran 1,981 Storytime sessions to 83,231 attendees – that's an average of 38 Storytimes a week!

Storytime Sessions

Storytimes	Sessions	Attendance
Diamond Valley	276	14,222
Eltham	258	12,311
Ivanhoe	247	14,876
Lalor	152	4,462
Mernda	17	622
Mill Park	258	13,214
Rosanna	172	3,935
Thomastown	125	3,496
Watsonia	280	12,176
Whittlesea	153	3,090
Online	1	27
Mobile Library	42	800
Total	1,981	83,231

'The library holds a special place in our family's life, with many childhood memories made there for my 2 children, now aged 7 and 9 – engaging in Storytime sessions, arts and craft activities and as a place of learning and refuge on rainy winter or hot summer days.'

including an event hosted by award-winning author Louise Park as well as award-winning author and narrator Stig Wemyss.

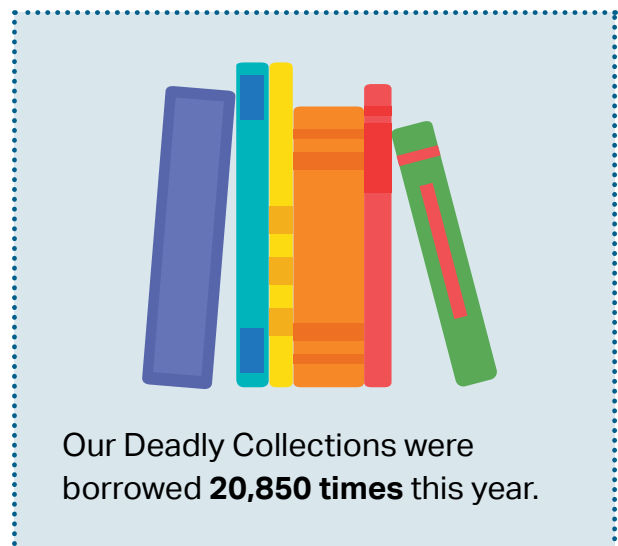
Swap cards were designed to promote our physical and digital junior collections, contributing to an increase in loans over summer. A 7% increase in loans for Junior Fiction and Junior Non-Fiction digital resources was observed over the duration of the program, and YPRL's Toy and Learning Library and Deadly Collection maintained a 42% lending rate.



Slowing the Summer Slide

From 1 December to 31 January every year, YPRL participates in Public Libraries Victoria's (PLV) statewide *Big Summer Read* campaign with the aim to address the 'summer slide' phenomenon, the loss of literacy skills observed when children and families don't read over the summer holidays, particularly in communities facing economic disadvantage or hardship. Research demonstrates that children who read books over the summer holidays experience learning equivalent to attending three years of summer school, with disadvantaged children and families benefiting the most from the program.

Families throughout the region participated in *Big Summer Read* by logging their reading through a digital or paper reading log. YPRL users submitted 488 logs, reading 8180 books. Events were held across the region to support the program and reward participants,



Our Deadly Collections were borrowed **20,850 times** this year.

International Day of People with Disability

In 2023, eight events were held across the region dedicated to supporting the International Day of People with Disability in response to co-design with community and partners. Events included a trivia night at Diamond Valley Library, a DisRupted Short Film Festival at Thomastown Library, a sensory-friendly playgroup at Watsonia Library, and an Auslan interpreted Storytime at Eltham Library.

Additionally, a Whittlesea Family Fun Day was hosted in partnership with Diamond Valley Special Development School, offering accessible and inclusive opportunities for families to participate. Organisations and services such as Bunnings, Victoria Police, DPV Health, Merri Health, AusKick and Lions Club participated in facilitating events.



'My library services are a community hub. There are so many free events on offer for all ages at all branches.'

All YPRL Events

Location	Events			Participants		
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Banyule	693	1,457	1,698	13,636	40,894	43,887
Nillumbik	379	1,007	1,031	12,734	33,972	34,307
Whittlesea	756	2,120	2,175	40,111	42,769	48,264
Mobile Library	0	0	42			800
Online	381	21	16	5,818	654	146
Total	2,209	4,605	4,962	72,299	118,289	127,404

National Simultaneous Storytime

YPRL invited special guest readers to each of its National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) sessions to read to attendees. *Bowerbird Blues* was read in Nillumbik Shire by Mayor Cr Ben Ramcharan, Crs Geoff Paine, and Karen Egan; in Banyule City by Crs Alison Champion and Rick Garotti; and in City of Whittlesea by Administrator Lydia Wilson and staff Anthony Traill, Lence Markovska, and Amelia Ryan.

Held annually by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), NSS promotes reading and literacy to primary school aged children across Australia by reading aloud a picture book by an Australian author and illustrator. Now in its 24th year, the book *Bowerbird Blues* by Aura Parker, was chosen for its themes of inspiring imagination, courage and confidence, and how it relates to key learning areas of the National Curriculum. In 2024, over 2.5 million children across Australia registered for NSS sessions.

Delivered for the first time at Mernda Library and Hurstbridge Hub, 695 children attended NSS events across the region. On the day, members borrowed 1,042 picture books, 319 board books and 255 readers, and themed craft activities were held alongside the Storytime session.





Priority: Information and Resources

Build on our existing collections, assets, and services through investment in digital resources, collections, and assets; resources that are reflective of diverse communities; supporting local creatives; early years, adult, and digital literacy.



Our Brand New Mernda Library

On Monday 22 January 2024, we opened the doors of Mernda Library. Both YPRL's tenth branch and our first in a shopping centre, Mernda Library has been embraced by the local community with enthusiasm. The library's quality facilities, generously funded by the City of Whittlesea Council, are used daily by residents.

Over 500 visitors browsed the shelves on the first day, exploring the new collection and available facilities, with more than 50 new members signing up. Of all the items borrowed across all five City of Whittlesea branches on that day, 70% of them were borrowed from Mernda Library. Feedback since opening has been overwhelmingly positive, with one member writing "as a new Mum I visited the Mernda Library today and I am thrilled to be able to pop baby in the pram and simply walk to the library. Visiting the library is just a wonderful and valuable outing for me and my daughter. With the cost of living, living week-to-week, free visits and outings are impossible to find. Thank goodness for my new local library."

Since opening, Mernda Library has welcomed 1,698 new members and loaned 37,311 items. 30,084 people have visited the library, and 36,014 items have been returned. The success of Mernda Library reaffirms YPRL's commitment to providing accessible library services to communities across the region.



Collection Statistics

Items	2022/23	2023/24
Total physical items	342,500	360,237
Banyule	111,197	112,149
Whittlesea	151,117	159,292
Nillumbik	80,186	88,796
Total digital items	60,743	60,802
eBooks	39,011	35,954
eAudio	19,005	21,067
eMags	2,727	3,781
Total collection (physical and digital)	403,243	421,039

Purchases	2022/23	2023/24
New physical items	112,894	88,411
Banyule	37,284	28,045
Whittlesea	46,976*	36,343
Nillumbik	28,634	24,023
New digital items	6,908	6,985
Total new items (physical and digital)	119,802	95,396

Turnover	2022/23	2023/24
Turnover all items	6.7	6.7
Physical items	6.7	6.3
Banyule	7.5	7.2
Whittlesea	5.1	4.9
Nillumbik	8.4	7.8
Digital Items	6.7	8.9

Purchases	2022/23	2023/24
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New digital items	6,908	6,985
Total new items (physical and digital)	119,802	95,396

*2022–2023 figure changed from 27,271 to 46,976 due to an error.



Upgrading our Branches

YPRL remains committed to improving upon existing infrastructure sustainably and responsibly to better address the needs of local communities. As a result, across the region, refurbishment projects have been completed or are underway.

In July 2023, Eltham Library reopened to the public after extensive internal renovations, including replacing the information desk, updating the furniture in seating areas and improving study spaces. The much needed newly installed carpet, funded by Nillumbik Shire, has significantly enhanced the atmosphere. Innovative shelving options have been strategically designed to highlight key collection areas, making it easier for patrons to discover new titles and enjoy a more engaging browsing experience.

Lalor Library underwent a major refurbishment in May 2024 and reopened on Monday 17 June. The branch collection layout was redesigned to address community needs, improve access to language collections and

provide more space to work and study. The fresh new paint and the upgraded HVAC system, funded by the City of Whittlesea, have given our space a bright makeover and made it a lot more comfortable for everyone.

In June 2024, YPRL finalised the fit-out design for a new and improved Outreach Vehicle. Work has been underway to improve the vehicle's service and schedule to reach more members of the community. To replace the Outreach Vehicle, YPRL received a grant of \$150,000 from the Victorian State Government Living Libraries Infrastructure Program, with YPRL contributing \$100,000 towards the project.

These works demonstrate YPRL's ongoing commitment to providing infrastructure and services that meet community needs.

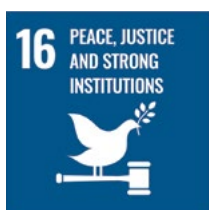


Library Visitation

Location	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	% Change
Diamond Valley	78,924	22,219	32,570	67,068	72,200	7.65%
Eltham	190,181	104,138	131,349	195,911	238,621	21.80%
Ivanhoe	122,938	66,062	155,262	295,509	328,625	11.21%
Lalor	207,459	84,662	92,455	168,923	151,309	-10.43%
Mernda					27,859	
Mill Park	130,499	65,508	100,247	173,133	192,262	11.05%
Rosanna	111,096	67,692	59,596	73,629	34,361	-53.33%
Thomastown	103,684	43,257	43,245	102,484	115,052	12.26%
Watsonia	141,359	62,446	66,481	133,888	157,715	17.80%
Whittlesea	35,942	21,351	23,132	42,852	47,542	10.94%
Mobile Library	25,058	18,880	10,527	23,976	30,023	25.22%
Total Library Visits	1,147,140	556,215	714,864	1,277,373	1,395,569	9.25%

Credible News

In a world with increasing misinformation, YPRL is committed to providing credible, reliable information and enabling readers to access trusted information. Due to this, in February we began the use of a new tool designed to help readers verify the information they're reading. *Newsguard* is a browser extension available on Chrome, Safari, Firefox and Edge, and is free to use in the library. A team of trained journalists rate thousands of news and information sites using basic journalistic standards, demonstrating and explaining the ratings via easy to see icons on the browser. By providing this tool, we aim to reduce the spread of misinformation and encourage readers to seek out trusted, verified news sources.





174 viewers streamed *Supertato* on Kanopy

Endorsing the Uluru Statement from the Heart

After the YPRL Board unanimously decided to endorse the Uluru Statement from the Heart in June 2023, the endorsement was announced on our website and social media channels. Since then, we have installed banners in prominent locations of all branches and the Mobile Library, supporting the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Additionally, our Acknowledgement of Country and all email signatures have been updated to include "We support the Uluru Statement from the Heart".

Our commitment goes beyond supporting the Statement. YPRL's aim is to address the issue of misinformation and ensure the community can make informed choices. All YPRL staff completed training on "A Voice to Parliament", and support resources and scripts were developed to support staff responding to questions from the public. This approach ensures staff are prepared to support the community in making decisions informed by accurate and reliable information.

Through an information session with Shelley Ware and Aunty Janine Coombs where attendees learnt about the Uluru Statement from the Heart and informative drop in sessions, both held at Eltham Library, where participants learnt about the Voice with Nillumbik Council Officers, and community forums with the First People's Assembly discussing Treaty at Mill Park, Lalor and Ivanhoe libraries, YPRL remains committed to providing accessible and reliable information. Throughout this, individualised support and communication was provided to our First Nations staff.



'I love coming to the library because you have great facilities. The staff here are amazing, they are always helpful when I have a question about IT, finding books, learning a new language. Or just checking in on me and saying hi. They have a great wealth of knowledge and are always smiling. I feel safe here and can continue my studies and get work done.'



Deadly Collection

Friday 4 August 2023 was SNAICC National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day, and while children and families gathered at YPRL to learn about First Nations culture, YPRL launched the new *Deadly Collection*. Developed through consultation and co-design with various local First Nations communities, YPRL's Deadly Collection aims to highlight material created by First Nations authors, artists, filmmakers and illustrators as part of an ongoing commitment to positive change. The Deadly Collection has been implemented across all areas of the YPRL collection in all branches.

The launch, held at Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub, was a significant moment for YPRL as we continue to build cultural connections with First Nations community. We remain committed to supporting knowledge and truth telling across YPRL.

The Deadly Collection logo and artwork were designed by Wurundjeri Artist Alex Kerr. Stickers are placed on all Deadly Collection items to ensure that the collection is highlighted and easily accessible. The response to the collection has been outstanding, with items in the Deadly Collection seeing a 36% increase in loans. Additionally, in June 2024, our Deadly Collection was awarded a Special Mention in the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and PressReader International Marketing Awards, placing the project in the top 15 of 103 international submissions.



'I come to the library with my Aunty on a Friday. I love books about my mob. Before they were really hard to find. Now I go straight to the deadly shelf and grab em.'



Outcome: Organisational Strength

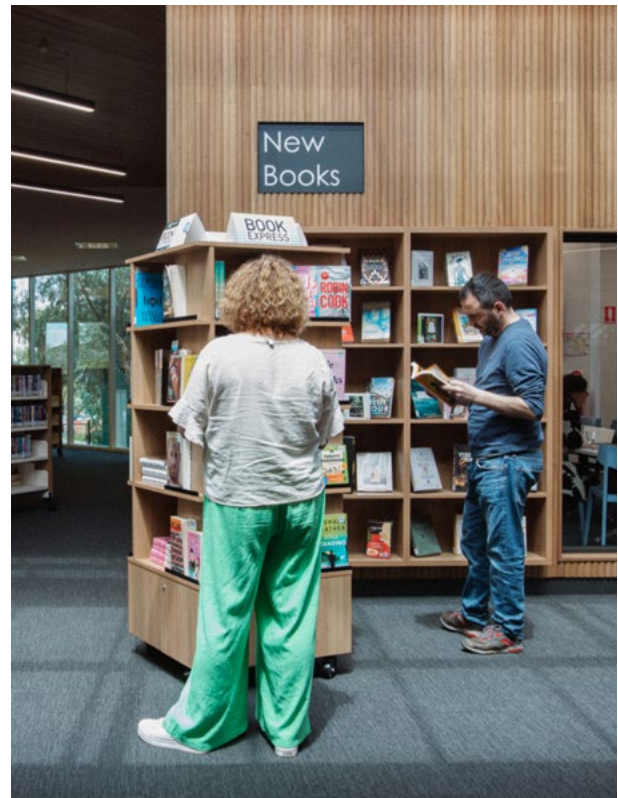
Investment in our staff, capacity, and governance to ensure we are capable and ready to adapt, learn and empower local communities in environmentally and socially responsible ways.

YPRL is dedicated to equipping its staff with the tools and support they need to excel. We invest in comprehensive training, effective governance, and advanced technology to empower our team to meet the evolving needs of local communities. By fostering a supportive environment, we ensure our staff are confident and adaptable, ready to embrace change and deliver exceptional service. Our commitment to the community includes a strong focus on sustainability. As we develop and build our spaces, we are mindful of choosing sustainable options to reinforce our dedication to environmental responsibility.



Priority: Governance and Technology

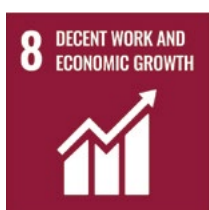
Strengthen our service by ensuring effective governance-strengthening decisions and partnerships; technology as an enabler for delivering services; technology that improves user experience.



Public Holiday Substitution Pilot

With many councils and corporate organisations responding to staff feedback surrounding 26 January as a public holiday, it was decided that YPRL would run a pilot project to enable staff to choose whether they would work that day. The YPRL Enterprise Agreement allows staff to substitute the agreed public holiday for another leave day, so consultation was conducted over a period of 12 months and, through this process, 21 staff members nominated to exchange the 26 January Public Holiday for another leave day of their choosing.

As a result, we opened three branches from 10.00am to 5.00pm on 26 January 2024: Eltham, Watsonia, and Thomastown libraries. Chosen due to the number of staff required to safely and reasonably open a branch, these extra hours provided additional opportunities for visitors to access library services across the region and allowed staff the choice on how they spent the day while still providing them a day off in lieu.



Upgrading our IT Infrastructure

YPRL recently reached the exciting milestone of retiring its physical IT infrastructure from the data centre and transferring all files and applications into the Cloud environment. This was a significant project undertaken over three years and delivered within our ICT Strategy, with 76 staff members across the business involved in the project. This improvement to our systems has allowed for easier collaboration between teams and increased security. Additionally, the move to a new printing system, Papercut, in the past year has improved our printing services across the region. These projects enable us to streamline our processes and deliver services more efficiently.

In June, another one of our systems underwent a large-scale upgrade. The Spydus 11 upgrade encompasses our catalogue and events listings, and took place on 10 June, a public holiday, to ensure that disruptions to public facing services were minimal. The successful upgrade has improved the look and user experience of our catalogue.



Professional Membership

- ALIA (Australian Library and Information Association)
- Australian Human Resources Institute
- FinPro (Local Government Financial Professionals)
- IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)
- LGPRO (Local Government Professionals)
- PLV (Public Libraries Victoria)
- PLV Collections Special Interest Group
- PLV ICT Special Interest Group
- PLV Local Studies Special Interest Group
- PLV Marketing, Advocacy and Engagement Special Interest Group
- PLV Resource Sharing Special Interest Group
- Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Foundation
- VALA (Victorian Association for Library Automation)



Updated Processes and Policies

Date	Policy/Procedure
July 2023	Procurement Policy
July 2023	OHS Policy
August 2023	Information and Communication Technology Use Policy
September 2023	Child Safety Incident Procedure
October 2023	Social Media Policy
December 2023	Employee Code of Conduct
December 2023	Fire Safety Procedures
December 2023	Responsible Conduct Policy (Public)
March 2024	CCTV Standard Operating Policy and Procedures



Priority: Environmental and Social Sustainability

Responsible, relevant, and conscious organisation through ensuring diverse and inclusive practice; environmental and socially sustainable practice and procurement.



Sustainable Collections

YPRL is committed to ongoing improvement of our collection development practices, promoting environmental responsibility and sustainability. In mid 2020, we stopped using plastic covering on most of our physical collection to reduce our plastic consumption and ensure that withdrawn books, that couldn't be donated, could be more easily recycled. However, some books still require plastic covering to give them longevity for regular borrowing.

After a long search for a biodegradable alternative, in July 2023 we began using a product called Bioguard 80[®] to cover all books where covering is required. The world's first fully biodegradable book covering, Bioguard 80[®] breaks down completely in landfill or compost without leaving behind microplastics.

As a large library service, we purchase almost 18,000 books a year. The decision to skip covering when not required, and use Bioguard 80[®] when it is, has removed kilometres of plastic from our collection each year, keeping that plastic out of landfills and waterways.

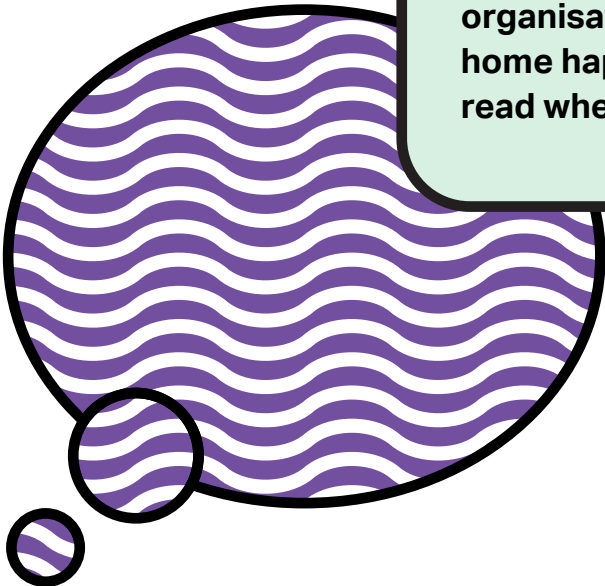


World Environment Day

To celebrate World Environment Day in June, YPRL hosted a series of events across the region to promote sustainable practices and caring for the environment. Eighteen excited attendees got creative at Whittlesea Library's Sustainable Wearable Art workshop, delivered by Indirect Objects. Participants turned plastic waste like milk bottle tops or shredded plastic into brooches, earrings and necklaces. In the library, a curated book display on sustainability was available for attendees to browse and borrow from. Across the region, Diamond Valley Library saw participants learn about seed saving and attendees made and decorated their own recycled bird feeders at Ivanhoe Library. Platypus and pollinator sessions were also delivered by local environment groups and service providers.



103 families asked *Why Won't You Sleep* on StoryBox Hub.



'The library is a friend and refuge and I can look for old books I know, find new books and discover books I will read next time. I often find a surprise in the library. I also like the pamphlets for local services and community organisations. I always come home happy and excited to read when I visit the library.'



Priority: People and Capacity

Invest in our people through building people’s capability and capacity; creating opportunities for growth and learning.

and authentic truth-sharing. Leanne Hart and Dayle Johnson led a workshop on managing emotional load, offering strategies to cope with stress in the workplace. Our staff presented lightning talks and workshops, highlighting the contributions and successes of staff across all branches. The day was a huge success and was a wonderful opportunity to meet face-to-face.

All YPRL Staff

Staff Totals	Number of Staff	% of YPRL Workforce
Full Time	37	23%
Part Time	109	68%
Casuals	15	9%
Total	161	



Staff Professional Development Conference

On Friday 14 June, 123 YPRL staff gathered at Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre (PRACC) for our much-awaited annual Staff Professional Development Conference. This year’s theme was *Library Horizons, Innovate and Elevate* and the day was all about coming together, learning from each other and strengthening the bonds that make working at YPRL fun and engaging.

‘The Staff Development Day was a great opportunity to bring together staff from all our branches for a day filled with learning, making connections and having fun. It was not just about gaining insights and new skills but also about building stronger relationships.’

YPRL Staff Member

We heard from keynote speakers Dr. Beth Driscoll and Dr. Vivian Gerrand on the future of reading and social inclusion respectively. The First Nations Truth Telling Panel highlighted insights from Uncle Andrew Gardiner, Aunty Esme Bamblett, and Uncle Charles Pakana, providing guidance to YPRL in cultivating a workplace and library service that supports First Nations self-determination

Talking to our Community

In July 2023, YPRL undertook a biennial survey assessing the experience and overall satisfaction of its members with its locations, programs, and services. The survey was provided in both print and digital form and in multiple languages including English, Arabic, Greek, Hindi, Italian, Macedonian, and Punjabi. Almost 4,000 community members answered questions about how they feel about their library service. Their responses informed decisions made over the following year, helping us to identify how we're addressing our four key priorities of Knowledge & Learning, Connection, Wellbeing and Organisational Strength.



'A visit to the library is a treasure hunt. I come home with a stash of surprises, and feel the world is an amazing place. The books are an escape when life is hard, and an entryway to loving the real world even more. The welcome, the hush, the helpfulness makes me feel honoured, and that I live in a generous world.'

Rosanna Library Pop-Up

'Access to our libraries means we have a Connection to community, ability to self improve and personal growth, a safe and welcoming space to relax and explore plus a wonderful environment for children to develop their interest then love of all things reading!!'

Diamond Valley Library

'All my life I've loved libraries. They represent the best of our community; the sharing of and affordable access to knowledge, the building of skills, and sustaining relationships.'

Mill Park Library

External Training

- Advanced Body Language
- AI & Public Libraries
- AI AND THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES: Navigating the Digital Shift
- ALIA First Nations Representation and Agency in Libraries Webinar
- ALIA Mentoring Scheme Webinar: Confidence
- An overview of the effects and risks of common drugs
- Ask Izzy Training sessions for Victorian Public Library staff – PLV
- Autism Connect: Thriving at Work
- Beyond the Budget Crunch: Building an Affordable Collection with a Multi-Model Approach
- Block Training – Heavy Rigid Auto Experienced (Licence-only)
- Block Training – Medium Rigid (Licence-only)
- Body odour: How to talk about odour without awkwardness
- Building your LinkedIn Profile
- Burnout and stress
- CAVAL – Getting started with AIs – Your first steps down the rabbit hole of these new digital disruptive technologies
- Child Safe Champion Training
- Child Safe Standards Community of Practice (CoP) for 2024
- Collections: Dead on Arrival
- Contact Officer
- Coordinator Workshops 1 & 2 – Program Planning and Design
- CPR Refresher
- Defibrillator Training
- Dementia and Alzheimer's: Compassionately and effectively working with people with dementia
- Disability Managers and Inclusive Customer Service Training
- Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault
- Early Years Programming for Rainbow Families – PLV
- Embracing and managing neurodiversity in the workplace
- First Nations Collection Description Guidelines for the Library Sector
- Genealogy
- Health and Safety Representative Refresher
- Hit the Ground Running - Working Induction Tour
- Homeless de-escalation Workshops
- Homeless de-escalation: Managing your own emotions during conflict
- Homeless de-escalation: Trauma and the five most important seconds of conflict
- Homeless de-escalation: Verbal tools for conflict
- Homeless children and libraries
- How to ensure your business has an authentic voice
- How to influence health and safety outcomes
- How to respond to prejudicial comments from customers
- Ka-Pow! Unleashing the Superpowers: Engaging Reluctant Readers with Comics & Graphic Novels
- LGBTIQ+ 101 Workshop
- LinkedIn Learning

- Managing Difficult Behaviour by Organised Campaigners – Impact and Strategies to Manage
- Mental Health Seminar
- Neuro-affirming practice with young people
- Newsguard
- OHS for Managers and Supervisors
- Ornerly Teenagers: Compassionately and effectively managing their problem behaviours
- Partnering by Design
- Provide First Aid
- Psychosocial risk controls: Going beyond mental health awareness
- Public Play – Gaming, VR and AR at the Library
- Resolving liberal vs conservative conflict in the workplace
- Responding to censoring in fractious times
- Scam and Fraud Awareness
- SLV Managing Self, Managing Others Program
- Social workers in libraries
- Supporting children with sensory challenges at the library
- Transforming Lives – Psychosocial Risk Controls: Going beyond Mental Health Awareness
- Trauma informed librarianship: How trauma impacts staff and patrons
- Uluru Statement: Yarning Session
- Uluru Unveiled: Dismantling Misinformation
- Unattended children: How to talk to parents about their children's behaviour

- Understanding AI and ChatGPT
- Understanding vicarious trauma in the workplace
- Voice, Treaty and Truth
- Wider Local Studies Seminar and Discussion session
- Workplace Relations Forum

Conferences Attended

- IFLA World Libraries in Congress – Rotterdam, Netherlands
- ALIA National Conference, Adelaide, SA
- SLV – Trauma-informed Librarianship – How trauma impacts staff and patrons
- Pride in the North Summit
- SWITCH Conference 2023
- AISA – Cyber Conference
- ALIA Library Technicians Symposium 2024
- Workplace Health and Safety Show
- 2024 Early Years Conference
- Staff Professional Development Conference
- Industrial and Workplace Relations Conference

Presentations, Appointments, and Awards

Event	Staff
PLV/SLV Libraries for Health & Wellbeing	Jane Cowell
PLV/SLV Future Ready library sector	Robyn Ellard
PLV/SLV Cultural Competencies for library staff	Coralie Kouvelas
IFLA PressReader International Marketing Award, Special Mention: Deadly Collection	Cherry Byford-Sibbing, Brendan Eichholzer, Kate Hansen, Coralie Kouvelas
CSU course review	Robyn Ellard
PLV Marketing, Advocacy & Engagement Co-convenor	Brendan Eichholzer
PLV Digital Library marketing working group	Brendan Eichholzer
State Library Western Australia Full Day Workshop delivery	Jane Cowell

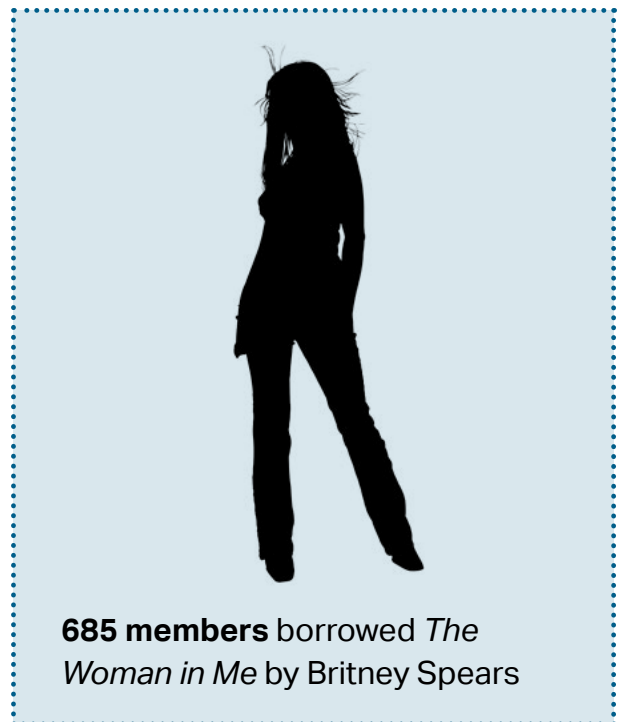
Articles

Article	Author
Shared Leadership report: Referral Pathways, a toolkit for library staff (2023)	Kate Ferguson
Shared Leadership report: Future Ready: Inspiring diverse library pathways (2023)	Ian Wedlock
Chapter in <i>The Marketing of Academic, National and Public Libraries Worldwide</i>	Jane Cowell
Outback Magazine – New Chapters	Jane Cowell

'The library is a welcoming space where I can just be. It provides a great range of books, movies and music at no cost. I can meet with a diverse group of people who share common interests. It provides opportunities to learn new skills.'

Internal Training

- Backup: How coworkers should provide backup during conflict
- BorrowBox
- Building Aboriginal Cultural Competency
- Building Aboriginal Cultural Safety
- Bullying and Harassment for Employees
- Bullying and Harassment for Managers and Supervisors
- Child Safety
- Collections HQ
- Cybersecurity Series (KnowB4)
- Dealing with workplace conflict
- Debunking Fake News
- Duty of Care for Victorian Employees
- Duty of Care for Victorian Managers and Supervisors
- Effective Performance Management
- Equal Employment Opportunity for Employees
- Equal Employment Opportunity for Managers and Supervisors
- e-Resources
- Fire Awareness and Extinguisher Training
- Fire Safety Training
- Fraud and Corruption Awareness and Prevention
- HumanForce
- Incident Investigation
- Introduction to co-design
- Introduction to Family Violence Response
- LGBTIQ+ Awareness in the Workplace
- Librarians Guide to Homelessness Core Training
- Managing Emotional Load
- Manual Handling
- Mastering Reader Development
- Microsoft 365 Training
- Program Planning and Design
- Psychosocial Risk Management in the Workplace
- Public Interest Disclosures
- Risk Management for Managers and Supervisors
- Social and Digital Media and the Workplace
- Social Connection
- Staff Professional Development Conference
- Strategic Program Design
- The Future of Reading
- Truth-Telling Panel



685 members borrowed *The Woman in Me* by Britney Spears



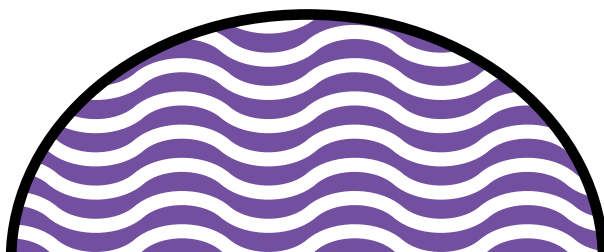
Priority: A Resilient and Thriving Organisation

Secure and grow our organisation through: financial diversification; development of a new business model in response to *Local Government Act 2020* requirements.



Streamlining our Processes

This year, YPRL began developing a new internal digital tool, to support staff with delivering on our Library Plan priorities and Program Framework goals. The catalyst for this work was the feedback received through staff consultation that some of our current manual processes for regional programming and marketing are resource-intensive and hinder collaboration and communication, potentially leading to missed opportunities for regional collaboration. To resolve this, our staff have spent six months designing, developing, and now trialling a digital workflow solution with the goal of streamlining regional programming with collection and marketing integration. Throughout this process, staff understanding of SharePoint, Power Apps and Power Automate has increased, benefiting future projects. We expect to fully implement the digital workflow solution in late 2024 and believe that the work will ensure that we program more efficiently and improve programming provided to the local community.



Co-Design Practices

YPRL is committed to providing effective services for communities through ongoing co-design, and we're incredibly proud that our co-design work has been recognised by the State Library of Western Australia (SLWA) as best practice. Our CEO was commissioned to deliver a one-day workshop, held in Perth on 23 May 2024, on libraries and co-design practices for over 60 library managers and senior library staff across Western Australia. From developing programs to reviewing our collections, collaboration through co-design is at the heart of our services. Alongside prioritising community feedback and involvement in the development of programs and services, over the past few years we have invested in providing professional development opportunities for staff to learn more about co-design. Branch managers and program coordinators attended Introduction to Co-Design sessions, and YPRL Co-Design Champions have been implemented to support projects and mentor staff.



'I was lucky enough to be part of the first staff intake for Co-design training. Through the process I have made invaluable community connections, especially in the youth area. YPRL is now providing programming that has been co-designed with youth community members.'

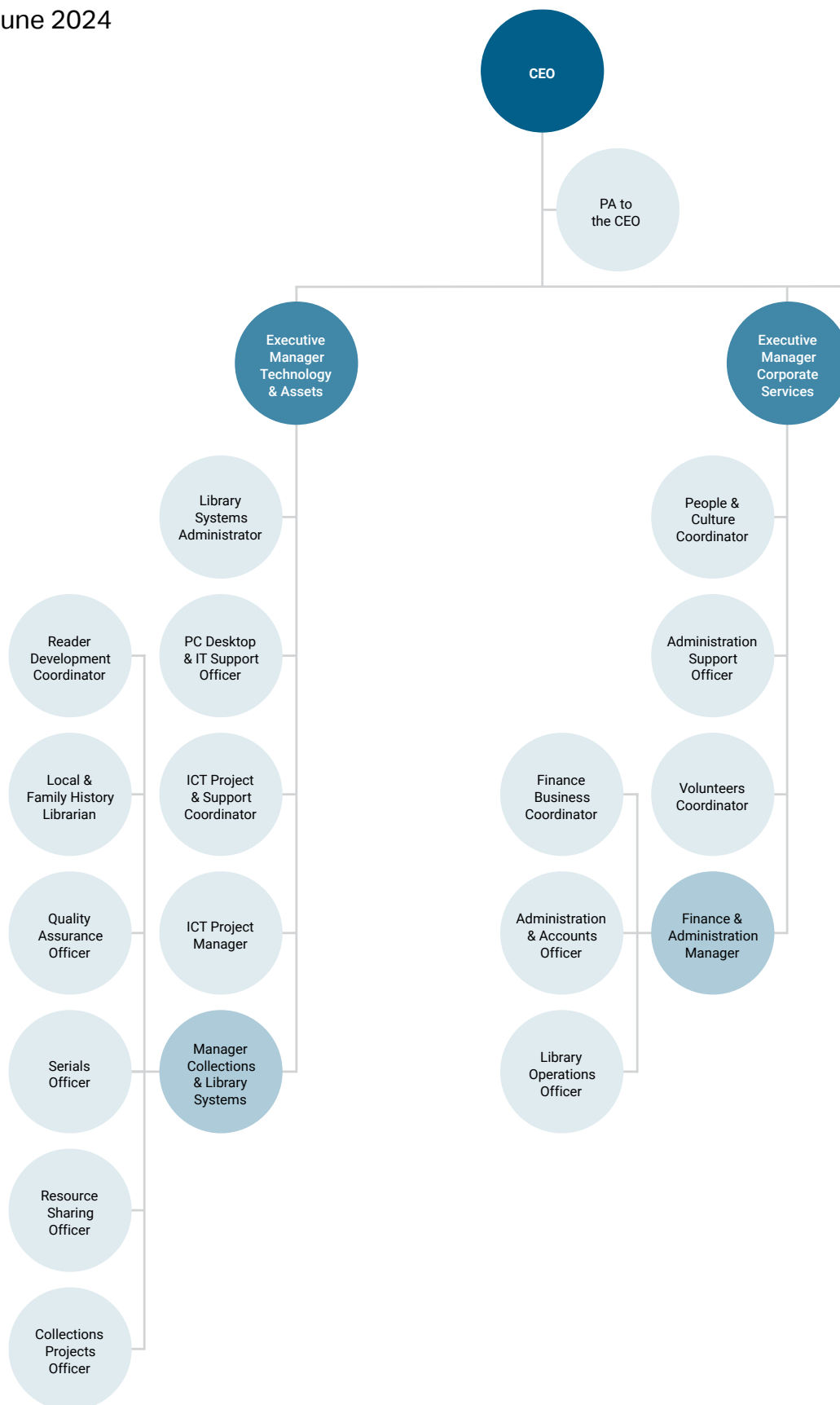
YPRL Staff Member

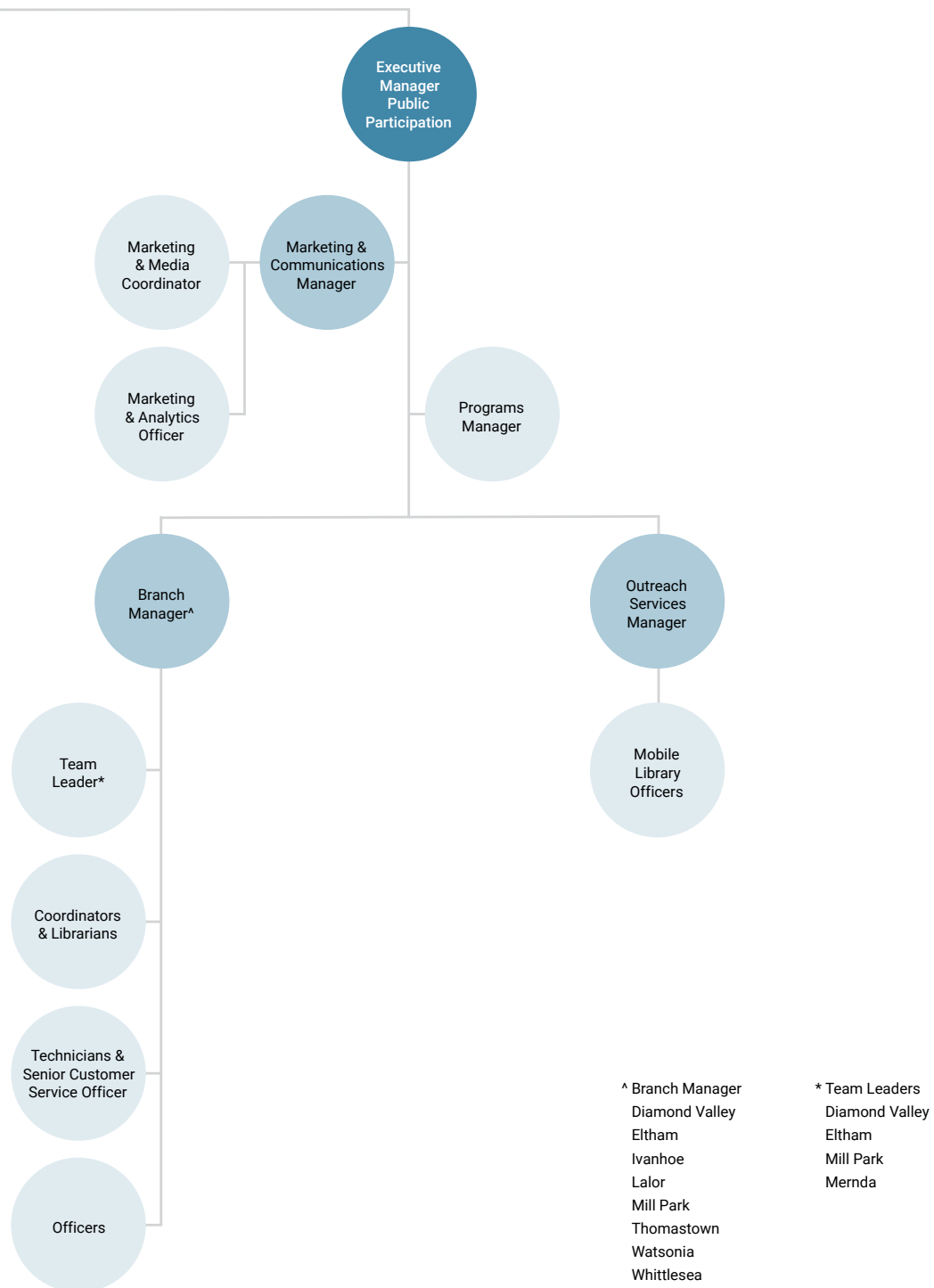


37,625 people logged in to read *The Age* online.

Organisation Chart

As at 30 June 2024





Information Privacy Act

The Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 is designed to protect the private information of individuals. The Corporation has a Privacy Policy available on the library website. No complaints were received during 2023–2024.

Freedom of Information

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* provides people with the opportunity to obtain information held by state and local government departments and authorities. The Act gives people the right to request documents relating to their personal affairs. YPRL did not receive any requests during 2023–2024.

Public Interest Disclosures

In accordance with the provisions of s. 58 of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012*, the Corporation has a procedure for dealing with disclosures made under the Act. The Executive Manager Corporate Services is the Corporation's Protected Disclosure Coordinator. YPRL has not received any disclosures directly nor has it received any referrals from the Ombudsman during 2023–2024.

**Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service
Annual Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

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Certification of Financial Statements

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

Luciano Lauronca

Luciano Lauronca
Principal Accounting Officer
Dated: 6 September 2024
South Morang

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of the Yarra Plenty Regional Library (YPRL) for the year ended 30 June 2024 and the financial position of YPRL as at that date.

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

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

Lydia Wilson

Lydia Wilson
Administrator for Council
Dated: 6 September 2024
South Morang

Cr Karen Egan

Karen Egan
Councillor
Dated: 6 September 2024
South Morang

Jane Cowell

Jane Cowell
Chief Executive Officer
Dated: 6 September 2024
South Morang

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board members of Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service (the library) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance sheet as at 30 June 2024 • comprehensive income statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • statement of cash flows for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policies • certification of the financial statements. <p>In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the library as at 30 June 2024 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>, the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the library in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's <i>APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Board members' responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Board members of the library are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>, the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014</i> and for such internal control as the Board members determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Board members are responsible for assessing the library's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report	<p>As required by the <i>Audit Act 1994</i>, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.</p> <p>As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. • obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the library's internal control • evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board members • conclude on the appropriateness of the Board members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the library's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the library to cease to continue as a going concern. • evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. <p>I communicate with the Board members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.</p>
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MELBOURNE
9 September 2024



Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

**Comprehensive Income Statement
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Income/Revenue			
Contributions - monetary	3.1	14,503,931	13,758,187
Grants - Operating	3.2	2,885,734	2,961,243
Grants - Capital	3.2	62,371	87,629
User fees and charges	3.3	214,659	230,026
Interest income	3.4	335,702	271,489
Other income	3.5	239,107	240,130
Total income / revenue		18,241,504	17,548,705
Expenses			
Employee costs	4.1	11,944,538	11,488,893
Materials and services	4.2	4,098,811	4,264,534
Depreciation	4.3	1,720,618	1,680,730
Depreciation – right of use assets	4.3	82,596	104,181
Utility charges	4.4	321,282	347,831
Finance costs - leases	4.5	11,035	10,908
Net loss on disposal/write-off of assets	4.6	-	188,813
Total expenses		18,178,880	18,085,889
Surplus /(deficit) for the year		62,624	(537,184)
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive Result		62,624	(537,184)

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

Balance Sheet
As at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	1,131,351	3,411,986
Trade & other receivables	5.1	107,874	88,959
Other financial assets	5.1	5,500,000	3,000,000
Other assets	5.2	160,492	42,110
Total current assets		6,899,717	6,543,055
Non-current assets			
Bookstock, plant and equipment	6.1	4,668,292	4,205,790
Right-of-use assets	5.7	495,579	578,175
Total non-current assets		5,163,871	4,783,965
Total assets		12,063,588	11,327,020
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5.3	1,507,406	671,682
Contract and other liabilities	5.3	-	62,371
Lease liabilities	5.7	81,881	84,076
Provisions	5.4	2,161,148	2,202,228
Total current liabilities		3,750,435	3,020,357
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	5.4	124,332	98,585
Lease liabilities	5.7	474,298	556,179
Total non-current liabilities		598,630	654,764
Total liabilities		4,349,065	3,675,121
Net assets		7,714,523	7,651,899
Equity			
Accumulated Surplus	9.4	6,834,301	6,277,394
Reserves	9.4	880,222	1,374,505
Total Equity		7,714,523	7,651,899

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

**Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

2024	Note	Total	Accumulated Surplus	Other Reserves
		\$	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of the financial year		7,651,899	6,277,394	1,374,505
Deficit for the year		62,624	62,624	-
Transfers to other reserves		-	494,283	(494,283)
Balance at end of the financial year	9.4	7,714,523	6,834,301	880,222

2023	Note	Total	Accumulated Surplus	Other Reserves
		\$	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of the financial year		8,189,083	6,814,578	1,374,505
Surplus for the year		(537,184)	(537,184)	-
Transfers to other reserves		-	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year	9.4	7,651,899	6,277,394	1,374,505

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

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$	2023 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Contributions - monetary		14,503,931	13,758,187
Grants - operating		2,885,734	2,961,243
Grants - capital		-	150,000
User fees and charges		214,659	230,026
Interest received		337,090	224,936
Other receipts		218,804	254,111
Employee costs		(11,543,210)	(11,435,054)
Materials and services		(3,373,580)	(3,603,019)
Net GST payment		(860,428)	(770,852)
Other payments		(285,362)	(313,650)
Net cash provided by operating activities	9.2	2,097,638	1,455,929
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for bookstock, plant and equipment		(1,783,162)	(2,295,740)
Payment for investments		(2,500,000)	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(4,283,162)	(2,295,740)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Interest paid – lease liability		(11,035)	(10,908)
Repayment of lease liabilities		(84,076)	(88,545)
Net cash used in financial activities		(95,111)	(99,453)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(2,280,635)	(939,264)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		3,411,986	4,351,250
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		1,131,351	3,411,986

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

**Statement of Capital Works
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Bookstock			
Bookstock	6.1	1,521,899	1,540,612
Total bookstock		1,521,899	1,540,612
Plant and equipment			
Plant and equipment	6.1	661,221	755,128
Total plant and equipment		661,221	755,128
Total capital works expenditure		2,183,120	2,295,740
Represented by:			
New		-	127,629
Renewal		2,183,120	2,168,111
Total capital works expenditure		2,183,120	2,295,740

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

Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Note 1 OVERVIEW

Introduction

The Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service (YPRL) was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 11 January 1996 and is a body corporate.

The YPRL's main office is located at Unit 6, 1 Danaher Drive, South Morang, VIC 3572.

Statement of compliance

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

YPRL is a not-for-profit entity and therefore applies the additional AUS paragraphs applicable to a not-for-profit entity under the Australian Accounting Standards.

Accounting policy information

Basis of Accounting

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

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

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

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

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

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

- the fair value of bookstock, and plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.1)
- the determination of depreciation for bookstock, and plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.1)
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.4)

**Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

- the determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether an arrangement is within the scope of *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* or *AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (refer to Note 3)
- the determination, in accordance with *AASB 16 Leases* of the lease term, the estimation of the discount rate when not implicit in the lease and whether an arrangement is in substance short-term or low value (refer to Note 5.7)
- other areas requiring judgements

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

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Income and expenses are recognised net of the amount of associated GST. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Note 2 Analysis of our results

2.1 Performance against budget

The performance against budget compares YPRL's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* requires explanation of any material variances. YPRL has adopted a materiality threshold of more than \$30,000 where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

These notes are prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989 (as per the transitional provisions of the Local Government Act 2020)*, and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

2.1.1 Income / Revenue and expenditure

	Budget 2023/2024 \$	Actual 2023/2024 \$	Variance \$	Reference
Income				
Contributions - monetary	14,503,931	14,503,931	-	
Grants - Operating	2,895,683	2,885,734	(9,949)	
Grants - Capital	150,000	62,371	(87,629)	(1)
User fees and charges	234,984	214,659	(20,325)	
Interest income	210,000	335,702	125,702	(2)
Other income	156,342	239,107	82,765	(3)
Total income / revenue	18,150,940	18,241,504	90,564	
Expenses				
Employee costs	11,670,829	11,944,538	(273,709)	(4)
Materials and services	4,111,125	4,098,811	12,314	
Depreciation	1,732,817	1,720,618	12,199	
Depreciation – right of use assets	82,597	82,596	1	
Utilities charges	392,738	321,282	71,456	(5)
Finance costs - leases	10,834	11,035	(201)	
Total expenses	18,000,940	18,178,880	(177,940)	
Surplus for the year	150,000	62,624	(87,376)	

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

(i) Explanation of material variations

- (1) The Living Library Infrastructure capital grant of \$150k has been fully recognised as income in both the current and previous financial years, \$62k and \$88k respectively. The new outreach vehicle was acquired in 2022/2023 and the fit-out was completed during 2023/2024.
- (2) The increment in interest income is a result of higher cash rates, which have benefited out term deposit investments, and the maximisation of the amount invested.
- (3) The favourable variance is due to the refund of super guarantee administration charges incorrectly calculated for the period 2014-2018 by the Australian Taxation Office, the WorkCover reimbursements, and the income from additional services provided by YPRL.
- (4) The unfavourable variance is mainly explained by changes in YPRL's organisation structure and in the Victorian WorkCover premium scheme.
- (5) The variance to budget can be attributed to reduced consumption of utilities and improved pricing agreement.

2.1.2 Capital Works

	Budget 2023/2024 \$	Actual 2023/2024 \$	Variance \$	Reference
Bookstock	1,646,233	1,521,899	124,334	(1)
Plant and equipment	1,205,000	661,221	543,779	(2)
Total capital works expenditure	2,851,233	2,183,120	668,113	

Represented by:

Renewal	2,851,233	2,183,120	668,113	(1,2)
Total capital works expenditure	2,851,233	2,183,120	668,113	

(i) Explanation of material variations

- (1) Favourable variance due to unavailability of physical book collection that met YPRL selection criteria.
- (2) The variance to budget can be attributed to the rescheduling of refurbishment works at the Thomastown branch to 2024/2025 and to the postponement of improvements to the mobile library trailer.

**Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

Note 2.2 Analysis of YPRL results by program

YPRL delivers its functions and activities through the following programs.

Administration and management

Administration and management provide efficient, effective, and proactive support services across the library service to enable the delivery of the library service vision and mission. The provision of these services includes finance services, digital information and technology, organisational development, procurement, strategy, and program delivery.

Collections

YPRL operates a regional library collection to take advantage of efficiencies in collection management, additional diversity of offering through enhanced collection size, and resource management due to enhanced buying power and economies of scale.

Branches

YPRL operates nine branches and the mobile library service across the three-member Councils. Branches are responsible for core service delivery including customer service and patron interactions, delivery of local programs, physical management, and local curation of collections.

2024	Income	Expenses	Surplus/(Deficit)	Grants (incl. in income)	Total assets
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Administration and Management	17,969,606	8,126,797	9,842,809	2,890,866	7,522,077
Collections	57,239	2,736,294	(2,679,055)	57,239	2,996,744
Branches	214,659	7,315,789	(7,101,130)	-	1,544,767
	18,241,504	18,178,880	62,624	2,948,105	12,063,588

2023	Income	Expenses	Surplus/(Deficit)	Grants (incl. in income)	Total assets
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Administration and Management	17,261,439	8,584,503	8,676,936	2,991,633	7,313,571
Collections	57,239	2,733,877	(2,676,638)	57,239	2,998,713
Branches	230,027	6,767,509	(6,537,482)	-	1,059,736
	17,548,705	18,085,889	(537,184)	3,048,872	11,327,020

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Note 3 Funding for the delivery of our services

3.1 Contributions - monetary

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Member Council's contributions	14,503,931	13,758,187
Total Contributions - monetary	14,503,931	13,758,187

The following Member Council contributions were received during the year.

Shire of Nillumbik	3,077,341	3,022,440
City of Banyule	5,662,325	5,550,711
City of Whittlesea	5,764,265	5,185,036
Total contributions of Member Councils	14,503,931	13,758,187

Monetary contributions are recognised as revenue when YPRL obtains control over the contributed asset.

Aggregate contributions of Member Councils

The percentage aggregate contributions of Member Councils making up the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service is as follows:

	2024	2023
	%	%
Shire of Nillumbik	21.37	21.38
City of Banyule	40.72	40.81
City of Whittlesea	37.91	37.81
Total aggregate contribution of Member Councils	100.00	100.00

3.2 Grants

Grants were received in respect of the following:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Summary of Grants		
State Government grants	2,919,779	3,028,872
Other grants	28,325	20,000
Total grants received	2,948,104	3,048,872

**Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

(a) Operating Grants

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Recurrent Grants		
Recurrent - State Government		
Regional Library Service grant (i)	2,782,788	2,782,788
Premiers Reading grant	57,239	57,239
Total recurrent operating grants	2,840,027	2,840,027
(i) The Regional Library Service State Government grant was apportioned on the following basis:		
Shire of Nillumbik	465,684	465,684
City of Banyule	880,866	880,866
City of Whittlesea	1,436,238	1,436,238
Total Regional Library Service State Government grant	2,782,788	2,782,788
Non-recurrent Grants		
Non-recurrent – State Government		
Local History Homeland grant	14,882	-
Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds grant	2,500	10,000
Senior Digital Literacy grant	-	91,216
No-recurrent – Other grants		
Middle Years Holiday Programs grant	27,000	-
Reconciliation grant	825	-
16 Days of Activisim grant	500	-
Watsonia Library After Dark grant	-	15,000
Indigenous Art project grant	-	5000
Total non-recurrent operating grants	45,707	121,216
Total operating grants	2,885,734	2,961,243

**Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

(b) Capital Grants

Non-recurrent – State Government

Living Library Infrastructure grant	62,371	87,629
Total non-recurrent capital grants	62,371	87,629
Total capital grants	62,371	87,629

(c) Recognition of grant income

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

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

Where the contract is not enforceable and/or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, YPRL applies *AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profit Entities*.

Grant revenue with sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised over time as the performance obligations specified in the underlying agreement are met. Where performance obligations are not sufficiently specific, grants are recognised on the earlier of receipt or when an unconditional right to receipt has been established. Grants relating to capital projects are generally recognised progressively as the capital project is completed. The following table provides a summary of the accounting framework under which grants are recognised.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Income recognised under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities		
General purpose	2,885,734	2,961,243
Other specific purpose grants	62,371	87,629
Revenue recognised under AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers		
Specific purpose grants	-	-
	2,948,105	3,048,872

(d) Unspent grants received on condition that they be spent in a specific manner

Capital

Balance at start of year	62,371	-
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	-	62,371
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	62,371	-
Balance at year end	-	62,371

Unspent grants are determined and disclosed on a cash basis.

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

3.3 User fees and charges

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Community room venue hire	109,665	111,596
Photocopy fees	84,019	89,185
Other fees and charges	20,975	29,245
Total other revenue	214,659	230,026

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

3.4 Interest income

Interest on investments	335,702	271,489
Total interest income	335,702	271,489

Interest income is recognised as they are earned.

3.5 Other revenue

Sale of library services	166,283	153,185
Workcover reimbursements	21,471	70,257
Other revenue	51,353	16,688
Total other revenue	239,107	240,130

Other revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is recognised when YPRL gains control over the right to receive the income.

**Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

Note 4 The cost of delivering services

4.1 (a) Employee costs

The following items are included as employee costs:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Salaries	9,618,371	9,336,601
Superannuation	1,126,774	1,012,932
Workcover	92,173	56,620
Annual leave/Long service leave	1,107,220	1,082,740
Total Employee Costs	11,944,538	11,488,893

4.1 (b) Superannuation contributions

Contributions by YPRL to the following superannuation plans are detailed below:

Scheme	Type of scheme		
Vision Super	Defined benefit	61,938	66,810
Vision Super (Employer) %	Accumulation	479,029	486,531
Australian Super (Employer) %	Accumulation	117,918	93,501
REST Super (Employer) %	Accumulation	68,529	56,334
Uni Super (Employer) %	Accumulation	54,637	50,898
Hostplus (Employer) %	Accumulation	51,057	38,049
VIC Super (Employer) %	Accumulation	32,418	21,417
Aware Super (Employer) %	Accumulation	28,351	16,884
Catholic Super (Employer) %	Accumulation	27,720	18,783
CARE Super (Employer) %	Accumulation	27,277	16,086
Q Super (Employer) %	Accumulation	21,934	20,482
Australian Ethical Sup (Employer) %	Accumulation	18,149	15,646
SKR Superannuation Fun (Employer) %	Accumulation	15,839	14,668
Other funds	Accumulation	121,978	96,843
Total employer contributions		1,126,774	1,012,932

Defined benefit fund:

Employer contributions payable at the reporting date (Vision Super)	-	-
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Accumulation funds:

Employer contributions payable at the reporting date	72,272	-
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Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

4.2 Materials and services

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Audit Fees		
- Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements	18,700	17,500
- Auditors' remuneration - Internal Audit	16,500	9,000
Bank charges	18,616	13,523
Building maintenance costs	99,579	137,238
Cleaning costs	538,543	507,144
Collection content & processing costs	1,214,395	1,193,131
Consultancy costs	113,455	268,083
Courier and postage costs	155,117	159,047
Equipment and motor vehicle maintenance costs	548,499	610,863
Initiatives costs	50,117	128,031
Insurances	66,766	55,862
IT service, system communication, and license costs	669,978	573,322
Other material and service costs	72,347	90,309
Staff Training and OHS	206,683	172,298
Printing Stationary & external communications	132,363	150,671
Program costs	177,153	178,512
Total material and services	4,098,811	4,264,534

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

4.3 Depreciation expense

Depreciation expense for the year was charged in respect of:

Plant and equipment	196,750	140,118
Bookstock	1,523,868	1,540,612
Total Bookstock and plant and equipment depreciation expense	1,720,618	1,680,730
Right-of-use assets	82,596	104,181
Total Right-of-use depreciation expense	82,596	104,181

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

4.4 Utility charges

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Gas, electricity, and water	321,282	347,831
Total utility charges	321,282	347,831

4.5 Finance costs – Leases

Interest – lease liabilities	11,035	10,908
Total finance costs - leases	11,035	10,908

4.6 Net loss on disposal/write-off of assets

Written down value of assets disposed/written-off	-	188,813
Total net loss on disposal of assets	-	188,813

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Note 5 Investing in and financing our operations

5.1 Financial assets

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
(a) Cash and cash equivalent assets		
Cash on hand and at bank	131,351	411,986
Term deposits	1,000,000	3,000,000
Total cash and cash equivalent assets	1,131,351	3,411,986

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of 90 days or less.

(b) Other financial assets		
Term deposits - current	5,500,000	3,000,000
Total other financial assets	5,500,000	3,000,000
Total financial assets	6,631,351	6,411,986

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

Other financial assets include term deposits and those with original maturity dates over 90 days to 365 days are classified as current.

YPRL's cash and cash equivalents are subject to several external restrictions that limit amounts available for discretionary use. These include:

Trust deposits (refer Note 5.3)	4,077	4,350
Total restricted funds	4,077	4,350
Total unrestricted cash and cash equivalents	1,127,274	3,407,636

Intended allocations

Although not externally restricted, the following amounts have been allocated for specific purposes by YPRL:

Provisions (refer Note 5.4)	2,285,481	2,300,813
Asset replacement reserve (refer Note 9.4)	880,222	1,374,505
	3,165,703	3,675,318

Users of the financial report should refer to Notes 5.6 and 5.7 for details of existing commitments.

**Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

(c) Trade and other receivables

Non-statutory receivable	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Community organisations and financial organisations	107,874	88,959
Provision for doubtful debts	-	-
Total trade and other receivables	107,874	88,959

Short term receivables are carried at invoice amount. An allowance for expected credit losses is recognised based on past experience and other objective evidence of expected losses. Long term receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

(d) Ageing of receivables

The ageing of collectable trade and other receivables per provision matrix:

Current (not yet due)	107,874	88,959
Past due by up to 30 days	-	-
Past due between 31 and 180 days	-	-
Past due between 181 and 365 days	-	-
Past due by more than 1 year	-	-
Total trade and other receivables	107,874	88,959

5.2 Other assets

Prepayments	160,492	42,110
Total other assets	160,492	42,110

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

5.3 Payables, trust deposits, and contract and other liabilities

(a) Trade and other payables

Current	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<i>Non-statutory payables</i>		
Payables and accruals	1,339,751	463,964
Trust deposits	4,077	4,350
<i>Statutory payables</i>		
Net GST	163,578	203,368
Total trade and other payables	1,507,406	671,682

(b) Contract and other liabilities

Current		
Grants received in advance - capital	-	62,371
Total current unearned income/revenue	-	62,371

5.4 Provisions

2024	Annual Leave	Long Service Leave	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of financial year	904,786	1,396,027	2,300,813
Additional provisions	872,162	238,939	1,111,101
Amounts used	(917,549)	(208,885)	(1,126,434)
Balance at the end of the financial year	859,399	1,426,081	2,285,480

2023	Annual Leave	Long Service Leave	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of financial year	894,847	1,455,872	2,350,719
Additional provisions	861,488	240,203	1,101,691
Amounts used	(851,549)	(300,048)	(1,151,597)
Balance at the end of the financial year	904,786	1,396,027	2,300,813

**Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months		
Annual leave	687,520	736,962
Long service leave	260,350	380,991
	947,870	1,117,953
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
Annual leave	171,879	167,825
Long service leave	1,041,399	916,450
	1,213,278	1,084,275
Total current employee provisions	2,161,148	2,202,228
Non-current		
Long service leave	124,332	98,585
Total non-current employee provisions	124,332	98,585
Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:		
Current	2,161,148	2,202,228
Non-current	124,332	98,585
Total aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions	2,285,480	2,300,813

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

Annual leave

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

- nominal value if YPRL expects to wholly settle the liability within 12 months
- present value if YPRL does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

Long service leave

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

Key assumptions:

- discount rate (4.348%) as per Department of Treasury and Finance Victoria 30/06/2024
- inflation rate (4.450%) as per Department of Treasury and Finance Victoria 30/06/2024

Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

5.5 Financing Facilities

YPRL does not have any credit standby arrangements, unused loan, or credit card facilities.

5.6 Commitments

YPRL has entered into the following commitments. Commitments are not recognised in the Balance Sheet. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value and presented inclusive of the GST payable.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Cleaning Contract Expenditure	205,050	295,750
	205,050	295,750

The periods expected to elapse from the reporting date to the expected date of payments are as follows:

Not later than one year	205,050	295,750
Greater than one year but not later than five years	-	-
	205,050	295,750

5.7 Leases

YPRL has applied AASB 16 Leases. At inception of a contract, YPRL assesses whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period in exchange for consideration. To identify whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset, it is necessary to assess whether:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

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

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

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

Right-of-use Assets	Buildings	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2023	578,175	578,175
Additions	-	-
Depreciation charge	82,596	82,596
Balance at 30 June 2024	495,579	495,579

Lease Liabilities	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Maturity analysis – undiscounted cash flows		
Less than one year	90,649	95,112
One to five years	495,446	379,243
More than five years	-	206,852
Total undiscounted lease liabilities at 30 June:	586,095	681,207

Lease liabilities included in Balance Sheet 30 June:

Current	81,881	84,076
Non-current	474,298	556,179
Total lease liabilities	556,179	640,255

Short-term and low value leases

YPRL has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases which have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets (individual assets worth less than \$10,000), including ICT equipment. YPRL recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Expense relating to:

Leases of low value assets	288,730	329,822
Total short-term and low value leases	288,730	329,822

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Non-cancellable lease commitments – Short-term and low-value leases

Commitments for minimum lease payments for short-term and low-value leases are payable as follows:

Payable:	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Within one year	68,188	90,140
Later than one year but not later than five years	14,118	85,782
Total non-cancellable lease commitments – short-term and low-value leases	82,306	175,922

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Note 6 Assets we manage

6.1 Bookstock, and plant and equipment

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of asset between the beginning and the end of the financial year.

2023/2024	Bookstock \$	Plant & Equip. \$	Total \$
At valuation 1 July 2023	7,571,386	3,899,884	11,471,270
Accumulated depreciation 1 July 2023	(4,572,673)	(2,692,807)	(7,265,480)
	2,998,713	1,207,077	4,205,790

Movements in carrying value

Acquisition of assets at cost	1,521,899	661,221	2,183,120
Cost value of assets disposed/written-off	(1,641,540)	-	(1,641,540)
	(119,641)	661,221	541,580

Movements in accumulated depreciation

Depreciation expense	(1,523,868)	(196,750)	(1,720,618)
Accumulated depreciation of assets disposed/written-off	1,641,540	-	1,641,540
	117,672	(196,750)	(79,078)

At valuation 30 June 2024	7,451,745	4,561,105	12,012,850
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	(4,455,001)	(2,889,557)	(7,344,558)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2024	2,996,744	1,671,548	4,668,292

2022/2023	Bookstock \$	Plant & Equip. \$	Total \$
At valuation 1 July 2022	7,623,852	3,551,772	11,175,624
Accumulated depreciation 1 July 2022	(4,610,994)	(2,785,037)	(7,396,031)
	3,012,858	766,735	3,779,593

Movements in carrying value

Acquisition of assets at cost	1,540,612	755,128	2,295,740
Cost value of assets disposed	(1,593,079)	(407,016)	(2,000,095)
	(52,467)	348,112	295,645

Movements in accumulated depreciation

Depreciation expense	(1,554,757)	(125,973)	(1,680,730)
Accumulated depreciation of assets disposed	1,593,079	218,203	1,811,282
	38,322	92,230	130,552

At valuation 30 June 2023	7,571,386	3,899,884	11,471,270
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2023	(4,572,673)	(2,692,807)	(7,265,480)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2023	2,998,713	1,207,077	4,205,790

Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

6.2 Recognition and measurement of bookstock, and plant and equipment

Acquisition

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

In accordance with YPRL's policy, the threshold limits detailed in Note 6.3 have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year.

6.3 Depreciation

Collection assets and plant and equipment having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to YPRL in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of useful lives within each major asset classes are reassessed annually. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and residual values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component. Straight line depreciation is charged based on the useful life for each asset.

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

	Depreciation Periods	Threshold Limits
Plant & equipment	3 to 30 years	\$1,000
Bookstock collection	3 to 5 years	\$0
Leasehold improvements	Various	\$0
Art works	None	\$0

Repairs and maintenance

Routine maintenance, repair costs, and minor renewal costs are expensed as incurred. Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

6.4 Impairment of Assets

At each reporting date, YPRL reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that these assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the assets carrying value. Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the comprehensive income statement, unless the asset is carried at the revalued amount in which case, the impairment loss is recognised directly against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset.

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Note 7 People and relationships

7.1 YPRL and key management remuneration

(a) Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel (KMP) are those people with the authority and responsibility for planning, directing, and controlling the activities of YPRL. The Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Managers are deemed KMP.

Details of persons holding the position of key management personnel, at any time during the year are:

Board Members	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Karen Egan (Nillumbik Shire Council)	1	1
Alison Champion (Banyule City Council)	1	1
Rick Garotti (Banyule City Council)	1	1
Lydia Wilson (City of Whittlesea)	1	1
Agata Chmielewski (City of Whittlesea)	1	1
Peter Perkins (Nillumbik Shire Council) – Appointed 29 November 2023	1	-
Natalie Duffy (Nillumbik Shire Council) – Resigned 29 November 2023	1	1
Kate McCaughey (City of Whittlesea) – Resigned 3 February 2023	-	1
Total Board Members	7	7
Council Delegates		
Corrienne Nichols	1	1
Kath Brackett – Resigned 15 March 2024	1	1
Joseph Tabacco – Appointed 20 May 2024	1	-
Anthony Traill	1	1
Total Council Delegates	4	3
Executive Management Personnel		
Chief Executive Officer – Jane Cowell	1	1
Executive Manager – Corporate Services – Kate Karrasch	1	1
Executive Manager – Corporate Services – Robert Green (Resigned June 2024)	1	1
Executive Manager - Public Participation - Robyn Ellard	1	1
Executive Manager – Technology & Assets – Sajeeva Tennekoon	1	1
Total Executive Management Personnel	5	5
Total Key Management Personnel	16	15

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

(b) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Remuneration comprises employee benefits including all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by YPRL, or on behalf of the YPRL, in exchange for services rendered. Remuneration of Key Management Personnel and Other senior staff is disclosed in the following categories.

Short-term employee benefits include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

Other long-term employee benefits include long service leave, other long service benefits or deferred compensation.

Post-employment benefits include pensions, and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment has ceased.

Termination benefits include termination of employment payments, such as severance packages.

Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits	822,096	731,583
Other long-term employee benefits	17,248	29,490
Post-employment benefits	82,549	68,947
Termination benefits	-	-
Total	921,893	830,020

The numbers of key management personnel whose total remuneration from the YPRL, fall within the following bands:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
NIL	11	10
\$60,001 – \$69,999	-	1
\$120,000 – \$129,999	-	-
\$150,000 - \$159,999	1	-
\$160,000 – \$169,999	-	1
\$170,000 – \$179,999	1	2
\$180,000 – \$189,999	2	-
\$230,000 – \$239,999	1	1
	16	15

(c) Remuneration of other senior staff

Other senior staff are officers of YPRL, other than Key Management Personnel, whose total remuneration exceeds \$170,000 (2022-23: \$160,000) and who report directly to a member of the KMP.

At YPRL, there were no other senior staff who met the above criteria for the financial year 2023/2024.

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

(d) Transactions with related parties

During the period YPRL entered into the following transactions (Excl GST) with related parties.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Expenditure		
Fuel, MV Repairs, Training & Other paid to City of Whittlesea	20,197	20,080
Branch utilities (Ivanhoe, Rosanna, Watsonia) paid to Banyule City Council	87,131	111,931
Vehicle Running Cost & Other paid to Banyule City Council	22,319	12,260
Eltham Electricity paid to Nillumbik Shire Council	53,225	57,629
Room hires paid to City of Whittlesea	9,195	10,777
Other Expenses paid to Nillumbik Shire Council	-	85
Total Related Party Expenditure	192,067	212,762

Revenue		
Council Library Contribution received from City of Whittlesea	5,764,265	5,185,036
Middle Years Grant	27,000	-
Lalor Community Room contribution received from City of Whittlesea	12,360	12,000
Lalor Toy Library contribution received from City of Whittlesea	5,413	5,400
Other monies received from City of Whittlesea	3,800	1,973
Council Library Contribution received from Banyule City Council	5,662,325	5,550,711
Ivanhoe cleaning cost reimbursement received from Banyule City Council	112,572	99,358
Watsonia Library After Dark contribution received from Banyule City Council	-	15,000
Other monies received from Banyule City Council	2,822	2,931
Council Library Contribution received from Nillumbik Shire Council	3,077,341	3,022,440
Diamond Valley Indigenous Art project Grant received from Nillumbik Shire Council	-	5,000
Other monies received from Nillumbik Shire Council	1,325	6,268
Total Related Party Revenue	14,669,223	13,906,117

(e) Outstanding balances with related parties

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Monies owed to Banyule City Council	61,257	621
Monies owed by Banyule City Council	26,721	19,884
Monies owed to City of Whittlesea	1,551	660
Monies owed by City of Whittlesea	517	500

(f) Loans to/from related parties

There are no outstanding loans to/from related parties.

(g) Commitments to/from related parties

There are no outstanding commitments to/from related parties.

Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Note 8 Managing uncertainties

8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities

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

(a) Contingent assets

Contingent assets are possible assets that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of YPRL.

As at 30 June 2024, YPRL is not aware of any contingent assets.

(b) Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:

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

As at 30 June 2024, YPRL is are not aware of any contingent liabilities.

(c) Superannuation

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

(d) Liability Mutual Insurance

YPRL is a participant of the MAV Liability Mutual Insurance (LMI) Scheme. The LMI scheme provides public liability and professional indemnity insurance cover. The LMI scheme states that each participant will remain liable to make further contributions to the scheme in respect of any insurance year in which it was a participant to the extent of its participant's share of any shortfall in the provision set aside in respect of that insurance year, and such liability will continue whether or not the participant remains a participant in future insurance years.

8.2 Financial instruments

(a) Objectives and policies

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

(b) Market risk

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

Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

(c) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. YPRL does not hold any interest-bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value, and therefore has no exposure to fair value interest rate risk. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. YPRL has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits that are at floating rates.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the *Local Government Act 1989 (as per the transitional provisions of the Local Government Act 2020)*.

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

Interest rate movements have not been sufficiently significant during the year to have an impact on YPRL's year end result.

(d) Credit risk

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

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

(e) Liquidity risk

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

To help reduce these risks, YPRL:

- have a liquidity portfolio structure that requires surplus funds to be invested within various bands of liquid instruments; and
- monitor budget to actual performance on a regular basis.

With the exception of borrowings, all financial liabilities are expected to be settled within normal terms of trade.

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

(f) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

Taking into account past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, YPRL believes the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months:

- A shift of up to + 2% to -0% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 4.35%.

These movements will not have a material impact on the valuation of YPRL's financial assets and liabilities, nor will they have a material impact on the results of YPRL's operations.

8.3 Fair value hierarchy

YPRL financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

YPRL measures certain assets and liabilities at fair value where required or permitted by Australian Accounting Standards. AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*, aims to improve consistency and reduce complexity by providing a definition of fair value and a single source of fair value measurement and disclosure requirements for use across Australian Accounting Standards.

8.4 Events occurring after balance date

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

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Note 9 Other matters

Note 9.1 Relevant financial ratios

	2024	2023
Working capital ratio assess YPRL's ability to meet current commitments		
Current assets/Current liabilities	1.84	2.17
Capital replacement ratio assess YPRL's expenditure against depreciation		
Capital spend/Depreciation	1.27	1.37

9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<i>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</i>	62,624	(537,184)
Depreciation/amortisation	1,803,214	1,784,911
(Profit)/Loss on disposal/written-off of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	-	188,813
Interest expense on financing activities	11,035	10,908
<i>Change in assets and liabilities:</i>		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(18,915)	(32,572)
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	(118,382)	4,491
Increase/(decrease) in unearned income /revenue	(62,371)	62,371
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	435,766	24,098
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(15,333)	(49,906)
Net cash provided by operating activities	2,097,638	1,455,929

9.3 Superannuation

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

Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation category, Vision MySuper/Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2024, this was 11.0% as required under Superannuation Guarantee (SG) legislation (2023: 10.5%)).

Defined Benefit

YPRL does not use defined benefit accounting for its defined benefit obligations under the Fund's Defined Benefit category. This is because the Fund's Defined Benefit category is a pooled multi-employer sponsored plan. There is no proportional split of the defined benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of [Employer name] in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Fund Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB 119.

Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Funding arrangements

YPRL makes employer contributions to the Defined Benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund Actuary.

A triennial actuarial investigation for the Defined Benefit category as at 30 June 2023 was conducted and completed by 31 December 2023. The vested benefit index (VBI) of the Defined Benefit category as at 30 June 2023 was 104.1%. YPRL was notified of the 30 June 2023 VBI during August 2023.

The financial assumptions used to calculate the 30 June 2023 VBI were:

Net investment returns 5.7% pa

Salary information 3.5% pa

Price inflation (CPI) 2.8% pa

The VBI is used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the 30 June 2023 actuarial investigation determined the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

Employer contributions

(a) Regular contributions

On the basis of the results of the 2023 triennial actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund Actuary, YPRL makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2024, this rate was 11.0% of members' salaries (10.5% in 2022/23). This rate is expected to increase in line with any increases in the SG contribution rate and was reviewed as part of the 30 June 2023 triennial valuation.

In addition, [Employer name] reimburses the Fund to cover the excess of the benefits paid as a consequence of retrenchment above the funded resignation or retirement benefit.

(b) Funding calls

If the Defined Benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at an actuarial investigation or the Defined Benefit category's VBI is below its shortfall limit at any time other than the date of the actuarial investigation, the Defined Benefit category has a shortfall for the purposes of SPS 160 and the Fund is required to put a plan in place so that the shortfall is fully funded within three years of the shortfall occurring. The Fund monitors its VBI on a quarterly basis and the Fund has set its shortfall limit at 98% from 26 July 2024 (previously 97%).

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including YPRL) are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall.

Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's Defined Benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound up.

If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers

In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

The 2023 triennial actuarial investigation surplus amounts

An actuarial investigation is conducted annually for the Defined Benefit category of which YPRL is a contributing employer. Generally, a full actuarial investigation is conducted every three years and interim actuarial investigations are conducted for each intervening year. A full investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2023.

The Fund's actuarial investigation identified the following for the Defined Benefit category of which YPRL is a contributing employer:

	2023 (Triennial)	2022 (Interim)
	\$m	\$m
A VBI surplus	\$84.7	\$44.6
A total service liability surplus	\$123.6	\$105.8
A discounted accrued benefits surplus	\$141.9	\$111.9

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2023.

The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses as at 30 June 2023.

The discounted accrued benefit surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category exceeds the value of benefits payable in the future but accrued in respect of service to 30 June 2023.

The 2024 interim actuarial investigation

An interim actuarial investigation is being conducted for the Fund's position as at 30 June 2024 as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. It is anticipated that this actuarial investigation will be completed by October 2024.

The VBI of the Defined Benefit category was 105.4% as at 30 June 2024. The financial assumptions used to calculate the 30 June 2024 VBI were:

Net investment return	5.7% pa
Salary inflation	3.50% pa
Price inflation	2.7% pa

YPRL was notified of the 30 June 2024 VBI during August 2024. Because the VBI was above 100%, the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position at 30 June 2024 and it is expected that the actuarial investigation will recommend that no change will be necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

The 2020 triennial investigation

The last triennial actuarial investigation conducted prior to 30 June 2023 was at 30 June 2020. This actuarial investigation was completed by 31 December 2020. The financial assumptions for the purposes of that investigation was:

	2020 Triennial investigation	2023 Triennial investigation
Net investment return	5.6% pa	5.7% pa
Salary inflation	2.50% pa for two years and 275% pa thereafter	3.50% pa
Price inflation	2.0% pa	2.7% pa

Superannuation contributions

Contributions by YPRL (excluding any unfunded liability payments) to the above superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2024 are detailed below:

Scheme	Type of Scheme	Rate	2024 \$	2023 \$
Vision Super	Defined Benefit	2024 11.0% 2023 10.5%	61,938	66,810
Super funds	Accumulation Fund	2024 11.0% 2023 10.5%	1,064,836	946,122

There were \$72,272 contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2024.

The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2025 is \$66,100.

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

9.4 Accumulated surplus

	Balance at Beginning of Period \$	Increment/ (Decrement) \$	Balance at End of Period \$
Members Contributions (i)	3,770,080	-	3,770,080
Surplus from previous years	2,507,314	556,907	3,064,221
Asset replacement reserve (ii)	1,374,505	(494,283)	880,222
Total Contributions	7,651,899	62,624	7,714,523

(i) This represents the value of the initial contribution of net assets made by the Member Councils when it was established in 1996.

(ii) Reserve established for addressing renewal and replacement of capital assets.

Note 10 Change in accounting policy

There have been no changes to accounting policies in the 2023-24 year.

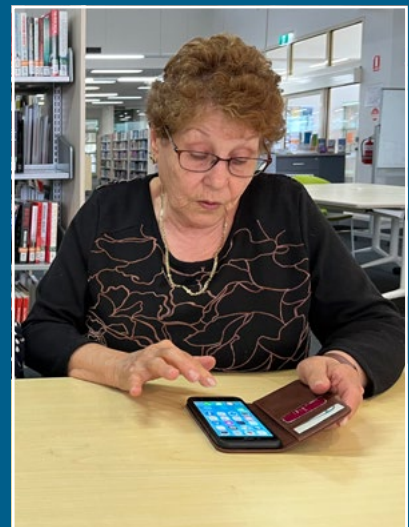
YPRL highlights



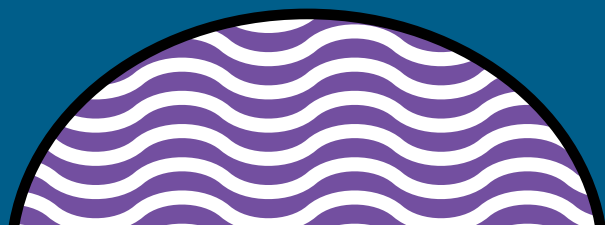
**The Deadly
Collection**



**Bringing the
Library Closer
to You**



**Building Seniors'
Digital Literacy
Confidence**



The Deadly Collection

Coralie Kouvelas



Yarra Plenty Regional Library (YPRL) made a commitment to embed First Nations history and culture within our library spaces and programs following co-design work in mid-2022. This resulted in First Nations cultural experiences becoming a feature in all School Holiday Programs to increase meaningful engagement and learning.

Consultation and co-design with First Nations communities continued and YPRL identified the need to strengthen the visibility, knowledge, culture, and stories of First Nations People within our library collections and spaces. By yarning together and deep listening we explored how to support, learn and improve culture within our service.

If we wanted to encourage representation and inclusion, then the First Nations community needed to see, feel and hear their culture, country and stories within their local libraries. There was a call for stronger visibility and access to culture and stories within the collection.

In Aboriginal English, the word 'Deadly' has a similar meaning to the English words fantastic, wonderful or awesome. YPRL wanted Indigenous Australian stories, voices and illustrations to be discoverable, easily accessible and prominent. The Deadly Collection was born.

A deadly working group of staff (including First Nations staff) was created, and they started to identify collection items written, illustrated and produced by or including performances from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

YPRL sought the talents of local Wurundjeri artist Alex Kerr to design and develop the Deadly Collection branding. This features blue, white and orange circles to represent meeting places depicting those who visit the library, with Bunjil (eagle) the creator watching over us all while we conduct business on country. The curved path shows the cultural journey that the library and the community are all currently on and continue on as we share cultural knowledge through books. Lastly, we have the two Kangaroo footprints in the colours of both the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander flags, which represent both people and their connection to the stories in the collection.

Every Deadly Collection item then had a prominent label on the front cover and spine as a visual marker for browsing in branch and were catalogued to allow for ease when searching and reserving online. Customised shelving was installed in branches to best feature the collection and suppliers were instructed to purchase more deadly titles so that the collection may grow over time. Titles written, illustrated, directed by, or featuring First Nations creatives are added to our collection as a priority.

The Deadly Collection began with children's books and was officially launched on 4 August 2023, coinciding with National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day. This date holds historical significance as it has been used

to celebrate the birthdays of children who were victims of the Stolen Generations, many of whom do not know their exact birth dates. The launch event included First Nations Storytime sessions across all YPRL branches, a smoking ceremony, and a celebration at Ivanhoe Library & Cultural Hub.

The success of the Deadly Collection is evident in both quantitative and qualitative measures. The positive feedback from the local First Nations peoples and the co-design group, coupled with the high engagement levels at launch events and the substantial loan figures, are indicative of the value of the collection to all library members. There are 517 titles (2,803 items) in the Deadly Collection and these were loaned 10,390 times in the first six months since launching the collection.

The collection was soon expanded to include the adult collection and then Deadly Toys within our toy library collection. Moving forward, we are expanding the Deadly Collection, with a commitment to acquire more titles written, illustrated, or directed by First Nations creatives. We're also incorporating the 8 Aboriginal ways of cultural learning in our Toy and Learning Library. This ongoing development ensures that the library remains a vibrant and inclusive space that honours and celebrates the rich cultural heritage of Australia's First Nations peoples.

In June 2024, YPRL's Deadly Collection was awarded a Special Mention in the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and PressReader International Marketing Awards. This meant that YPRL's project was in the top 15 of 103 international submissions to the award.

YPRL's commitment to co-design has fundamentally transformed our approach to community engagement and service development. By fostering and building a culture of co-design, we are seeing more inclusive, relevant, and sustainable services and programs. Through activities like "Yes, and...", we continue to push the boundaries of creativity and collaboration. As we move forward, co-design will remain a cornerstone of our strategy, ensuring that we stay responsive to the evolving needs of the community.



'When mob see, hear, and feel our stories and culture we feel safe and welcomed, hearing our stories through songs, books, and toys brings such spirit and as a community we are all stronger'

Maddison 32



Bringing the Library Closer to You

Regine Miriklis



A mobile library service has been an important part of Yarra Plenty Regional Library since 1954. It has evolved over the years from a specially converted rear-engine Amsir bus carrying less than 3,000 items to the current Prime Mover with semi-trailer containing over 12,500 items to borrow. The growth in vehicle, items, visitation, loans and engagement is a testament to the pivotal role it plays in providing access to community members.

YPRL prioritises being responsive to the local community. In an effort to investigate the current needs of the community and how those needs may have changed post COVID-19, a review was undertaken last year in consultation with our member councils and community members. As a result, a new timetable was launched in February 2024 with plans to review every six months to allow for continual flexibility when responding to the needs of the community.

Recent changes show a clear commitment to expanding our reach. The introduction of the staffed Hubs has allowed for the addition of more stop locations to communities not previously served by YPRL. Two Diamond Creek stops were merged to offer four and a half hours of access to community and appeal to families after school and early evening while most other stops were standardised in length to two hours.

Recently commenced stops include Epping, Wollert Community Centre, Orchard Road Community Centre in Doreen and De Rossi Boulevard. The Mobile Library has experienced a 25% increase in visitation on last year and 53% increase in loans.

Furthermore, there has been an intentional focus placed on supporting communities serviced by the Mobile Library through the delivery of additional programming. Prioritising a tailored school holiday program and additional Storytimes have ensured a more complete library experience has reached a broader audience. These personalised services ensure visitors to the Mobile Library are connected and engaged.

The evolution of the Mobile Library service reflects YPRL's commitment to meeting the dynamic needs of the community. The expansion of stops and the introduction of programming underscore a strategic effort to enhance accessibility and engagement. The notable increases in visitation and loans affirm the positive impact of these changes, demonstrating that the Mobile Library continues to play a crucial role in fostering community connections and enriching the library experience for all.

'...Love the mobile library. Have been going there for about 17 years now. Great variety of books and wonderful staff. Everyone should visit the mobile library at one of its many locations.'

YPRL Member

'You guys do such a great job; we are so lucky to have such a personal friendly service.'

Warrandyte North Stop



Building Seniors' Digital Literacy Confidence

Nell O'Bryan and Annalisa Rizza



Building digital literacy confidence for seniors is critical to their health and wellbeing, empowers them to navigate an increasingly digital world, and enhances their independence and quality of life. It enables them to stay connected with family and friends, access essential services, and manage personal finances and healthcare online. Understanding digital tools also helps seniors protect themselves against cyber threats and scams. Additionally, digital literacy promotes lifelong learning, reducing feelings of isolation and fosters social inclusion. By bridging the digital divide, we ensure that seniors remain active, informed, and engaged members of the community.

In 2023, the State Government of Victoria funded the Digital Literacy for Seniors Program across Victorian Public Libraries. Yarra Plenty Regional Library (YPRL) utilised this funding to partner with local organisations to provide hands-on digital training for older community members. Through co-design and consultation sessions with older adults' groups and organisations, we identified their concerns and needs; these included basic internet support, using devices to connect with family and friends, online security, and banking, as well as accessing government

services. Barriers identified were lack of internet experience, ineffective previous classes, access to devices, and reluctance to use email services.

Partnering with 15 community organisations, the project delivered 45 class sessions in libraries and outreach settings and provided over 1,030 one-to-one Tech Help sessions. To support people with English as an additional language, in-language sessions were available in Chinese, Arabic, Macedonian, Somali, and Italian. The class sessions covered a range of topics, including Apple / Android device advice, scam awareness, iPad skills, and basic PC skills, as well as digital skills in Arabic and Macedonian. Over 23 weeks, Tech Help sessions were held regularly across YPRL branches, with 701 staff-led and 334 volunteer-led sessions. This amounted to over 500 combined staff and volunteer hours, showcasing the program's extensive outreach and support.

Consultation sessions highlighted a need for both an increase to the number of one-on-one tech help sessions, with a preference for more sessions led by other older adults, along with opportunities for social engagement. From this co-design approach YPRL has initiated a Seniors Digital Mentor program, engaging nine new digital mentor volunteers over 55, creating a sustainable model for supporting seniors' digital literacy.

Participant feedback was collected through pre- and post-session surveys, indicating significant improvements in confidence and satisfaction. The sessions were highly rated, with participants appreciating the facilitators' ability to address individual needs and the supportive learning environment.

Overall, the Digital Literacy for Seniors Program at YPRL successfully enhanced digital skills, confidence, and social connections among older adults, creating a sustainable model for ongoing support and learning. By taking a co-design approach we were able to tailor our approach to meet the specific needs of the senior community. Partnering with 15 community organisations increased our reach and ensured the successful delivery of the project.

Additionally, the program offered development opportunities for staff and volunteers, ensuring that the

knowledge and skills to support seniors' digital literacy are embedded within the organisation. This holistic approach not only improved individual competencies but also strengthened community ties and promoted lifelong learning. The success of the program demonstrates its potential as a sustainable model for ongoing digital literacy support and empowerment for older adults.

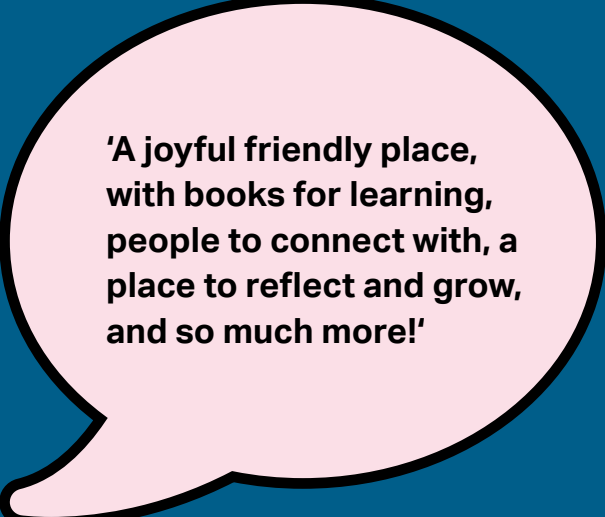


'I have been attending the classes over the last 2 months and I am so happy and confident. It has made such a big change. I am no longer afraid to use the computer, I have sent emails and find there is very little need to ask my daughter for help. I am even using Be Connected on my own to learn more and more. I will be sad when this program finishes, as there really is so much more to learn.'

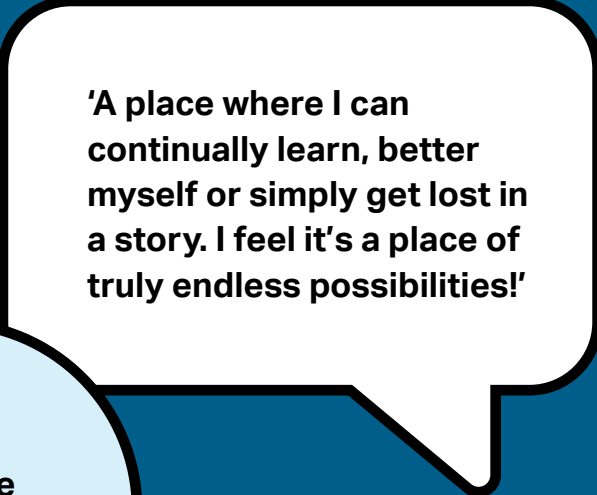
Arabic Digital Literacy Class,
Mill Park Library

'I have basic knowledge of computers, can email and buy online too. I attended a session here at the retirement village and it was great. My main concern was how to take photos with my phone and now I'm able to use it properly. Someone asked a question, and the library staff showed us how, then someone had a different problem and they showed us how. So, we all picked up tips and even learnt from each other.'

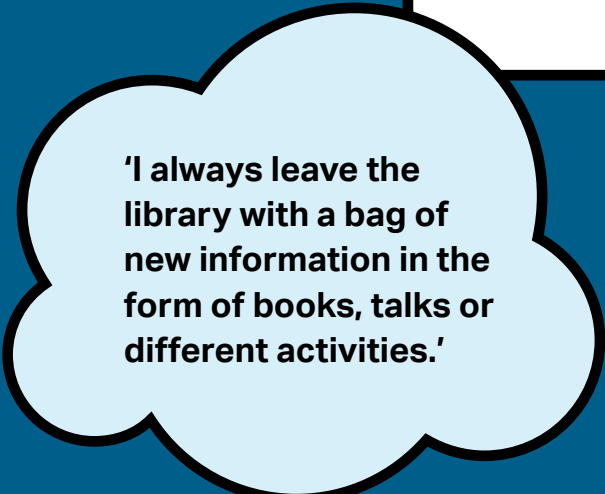
Aged Care Digital Literacy
Class, Mernda Retirement
Village




**'A joyful friendly place,
with books for learning,
people to connect with, a
place to reflect and grow,
and so much more!'**



**'A place where I can
continually learn, better
myself or simply get lost in
a story. I feel it's a place of
truly endless possibilities!'**



**'I always leave the
library with a bag of
new information in the
form of books, talks or
different activities.'**



**'The library is a fantastic
public service providing
a free and accessible
avenue to knowledge and
imagination.'**