

Annual Report 2024/25





"Your efforts to encourage a love of reading and make the library such an inviting space mean so much to our kids, and to us as parents. It's wonderful to see them enjoy books and feel so at home in your space."

Goldfields Library Corporation would like to acknowledge the support of our four member councils:



Goldfields Library Corporation acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land and waterways of our region. We recognise their living cultures and ongoing connection to Country, and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
(trading as Goldfields Library Corporation)

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Copies of this report are available at the Corporation's administration hub. It can also be accessed electronically at ncgrl.vic.gov.au



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Message from our Chair & CEO

Developing the Annual Report for Goldfields Libraries is always a pleasure. It's an opportunity to look back at the collective effort of all our libraries and the enthusiastic use and participation in library life by our patrons.

Our aims over the last year have focused not on books or buildings, but on what we can do for each person who walks into one of our libraries or browses our website. We have intentionally made people the focus of the service.

Doing this has given a green light to innovation in what we offer, with significant shifts in what we provide through our programs, collection, technology and spaces.

Private, soundproofed work and study pods are now in our spaces, the Read Now collection provides multiple popular titles for browsing at all branches, free Wi-Fi is business grade across all locations and programs such as exercise for older adults and StoryWalks continue to expand.

The library service has been part of a very extensive review this year, comparing service models to ensure the collective approach across four Councils remains the best value approach to delivering services. This work has highlighted that we remain one of the most efficient services, using every dollar contributed as effectively as possible to deliver collection, programs, technology and great customer service to our communities.

Our usage statistics this year are again, a credit to both a professional and enthusiastic team and an engaged community who value the service highly. Even though membership is only now required to borrow an item, the number of Goldfields Libraries members who have used their card in the last 12 months is the eighth highest of the 50 public library services in Victoria.

Attendance at programs, and indeed the number of programs run, places Goldfields Libraries in the top eight services as well.

The Annual Report is a wonderful opportunity to go behind these numbers and highlight just some of the very individual stories the library has played a part in.

Supporting isolated community members to find their people, welcoming new parents and their families into our spaces or running programs that celebrate the diversity of our region are all part of the daily operations at your local library.

We would also take this opportunity to thank all Board members for their support, enthusiasm and understanding of the importance of libraries to their communities.

We also extend our gratitude to our member Councils for their support and significant financial investment in public libraries- our four member Councils provide annual funding to ensure the levels of service in the region are some of the highest in the state, as well as providing facilities, which are improved on and invested in every year.

In closing, it is important to note that the achievements and impact of Goldfields Libraries reflect the value that is placed upon the service by the people who live in the region. Staff, patrons, member Councils, volunteers and other valued partners. We learn and work alongside each other to achieve something very special.

Together, we are the library.



Cr. Rosie Annear
Chair



Mark Hands
Chief Executive Officer

About the Corporation

The North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation, trading as Goldfields Library Corporation (GLC), was established in January 1996 to provide a collective library service to the City of Greater Bendigo (CoGB), Loddon Shire, Macedon Ranges Shire (MRSC), and Mount Alexander Shire (MASC).

The Corporation delivers services to communities located along the Calder Highway from Boort to Gisborne, covering an area of 12,979 km².

With around 100 staff, the service provides for a community of over 210,000 people and has a collection of more than 260,000 items. The service is coordinated from an administration hub located in the Bendigo Library.

Our Vision

Goldfields Libraries: Your potential realised.

Our Mission

- You belong as you are
- We start where you are
- A learning journey with you
- Let's make it fun

Our Values

- Inclusion and Safety
- Curiosity and Inquiry
- Collaboration and Cooperation

Our Priorities

Children and Young People – supporting childhood and adolescent development.

Lifelong Learning – encouraging learning at any age or stage.

Safety and Inclusion – a safe, welcoming and accessible service.

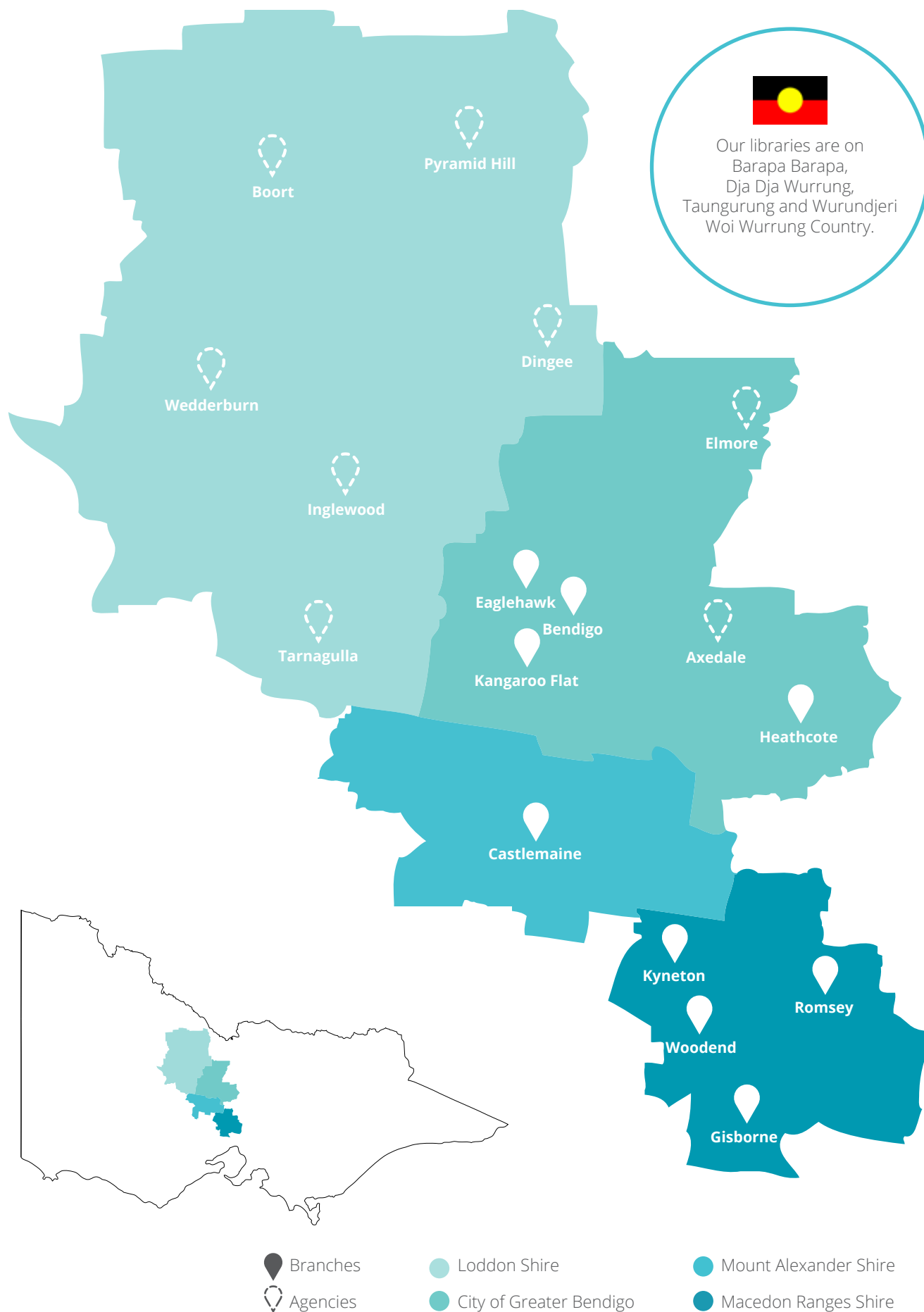
An Informed Community – an engaged, creative, informed community.

Connecting People – providing opportunity for connection both digital and physical.

Respecting First Nations Peoples and Cultures – celebrating our nation's first cultures.

A Learning Organisation – learning and growing with our community.

A Sustainable Future – playing our part in action against climate change.



Overview

The 2024-2025 financial year has been a year of consolidated activity levels across all our services as patrons continue to participate in programs, borrow items and utilise free Wi-Fi at very high levels.

Most usage levels and membership have remained relatively static throughout this year. The levels of use across most areas of operation for Goldfields Libraries remain within the top ten highest of any of the 50 public library services across the State.

Although membership continues to remain static, a recent statewide census of library use found that, on average, one in every six library users is not a library member. People are using the library space and services without necessarily signing up to borrow collection.

Goldfields Libraries has taken an approach of not requiring membership status to utilise most services. In fact, the only time a membership is absolutely required is when borrowing an item.

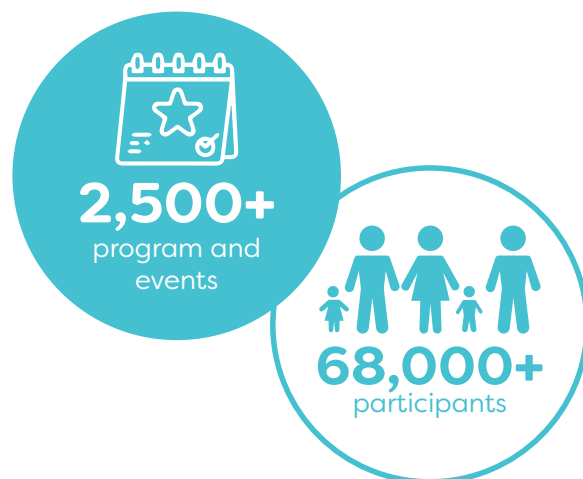
Logging in to free Wi-Fi, remote printing, attending a program or just coming in and reading a paper, magazine or hanging out with friends after school requires no membership card. It's been an intentional choice to remove any barrier to access most of the services available from the local library.

We know that this means that many users have no need for a card and utilise many of the free services without ever registering as a member.

Remote work and study: Moving further to support online activity

The use of physical collection, mainly the traditional book, has continued to remain relatively static over the past five years.

We continue to see an increase in use specifically linked to remote working and study, with many more people booking spaces to hold online meetings or using Wi-Fi to work or study remotely. We've seen the use of digital collection and Wi-Fi logins leap to record levels over the last two years (75-80,000 individual logins), and this year, we begun introducing private, sound proofed work and study pods that have instantly been heavily utilised.



Program attendance remains one of the highest in the state

With a record breaking 2,515 individual library events, we have engaged our patrons in library life by delivering a diverse range of innovative programs, with a real emphasis on welcoming our youngest library members through family and children's programs.

The past two years have consistently seen around 70,000 attendances at our programs, bouncing back from lows of 45,000 during COVID, even with the introduction of online events during this time.

Patrons continue to change the way our public libraries services are delivered, and GLC is committed to consulting with users to ensure we shift resources and investment to meet the changing needs of our community.

Our Communities



Although population growth has continued across the region, library membership has stayed relatively static. This reflects a state wide trend toward library patrons using services other than collection that do not require membership, including web-based services, programs, Wi-Fi and study and work spaces.

Goldfields Libraries has a focus on tailoring a very local response for our communities that can continue to shift as demographics and library usage shifts. It also helps us understand some of the challenges regions might face in terms of cost of living, remote work and study, and the value of services the library can provide.

	City of Greater Bendigo	Macedon Ranges Shire	Mount Alexander Shire	Loddon Shire
Population	129,491	56,073	21,041	7,747
Geographic area	3,000 km ²	1,747 km ²	1,529 km ²	6,694 km ²
Libraries	4 branches (Bendigo, Eaglehawk, Heathcote & Kangaroo Flat) 2 agencies (Axeedale & Elmore)	4 branches (Gisborne, Kyneton, Romsey & Woodend)	1 branch (Castlemaine)	6 agencies (Boort, Dingee, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill, Tarnagulla & Wedderburn)
Library members ^{1,2}	23%	26%	40%	13%
Key demographics	One of the largest urban areas in Victoria, with a growing population. Increasingly culturally, linguistically and ethnically diverse. Population ageing.	Some townships growing rapidly (especially in the south). Diverse set of communities (size and demographics). Commuter corridor.	Population growing. Ageing population. High levels of volunteering.	Consistent population. Diverse communities – issues of isolation but also high connection to community. High levels of volunteering.

¹ Library members are those who have joined in the last two years and/or used their card to access computers, eResources and collection items in the past two years.

² Library members as a percentage of population.

Branches



BENDIGO



CASTLEMAINE



EAGLEHAWK



GISBORNE



HEATHCOTE



KANGAROO FLAT



KYNETON



ROMSEY



WOODEND

Agencies



AXEDALE



BOORT



DINGEE



ELMORE



INGLEWOOD



PYRAMID HILL



TARNAGULLA



WEDDERBURN

Three Year Overview

Indicator	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	% change since last year	% change over last 3 years
Population - regional (ABS ERP)	202,704	205,417	214,352	4%	6%
Library opening hours weekly	344	344	344	0%	0%
Agency opening hours weekly	128.5	128.5	128.5	0%	0%
Library floor space* (m²)	6,176	6,176	6,176	0%	0%
Staff EFT	52.0	54.0	54.2	0%	4%
Collection items	223,199	241,833	261,605	8%	17%
Public access internet computers	138	138	131	-5%	-5%
Activity					
Visits	997,145	1,202,929	1,187,882	-1%	19%
Members	61,781	61,432	58,720	-4%	-5%
Collection utilisation	1,240,404	1,295,206	1,547,382	19%	25%
Computer bookings	36,672	38,289	39,460	3%	8%
Wireless internet access	64,746	78,925	74,386	-6%	15%
Program attendance	69,781	69,707	68,742	-1%	-1%
Number of programs	2,223	2,232	2,515	13%	13%
Expenditure					
Total operating expenditure	\$6,033,707	\$6,518,441	\$6,588,193	1%	9%
Total capital expenditure	\$684,334	\$650,647	\$938,765	44%	37%
Capital expenditure on collections	\$528,529	\$539,112	\$521,225	-3%	-1%
Total collections expenditure	\$935,010	\$932,240	\$999,746	7%	7%
Total expenditure (excludes depreciation)	\$6,718,041	\$7,169,088	7,526,958	5%	12%
Cost of Service					
Cost per loan	\$5.42	\$5.54	\$4.86	-12%	-10%
Cost per visit	\$6.74	\$5.96	\$6.34	6%	-6%
Activity per Capita					
Loans per capita	6.1	6.3	7.2	14%	18%
Visits per capita	4.9	5.9	5.5	-7%	12%
Activity per Staff Member					
Loans per EFT staff member	23,854	23,985	28,549	19%	20%
Visits per EFT staff member	19,176	22,276	21,917	-2%	14%
Activity per Opening Hour					
Loans per operating hour*	69	72	87	21%	26%
Visits per operating hour*	56	67	66	-1%	18%

*Excludes Agencies



Children and Young People

Supporting children, their curiosity and their joy of reading. We will support the brain development of babies, support parents as baby's first teacher and invest in best practice services for our youngest citizens. We will welcome and present opportunities for young people to have a voice as they move toward adulthood.

Early years literacy remains a key priority

Programs for the early years, parents, and carers continue to be a priority, attracting consistently high levels of attendance and engagement. Approximately 32 Storytime sessions are held each week during school terms, delivered across 15 sites by dedicated and skilled staff presenters. These sessions, along with our 1000 Books Before School program, and the gifting of board books to new parents, reinforce the value of reading and help foster a reading culture within the home.

Extending literacy beyond library walls

We expanded our outreach efforts to bring early literacy experiences directly to the community, attending several new locations across our region. Delivered in partnership with Maternal Child Health Services, local preschools and playgroups, these sessions use songs, rhymes and stories to build early language skills and foster a lifelong love of reading, while also introducing families to the broader services offered by the library.

"I love all the Storytimes and spaces here at the Bendigo Library. I do not have extra support at the moment and having a welcoming and inclusive space for my little ones and myself, I feel very grateful."





Engaging families with free school holiday programs

We delivered four school holiday programs across the year, focusing on school-aged children. These programs featured children's authors, illustrators and performers, creating vibrant and interactive experiences. They were supplemented by children's films and in-house craft workshops and STEM activities, including Beyond Curious activities delivered in partnership with the Bendigo Discovery Science and Technology Centre (BDSTC), and themed STEM kits from Museums Victoria.

A key feature of our Summertime Fun school holiday program was The Big Summer Read, which encouraged recreational reading over the summer holidays for children and young people, helping to maintain literacy momentum outside of school.



"I'm so glad I came along [to the supported playgroup session]... I wouldn't have been brave enough to come to a normal Baby Rhyme Time on my own. Quite a few mums have exchanged phone numbers to organise meeting up at the regular session."

Creating collections that reflect our community

This year, we established a dedicated Young Adult Non-Fiction collection in response to community feedback. Previously housed within the Junior Non-Fiction collection, these titles were reclassified to better reflect their content and meet the needs of older readers. This shift has enabled young adult readers to more easily access materials relevant to their interests and developmental stage.

We also introduced a trial selection of Wonderbooks – picture books with integrated, read-along audio narration. These allow children to read at their own pace or in sync with the narration, making them especially valuable for families with English as an additional language, individuals with low literacy, and children developing literacy skills. The immediate popularity of these items highlights strong community interest in accessible reading formats.

Our Parenting Collection received a targeted refresh, with new titles focusing on neurodiversity and alternate learning styles. These additions were driven by high demand from local families and community groups, and are circulating well. To support discovery, we continue to enhance catalogue records, making it easier for staff and library members to locate resources related to neurodiversity.



Partnerships add value to what we do

Our early years programs have been greatly enhanced by partnerships and grant funding, allowing us to deliver unique and engaging experiences for children and families across our region.

Our ongoing partnership with the BDSTC was further strengthened this year through a \$100,000 grant, which enabled the expansion of the Curious Kids initiative. Delivered with our support, this two-year program includes Curious Kids at Storytime for preschoolers, and Beyond Curious for primary school-aged children. These hands-on, curiosity-driven sessions promote STEM literacy and foster meaningful connections across generations.

Other standout partnership events included *Dancing Story* with The Australian Ballet, which brought the stories of *Nutcracker* and *Wonderland* to life through dance, and *Tomorrow is a Brand-New Day* with Orchestra Victoria, a musical interpretation of Davina Bell's book.

Grant funding also enabled the creation and tour of *The Band Sheep Show* during Children's Week. Based on Mem Fox's beloved picture book, *Where is the Green Sheep?*, this original performance was shared across all four shires, delighting young audiences and reinforcing the joy of storytelling through live performance.

Inspiring young historians through archives

Our engagement with schools and young learners extended to the Bendigo Regional Archives Centre (BRAC), which hosted visits from local primary and secondary schools. BRAC also participated in the VCE History Road Show for the first time. These experiences introduce students to the world of archives and encourage curiosity about history, heritage, records, and information management. Children's fresh perspectives often reveal insights the rest of us take for granted, making these visits a valuable opportunity for shared learning.



Building a safe and inclusive library culture

This year, we prioritised the safety, inclusion and professional growth of our team. All staff completed Child Safe Standards training, while managers undertook specialist training delivered by Safeguarding Training Australia.

In January, 20 early years staff attended the annual Storytime Professional Development Day, which featured an interactive session led by Expression Australia. Staff learned to incorporate Auslan into Storytime sessions, enhancing accessibility and inclusion.

These initiatives ensure our team is equipped with valuable resources and knowledge to champion safe, welcoming experiences for children and families.



1,525

children and young
people programs
and events



54,267

children and young
people program
participants



Lifelong Learning

Engaging with people on their learning journey, at any and every age or ability. We will support those involved in school-based or self-directed learning. We want people to use the library at any stage in life – and to have fun doing it! We will encourage different ways to learn and create at any age or ability level. Big dreams or small achievements can all start with us.

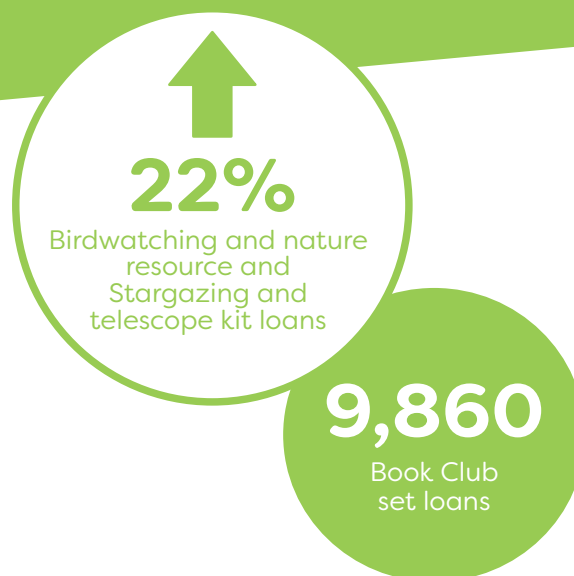
Supporting digital confidence and STEM exploration

Digital literacy remains a key priority, helping community members navigate everyday life. All libraries offer one-on-one IT help and a range of workshops, with popular topics this year including online safety and artificial intelligence.

STEM learning was further enriched through collaborative programming with BDSTC via the Beyond Curious grant. Our team developed a STEM after-school program series, which was well-received across multiple locations. We also continued regular sessions of the Little Bang Discovery Club, offering STEM learning for children aged 3-5 years.

Strengthening community engagement through active learning

The Strong Seniors program continued to thrive at Kangaroo Flat Library, with further work underway to explore expansion to other branches. To support this growth, selected staff attended sessions to observe, participate and learn about program delivery and resources.



Investing in people and lifelong growth

Our libraries foster lifelong learning by actively supporting educational growth across all age groups. Through work experience and industry placement programs, we empower secondary and tertiary students with hands-on learning opportunities that build practical skills and confidence. Staff and volunteers are also supported through ongoing training, leadership opportunities, and cross-sector collaboration, fostering a knowledgeable, adaptable workforce committed to learning and community enrichment.

eLibrary by section / area	2023/24 usage	2024/25 usage	% change
eBooks and eMagazines	136,156	198,220	45%
eLearning	85,321	51,445	-39%
eAudio and streaming	171,452	185,497	8%
Databases	21,190	25,820	21%
Total combined usage	414,119	460,982	11%

Expanding access through practical learning tools

In line with the growing Library of Things movement, we expanded our collection to include hands-on learning kits that align with our strategic priorities and community interests. Two key additions were the Stargazing and Telescope Kits and the Bird Watching and Nature Resource Kits, both designed to encourage outdoor exploration, sustainability and lifelong learning. Both kits have been enthusiastically received by members, with the Stargazing Kit proving so popular that additional kits have already been added to meet demand.

Enhancing services for a smarter, more accessible experience

We introduced several forward-thinking service improvements this year to streamline patron experiences and enhance accessibility. In October, we introduced automatic renewal services, significantly reducing overdue notifications and allowing for more flexible borrowing. This transition was thoughtfully managed by our IT team, with leadership guidance, comprehensive staff training, and clear communications to patrons. As part of this shift, we also encouraged patrons to transition to the Spydus Library app, which offers enhanced loan details and seamless catalogue access via mobile devices. These improvements enhance user experience while supporting sustainability by reducing printed receipts.



"Thank you so much for helping me. My heart rate has gone completely down!" Patron after a one-on-one IT session.





330

researchers
visited BRAC



17%

BRAC enquiries
handled

Preserving local history for future generations

There is enduring interest in local and family history, particularly amongst older members of our communities. We collaborate with local genealogical societies to offer a variety of genealogy sessions, as well as staff-led workshops focused on online resources such as Ancestry and Trove.

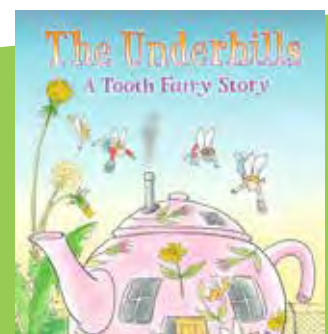
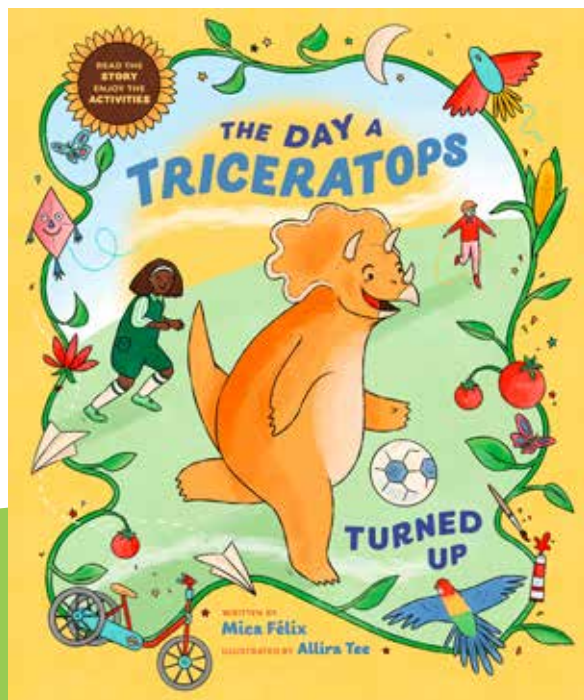
Our team in BRAC generously share their expertise and knowledge, through high-quality presentations on archive research, including accessing parish maps and health and court records. We have an ongoing partnership with La Trobe University to deliver Discovering History seminars, drawing from original research. These seminars are delivered at Bendigo Library and livestreamed to online audiences with presenters including Dr David Waldron with Lola Montez: the Feminine Cipher, and our very own Dr Susan Walter with Malmsbury Bluestone: a Global Heritage Resource.

"I wanted to thank you and your team again for all the assistance willingly given to me over the last few weeks to find out some more about Great Grandfather William Griffiths. I was blown away that you could lay your hands on the relevant correspondence and that I got to see the original meeting minutes from the Council. Very special. You are all unbelievable."

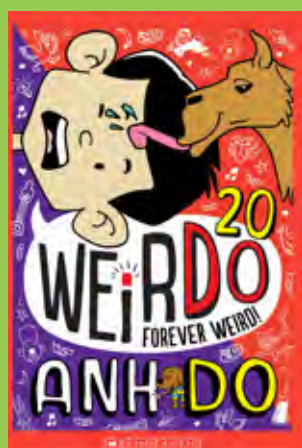
Bendigo Family History Group (BFHG) volunteers also achieved a major milestone this year, completing reference indexes for Bendigo rate books covering each decade from 1903 through to the 1950s. This remarkable effort involved transcribing nearly 47,000 entries from five rate books. These indexes will be added to the BRAC website in the coming year, making this valuable resource accessible to all.

Building on this success, a new joint project is underway to index the City of Greater Bendigo's extensive 20th-Century Inwards Correspondence. With 1,500 entries already completed across the 123 boxes of records, this initiative is laying the groundwork for deeper historical research and community learning.

Most popular Junior Picture Books



Most popular Junior Fiction Books



Safety and Inclusion

Offering safe spaces and resources that let people know they are important and at the centre of our service. We encourage a sense of library community and facilitate respectful interactions in our shared spaces – people relax in our libraries. We want to keep improving functional access to our libraries for people of all ages, abilities, cultural backgrounds and identities.



Extending inclusion through community partnerships

We again sought out and fostered strong and trusted partnerships with community organisations such as neighbourhood houses, maternal and child health centres, kindergartens, playgroups, community health services, and aged care providers. These collaborations help us connect with individuals and families who may not otherwise engage with library services, allowing us to deliver programs that are inclusive, accessible, and shaped by community needs.

This year, we increased our early years outreach, attending additional preschool and playgroup sessions to deliver Storytime sessions. For older community members, Memory Place reminiscing sessions were expanded into aged care settings across our service areas. Using themed kits and sensory prompts, these sessions encouraged storytelling, conversation, and meaningful connection.

1,383

Home Library Service
deliveries and visits

12,126

Items borrowed
through the
Home Library
Service

We also improved access to the Home Library Service, which supports members unable to visit the library in person. This year, we updated and simplified the application process, offering both paper-based and online options, to make it easier for individuals, carers and support workers to connect with our services.

Celebrating diversity: Everyone belongs

Special times of year are marked and celebrated, whether it's making kites for Makar Sankranti (Indian mid-winter festival), hosting Bilingual Storytime or facilitating an Interfaith Forum during Cultural Diversity Week. These multicultural offerings help foster a sense of belonging and cultural pride.

This year saw a particular focus on welcoming people with disability, and continuing to work towards providing services that encourage library users to feel safe, welcome, and valued.

- Castlemaine Library partnered with Writers Victoria for Writeability Goes Local, featuring an Own Voices: Why Writing Matters forum for people with disability and those working in the sector, and an eight-month series of writing workshops for people with disability.
- Bendigo Library partnered with Expression Australia to host quarterly Auslan Storytime sessions, presented by a deaf storyteller and Auslan interpreter.
- Kyneton Library welcomed poet Anne Gleeson for a moving session titled Disability, Ability, Family and Poetry.
- We ended 2024 with a performance by the Bendigo Choice Voices Choir, an inclusive community choir celebrating connection, joy, diversity, and inclusion through song.

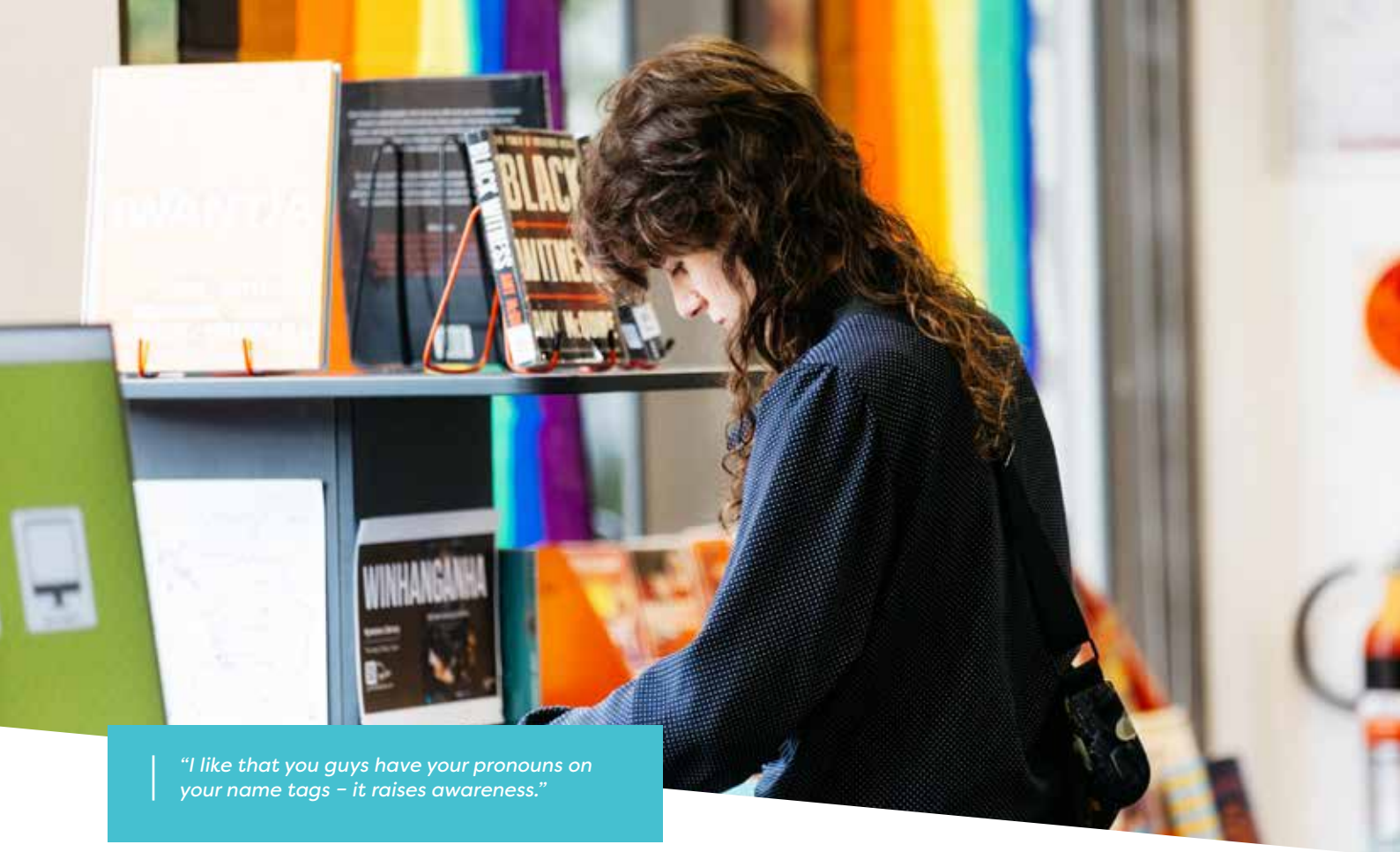
Community Connections project

The 21-month Community Connections project, funded by the Department of Justice and Community Safety Victoria through to March 2025, has brought meaningful change to Bendigo Library. A dedicated community worker now supports visitors with complex needs that extend beyond traditional library services, while also building staff capacity to manage challenging situations.

An independent evaluation by Dr Jane Garner (Charles Sturt University) in May 2025 confirmed the program's success. Staff mentorship contributed to improved customer interactions and a stronger sense of safety for all library users, while community support services such as healthcare, housing and legal, saw marked improvements in engagement, with referral attendance reaching 80 per cent.

Currently co-funded by Bendigo Community Health Services (BCHS), GLC, and CoGB, the program is backed by strong evidence and community need, particularly as homelessness rates in Victoria remain at historic highs. These compelling outcomes continue to drive advocacy for long-term, sustainable funding.





"I like that you guys have your pronouns on your name tags – it raises awareness."

Responding to safety challenges

To address a notable increase in incidents and anti-social behaviour at Bendigo Library this year, we implemented a range of incident management strategies to support a safer and more inclusive environment. These included:

- Contracting a full-time security guard
- Introducing a Safety Ban Procedure with clear documentation and reporting measures
- Rolling out Behaviour Response Guidelines to assist staff in managing challenging situations
- Enhancing visibility of expectations through new signage
- Prioritising the installation of updated CCTV equipment

Staff feedback was actively sought through surveys, debrief sessions, and a listening post, while a temporary public closure over the Christmas period served as a circuit breaker to reset behavioural expectations. In addition, we further strengthened staff presence with a new service point, extended our Employee Assistance Program, and expanded access to training in mental health first aid, de-escalation and person-first customer service.

Our ongoing collaboration with police, council, community partners, and sector colleagues remains vital in maintaining a balance between staff and patron safety and universal accessibility.

Public Libraries Victoria Operations Group meets to discuss safety concerns

GLC managers convened two sector-wide Operations Group meetings this year, focusing on patron and staff safety and psychosocial safety. The latter included training delivered by the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. With libraries across the state reporting higher numbers of anti-social behaviour, particularly felt by customer-facing staff, these sessions provided a valuable platform to share experiences and strategies, reinforcing the need for sector-wide efforts to address safety and wellbeing.

"The staff are very friendly and super helpful. The recent updates to the library are great and the extra security is appreciated. We are very lucky to have such a great library that is well maintained and looked after. Thank you very much."

Building inclusive collections for all

Our collections continue to evolve to reflect the diversity of our community, and to support equitable access to information. This year, we enhanced cataloguing processes and terminology to better represent the full spectrum of neurodiversity, making it easier for members to discover relevant resources.

We regularly refresh our selection of early readers and dyslexia-friendly books for children and readers of all ages, and offer a broad range of decodable and phonic readers that support readers of all ages and abilities.

We expanded our holdings on topics such as parenting, gender diversity, child safety, and cultural diversity, with both fiction and non-fiction titles exploring body consent, feelings, boundaries, differences, and emotional and physical safety.

With support from MRSC, we added eight Gender Diversity and Equity Kits to our collection. These kits support teachers and early years educators with quality resources that promote equality and kindness.

To help break down language barriers, we are gradually growing our LOTE (Language Other Than English) collection, with particular focus on bilingual picture books, guided by community requests, and to support Storytime programming. We also maintained subscriptions to LOTE4Kids and Arrivals in English, ensuring newly arrived community members and multilingual households have access to engaging, culturally relevant content.

Promoting inclusive and accessible digital collections

We've continued to champion inclusive access to digital collections, including the expanded Auslan collection on Story Box Hub. This growth has enabled more deaf and hard-of-hearing children and families to enjoy engaging, language-rich storytelling experiences.

We also continue to highlight accessibility features across our eLibrary platforms, such as screen reader compatibility, adjustable text settings, and simplified navigation.

Improving access through a new website

In January, we launched a fully redeveloped GLC website on the WordPress platform. This major project, driven by the need for stronger security and improved accessibility, was led and delivered in-house by our IT and Communications teams. The new site features enhanced security protocols, a clean, modern design that is mobile-friendly, and intuitive navigation for both patrons and staff. Early feedback has been positive, praising its usability, visual appeal, and performance.

Securing our digital and physical spaces

The security and protection of our data and cyberspaces were a big focus for IT this year. We continue to follow guidance from the Australian Signals Directorate, using their recommendations to assess and improve the security of our internet-facing assets, and better secure and protect community data.

We implemented Multi-Factor Authentication on our Library Management System, adding an extra layer of protection to patron data. Additionally, the library website was shifted to a more secure platform with enhanced security features. At Bendigo Library, the CCTV system was upgraded with new AI smart cameras, now operating on an isolated network for greater security.

Investing in our people

We continue to invest in comprehensive staff training initiatives that directly support our commitment to safety and inclusion across our libraries. Through programs such as Mental Health First Aid and Youth Mental Health First Aid, mental health promotion, and training for Health and Safety Representatives and Emergency Wardens, we've equipped staff to respond confidently in a range of situations.

To foster welcoming environments, staff participated in workshops on Child Safe Standards, Becoming a Dementia Friendly Library, and Menopause-Friendly Workspaces. Additional sessions on person-first customer service, de-escalation techniques, manual handling, and first aid have strengthened our practical response capabilities.

To deepen inclusion, we supported learning in gender equity, gender expansive practice, understanding the refugee journey, and active bystander training, all of which nurture empathy and reinforce our role in providing safe, inclusive spaces for the community.

An Informed Community

Offering information that enhances literacy beyond reading that includes health, financial, digital, environmental and cultural. We will help connect people with information in a variety of ways – inside our libraries, reaching outside our libraries through other services and places, and through our digitally based resources.



Engaging the community through advocacy and events

We championed community awareness and social change through a range of targeted initiatives. To celebrate the 40th anniversary of Medicare, we created informative displays across branches, highlighting the history and ongoing importance of universal healthcare in Australia.

During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, we participated in a community discussion in Castlemaine to help re-establish a Family Violence Prevention Network. We're proud to be an active member of this emerging network. At Storytime sessions during this period, we featured books that encourage equality, respect, and challenge gender stereotypes, fostering early conversations about respectful relationships.

Furthering our commitment to gender equality, CEO Mark Hands participated as a panellist in the Together We Can Change the Story event, joining other advocates to highlight the collective role libraries play in creating safer and more inclusive communities.

We also supported Public Libraries Victoria's Libraries Free and Online campaign, promoting free digital resources such as eBooks, audiobooks, and online courses, particularly to non-library users and those affected by the rising cost of living. In addition to the campaign's widespread advertising, we amplified its message through our own online, in-branch, and local partnership channels, reinforcing that libraries remain free, accessible, and open to all.

Improving health and wellbeing through partnerships and education

We continued to strengthen health literacy and wellbeing through meaningful partnerships across the region. These partnerships enabled us to deliver high-quality, relevant programs tailored to local needs, from parenting support to mental health education to ageing well, healthy eating and legal literacy.

In Mount Alexander, Dhelkaya Health facilitated expert-led library sessions on menopause, youth mental health, and parenting. In the Macedon Ranges, Sunbury Cobaw Community Health, MRSC, and the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group supported library programs on dementia, aged care, diabetes, and sustainable living. Bendigo-based partners CatholicCare and BCHS offered parenting talks and healthy eating initiatives, including a free fruit stand at Kangaroo Flat Library.

We also worked with Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre to deliver free legal education during Victorian Law Week, helping community members better understand their rights and how to access support.

Physical wellbeing was supported through our ongoing Strong Seniors strength training program, which ran multiple eight-week series at Kangaroo Flat library. Designed to encourage regular exercise in a comfortable setting, the program continues to grow, with plans to introduce new, locally produced exercise videos in the future.

Together, these partnerships reflect our commitment to empowering individuals and families with the knowledge, confidence and support to make informed decisions about their health, wellbeing and rights.

"When I did the first Strong Seniors session I wasn't really very impressed. The next morning I woke up and my thighs were really sore, and I realised I had actually done some good stretching, and now, 3 weeks in, I am really excited about it and what it is helping my body do. It is so great the library can offer this."



Building digital confidence and practical skills

Digital literacy and online safety remain evolving challenges, particularly for older and less advantaged members of our community. Our tech-savvy library staff offer one-on-one IT Help, as well as a range of how-to workshops on popular topics. Crime Stoppers Victoria and the Commonwealth Bank assisted with sessions on online safety.

This year, we expanded our practical learning offerings with sessions on car maintenance led by a retired mechanic, and cooking demonstrations using healthy ingredients and induction cooktops.

"I really got a lot out of the mechanic's workshop; Rich was very informative. I felt comfortable in the space and there was no such thing as a stupid question."

Improving website access and experience

The redevelopment of the library website allowed us to simplify content and navigation, while also ensuring full compatibility with mobile devices, an essential improvement given the high number of mobile visits.

The new Spydus Library app was released in March, mirroring the look and feel of our catalogue and providing a consistent and user-friendly experience across platforms. We now recommend this app to users over the previous version for its improved functionality and accessibility. It includes live notifications for reservations and overdue items and is now compatible with a wider range of devices.

"I think the library is amazing. Just the fact that I can choose books off here (points to mobile phone), ask for them to come, then you guys 'squirrel around' to find them and make it all happen! It's fantastic! Do people know all this exists and use these services?"

Creating flexible, connected spaces

To further support digital inclusion and flexible access, this year, we installed six high-quality, internet-connected meeting pods across two of our libraries. These soundproof, comfortable spaces were introduced in response to growing demand for quiet, private areas suitable for remote work, study, telehealth, and virtual meetings. They have quickly become a valuable resource, and their high usage reflects strong community appreciation for accessible, tech-enabled spaces that support productivity and connection.

Curated collections for awareness

To mark International Women's Day, our collections team curated a reading list aligned with this year's theme: Accelerate Action. This was shared with staff, councils and the wider community, highlighting important issues through our collection, and supporting impacted community members.



Connecting to place through history

Regular workshops and seminars continue to provide a window to the world of archives and the services we provide. BRAC is steadily developing a suite of programs that build skills in accessing, using, and telling stories with historical records. Once developed, these programs can be easily repeated with minimal preparation and delivered across the region. Some sessions, such as Reading and Using Historical Maps and Plans, reach a professional audience and offer free research guides, helping more people access local records and online databases.

Expanding outreach and inclusion

This year, we expanded our outreach to ensure equitable access to library services. As part of these efforts, staff visited local prisons to promote the value and accessibility of library resources, supporting inmates' reintegration by encouraging ongoing engagement with libraries upon release.

Our Home Library Service continued to deliver books and other materials to older adults and those unable to visit the library in person, providing personalised reading selections that support recreation, wellbeing, and lifelong learning for some of our most isolated community members.



Connecting People

Creating opportunities for people to socialise and share ideas, culture and stories. We will provide avenues for both personal and virtual connection through our programs, spaces and technology. We offer an antidote to isolation and loneliness.



Volunteers: Strengthening community connections

Volunteers continue to play a vital role in our library service, helping to build stronger, more connected communities. This year, 34 dedicated individuals, including young people bringing fresh ideas and energy, contributed across our branches. Their involvement enriches our service and offers valuable experiences that foster skills, confidence and civic engagement.

Volunteers also remain essential to the delivery of the Home Library Service, enabling us to provide inclusive, high-quality support to those unable to visit in person. Our library agencies continued to thrive thanks to a committed team of 15 community volunteers, helping us maintain local connections and extend services into rural areas.

To celebrate and support our volunteers, we hosted our annual Volunteer Celebration and Development Workshop. This event brought together volunteers from across the region to share stories, strengthen connections, and celebrate their impact. The session focused on wellbeing, health and safety, and sector updates, alongside interactive activities that reinforced the value of volunteering, and ensured our volunteers feel supported, recognised, and empowered in their roles.

Programs that bring people together

Literature remains a powerful connector, and our author events reflect the richness of voices within and beyond our region. This year, we welcomed high-profile guests such as Peter FitzSimons, who shared insights from *The Legend of Albert Jacka*, alongside local storytellers like Robyn Howarth, whose self-published work *Faraday: A Community Rediscovered*, recognises community history. All have their place, highlighting the value of diverse perspectives and the role libraries play in amplifying them.

We also brought the energy of a major literary festival into our libraries through the Sydney Writers' Festival Live and Local program, offering a live-streamed experience that gathered readers together to engage with ideas, authors, and each other – no travel required.

Informal programs continue to thrive, offering a gentle entry point for people to connect over shared interests. Craft-based sessions, such as Crafting Connections, provide space for creativity and conversation, while game-based meetups like Puzzle & Chat offer playful ways to connect.

We love to offer programs that bring laughter and light to those experiencing loneliness or those looking for something new. Highlights include Sorcery for Seniors with magician Elio Simonetti, a Bollywood dance class series for all ages, musical performances by the MaCapella Singers and Bendigo Choice Voices Choir, and tai chi sessions. These programs brought laughter smiles, movement, and music into our libraries, reminding us of the joy that comes from shared experiences.



"Elio was great, we really enjoyed this, we will definitely come along to something like this again."

Supporting people, creating place

Our commitment to social connection extends beyond library walls through partnerships and community initiatives. In Mount Alexander Shire, we played a role in establishing the Homelessness Support Network, a collaborative effort with local organisations, service providers, and council to advocate for improved social services and affordable housing. This work reaffirmed our role as a trusted, inclusive community space.

We also contributed to the growing social prescribing movement through the Get Connected program. Developed in partnership with local health providers, this initiative supports residents, particularly those experiencing social isolation, by linking them with local activities and groups through GP and allied health referrals. Initially launched as a pilot project, the program has now secured ongoing funding thanks to positive community response and effective partnerships. It was also recognised in the inaugural report of the Victorian Social Prescribing Collective as a leading example of best practice.

Connecting through collections

Our collections continue to support connection in both structured and spontaneous ways. Book Club sets remain one of the most effective tools for shared reading, and this year we expanded our range by repurposing titles from the Read Now collection. This approach has sparked new interest in newer titles, reduced maintenance costs, and extended the life of Read Now titles.

We also made targeted purchases to support programs and events. Working with local bookshops and long-standing suppliers, we sourced titles aligned with author talks, Storytimes, and other featured programming areas. A standout initiative was the purchase of 500 board books for new mothers' groups, helping to foster early literacy and encourage reading from infancy.



Promoting our story

This year, we completed a major creative photo library project in partnership with two local photographers. Eight photo shoots were held across six library sites, each aligned with a library program or event, capturing over 700 high-quality images that showcase the diversity and vibrancy of our libraries. Patron involvement was encouraged, and vital to the success of the shoots, with one eager young man given permission to take the morning off from school to be involved. The result is a rich, people-focused image library that will support promotional efforts across local media, our website, the upcoming Library Plan, and this Annual Report.

Our eNewsletter remains one of our most effective tools for engaging with our community. A strategic review helped us streamline our audience, resulting in higher open rates and stronger engagement. We currently sit comfortably above industry benchmarks for open rates, reflecting the growing relevance of our updates, and the value our community places on staying connected.



22,000+
people reached
each month via
eNews



44%
eNews open rate

On social media, our follower base continues to grow, but we saw a decline in engagement and reach. While not directly linked, this shift coincides with the development of new social media guidelines, a timely initiative aimed at supporting more consistent, creative and inclusive content across platforms. These guidelines will help ensure our digital presence remains relevant and responsive to our community.

Beyond digital, our presence in print media remains a vital part of our communications mix. Through regular contributions to GB Magazine, Loddon Bulletin, Shire Life, Flat Matters, Romsey Rag and others, we continue to connect with diverse communities across the region, reaching audiences who may not engage online but are equally important to our mission.



49,494
engagement

874,128
post reach



20,803
followers

Supporting regional wellbeing

We supported the Healthy Loddon Campaspe Active Living Census by promoting participation across our region through our eNews, website, in-library promotions, aligned programming, and direct survey links from public PCs and catalogue home screens. Insights gathered from the Census will inform future planning for recreation spaces, health programs, and local services, including libraries, to improve the health and wellbeing of residents.

Connecting through historical records

As part of our continuing support for the La Trobe University Discovering History program, BRAC launched a new detailed research guide for our collection of court records in May, offering detailed instructions on how to interpret registers and link them to people, places, and events. These records often reveal details not reported in the media, making them a valuable resource for researchers and community historians alike. The accompanying seminar, A Matter of Judgement, introduced the guide and inspired deeper engagement with historical records.

Technology supporting connection

Our IT team helped deliver technology-focused programs, including popular sessions on artificial intelligence. These sessions have been in high demand across branches and require ongoing support to keep content current in a rapidly evolving field.

We also upgraded the performance space at Bendigo Library to improve its versatility for program delivery. Enhancements included a new sound system with adjustable speaker configurations, and a specialised lectern microphone, creating a more professional and accessible experience for presenters and audiences alike.

"We were so sad when we heard the library was moving from the original building at Lansell Plaza - but look at what we have now! The move has been the best thing! And the garden is such an amazing addition!"



Respecting First Nations Peoples and Cultures

Building knowledge of and relationships with First Nations Peoples and cultures. We will introduce appropriate signage and cultural references into our spaces as well as deliver programs and collections that celebrate the stories and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Deepening cultural understanding

Staff had the privilege of deepening their understanding of First Nations cultures through several immersive experiences this year. These included a day on Taungurung Country with Uncle Shane at Tahbilk Winery Estate, exploring history, customs, and language, and participation in the Dumawul Experience Djaara Cultural Competency program, gaining valuable insights into the Djaara people's heritage and ongoing custodianship.

Complementing these experiences, staff engaged in a range of cultural training offerings, including Acknowledgement of Country workshops, Indigenous cultural governance training, and attendance at NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week events, and Djaara's inaugural Mountain Day at Lalgambuk (Mount Franklin).

Collections that reflect and respect

We have significantly broadened our collections to better reflect First Nations voices and experiences. This includes the acquisition of re-released classic titles, high-quality picture and board books for younger readers, and more resources in First Nations languages. We also continue to source quality books representing First Nations cultures, with a focus on staff and community-suggested titles to ensure a well-rounded collection.

Each branch now holds items of local relevance, with each of the Corporation's four Traditional Owners and Custodians of the region, the Barapa Barapa, Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples, well represented.

Our cataloguing practices are evolving with national standards set by experts at Libraries Australia and the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (AIATSIS). We are committed to reparative cataloguing and are exploring ways to embed these practices within our local history collections.





Celebrating through events and art collections

Throughout the year, we partnered with First Nations communities to deliver programs that celebrate culture and achievements, foster dialogue and deepen understanding. Highlights included:

- Screenings of the powerful documentary *Winhangahna* (Wiradjuri language: Remember, know, think).
- A thought-provoking cultural conversation on white privilege.
- Special Storytime sessions supported by local organisations and entertainers, including Kinja.
- An author talk by Professor Barry Golding on the cultural and geological significance of Dja Dja Wurrung's Southern Peaks.
- Author Melanie Seward, speaking about her novel, *Love Unleashed*.
- The launch of the Central Victorian Indigenous Film Festival, with smoking ceremony, at Bendigo Library.

A standout initiative was the commissioning and launch of the Wararak mural at Castlemaine Library, created by local Djaara artist Daikota Nelson, and young artists from Wararak. Representing individual totems through silver wattle flowers, the mural is both a celebration of culture and a powerful symbol of welcome, inclusion, and strengthened relationships with the Djaara community. A companion booklet is available for loan.

We also supported The Indigenous Literacy Foundation by running a Great Book Swap at five libraries, raising funds to gift culturally appropriate books to Aboriginal children in remote communities. On Indigenous Literacy Day, we participated in a livestream of *Be a Proud Voice for Country*, a celebration of Aboriginal story and song from the Sydney Opera House.



Reconciliation in practice

Our Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) guided our efforts throughout the year, with implementation and initiatives overseen by the RAP Working Group. These included facilitated discussions with staff and community interest groups, focusing on building cultural knowledge and exploring how libraries can respectfully intersect with and support First Nations perspectives. Key actions included:

- Establishing a reparative cataloguing working group.
- Targeted collection development to increase representation of First Nations voices in both junior and adult collections.
- Staff engagement in professional development through ALIA, the Collections SIG and national reparative cataloguing initiatives.

Cultural competency training led by Djaara representatives further deepened staff understanding, while a new diversity statement was embedded into recruitment advertising to reinforce our inclusive values.

Supporting First Nations research and historical projects

This year, BRAC assisted the Dja Dja Wurrung's Gatjin (water) Strategy by identifying historical records and maps related to the Coliban River and assisting with access to public records. Our ongoing indexing work continues to highlight references to Traditional Owners in historical documents, contributing to broader cultural understanding and accessibility.

Embedding cultural recognition in everyday practice

We introduced updated email signatures featuring artwork from the Know Your Country website, serving as a small but visual reminder of our commitment to cultural recognition.

Building on last year's efforts, we continue to promote key dates and events in the First Nations calendar through internal and public channels, encouraging participation and reflection across our region.





A Learning Organisation

Learning from and with our communities to develop skills, innovation and new approaches. Our team are high performing professionals and continue challenging themselves to extend knowledge and experiences. We will focus on being able to change with our community and engage with them in shaping our service.



Growing capability through learning

As a learning organisation, we are committed to continuous growth, investing in our people, systems, and practices to better serve our communities. This year, we delivered a rich and varied professional development program designed to strengthen staff capabilities across our core priority areas.

Training opportunities included cultural competency, gender equity, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural governance, and cultural reflections, all of which deepened cultural understanding and strengthened our commitment to inclusion. Initiatives such as youth and adult mental health first aid, emotional intelligence training, and sessions addressing psychosocial hazards and staff wellbeing enhanced our capacity for providing empathetic, responsive service.

Staff also participated in sessions covering child safety, emergency management, digital literacy, cataloguing, scam protection, volunteer leadership, de-escalation, and customer service, with tools like the Birkman Method supporting deeper self-

awareness and team cohesion. BRAC staff completed training in Trauma-Informed Approaches to Managing Archives through the Australian Society of Archivists, further strengthening our ability to support respectful and inclusive archival practices.

With opportunities ranging from professional forums and PD days to technical workshops like Spydus upgrades and WordPress training, the training and development program empowered staff to expand their impact in ways that align with the evolving needs of our communities and uphold the values at the heart of public libraries.

Investing in staff to enhance service delivery

The ongoing appointment of a part time Children's and Youth Services Programs Officer (10 hours per week) has been a welcome addition to the Programs team. The role enables a more focused and strategic approach for program planning in the 0-18 years age group, enhancing learning opportunities in these formative years.

Building knowledge through collections

As part of our regular review process, we conducted a comprehensive review of our eCollections across Borrowbox, Libby and uLibrary. Findings confirmed strong community demand for continued access to digital platforms, particularly eBooks and eAudiobooks. The assessment framework is designed to be expanded in future years, supporting deeper insights and informed decision-making.

During our annual Staff Development Day, staff received refreshed training on our most popular digital platforms. Participants chose which platform to focus on and spoke directly with supplier experts, gaining new skills and strategies to promote these resources to library members. Additional hands-on learning took place through curated visits to local bookshops, allowing staff to select new materials for their branches.

To support ongoing learning, a regular collections newsletter is distributed to all staff, offering important collections updates, publishing trends, training opportunities, and developments in the literary landscape.

Learning through history and community collaboration

BRAC supported a Bachelor of Education Studies student in completing her final assessment this year by co-developing a user's guide for the new digital land records portal. The accompanying workshop was used to train local and family history volunteers to use the records, who, in turn, help others to learn about the history of people and place.

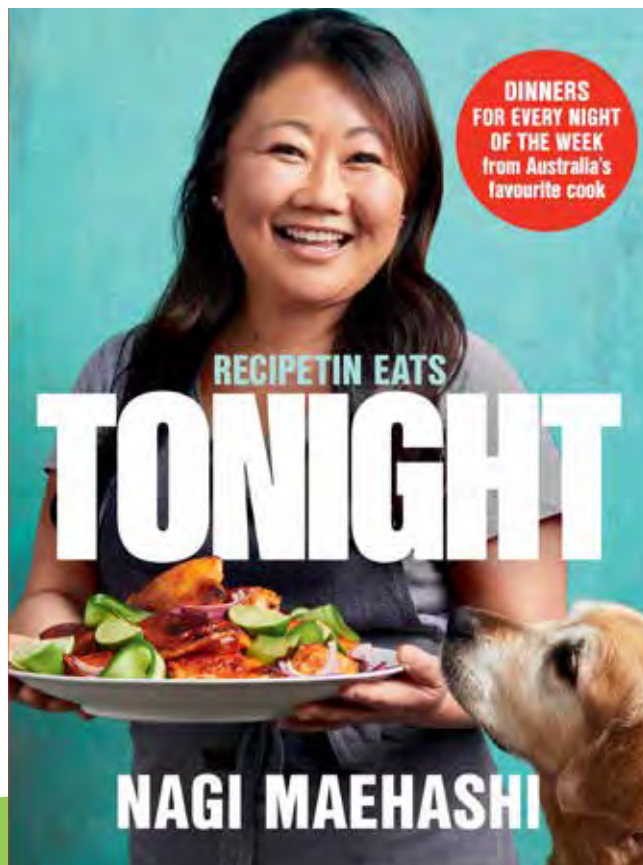
Future-ready systems for learning and innovation

To support a more agile and future-ready organisation, we replaced the physical servers that support our network this year. Working with our managed service provider, we successfully transitioned more than 20 virtual servers to new hardware with no noticeable downtime for patrons or staff.

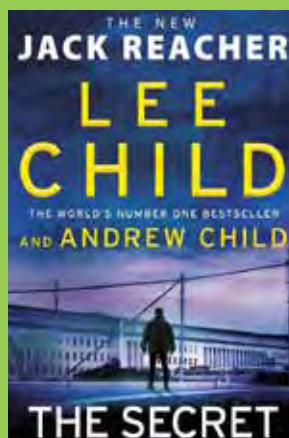
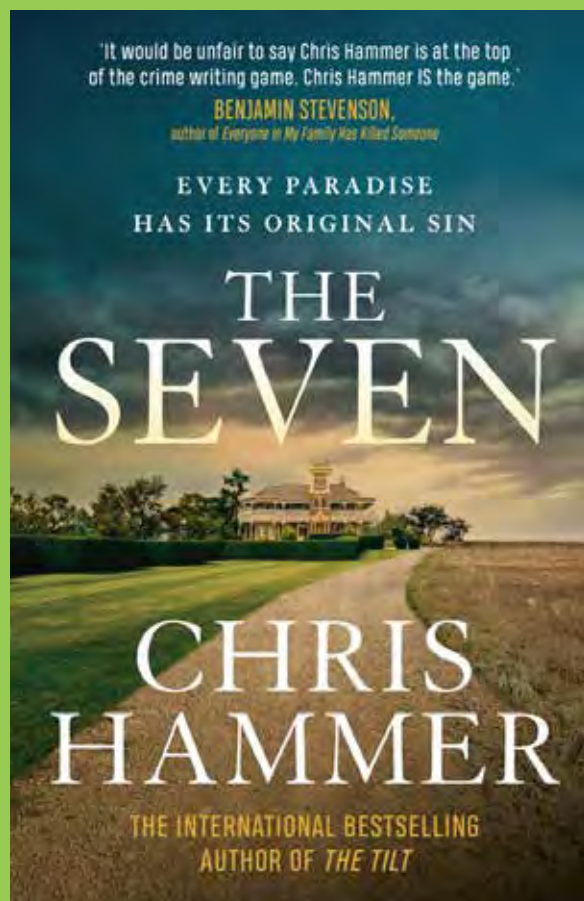
We continue to assess our physical infrastructure needs as we embrace cloud-hosted services, which offer cost benefits, improved functionality, and reduced reliance on hardware.



Most Popular Adult Non-Fiction



Most Popular Adult Fiction



A Sustainable Future

Working toward a positive and sustainable future with our communities. We will provide opportunities to understand the local and global environment, learn about sustainability innovations and empower community to take action to mitigate climate change. We commit to the sustainable use of resources for our operations to protect our natural environment.



Empowering communities through sustainable initiatives

Across our library network, a diverse suite of initiatives continues to empower communities and champion environmental awareness. These include:

- **Seed libraries** at Castlemaine, Eaglehawk, Heathcote, Kangaroo Flat, Kyneton, Romsey and Woodend libraries, helping local gardeners grow and share seasonal produce.
- **Community gardens** at Bendigo, Kangaroo Flat, Romsey and Pyramid Hill libraries, offering green spaces for learning and connection.
- **Plant and produce swaps** at Kangaroo Flat Library and Axedale agency.
- **Sustainable House Kits** available at all branches encourage eco-friendly home upgrades and sustainable living.
- **Sports Equipment Library** at Heathcote Library, supporting active, healthy lifestyles.
- **eWaste collection bins** at Bendigo, Gisborne, Kangaroo Flat, Romsey and Woodend libraries, supporting safe and responsible tech disposal. Gisborne and Woodend also serve as TerraCycle collection points.

↑
200%

Increase in
Heathcote Sports
Equipment Library
loans

Embedding sustainability in operations and infrastructure

This year, we made significant strides in embedding sustainability into our library operations through a diverse range of initiatives that respond to community needs while supporting environmental goals. With funding from the Victorian Government's Living Libraries program and local council support, we installed prefabricated meeting pods, four in Bendigo and two in Castlemaine, offering efficient and cost-effective solutions to the growing demand for quiet and productive spaces.

Our Sustainable Home Kits continue to attract high usage, prompting temporary adjustments to borrowing periods to improve access and support energy-conscious living.

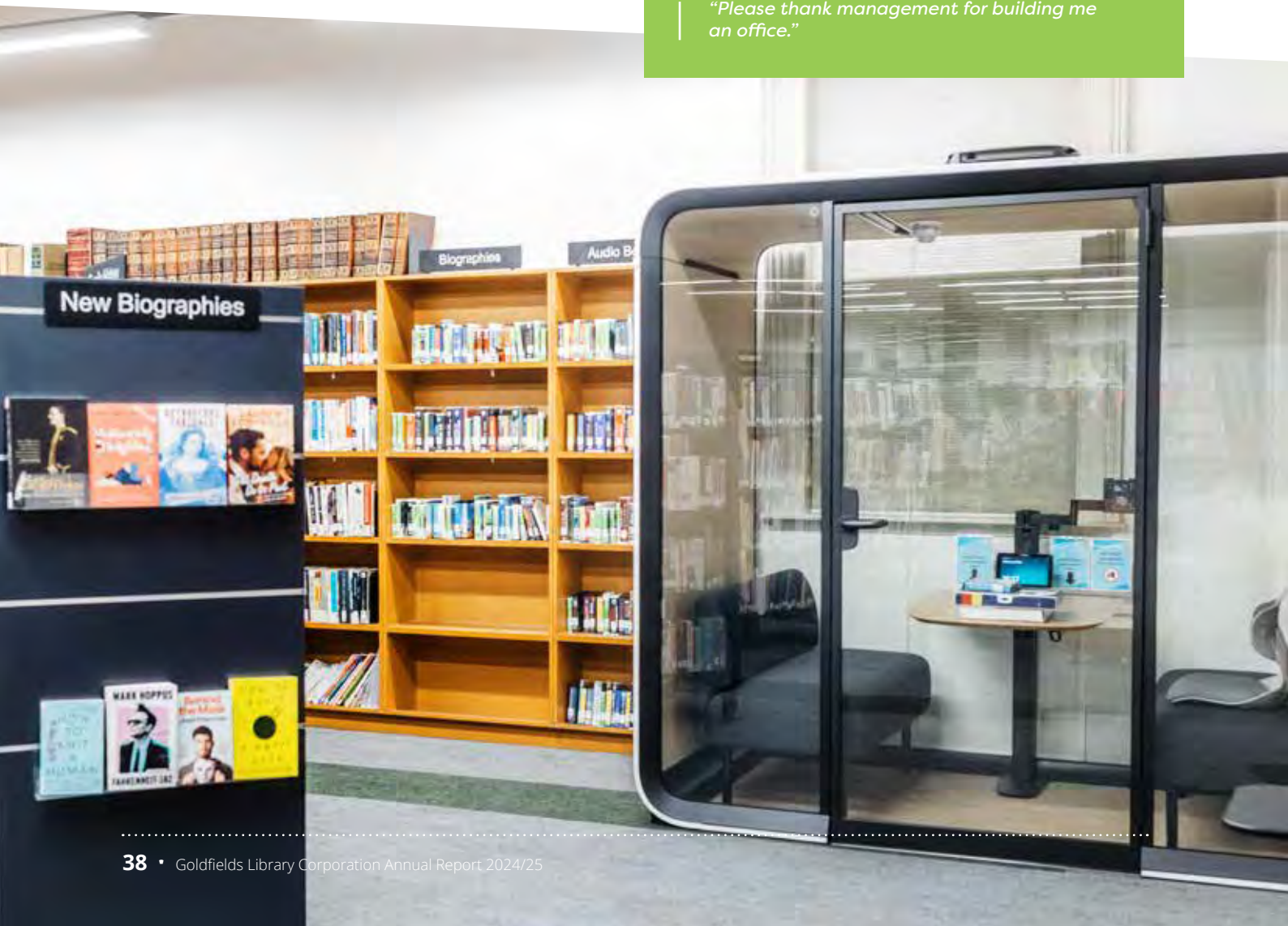
We also introduced a new plug-in hybrid electric vehicle to our fleet, complete with a dedicated charging hub, contributing to reduced emissions and running costs. We supported CoGB in its plan to move Bendigo Library away from gas-based energy, aligning with broader goals of transitioning toward fully electric and photovoltaic-powered operations.

Our procurement practices more broadly reflect conscious choices, prioritising durable and high-quality furnishings to avoid the environmental impact of disposable products. These collective efforts demonstrate our ongoing commitment to sustainability and operational excellence.

Partnering for regional sustainability and health

Our staff actively engaged in the Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit's new Climate Change and Health Forum, reinforcing our role as active health and sustainability partners in the region.

"Please thank management for building me an office."





Programs that inspire environmental action

In partnership with our member Councils, we supported a range of sustainability-focused initiatives, including:

- National Tree Day Storytimes, gifting native tree seedlings and seeds to our youngest community members.
- An author talk by Tim Forcey on his book *My Efficient Electric Home Handbook* followed by a pop-up book group, with loaned copies for facilitated discussion.
- Home Energy Empowerment Program sessions hosted at all four CoGB libraries and two library agencies, covering energy bills, draught proofing, and efficient heating and cooling.

We hosted a number of events that explored sustainable living through storytelling, creativity and hands-on learning:

- Nature Journaling with Trace Balla invited seniors to observe, explore and care for the natural world through art and reflection.
- Author talks by Tanya Loos (*Living with Wildlife*) and Beck Lowe (*Our Street: Retrosurbia for Kids*) inspired families and children with practical, hopeful approaches to resilient living.
- Textile-focused programs addressed waste and reuse, including a second-hand clothing panel, a Sustainable Saturday event focused on repair and recycling, and the popular *Upcycled Plastic Accessories* workshop for young people.

Improving access and reducing emissions through digital archives

A major development at BRAC was the installation of the LRView and StoreDocs digital land records portals in March. With generous co-operation from the Public Record Office Victoria, staff and patrons now have free access to statewide land titles and general law land records dating back to the 1830s.

This digital access has reduced the need for paid online services or travel to Melbourne, supporting more sustainable research practices. While this may contribute to a decline in physical visits and record issues, it reflects a positive shift toward low-emission, high-impact archival access. Those who do visit in person are still using a diverse range of other records, Bendigo Health Records being a popular choice.

Sustainable collections through longevity and low-waste practices

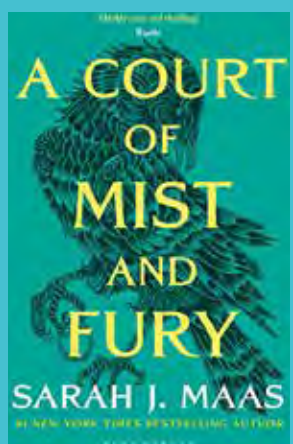
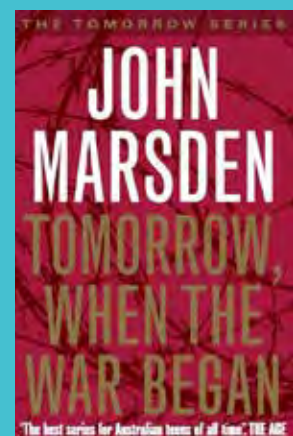
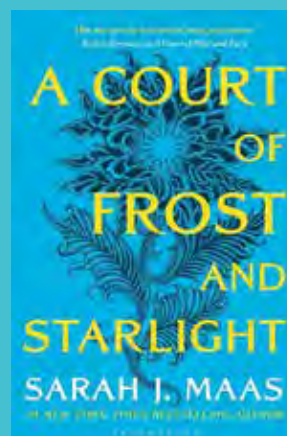
We assessed and refreshed the long-standing Tanner Collection this year, which features award-winning children's titles. This work aimed to extend the life and relevance of the collection, ensuring its continued value for future generations.

We also continued to refine our item processing practices to reduce waste and plastic use, engaging ongoing discussions with suppliers and staying informed about sustainable innovation within the library sector.

Most Popular DVDs



Most Popular Young Adult Books



Board Members



Cr Damien Hurrell
February 2025-
Greater Bendigo City Council



Cr. Rod Fyffe
July 2024-February 2025
Greater Bendigo City Council



Stacy Williams
Greater Bendigo City Council



Cr Nick Angelo
February 2025-
Loddon Shire Council



Cr. Linda Jungwirth
July 2024-February 2025
Loddon Shire Council



Lincoln Fitzgerald
Loddon Shire Council



Cr Dominic Bonanno
February 2025-
Macedon Ranges Shire Council



Cr. Bill West
July 2024-February 2025
Macedon Ranges Shire Council



Maria Weiss
Macedon Ranges Shire Council



Cr. Rosie Annear
Mount Alexander Shire Council
(Chair)



Lisa Knight
Mount Alexander Shire Council

**North Central Goldfields
Regional Library Corporation**

Trading as
Goldfields Library Corporation

Financial Report

For the year
1 July 2024
to
30 June 2025



Financial Report

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Certification of the Financial Statements

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



Narelle Kingston

Principal Accounting Officer

Dated: 8 October 2025

Bendigo, Victoria

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation for the year ended 30 June 2025 and the financial position of the Corporation 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 the Corporation and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* to certify the financial statements in their final form.



Rosie Annear

Board Member

Dated: 8 October 2025

Bendigo, Victoria

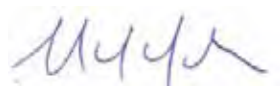


Jessica Howard

Board Member

Dated: 8 October 2025

Bendigo, Victoria



Mark Hands

Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 8 October 2025

Bendigo, Victoria

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board members of North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation

Opinion	I have audited the financial report of North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation (the corporation) which comprises the: - balance sheet as at 30 June 2025 - 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 - statement of capital works for the year then ended - notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information - certification of the financial statements. In my opinion the financial report presents fairly the financial position of the corporation as at 30 June 2025 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>, the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.
Basis for Opinion	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. My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the corporation in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.
Board members' responsibilities for the financial report	The Board members of the corporation are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>, the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014</i>, and for such internal control as the Board members determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, the Board members are responsible for assessing the corporation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.

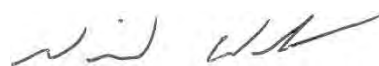
Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

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

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

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

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



Nick Walker

as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

MELBOURNE
9 October 2025

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Comprehensive Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Income / Revenue			
Member contributions	3.1	5,800,223	5,644,986
User fees, charges and fines	3.2	83,926	74,492
Grants - operating	3.3	1,639,993	1,612,860
Grants - capital	3.3	39,064	39,064
Contributions - monetary	3.4	382,385	142,890
Contributions - non-monetary	3.4	9,480	10,636
Net gain on disposal of resources, plant and equipment	3.5	13,880	—
Interest on investments	3.7	236,962	228,650
Other income	3.6	51,996	83,108
Total income / revenue		8,257,909	7,836,686
Expenses			
Employee costs	4.1	5,495,920	5,440,668
Plant and equipment costs	4.2	417,871	484,499
Depreciation	4.3	825,415	832,573
Depreciation - Right of use assets	4.4	29,106	35,768
Finance Costs - Leases	4.5	9,497	8,631
Net loss on disposal of resources, plant and equipment	3.5	—	270
Other expenses	4.6	501,533	399,792
Administration and maintenance charges	4.7	607,337	541,941
Total expenses		7,886,679	7,744,142
Surplus for the year		371,230	92,544
Total comprehensive result		371,230	92,544

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

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	627,390	326,916
Other financial assets	5.1	4,340,098	4,508,711
Trade and other receivables	5.1	88,073	71,736
Other assets	5.2	172,517	122,739
Total current assets		5,228,078	5,030,102
Non-current assets			
Resources, plant and equipment	6.1	3,049,327	2,941,424
Right-of-use assets	5.7	264,384	284,953
Total non-current assets		3,313,711	3,226,377
Total assets		8,541,789	8,256,479
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5.3	51,659	113,069
Trust funds and deposits	5.3	—	2,648
Contract and other liabilities	5.3	160,909	120,000
Provisions	5.4	1,343,176	1,311,859
Lease liabilities	5.7	25,904	24,412
Total current liabilities		1,581,648	1,571,988
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	5.4	78,414	157,145
Lease liabilities	5.7	269,157	286,006
Total non-current liabilities		347,571	443,151
Total liabilities		1,929,219	2,015,139
Net assets		6,612,570	6,241,340
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		2,747,917	2,588,073
Reserves ¹	9.1	3,864,653	3,653,267
Total Equity		6,612,570	6,241,340

(1) Reserves includes Member Contributions and Discretionary Reserves

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

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Note	Total \$	Member Contributions \$	Accumulated Surplus \$	Discretionary Reserve \$
2025					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		6,241,340	2,466,638	2,588,073	1,186,629
Surplus for the year		371,230	—	371,230	—
Total comprehensive income		371,230	—	371,230	—
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	—	—	(250,311)	250,311
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	—	—	38,925	(38,925)
Balance at end of the financial year		6,612,570	2,466,638	2,747,917	1,398,015
2024					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		6,148,796	2,466,638	2,520,089	1,162,069
Adjusted opening balance		6,148,796	2,466,638	2,520,089	1,162,069
Surplus for the year		92,544	—	92,544	—
Total comprehensive income		92,544	—	92,544	—
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	—	—	(24,560)	24,560
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	—	—	—	—
Balance at end of the financial year		6,241,340	2,466,638	2,588,073	1,186,629

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

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2025

		2025 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$	2024 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$
	Note		
Cash flows from operating activities			
Member contributions		5,800,223	6,209,485
User fees, charges and fines		83,926	217,382
Grants - operating		1,680,902	1,483,846
Grants - capital		39,064	39,064
Contributions - monetary		382,385	—
Other receipts		284,078	83,108
Employee costs		(5,545,982)	(5,395,785)
Plant and equipment costs		(429,057)	(532,949)
Administration and maintenance charges		(607,337)	(635,900)
Other expenses		(501,533)	(439,771)
Net GST rpayment		(369,390)	(302,416)
Net cash provided by operating activities	9.2	817,279	726,064
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for resources, plant and equipment	6.1	(918,495)	(650,647)
Payments for investments		—	(503,323)
Proceeds from sale of investments		168,613	—
Interest Received		257,930	193,371
Net cash used in investing activities		(491,952)	(960,599)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Interest paid - lease liability		(9,497)	(8,631)
Repayment of lease liabilities		(15,357)	(26,428)
Net cash flow provided by financing activities		(24,854)	(35,059)
Net Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		300,473	(269,594)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		326,916	596,510
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		627,389	326,916

The following notes also provide details on the Corporations cash position:
 Financing arrangements

5.5,5.1

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

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Statement of Capital Works for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Resources, Plant and equipment			
Resources		521,225	539,112
Plant and equipment		98,149	—
Information technology		135,344	88,125
Office equipment, furniture and fittings		184,047	23,410
Total resources, plant and equipment		938,765	650,647
Total capital works expenditure	6.1	938,765	650,647
Represented by:			
Asset renewal expenditure		938,765	650,647
Total capital works expenditure		938,765	650,647

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

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation

Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1. Overview

Introduction

The North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 12 January 1996 and is a body corporate. The Corporation's main office is located at 259 Hargreaves St Bendigo VIC 3550.

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*, and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

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

Material Accounting policies

1.1 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 statement of cash flow, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

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

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

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

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

- the fair value of resources, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.1)
- the determination of depreciation for resources, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.1)
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.4)
- the determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether an arrangement is within the scope of *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* or *AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (refer to Note 3.3)
- 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.

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation

Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 2. Analysis of our results

Note 2.1 Performance against budget

The performance against budget notes compare the Corporation's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* requires explanation of any material variances. The Corporation has adopted a materiality threshold of the lower of 10 percent or \$10,000 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* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

2.1.1 Income / Revenue and expenditure

	Budget 2025 \$	Actual 2025 \$	Variance \$	Variance %	Ref
Income / Revenue					
Member contributions	5,800,224	5,800,223	(1)	0.00%	
User, fees, charges and fines	155,442	83,926	(71,516)	(46.01)%	1
Grants - operating	1,478,364	1,639,993	161,629	10.93%	2
Grants - capital	54,000	39,064	(14,936)	(27.66)%	3
Contributions - monetary	—	382,385	382,385	∞	4
Contributions - non monetary	2,040	9,480	7,440	364.71%	5
Net gain on disposal of resources, plant and equipment	—	13,880	13,880	∞	6
Interest on investments	160,000	236,962	76,962	48.10%	7
Other income	26,460	51,996	25,536	96.51%	8
Total income / revenue	7,676,530	8,257,909	581,379	7.57%	
Expenses					
Employee costs	5,650,216	5,495,920	154,296	2.73%	
Plant and equipment costs	393,357	417,871	(24,514)	(6.23)%	
Depreciation	926,000	825,415	100,585	10.86%	9
Administration and maintenance charges	707,607	607,337	100,270	14.17%	10
Depreciation - right of use assets	25,863	29,106	(3,243)	(12.54)%	11
Finance costs - leases	7,889	9,497	(1,608)	(20.38)%	12
Net loss on disposal of resources, plant and equipment	—	—	—	∞	
Other expenses	432,544	501,533	(68,989)	(15.95)%	13
Total expenses	8,143,476	7,886,679	256,797	3.15%	
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(466,946)	371,230	838,176	(179.50)%	

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Note 2.1 Performance against budget (continued)

Explanation of material variations

Variance Ref	Explanation
1.	The contribution of the Bendigo Regional Archives Centre was initially budgeted under user fees and charges. However, it was more appropriately classified as a monetary contribution in the financial statements to reflect its true nature.
2.	Operational grants revenue exceeded budgeted expectations due to the carry-forward of \$40,000 in grants from the previous financial year. Furthermore, the Corporation secured unbudgeted grants totaling \$80,000 for the installation of new meeting pods at two branch locations.
3.	The Corporation budgeted \$15,000 in Capital grants which has not been received.
4.	The Corporation received an unbudgeted bequest of \$250,000, along with additional unbudgeted contributions to support program delivery.
5.	The Corporation received higher donations of resource assets than budget projections. The donated assets are shelf-ready and have been added to the collections.
6.	During the financial year the Corporation replaced two delivery vans resulting in a gain on disposal.
7.	During the financial year, the Corporation received and recognised high interest on investments due to investing more cash in term deposits compared to the adopted budget projections.
8.	The Corporation received unbudgeted workcover reimbursements of \$36,000, this amount is offset by workcover payments included in Employee costs.
9.	Depreciation rates were budgeted based on shorter useful lives of assets.
10.	Consultancy costs associated with organisation restructure were expected to be higher.
11.	Right of Use Asset Depreciation movement was higher than budgeted due to previous year adjustments made.
12.	Finance lease costs included prior year adjustments.
13.	The Corporation has contracted security guards due to safety concerns at the Bendigo branch. City of Greater Bendigo and NCGRL along with other key players in the CBD are discussing security options as this is not financially sustainable.

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North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 2.1 Performance against budget (continued)

2.1.2 Capital works

	Budget 2025 \$	Actual 2025 \$	Variance \$	Variance %	Ref
Resources, Plant and equipment					
Resources	701,483	521,225	(180,258)	(25.70)%	1
Plant and equipment	50,000	98,149	48,149	96.30%	2
Information technology	191,300	135,344	(55,956)	(29.25)%	3
Office equipment, furniture and fittings	36,921	184,047	147,126	398.49%	4
Total resources, plant and equipment	979,704	938,765	(40,939)	(4.18)%	
Total capital works expenditure	979,704	938,765	(40,939)	(4.18)%	
Represented by:					
Asset renewal expenditure	979,704	938,765	(40,939)	(4.18)%	
Total capital works expenditure	979,704	938,765	(40,939)	(4.18)%	

Explanation of material variations

**Variance Explanation
Ref**

- Throughout the financial year, the Corporation continued its strategic approach of prioritising the purchase and leasing of popular titles over expanding physical collections. This shift resulted in a reduction in asset acquisitions..
- During the financial year, the Corporation replaced two delivery vehicles. The cost of these replacements exceeded initial budget estimates.
- Information technology equipment was acquired at a cost lower than budgeted.
- A joint initiative between NCGRL, Local Councils and the State Government was undertaken to install office pods in two branches during the year.

Note 2.2 Analysis of Corporations results by program

2.2.1 Analysis of the Corporation's results by program

The Corporation delivers its functions and activities from a number of different geographical locations across the member Council's. These locations are identified at the following branch levels.

Branch

- Regional Headquarters *
- Bendigo Regional Archives Centre
- Bendigo branch
- Castlemaine branch
- Eaglehawk branch
- Gisborne branch
- Heathcote branch
- Kangaroo Flat branch
- Kyneton branch
- Romsey branch
- Woodend branch

* Community Based Services and Local Priorities are included in Regional Headquarters as they are delivered from here.

Finance and strategy provides efficient, effective and proactive support services across the Corporation to enable the delivery of policy commitments, vision and mission. The provision of these services includes finance services, digital information and technology, property and procurement, strategy and program delivery and program integration and development.

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North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 2.2 Analysis of Corporations results by program (continued)

2.2.2 Summary of income / revenue, expenses, assets and capital expenses by program

Functions/activities	Income / Revenue \$	Expenses \$	Surplus / (Deficit) \$	Grants included in income / revenue \$	Total assets \$
2025					
Regional Headquarters	8,077,751	3,939,265	4,138,486	1,679,057	8,541,789
Bendigo Regional Archives Centre	95,503	117,682	(22,179)	—	—
Bendigo branch	20,338	1,756,667	(1,736,329)	—	—
Castlemaine branch	23,030	371,570	(348,540)	—	—
Eaglehawk branch	—	88,811	(88,811)	—	—
Gisborne branch	6,817	288,122	(281,305)	—	—
Heathcote branch	1,501	83,802	(82,301)	—	—
Kangaroo Flat branch	6,793	380,297	(373,504)	—	—
Kyneton branch	12,434	283,768	(271,334)	—	—
Romsey branch	7,536	298,465	(290,929)	—	—
Woodend branch	6,206	278,230	(272,024)	—	—
Total functions and activities	8,257,909	7,886,679	371,230	1,679,057	8,541,789
2024					
Regional Headquarters	7,663,547	4,328,407	3,335,140	1,651,924	8,256,479
Bendigo Regional Archives Centre	93,630	147,750	(54,120)	—	—
Bendigo branch	19,341	1,359,249	(1,339,908)	—	—
Castlemaine branch	25,156	463,455	(438,299)	—	—
Eaglehawk branch	—	81,029	(81,029)	—	—
Gisborne branch	6,478	239,704	(233,226)	—	—
Heathcote branch	937	37,517	(36,580)	—	—
Kangaroo Flat branch	7,847	376,425	(368,578)	—	—
Kyneton branch	8,168	289,251	(281,083)	—	—
Romsey branch	6,469	222,474	(216,005)	—	—
Woodend branch	5,113	198,881	(193,768)	—	—
Total functions and activities	7,836,686	7,744,142	92,544	1,651,924	8,256,479

Due to the roaming collection of books and that all vehicles operate from the headquarters all assets are held at the Regional Headquarters.

Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services

	2025	2024
	\$	\$

3.1 Member contributions

Annual member council contributions per capita	28.00	29.44
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Annual member contributions are recognised as revenue when the Corporation issues invoices to the member Councils.

City of Greater Bendigo	3,529,749	3,410,916
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	1,479,948	1,447,484
Mount Alexander Shire Council	574,072	568,711
Loddon Shire Council	216,454	217,875
Total member contributions	5,800,223	5,644,986

3.2 User fees, charges and fines

Fines	30	—
Inter library loans	2,952	2,923
Book recovery	3,702	3,830
Photocopying and printing	77,242	67,739
Total user fees, charges and fines	83,926	74,492

User fees, charges and fines are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided or the Corporation has otherwise earned the income.

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North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services (continued)

	2025 \$	2024 \$
3.3 Funding from other levels of government		
Grants were received in respect of the following:		
Summary of grants		
State funded grants	1,610,303	1,601,442
Local funded grants	36,990	4,000
Other grants	31,764	46,482
Total grants received	1,679,057	1,651,924
(a) Operating Grants		
Recurrent - State Government		
Library grant	1,478,364	1,478,364
Total recurrent operating grants	1,478,364	1,478,364
Non-recurrent - State Government		
Department Family Fairness and Housing - Youth Festival	—	2,200
Department Jobs Precincts - Seniors Literacy	—	81,814
Department Education Children's Week	1,100	—
Department Jobs Skills - Study Pods Castlemaine	34,448	—
Department Jobs Skills - Study Pods Bendigo	57,327	—
Non-recurrent - Local Government		
City of Greater Bendigo - Nature Journaling	—	2,000
City of Greater Bendigo - Exercise for Older Adults	—	2,000
City of Greater Bendigo - Kangaroo Flat Outdoor Signage	10,000	—
City of Greater Bendigo - Community Connector Program	5,000	—
City of Greater Bendigo - Essential Community Grant Program	2,000	—
Loddon Shire - A Different Flood Project	19,990	—
Non-recurrent - Other		
Community Enterprise Foundation	30,000	45,000
Royal Society of Victoria	1,000	800
Pride Foundation	—	682
Mandalay Resources	764	—
Total non-recurrent operating grants	161,629	134,496
Total operating grants	1,639,993	1,612,860
(b) Capital Grants		
Non-recurrent - State Government		
Premiers Reading Challenge	39,064	39,064
Total non-recurrent capital grants	39,064	39,064
Total capital grants	39,064	39,064

Grant income is recognised when the Corporation obtains control of the contribution. Control is normally obtained upon receipt or acquittal.

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North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services (continued)

	2025	2024
	\$	\$

(c) Recognition of grant income

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

- 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 point in time or over time when services are rendered.

Where the contract is not enforceable and/or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Corporation applies *AASB 1058 Income 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.

Income recognised under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities

General purpose	1,517,428	1,517,428
Other specific purpose grants	129,865	129,696

Revenue recognised under AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers

Specific purpose grants	31,764	4,800
	<u>1,679,057</u>	<u>1,651,924</u>

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

Operating

Balance at start of year	120,000	249,014
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	80,909	–
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(40,000)	(129,014)
Balance at year end	<u>160,909</u>	<u>120,000</u>

Unspent grants are determined and disclosed on a cash basis.

3.4 Contributions

Monetary contributions

Monetary	382,385	142,890
Total monetary contributions	<u>382,385</u>	<u>142,890</u>

Non-monetary contributions

Non-monetary	9,480	10,636
Total contributions	<u>391,865</u>	<u>153,526</u>

Contributions of non monetary assets were received in relation to the following asset classes.

Resources	9,480	–
Information technology	–	8,386

continued on next page ...

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services (continued)

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Office equipment, furniture and fittings	—	2,250
Total non-monetary contributions	9,480	10,636

Non-monetary contributions are recognised as income at their fair value when the Corporation obtains control over the contributed asset.

3.5 Net gain/(loss) on disposal of resources, plant and equipment

Proceeds from disposal of resources, plant and equipment	19,327	—
Written down value of assets disposed	(5,447)	(270)
Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of resources plant and equipment	(5,447)	(270)
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of resources, plant and equipment	13,880	(270)

The profit or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

3.6 Other income

Rental income	13,675	13,007
Other	38,321	70,101
Total other income	51,996	83,108

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

3.7 Interest income

Interest on investments	236,962	228,650
Total Income line amount	236,962	228,650

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 4. The cost of delivering services

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
4.1 Employee costs		
(a) Employee costs		
Wages and salaries	4,182,505	4,017,215
Annual leave	372,492	369,346
Sick leave	185,054	161,899
Long service leave	123,432	138,418
WorkCover	34,502	198,442
Superannuation	546,733	517,606
Fringe benefits tax	7,219	8,833
Staff training/conferences	43,983	28,909
Total employee costs	5,495,920	5,440,668

(b) Superannuation

The Corporation made contributions to the following funds:

Defined benefit fund

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	29,653	22,436
	29,653	22,436

Accumulation funds

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	245,739	249,984
Employer contributions - other funds	271,341	245,186
	517,080	495,170

Refer to note 9.2 for further information relating to the Corporation's superannuation obligations.

4.2 Plant and equipment costs

Plant operating and maintenance	30,441	26,824
Resources lease	—	55,482
Photocopier expenses	13,616	12,663
Photocopier lease	13,800	13,800
General office equipment	48,486	95,214
Automated systems maintenance	308,001	280,516
Other	3,527	—
Total plant and equipment costs	417,871	484,499

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

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North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 4. The cost of delivering services (continued)

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
4.3 Depreciation		
Plant and equipment	33,340	14,041
Resources	577,524	614,167
Information Technology	169,041	173,447
Office equipment, furniture and fittings	45,510	30,918
Total depreciation	825,415	832,573

Refer to note 6.1 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation charges and accounting policy.

4.4 Depreciation - Right of use assets

Property	29,106	35,768
Total Depreciation - Right of use assets	29,106	35,768

Refer to note 5.7 for a more detailed breakdown of amortisation charges and accounting policy.

4.5 Finance Costs - Leases

Interest - Lease Liabilities	9,497	8,631
Total finance costs	9,497	8,631

4.6 Other expenses

Adult program promotion	29,140	19,277
Audit fees	11,600	11,200
Bank charges	5,663	5,720
Board costs	—	279
Children program promotion	37,598	40,923
Collection software	28,547	27,519
First aid	3,738	2,136
Internet expenses	70,907	67,768
Inter library loan costs	283	460
Marketing/promotion/advertising	18,070	8,708
Materials, maintenance and other consumables	624	1,282
Membership/sponsorships	5,936	8,122
Newspapers	26,388	24,737
Periodicals	41,247	41,575
Postage/freight	39,863	36,930
Printing and stationery	32,197	31,039
Processing supplies	28,481	24,967
Recruitment	858	1,389
Recycling/shredding collection	4,333	3,357
Rural transaction centre	115,387	39,877
Travelling	673	2,527
Total other expenses	501,533	399,792

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Note 4. The cost of delivering services (continued)

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
4.7 Administration and maintenance charges		
Administration charge	83,655	83,595
Insurances	92,032	85,789
Headquarters maintenance charge	10,675	6,650
Database costs	353,575	273,871
Consultants fees	54,433	75,800
Human resources	12,967	16,236
Total administration and maintenance charges	607,337	541,941

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
5.1 Financial assets			
(a) Cash and cash equivalents			
Current			
Cash on hand		2,540	2,360
Cash at bank		317,521	324,556
Term deposits		307,329	—
Total cash and cash equivalents		627,390	326,916
(b) Other financial assets			
Current			
Term deposits		4,340,098	4,508,711
Total current other financial assets		4,340,098	4,508,711
Total cash and cash equivalents and other financial assets		4,967,488	4,835,627
Intended allocations			
Although not externally restricted the following amounts have been allocated for specific future purposes by the Corporation:			
Discretionary reserves	9.1	1,398,015	1,186,629
Total funds subject to intended allocations		1,398,015	1,186,629
Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.			
Other financial assets are valued at fair value, at balance date. Term deposits are measured at original cost. Any unrealised gains and losses on holdings at balance date are recognised as either a revenue or expense.			
Other financial assets include term deposits and those with original maturity dates of three to 12 months are classified as current, whilst term deposits with maturity dates greater than 12 months are classified as non-current.			
(c) Trade & Other Receivables			
Current			
<i>Statutory receivables</i>			
Net GST receivable		37,263	—
<i>Non-statutory receivables</i>			
Interest receivable		50,810	71,736
Total current trade and other receivables		88,073	71,736

continued on next page ...

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2025	2024
	\$	\$

5.2 Non-financial assets

(a) Other assets

Prepayments	172,517	122,739
Total current other assets	172,517	122,739

5.3 Payables, trust funds and deposits and contract and other liabilities

(a) Trade and other payables

Current

Non-statutory payables

Trade payables	27,889	1,867
Accrued expenses	23,770	11,200

Statutory payables

Net GST payable	–	100,002
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Total current trade and other payables	51,659	113,069
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(b) Trust funds and deposits

Current

Paid parental leave	–	2,648
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Total current trust funds and deposits	–	2,648
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(c) Contract and other liabilities

Contract liabilities

Current

Grants received in advance:

Grants received in advance - operating	80,909	40,000
Grants received in advance - capital	80,000	80,000

Total current contract liabilities	160,909	120,000
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North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	Annual Leave \$	Long Service Leave \$	Total \$
5.4 Provisions			
2025			
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	384,657	1,084,347	1,469,004
Additional provisions	311,931	107,083	419,014
Amounts used	(350,596)	(105,987)	(456,583)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	–	(9,845)	(9,845)
Balance at the end of the financial year	345,992	1,075,598	1,421,590
Provisions			
Provisions - current	345,992	997,183	1,343,175
Provisions - non-current	–	78,414	78,414
Total Provisions	345,992	1,075,597	1,421,589
2024			
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	389,261	1,039,846	1,429,107
Additional provisions	320,651	149,665	470,316
Amounts used	(325,255)	(93,916)	(419,171)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	–	(11,248)	(11,248)
Balance at the end of the financial year	384,657	1,084,347	1,469,004
Provisions			
Provisions - current	384,657	927,202	1,311,859
Provisions - non-current	–	157,145	157,145
Total Provisions	384,657	1,084,347	1,469,004

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North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
(a) Employee provisions		
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months		
Annual leave	313,801	346,004
Long service leave	94,903	93,043
	<u>408,704</u>	<u>439,047</u>
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
Annual leave	32,191	38,653
Long service leave	902,281	834,159
	<u>934,472</u>	<u>872,812</u>
Total current employee provisions	<u>1,343,176</u>	<u>1,311,859</u>
Non-Current		
Long service leave	78,414	157,145
Total Non-Current Employee Provisions	<u>78,414</u>	<u>157,145</u>
Aggregate Carrying Amount of Employee Provisions:		
Current	1,343,176	1,311,859
Non-current	78,414	157,145
Total Aggregate Carrying Amount of Employee Provisions	<u>1,421,590</u>	<u>1,469,004</u>
The calculation of employee costs and benefits includes all relevant on-costs and are calculated as follows at reporting date.		
<i>Annual leave</i>		
A liability for annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits as a current liability because the Corporation does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability. Liabilities for annual leave are measured at:		
- nominal value if the Corporation expects to wholly settle the liability within 12 months		
- present value if the Corporation does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.		
Liabilities that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits as current liabilities, measured at the present value of the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.		
<i>Long service leave</i>		
Liability for long service leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability as the Corporation does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement. Unconditional LSL is measured at nominal value if expected to be settled within 12 months or at present value if not expected to be settled within 12 months. Conditional LSL that has been accrued, where an employee is yet to reach a qualifying term of employment, is disclosed as a non-current liability and measured at present value.		
Key assumptions:		
- discount rate	4.30%	4.35%
- index rate	4.25%	4.45%

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Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2025 \$	2024 \$
5.5 Financing arrangements		
The Corporation has the following funding arrangements in place as at June 30 2025.		
Credit card facilities	23,000	23,000
Total Facilities	23,000	23,000
Used facilities	1,626	4,056
Unused facilities	21,374	18,944
Used facilities	23,000	23,000

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North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation

Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

5.6 Commitments

The Corporation 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.

(a) Commitments for expenditure

	Not later than 1 year \$	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years \$	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years \$	Later than 5 years \$	Total \$
2025					
Operating					
Financial services	97,071	97,071	97,071	—	291,213
Maintenance contracts (RFID)	28,570	28,570	28,570	—	85,710
Maxsum Backup System	16,412	6,838	—	—	23,250
Cleaning contracts	4,322	—	—	—	4,322
Gutter Cleaning	39	—	—	—	39
Mechanical services	418	—	—	—	418
Fire services	398	133	—	—	531
Lifts and hoists	274	274	228	—	776
Automatic doors	77	—	—	—	77
Security services	41	—	—	—	41
Civica Pty Ltd (Spydus Software)	86,712	21,678	—	—	108,390
Total	234,334	154,564	125,869	—	514,767
2024					
Operating					
Financial services	92,021	—	—	—	92,021
Maintenance contracts (RFID)	31,427	31,427	31,427	—	94,281
Maxsum Backup System	16,412	16,412	6,838	—	39,662
Cleaning contracts	5,873	3,920	—	—	9,793
Gutter Cleaning	—	—	—	—	—
Mechanical services	456	418	—	—	874
Fire services	82	—	—	—	82
Lifts and hoists	168	—	—	—	168
Automatic doors	74	—	—	—	74
Security services	45	45	—	—	90
Civica Pty Ltd (Spydus Software)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	146,558	52,222	38,265	—	237,045

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Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

5.7 Leases

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

(a) Right-of-Use Assets

	Property \$	Total \$
2025		
Balance at 1 July 2024	284,953	284,953
Additions	8,537	8,537
Depreciation charge	(29,106)	(29,106)
Balance at 30 June 2025	264,384	264,384
2024		
Balance at 1 July 2023	296,310	296,310
Additions	24,411	24,411
Depreciation charge	(35,768)	(35,768)
Balance at 30 June 2024	284,953	284,953
	2025 \$	2024 \$

(b) Lease Liabilities

Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows		
Less than one year	33,389	32,364
One to five years	166,943	161,819
More than five years	166,943	161,819
Total undiscounted lease liabilities as at 30 June:	367,275	356,002
Lease liabilities included in the Balance Sheet at 30 June:		
Current	25,904	24,412
Non-current	269,157	286,006
Total lease liabilities	295,061	310,418

Short-term and low value leases

The Corporation has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases of machinery that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets (individual assets worth less than existing capitalisation thresholds for a like asset up to a maximum of AUD\$10,000), including IT equipment. The Corporation recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Expenses relating to:

Leases of low value assets	197,582	183,784
Total	197,582	183,784

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:		
Within one year	89,516	70,739
Later than one year but not later than five years	—	14,445
Total lease commitments	89,516	85,184

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Assets we manage

6.1 Resources, plant and equipment

	Carrying amount 30 June 2024	Additions	Depreciation	Disposal	Carrying amount 30 June 2025
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Summary of resources, plant and equipment					
Plant and equipment	30,388	98,149	(33,340)	(4,337)	90,860
Resources	2,297,628	521,225	(577,524)	–	2,241,329
Information technology	459,639	135,344	(169,041)	(1,110)	424,832
Office equipment, furniture and fittings	153,769	184,047	(45,510)	–	292,306
Total	2,941,424	938,765	(825,415)	(5,447)	3,049,327

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North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

	Opening WIP	Additions	Write-off	Transfers	Closing WIP
Summary of Work in Progress	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Summary of Work in Progress					
Plant and equipment	–	–	(1)	–	(1)
	Resources	Plant and Equipment	Information Technology	Office equipment, furniture and fittings	Total Resources, plant and equipment
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
At cost 1 July 2024	5,286,558	87,127	1,052,652	500,649	6,926,986
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2024	(2,988,930)	(56,739)	(593,013)	(346,880)	(3,985,562)
	2,297,628	30,388	459,639	153,769	2,941,424
Movements in fair value					
Additions	521,225	98,149	135,344	184,047	938,765
Contributions	–	–	–	–	–
Disposal	(1,647,129)	(51,316)	(118,332)	–	(1,816,777)
	(1,125,904)	46,833	17,012	184,047	(878,013)
Movements in accumulated depreciation					
Depreciation and amortisation	(577,524)	(33,340)	(169,041)	(45,510)	(825,415)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	1,647,129	46,979	117,222	–	1,811,330
	1,069,605	13,639	(51,819)	(45,510)	985,915
At cost 30 June 2025	4,160,656	133,960	1,069,665	684,695	6,048,976
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2025	(1,919,327)	(43,100)	(644,832)	(392,390)	(2,999,649)
Carrying amount	2,241,329	90,860	424,833	292,305	3,049,327

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Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

Acquisition

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

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

	Depreciation Period	Threshold Limit \$
Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods		
Resources, plant and equipment		
Resources (i)	3-7 years	1
Plant and equipment	2-4 years	1,000
Information technology	4-11 years	1,000
Office equipment, furniture and fittings	5-20 years	1,000

(i) Resources comprise of the Corporation's lending and research resources including books, DVD's and CD's.

Resources are catalogued, and as items are taken out of circulation the catalogue is adjusted. Once items are fully depreciated in accordance with individual category useful lives, they are disposed of for accounting purposes from opening cost and accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation and amortisation

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

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

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

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

Repairs and maintenance

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.

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation

Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7. People and relationships

7.1 Corporation and key management remuneration

(a) Related Parties (board representatives)

	2025 No.	2024 No.
City of Greater Bendigo	2	2
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	2	2
Mount Alexander Shire Council	2	2
Loddon Shire Council	2	2
Subsidiaries and Associates		
Nil		

(b) Key Management Personnel

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

Details of KMP at any time during the year are:

Board Members	Stacy Williams - City of Greater Bendigo - (July 2024 - March 2025)
	Andie West - City of Greater Bendigo - (March 2025 - June 2025)
	Maria Weiss - Macedon Ranges Shire Council
	Lincoln Fitzgerald - Loddon Shire Council
	Lisa Knight - Mount Alexander Shire Council
	Cr Rosie Annear - Mount Alexander Shire Council
	Cr Linda Jungwirth - Loddon Shire Council - (July 2024 - September 2024)
	Cr Nick Angelo - Loddon Shire Council - (November 2024 - June 2025)
	Cr Bill West - Macedon Ranges Shire Council - (July 2024 - September 2024)
	Cr Dominic Bonanno - Macedon Ranges Shire Council - (February 2025 - June 2025)
	Cr Rod Fyffe - City of Greater Bendigo - (July 2024)
	Cr Damien Hurrell - City of Greater Bendigo - (December 2024 - June 2025)
CEO	Mark Hands (Chief Executive Officer)
Managers	Gemma Rayner (Manager People, Engagement & Operations)
	Jess Saunders (Manager Engagement & Operations)
	Clare Brown (Collections Manager)
	Leslie Baker (Collections Manager) - (July 2024 - May 2025)
	David Coughlan (Manager Information Technology)
	Rachael Cilauro (Manager Special Projects) - (July 2024 - September 2024)
	Karyn Carracher (Human Resources Advisor)
	Tammy Higgs (Coordinator Programs and Events)

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Total Number of Board Members	12	9
Total of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel	9	9
Total Number of Key Management Personnel	21	18

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North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation

Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7. People and relationships (continued)

(c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Remuneration comprises employee benefits including all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by the Corporation, or on behalf of the Corporation, 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.

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:		
Short-term benefits	756,813	685,362
Long-term benefits	9,425	18,026
Post-employment benefits	88,788	79,508
Total	855,026	782,896

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

\$1 - \$9,999	12	9
\$10,000 - \$19,999	1	1
\$20,000 - \$29,999	1	1
\$50,000 - \$59,999	1	—
\$60,000 - \$69,999	—	2
\$70,000 - \$79,999	1	1
\$110,000 - \$119,999	1	1
\$120,000 - \$129,999	1	2
\$130,000 - \$139,999	1	—
\$140,000 - \$149,999	1	—
\$170,000 - \$179,999	1	1
	21	18

Other senior staff are officers of the Corporation, other than Key Management Personnel, whose total remuneration exceeds \$170,000 and who report directly to a member of the KMP. The Corporation does not have any senior officers with an income range over \$170,000 who report directly to a member of the KMP.

There were no senior staff, other than key management personnel whose total remuneration exceeded \$170,000.

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North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7. People and relationships (continued)

	2025 \$	2024 \$
7.2 Related party disclosure		
(a) Transactions with related parties		
During the period the Corporation entered into the following transactions with related parties.		
Income		
Council contribution received from City of Greater Bendigo	3,529,749	3,410,916
Council contribution received from Macedon Ranges Shire Council	1,479,948	1,401,036
Council contribution received from Mount Alexander Shire Council	574,072	549,766
Council contribution received from Loddon Shire Council	216,454	205,410
Reimbursement for running the Bendigo Regional Archive Centre (BRAC) received from City of Greater Bendigo	95,503	93,630
Grant - Essential Community Grant received from City of Greater Bendigo	5,000	–
Grant - Get Moving Program Exercise for Older Adults received from City of Greater Bendigo	2,000	2,000
Grant - Kangaroo Flat Library outdoor signage received from City of Greater Bendigo	10,000	–
Grant - Healthy and safe workplaces and communities received from City of Greater Bendigo	–	12,500
Grant - Heathcote sports equipment received from City of Greater Bendigo	–	8,909
Grant - Nature journaling received from City of Greater Bendigo	–	2,000
Grant - Sustainable house kit received from City of Greater Bendigo	–	2,014
Grant - Sustainable house kit received from Mount Alexander Shire Council	–	1,007
Grant - A Different Flood Project Grant from Loddon Shire Council	19,990	–
Contribution - Living Libraries received from Mount Alexander Shire Council	10,000	–
Contribution - Return chutes received from Macedon Ranges Shire Council	2,034	2,250
Contribution - Library meeting pods received from City of Greater Bendigo	–	13,000
Contribution - Heathcote Story Walk trail signage corrections	1,000	–
Contribution - Balance of Friends of Bendigo Library Donation received from City of Greater Bendigo	3,250	–
Contribution - Financial Support for security received from City of Greater Bendigo	5,000	–
Contribution - Inter-generational Activity received from City of Greater Bendigo	909	–
Contribution - Books for Wedderburn Story-walk received from Loddon Shire	518	–
Contribution - Couch received from Macedon Ranges Shire Council	817	–
Contribution - Get Online Week received from Mount Alexander Shire Council	154	–
Contribution - NAIDOC Week received from Loddon Shire Council	8,742	–
Contribution - Nature journaling received from City of Greater Bendigo	455	–
Total	5,967,595	5,704,438
Expenses		
City of Greater Bendigo - Financial Services	83,655	83,595
City of Greater Bendigo - Rent and outgoings of Headquarters at Bendigo Library	44,064	41,733
Macedon Ranges Shire Council - Hire of Main Hall	155	–
Macedon Ranges Shire Council - Pete the Plumber Performance	–	170
Tarnagulla Community Centre	–	160
Total	127,874	125,658

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Note 7. People and relationships (continued)

(b) Outstanding balances with related parties

There were no material balances outstanding at the end of the reporting period in relation to transactions with related parties.

(c) Loans to/from related parties

There are no loans in existence at balance date which have been made, guaranteed or secured by the Corporation to a related party.

(d) Commitments to/from related parties

The aggregate amount of commitments in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the Corporation to a related party are as follows:

The Corporation had an agreement with the Greater Bendigo City Council for accounting and financial services to be provided to 30 June 2028 for which a fee is paid. The Corporation also has a 10 year lease agreement for buildings with the City of Greater Beniigo which commenced on 1 July 2015, for which rental is paid.

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 the Corporation. At balance date the Corporation 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 the Corporation; 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.

Superannuation

The Corporation has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme, matters relating to this potential obligation are outlined in note 9.3. As a result of the volatility in financial markets the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists. At this point in time it is not known if additional contributions will be required, their timing or potential amount.

8.2 Change in accounting standards

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

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

There has been a change to the Corporations Act, which is legislated to come in from 2030. The Corporation will consider annually the appropriateness until that point.

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Note 8. Managing uncertainties (continued)

8.3 Financial instruments

(a) Objectives and policies

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

(b) Market risk

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

Interest rate risk

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

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

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

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

(c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause the Corporation to make a financial loss. The Corporation has exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in the balance sheet. To help manage this risk the Corporation only invests surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in the Corporation's investment policy.

Receivables are predominately other Local Government entities (Member Councils). Credit risk associated with the Corporations financial assets is minimal because the primary debtor are the Victorian Government and other Member Councils. Apart from the Victorian Government and Member Councils the Corporation does not have any significant credit risk exposure to a single customer or groups of customers.

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

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

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Note 8. Managing uncertainties (continued)

(d) Liquidity risk

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

To help reduce these risks the Corporation:

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

The Corporation's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed on the face of the balance sheet and is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

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

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

(e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

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

- A parallel shift of +1% and -1% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 5.08%.

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

8.4 Events occurring after balance date

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

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 9. Other matters

9.1 Reserves

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record the increased (net) value of Council's assets over time.

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$	Increase (decrease) \$	Balance at end of reporting period \$
2025			
Discretionary reserves			
Plant replacement	177,918	(20,000)	157,918
Local history bequest	419,654	(18,925)	400,729
Defined benefits	500,000	—	500,000
Art book bequest	89,057	311	89,368
BD Sheen Castlemaine bequest	—	250,000	250,000
Total discretionary reserves	1,186,629	211,386	1,398,015
2024			
Discretionary reserves			
Plant replacement	177,918	—	177,918
Local history bequest	399,100	20,554	419,654
Defined benefits	500,000	—	500,000
Art book bequest	85,051	4,006	89,057
BD Sheen Castlemaine bequest	—	—	—
Total discretionary reserves	1,162,069	24,560	1,186,629

Discretionary reserves

Plant Replacement Reserve

This reserve was established for future vehicle purchases.

Local History Bequest Reserve

This reserve was established when the Corporation received a Bequest to be spent on Local History.

Defined Benefits Reserve

This reserve is used to assist with the funding of any call that may be made on the Corporation as a result of shortfall in the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund Defined Benefits Plan.

Art Book Bequest Reserve

This reserve was established when the Corporation received a Bequest to be spent on Art Books.

BD Sheen Castlemaine Bequest Reserve

This reserve was established when the Corporation received a Bequest to be spent on operations specifically for the Castlemaine branch.

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North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 9. Other matters (continued)

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus		
Surplus for the year	371,230	92,544
Non-cash adjustments:		
Depreciation and amortisation	854,521	868,341
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(13,880)	270
Contributions - Non-monetary assets	(9,480)	(10,636)
Finance costs - leases	9,497	8,631
Interest received	(257,930)	(193,371)
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase) in trade and other receivables	(16,337)	(19,564)
(Increase) in prepayments	(49,778)	—
Increase in other assets	—	14,020
(Decrease)/increase in contract and other liabilities	40,909	(129,014)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(61,410)	52,299
(Decrease)/increase in trust funds and deposits	(2,648)	2,648
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(47,414)	39,896
Net cash provided by operating activities	817,280	726,064
Cash and cash equivalents	627,390	326,916
Total	627,390	326,916

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Note 9. Other matters (continued)

9.3 Superannuation

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

Accumulation

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

Defined Benefit

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

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

Three employees of the Corporation were engaged under this agreement for the financial years ending 30 June 2024 and 2025.

Contributions

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

Scheme	Type of scheme	Rate	2025 \$	2024 \$
Vision Super	Defined benefit	11.5% (2024:11.0%)	29,653	22,436
Vision Super	Accumulation fund	11.5% (2024:11.0%)	245,739	249,984

[In addition to the above contributions, Council has paid unfunded liability payments to Vision Super totalling \$[insert amount paid during the 2024/25 year] (2023/24 \$[insert amount paid during the 2023/24 year]).

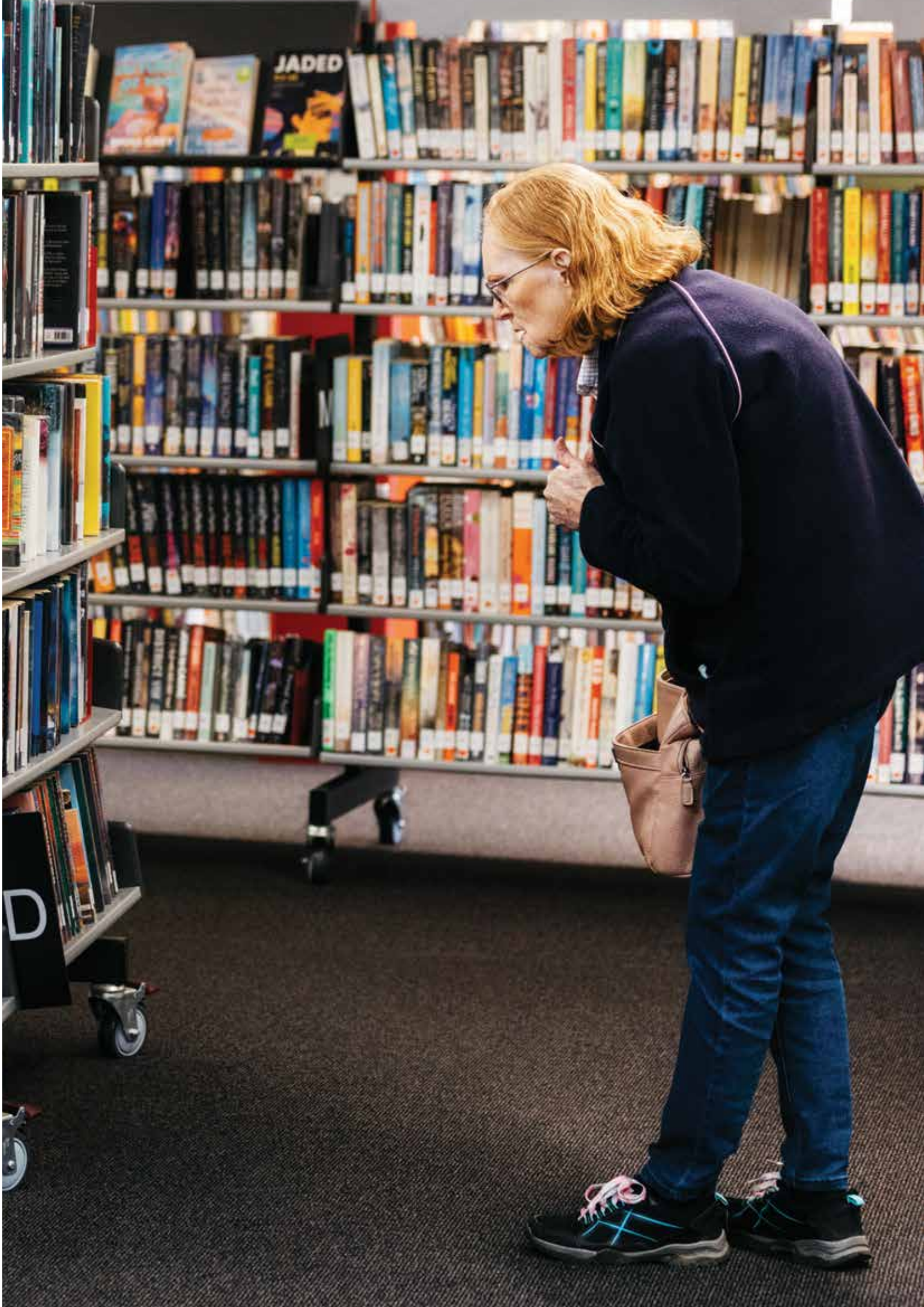
There were [\$relevant amount/no] contributions outstanding and [\$relevant amount/no] loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2025.

The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2026 is \$(insert estimated amount to be paid).

Note 10. Changes in accounting policies

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





Thank you to our valued members, visitors and partners
for supporting Goldfields Library Corporation this year.

Branches

Bendigo

251-259 Hargreaves Street
p: 5449 2700

Castlemaine

212 Barker Street
p: 5472 1458

Eaglehawk

Eaglehawk Mechanics Institute
1 Sailors Gully Road
p: 5446 7577

Gisborne

8 Hamilton Street
p: 5428 3962

Heathcote

125 High Street
p: 5433 3734

Kangaroo Flat

23 Lockwood Road
p: 5447 8344

Kyneton

3 Baynton Street
p: 5422 1365

Romsey

98 Main Street
p: 5429 3086

Woodend

Cnr High & Forest Streets
p: 5427 2074

Agencies

Axedale

Axedale Public Hall
94 McIvor Road

Boort

Boort Resource and
Information Centre
119-121 Godfrey Street

Dingee

Dingee Railway Station
Bendigo-Pyramid Road

Elmore

Elmore Athenaeum Hall
62 Michie Street

Inglewood

Inglewood Community
Neighbourhood House
Inglewood Town Hall Hub
20 Verdon Street

Pyramid Hill

Pyramid Hill Neighbourhood
House
Unit 5-8/43 Kelly Street

Tarnagulla

Tarnagulla Community Centre
8 Sandy Creek Lane

Wedderburn

Wedderburn Community Centre
24 Wilson Street