

# WHAT'S ON

Summer 2025-26



Goldfields  
Libraries

**BIG Summer Read**

**Celebrating Jane Austen's  
250th birthday**

**Rod Halsted**

*Take my advice, i'm not using it!*



**NGV Kids on Tour**

# How to Book

All Goldfields Libraries events are free unless specified. You don't need to be a library member to attend.

### BOOKINGS

are essential wherever you see this symbol.



### ONLINE VIA ZOOM

Session links available upon booking.



### ONLINE

[www.goldfieldslibraries.com](http://www.goldfieldslibraries.com)

### IN PERSON

Visit your local library.  
Information on back cover.

### BY PHONE

Information on back cover.

For the latest details and information on library events visit [goldfieldslibraries.com](http://goldfieldslibraries.com)

Large print copies of this program are available. Please phone 5449 2790 or email [programs@ncgrl.vic.gov.au](mailto:programs@ncgrl.vic.gov.au)



Explore our comprehensive range of eLibrary resources available free to Goldfields Libraries members!

Find us on social media



When booking an event, you'll need to provide your name, phone number, and email for communication purposes and booking confirmation. Your information will be kept confidential.

Staff may take photos or videos during events for promotional purposes, including social media, marketing materials, and our website. We'll only use your image with your consent through an Image Release Form. For more information, visit [ncgrl.vic.gov.au/yourprivacy](http://ncgrl.vic.gov.au/yourprivacy).

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**On the cover**  
**NGV Kids on Tour**  
Children enjoying drawing and making together.

Photo: Tom Ross

Details on page 24.

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

### Launch event

Join Greater Bendigo Against Family Violence to launch the 16 Days of Activism.

Includes: Coffee with a Cop, Storytime at 10.30am with Victoria Police, colouring and badge-making activities, and pop-up stalls by local family violence services. Wear a touch of orange to show your support for a future free from violence for all.

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**Tue 25 Nov, 10am-12pm**

Bendigo Library

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### Documentary: Unanswered Calls Shining a light on the silent victims of domestic and family violence

Highlights the experiences of young Australians facing domestic and family violence. This film confronts the silence that has long hidden the stories of children and young people. These raw, unfiltered accounts of heartbreak, resilience and hope compel us to listen and act.

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**Wed 26 Nov, 2-3.15pm**

Gisborne Library

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**Thu 4 Dec, 5-6.15pm**

Kyneton Library

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**Sat 6 Dec, 11am-12pm**

Castlemaine Library

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**Tue 9 Dec, 2-3.15pm**

Kangaroo Flat Library

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BOOK  
NOW



### Simone O'Brien: A Full Stop. Stop Domestic Violence

Join us for a powerful presentation from Simone O'Brien, a survivor, advocate, and speaker of family violence. Simone shares her lived experience, speaking with courage and hope to inspire change.

A Goldfields Libraries, City of Greater Bendigo, and Greater Bendigo Against Family Violence partnered event.

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**Thu 4 Dec, 5.30-7pm**

Bendigo Library

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BOOK  
NOW

# Celebrating Christmas



## December Card Project

Bendigo Health invites you to write a Christmas message of hope and kindness for inpatients in mental health units. Your understanding and support can help ease the stigma, loneliness, and isolation of those affected by mental illness. Use your own card, or one from the library, and place it unsealed in the library letterboxes provided.

More info at [bendigohealth.org.au](http://bendigohealth.org.au)

**Until Fri 20 Dec**

Bendigo, Eaglehawk & Kangaroo Flat libraries

## Canva for Christmas

Learn how to make personalised Christmas cards and tags using customisable and printable templates from Canva, a free and easy-to-use graphic design tool. No experience necessary – just bring your own device and Christmas spirit.

BOOK NOW

**Tue 2 Dec, 11.30am-12.30pm**

Gisborne Library

**Sat 6 Dec, 10.30-11.30am**

Heathcote Library

## Canva for Christmas: One-on-one

Book a 30-minute appointment for individual one-on-one Canva learning.

BOOK NOW

**Thu 4 Dec, 10am-2pm**

Bendigo Library

## Pop-up Christmas card workshop

**Presented by pop-up collectors Ken and Jane Rookes**

A brief overview of the world of pop-ups with an introduction to some simple pop-up techniques, followed by the opportunity to choose and make your own pop-up card – or cards if you're a fast worker! If you have your own ideas, we can help bring them to life.

Ages 5+ years, and adults.

Bookings preferred.

Pop-up display Mon 1 Dec - Fri 9 Jan.

BOOK NOW

**Sat 6 & 13 Dec, 10.30am-12pm**

Bendigo Library

## Handmade Christmas cards

Make unique and beautiful cards for the festive season, embellished with cuttings from the pages of old books.

BOOK  
NOW

**Mon 15 Dec, 11.30am-12.30pm**

Elmore Library Agency

**Tue 16 Dec, 11.45am-12.25pm**

Pyramid Hill Library Agency  
(includes mini magnets)

**Wed 17 Dec, 10.30-11.30am**

Wedderburn Library Agency

**Wed 17 Dec, 1.30-2.30pm**

Inglewood Library Agency

**Thu 18 Dec, 11am-12pm**

Boort Library Agency

**Thu 18 Dec, 2-3pm**

Axedale Library Agency

## Christmas card drop in

Drop in and make a Christmas card for someone special.

Ages 7+ years.

**Tue 16-23 Dec**

Heathcote Library

## Gorgeous Christmas baubles

Have fun with simple decoupage using serviettes and Mod Podge to create unique and gorgeous Christmas baubles.

BOOK  
NOW

**Ages 10-14 years: Wed 17 Dec, 4-5pm**

Bendigo Library

**Adults: Fri 19 Dec, 10.30-11.30am**

Kangaroo Flat Library

**Ages 8+ years and adults**

**Sat 20 Dec, 10.30-11.30am**

Eaglehawk Library

**BIG  
SUMMER  
READ**



See page 25  
for details.

# Celebrating Jane Austen's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday

Celebrate Jane Austen's birthday in Regency style. Inspired by the elegance and social customs of England's Regency era (early 1800s), join us for delightful crafts, games, high teas, and movies, as we revisit the elegance of Austen's world.

## Regency letter writing

Discover the art of elegant correspondence with folded letters and wax seals, just as Jane Austen might have sent.

Teens and adults.

**Wed 3 Dec, 10.30-11.30am**

Heathcote Library

BOOK  
NOW

## Regency dance card workshop and high tea

Embrace the romance and intrigue of balls from the Jane Austen era. Regency balls typically ran from around 10pm until dawn, consisting of some 20 dances, and were an important form of courtship. But how to keep track of all the beaus? Why, a dance card, of course, to pencil them in! Enjoy creating your own Jane Austen dance card keepsake, learn a little more about the era, and partake of high tea.

Please bring along a plate to share.

*"To be fond of dancing was a certain step towards falling in love."*

Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*.

**Fri 5 Dec, 10am-1pm**

Romsey Library

BOOK  
NOW

**Fri 5 Dec, 2-4pm**

Gisborne Library



## Films

There have been many beautiful film adaptations of Jane Austen novels over the years. Sit back and indulge your inner romantic!

Collect a flyer from the library for film titles.

**Fri 5 Dec, 1-3pm**

Romsey Library

**Mon 8 Dec, 1.30-3.15pm**

Gisborne Library

**Fri 12 Dec, 5.30-7.30pm**

Bendigo Library

**Tue 16 Dec, 2-3.50pm**

Woodend Library

**Tue 16 Dec, 2-4pm**

Castlemaine Library

## Paper quilling gift cards

Create a beautiful handmade card using the delicate art of paper quilling – perfect for gifting with Regency flair!

Teens and adults.

**Wed 10 Dec, 10.30-11.30am**

Heathcote Library

BOOK  
NOW



## Cameo silhouette

Children can create their own elegant Regency-style portraits using paper silhouettes, perfect for framing or gifting.

Ages 7+ years.

**Thu 11 Dec, 4-5pm**

Heathcote Library

BOOK  
NOW

## Regency high tea and activities

A Regency-themed morning tea experience inspired by the elegance and social customs of England's Regency era. Dress in period attire and enjoy activities fit for a Regency lady or gentleman.

**Sat 13 Dec, 10-11.30am**

Heathcote Library



## Library Lovers Day

Indulge your love of words (and libraries!) by repurposing the pages of old books in our lovely library agencies.

### Dictionary magnets

Create effective, fun, and super easy dictionary magnets with flat marbles and snippets from dictionary pages, using words that resonate.

**Mon 9 Feb, 11.30am-12.30pm**

Elmore Library Agency

**Wed 11 Feb, 10.30-11.30am**

Wedderburn Library Agency

**Wed 11 Feb, 2-3pm**

Inglewood Library Agency

**Thu 12 Feb, 11am-12pm**

Boort Library Agency

### Black out poems

Find poetry in the pages of forgotten books. We'll show you how to craft new meaning from old words to create art that's as expressive as it is unique.

**Tue 10 Feb, 11.45am-12.25pm**

Pyramid Hill Library Agency

## Lunar New Year of the Horse



### Come and try: Outdoor tai chi

Come along and try an outdoor Tai Chi Qigong session led by Welby Holistic Healing. This gentle practice promotes wellbeing and harmony with peaceful movement and community connection.

Open to all ages and abilities.

**Sat 14 Feb, 10-11am**

Kangaroo Flat Library Gardens

### Traditional Welcome

The Central Victorian Southern Lion, Dragon and Fu Wa Teams will bring the library to life with a noisy and spectacular welcome to the Lunar New Year of the Horse.

All are welcome.

Gong Hei Fat Choy!

**Fri 20 Feb, 5-6pm**

Bendigo Library

# AUTHORS, READING & WRITING

## Author Talks

### Michael J. Leach: *Chords in the Soundscapes*

Join local poet Michael J. Leach for the launch of his new poetry collection about sounds and emotions. Autobiographical in nature, the poems capture Michael's formative memories from childhood through to adulthood, connecting to music and songs. *Chords in the Soundscapes* will be launched by Tru Dowling and will feature readings by the author.

Book sales and signings.

Michael J. Leach is an award-winning local poet and academic. Tru Dowling is a local poet, writer, editor, performer and teacher.

**Fri 5 Dec, 5.30-6.30pm**  
Bendigo Library

BOOK  
NOW

### David Gormley-O'Brien: *Ashes and Sakura*

**An Australian story of the making of a Pacific nation**

In the aftermath of war, Tom and his sister Evelyn face very different reckonings. While Tom serves in occupied Japan, haunted by what he saw – and did – in New Guinea and Borneo, Evelyn defies her father and the judgement of a small-town community to find the Italian prisoner of war who fathered her child. *Ashes and Sakura*, a companion to *An Attractive Naivety*, is a story of duty, shame, and the fragile hope of making something good in the ruins.

Book sales and signings.

Dr David Gormley-O'Brien is a writer and historian based in Woodend. Through historical fiction, he explores how the upheavals of the early 20th century shaped the ways Australians understood themselves and others.

**Sat 6 Dec, 10.30-11.30am**  
Woodend Library

BOOK  
NOW

### The Missing Photograph



Christopher Race

### Christopher Race: *The Missing Photograph*

While searching for the elusive photograph, Christopher Race gives us a collection of stories, each with its own unique picture. This includes his parents in a park, Saturn and its rings, and fish in a rainforest creek. The stories ask, 'what is a photograph anyway?' A record of time past, or a hook for flights of fancy?

Book sales and signings.

'A dazzling act of both memory and the creative imagination'  
Suzi Baldwin.

**Thu 11 Dec, 2-3pm**  
Kyneton Library

BOOK  
NOW



## Rod Halsted: Take my advice, I'm not using it!

Rod Halsted has lived a life most wouldn't dare to imagine. As soon as he could leave school, he headed straight to Kalgoorlie for adventure. Not that he needed to cross the country: adventure always finds Rod, and he loves to take a risk. Rod drank with Bob Hawke, was rescued from the nick by Charles Waterstreet, hung with one of the Great Train Robbers, and wrote off endless cars. Then it all caught up with him. He has long since abandoned the drugs and conquered his alcohol addiction. In his memoir, *Take my advice, I'm not using it!*, he takes you on a wild ride through addiction, crime, and redemption – all wrapped in the irreverent humour of a true Aussie larrikin.

Book sales and signings.

In conversation with renowned former ABC journalist  
**Nicole Chvastek** (excepting Wedderburn).

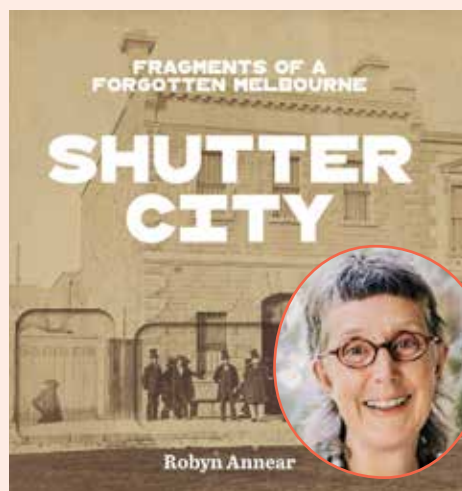
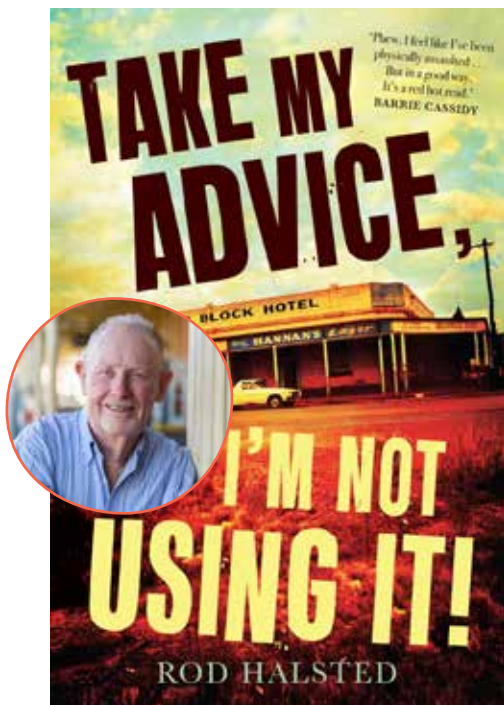
**Wed 10 Dec, 10.30-11.30am**  
Wedderburn Library Agency

BOOK  
NOW

**Wed 10 Dec, 2-3pm**  
Bendigo Library

**Thu 11 Dec, 2-3pm**  
Gisborne Library

**Thu 11 Dec, 5.30-6.30pm**  
Castlemaine Library



## Robyn Annear: Shutter City Fragments of a forgotten Melbourne

Robyn Annear introduces her latest and greatest quirky exploration of Melbourne's history. *Shutter City* presents a photographic view of city streets spanning the hurly-burly decades of the 1850s to 1870s, between the gold rushes and Marvellous Melbourne. Robyn peers into every shadowy corner to reveal postcard streetscapes as miraculous time capsules, packed with hidden-in-plain-sight historical detail. Her discoveries, or 'sparks', illuminate and decode each of Shutter City's street views in a lively and insightful way.

Book sales and signings.

Robyn Annear is author of 10 books of history, and is based in Castlemaine.

**Thu 15 Jan, 5.30-6.30pm**  
Castlemaine Library

**Wed 18 Feb, 2.30-3.30pm**  
Gisborne Library

BOOK  
NOW



## Summertime Crime: Introducing Geoff Parkes and Susi Fox

A special treat for lovers of crime fiction – a scintillating conversation from two Victorian-based crime writers introducing their newly released novels. Geoff Parkes' new rural noir *The First Law of the Bush* is set in New Zealand's rugged King Country, a captivating read where nothing is quite as it seems. Susi Fox's *The Other Child* is a gripping psychological suspense with the dilemma of who do you trust when you can't trust the one you love? Geoff and Susi will be in conversation with another writer of crime, Castlemaine-based author Cate Kennedy.

Book sales and signings.

**Tue 27 Jan, 5.30-6.30pm**  
Bendigo Library

BOOK  
NOW



Children's  
Book  
Launch

## Imagine a Place

Join us for the joyful launch of *Imagine a Place*, a delightful story that celebrates the benefits of going to playgroup right here in Bendigo! The book was written and illustrated by children and families from Shine Bright, *Wonyotjarripil*, and Hope community playgroups in collaboration with Kids' Own Publishing artists Ana Rita Pires and emerging Bendigo-based Koori artist Sharnni Cooper. We'll celebrate with a reading, book give-aways and a kid friendly morning tea.

All are welcome.

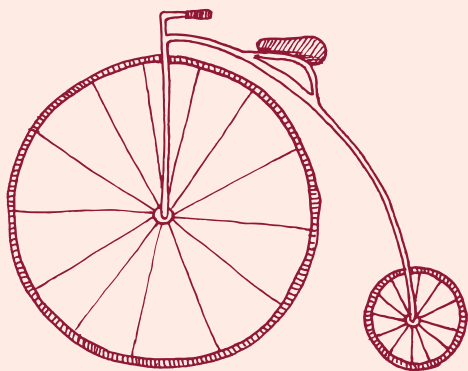
**Fri 20 Feb, 11am-12pm**  
Bendigo Library

BOOK  
NOW

## Writing

# Mulga Bill

WRITING AWARD



Aspiring poets and writers are warmly invited to enter the Mulga Bill Writing Award, part of the Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Festival.

**Theme:** Harvest.

**Short story:** Max. 2000 words.

**Poetry:** Max. 25 lines.

Prizes awarded in each category. \$5 entry fee.  
More information and entry forms at  
[www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/mulgabillwritingaward](http://www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/mulgabillwritingaward)

**Entries open: Monday 29 December 2025.**

**Entries close: Monday 2 March 2026.**

Winners announced at the Dahlia and Arts Festival Opening on Friday 20 March.

Sponsored by Eaglehawk Festivals Inc.

## Carmel Bird: Writing memoir

Due to popular response, acclaimed writer Carmel Bird returns to guide you in exploring your memories and the art of getting them down on paper. Please bring along a photo of yourself from early life, and an object from your past that awakens memories.

Open to all adults.

**Fri 30 Jan, 10.30am-12pm**

Castlemaine Library

BOOK  
NOW



## Tiny poetry for big feelings with Dave Munro and Amanda Collins

People often turn to tiny poems to express something they want to say – cards for various occasions, Instagram posts, speeches at important events. But what if you could say what you mean without having to rely on Hallmark™ to choose your words for you? Join Amanda and Dave for some 'poetry push-ups' – a mini workout in pushing words around to create meaning and express yourself.

Amanda Collins and Dave Munro are both practising poets.

**Thu 19 Feb, 10-11.30am**

Kyneton Library

**Sat 21 Feb, 10-11.30am**

Heathcote Library

BOOK  
NOW

# LIFELONG LEARNING



## Talks & Presentations

### Climate health

Climate health is both an environmental and a health issue. Higher temperatures, floods and extreme weather events are becoming increasingly more common and causing a range of health effects. Join us to learn how we can help the environment, protect our health, and save money on our daily living expenses.

**Mon 8 Dec, 11am-12pm**  
Bendigo Library

BOOK  
NOW

### Review your energy bills: one-on-one help

Bring in your energy bill for expert advice on the most cost-effective energy plan for you, learn about available concessions and supports, and receive some energy-saving tips.

30-minute timeslots available.

Presented by the City of Greater Bendigo.

**Tue 9 Dec, 2-4pm**  
**Wed 11 Feb, 10am-1pm**  
Bendigo Library

BOOK  
NOW

**Tue 3 Feb, 1-4pm**  
Eaglehawk Library

**Thu 26 Feb, 12.30-2pm**  
Kangaroo Flat Library

## Parenting Talks & Workshops

CatholicCare Victoria  
Regional Parenting Program

### Tech strategies for families

Technology is part of our reality, but setting boundaries around its use is not always easy. This workshop aims to present current research, reflect on tech use in your family – considering the challenges and opportunities – and explore strategies that focus on creating a safe and healthy tech environment.

**Mon 8 Dec, 10-11am**  
Kangaroo Flat Library

BOOK  
NOW

### Connecting with kids

A workshop focusing on using emotional intelligence to understand and guide children's behaviour, covering beliefs around parenting as well as information on brain development and children's emotional development.

**Tue 17 Feb, 1.30-2.30pm**  
Bendigo Library

BOOK  
NOW

## Roadblocks to true connection: A reflective group presentation for couples

This group session is designed to bring couples together to explore the common challenges that can get in the way of their relationship thriving. An opportunity to pause, reflect, and reconnect - to better understand each other and strengthen the foundation of your partnership. This presentation offers insight, reflection and practical tools for building deeper connections, understanding and enrichment.

Presented by Kathryn Fortuna from The Anna Centre.

BOOK  
NOW

**Thu 12 Feb, 5.30-7pm**  
Bendigo Library

## Darrwal / Kaal (Dingo) in Wadawurrung Country and Beyond

Wadawurrung woman Kelly Ann Blake shares her knowledge on the deep relationship and cultural significance of dingoes to Aboriginal / First Nations people and Country. This warm and engaging presentation includes cultural insights and sharing of her research 'Reawakening the sleeping cultural knowledges of Dingo in South Eastern Australia'. Also includes sensory hands-learning, and Q&A.

Suitable for adults, and families with school aged children.

Kelly Ann Blake lives on Dja Dja Wurrung Country and is owner of Kaal Kaal Murrup Cultural Consultancy. She acknowledges, and pays her continuous respects to Dja Dja Wurrung people and Country, honouring her kinship connection.

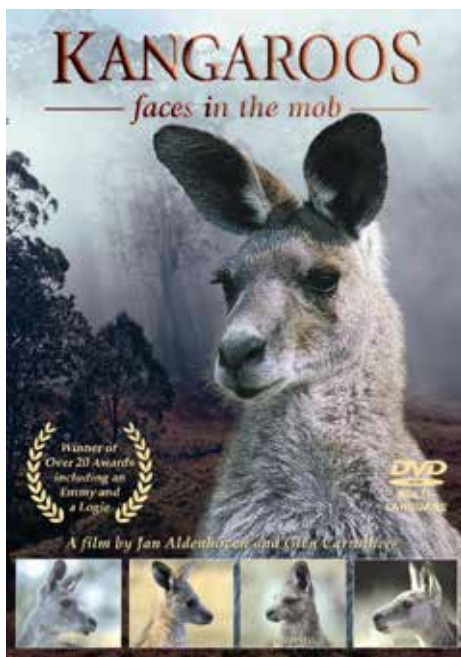
**Sat 21 Feb, 10.30-11.30am**  
Castlemaine Library

BOOK  
NOW

## Justice of the Peace Service

A document witnessing service is available at several of our libraries.

For more information visit  
[ncgrl.vic.gov.au/jp](http://ncgrl.vic.gov.au/jp)



## Kangaroos: Faces in the Mob (G, 2020)

Come along and enjoy this superb natural history documentary following the day-to-day lives of a mob of wild kangaroos living in a remote valley of magical beauty. Behind every face is a personality and you will be captivated from beginning to end. Stay on after the screening for snacks, and Q&A with film maker Jan Aldenhoven.

Suitable for all ages – individuals and families.

**Thu 26 Feb, 5-7pm**  
Kangaroo Flat Library

BOOK  
NOW





Vol. 4638 Fol. 927589

# Certificate of Title,

UNDER THE "TRANSFER OF LAND ACT 1915."

Henry Charles Enticknap of Lily Street Bendigo in the County of Bendigo -----

Manufacturer is -----  
now the proprietor of an Estate in Fee-simple, subject to the Encumbrances  
notified hereunder in All that piece of Land, delineated and coloured  
One rood and four-tenths of a perch or ---  
Quarterly Section A at Iron Bark -

## Family & Local History

### Unearthing land titles at BRAC: Accessing digital land records

Seeking the history of a property in Victoria? BRAC now offers free access to a digital land records portal. Book a 45-minute one-on-one session on how to use this portal. Bring a USB drive and the property details, and let us guide you through history.

BOOK  
NOW

**Tue 27 Jan & 24 Feb**  
**1.30-2.15pm & 2.30-3.15pm**  
Bendigo Library

### Reading and using historical maps and plans

A vital tool in local and family history research is finding, using and interpreting historical maps and plans. Ever wanted to know what all the names and numbers mean and how they link to historical land records? Join Susan Walter, coordinator of the Bendigo Regional Archives Centre, for a hands-on workshop on navigating these vital records.

BYO laptop and mouse.

BOOK  
NOW

**Tue 17 Feb, 2-3pm**  
Bendigo Library

### Family history online

See page 16 for details.

BOOK  
NOW

**Thu 19 Feb, 2-3pm**  
Bendigo Library

### Genealogy research help

Support and guidance from skilled volunteers for researchers of local and family history.

#### Bendigo Family History Group

**Wed and Sat, 10am-2pm**  
(closed Wed 17 Dec-14 Jan)  
Bendigo Library

#### Bendigo Regional Genealogical Society

**Mon, 11am-3pm** (closed Mon 22 Dec)  
Bendigo Library

#### Gisborne Genealogy Group

**Tue, 10am-1pm & Thu, 2-5pm**  
(closed from Thu 18 Dec until refurbishment complete)  
Gisborne Library



# Digital Literacy

## One-on-one IT help

Book a personalised tech session for tailored support to suit your needs. Whether you're setting up a new device, learning how to use email, exploring social media, or need assistance completing online forms, we can help. No question too small, and no experience required.

By appointment at all other branches.  
Bookings by phone. Details on back cover.

**Mon 8 Dec, 12 Jan & 9 Feb, 11.30am-12.30pm**  
Boort Library Agency

**Fri 19 Dec, 7 & 28 Feb, 12-1pm**  
Elmore Library Agency

**Mon 29 Dec & 23 Feb, 2.30-4pm**  
Kyneton Library

## Getting started with your iPhone and iPad

Whether it's your first iPhone or a shiny new iPad, we can help you get started. Learn how to set up your device, navigate key features, and make the most of what it can do. From messaging and apps to photos and settings, we'll guide you step by step at your own pace.

Suitable for both beginners and more experienced users.

Please let us know what type of device you have when booking.

**One-on-one sessions**  
**Mon 8 Dec, 2-2.30 & 2.30-3pm**  
Bendigo Library

**Wed 7 Jan, 2.30-3.30pm**  
Romsey Library

**One-on-one sessions**  
**Thu 8, 15, 22 & 29 Jan, 10-11am or 3-4pm**  
Heathcote Library

## Kanopy and Beamafilm streaming

Learn how to untap a vast catalogue of films, documentaries, educational videos, and TV series, all for free with your library card.

BOOK  
NOW

**Thu 11 Dec, 2-3pm**  
Bendigo Library

**Mon 19 Jan, 10.30-11.30am**  
Woodend Library



## Get to know your gadget one-on-one

Did you receive a new device, smartwatch or eReader for Christmas? If so, we can help you get to know your gadget.

Please advise us what type of gadget you have when booking.

30-minute timeslots available.

**Thu 8 & 29 Jan, 2-3pm**  
Bendigo Library

BOOK  
NOW

## Introduction to Be Connected: Digital skill support for over 55s

Join us for a friendly hands-on session designed to help older adults explore the Be Connected website and access free online courses to build digital skills and confidence.

BOOK  
NOW

**Thu 15 Jan, 2-3pm**

Romsey Library

**Thu 22 Jan, 2-3pm**

Bendigo Library

**Tue 3 Feb, 2-3pm**

Eaglehawk Library

## Digital declutter

Inbox overflowing? Can't find your files? We'll show you how to organise, delete and streamline your digital life.

BOOK  
NOW

**Mon 19 Jan, 2.30-3.30pm**

Kyneton Library

**Thu 26 Feb, 2-3pm**

Bendigo Library

## Photo books

Learn how to use your digital photos to create and print a one-of-a-kind photo book.

BOOK  
NOW

**Wed 21 Jan, 2.30-3.30pm**

Romsey Library

## Tech tips and tricks

We all love a good hack, whether it's a tip that saves time or money, or discovering something new that can help make your life a little easier. Come along and we'll share a range of tech tips that can smooth your way.

BOOK  
NOW

**Thu 5 Feb, 2-3pm**

Bendigo Library

## Staying safer online

Learn the essentials of safe passwords, how to pay safely online and tips to avoid scams and tricks.

BOOK  
NOW

**Mon 9 Feb, 2.30-3.30pm**

Kyneton Library

## Beginner's Guide to the Cloud

Learn how cloud services like Google Drive, One Drive, and iCloud can help you store, share, and access files anywhere.

BOOK  
NOW

**Fri 13 Feb, 2-3pm**

Castlemaine Library

## Family history online

An introduction to online resources and databases for researching and compiling your family history.

BOOK  
NOW

**Thu 19 Feb, 2-3pm**

Bendigo Library



## Getting started with YouTube: Watch, search and subscribe

Discover how to use YouTube to explore your interests, from exercise routines and wellness tips to cooking, travel and DIY tutorials. This hands-on session will guide you through searching for videos, watching and controlling playback, and subscribing to your favourite channels.

BOOK  
NOW

**Mon 23 Feb, 11am-12pm**

Kangaroo Flat Library

# CONNECTION & CREATIVITY



## Displays

### Kite Art exhibition

**Tue 25 Nov-Wed 10 Dec**  
Bendigo Library

### Pop-up Christmas cards and books

**Mon 1 Dec-Fri 9 Jan**  
Bendigo Library

### CoLab Exhibition

Showcasing collaborations between a writer and visual artist, who work together to create an art piece.

**Fri 12 Dec-2 Jan**  
**Launch: Fri 12 Dec, 5.30-7.30pm**  
Bendigo Library

### Creative mapping fun!

All ages are invited to add ideas to the *Mapping Our Futures* community map.

Share your vision for a positive future and see how your local stories and actions shape our community's tomorrow.

More info at [mapfutures.org](http://mapfutures.org)

**Sat 24 Jan-14 Feb**  
Castlemaine Library

## Special Activities

### Game On @ Kangaroo Flat Library A summer of fun and play

Get ready to roll the dice, flip the cards and dive into summer weeks of laughter and friendly competition – something for all ages. Includes both daily and booked sessions.

Collect a flyer from the library and let the games begin!

**Mon 5-Sat 24 Jan**

### Collage-covered journal for 2026

Take a plain notebook and turn it into a collage-covered journal. Dip into a wonderful array of supplies to bring personality and fun to your creation.

Materials supplied. No experience necessary.

**Tue 20 Jan, 2-5pm**  
Gisborne Library

BOOK  
NOW

## Vision boards for adults

Join us to create a collage of inspiring pictures, words, and quotes that represent you and your hopes and dreams. It's a fun way to map out and see your short and long-term goals more clearly – whether it is your dream career, a personal challenge, or even just your overall aspirations.

Materials and refreshments provided.

BOOK  
NOW

**Thu 5 Feb, 10am-12pm**  
Woodend Library



## All day art workshop: Beginners drawing

Artist Marilyn Andrews will guide beginners in the art of drawing with graphite and other pencils.

Adults 18+ years (new attendees only).

Resources and refreshments provided. \$20 cost. Please pay cash on the day.

BOOK  
NOW

**Mon 9 Feb, 10am-3pm**  
Kangaroo Flat Library  
Bookings: phone 5447 8344

## The Memory Place: Beauty and style

Join us for memories, conversation and fun as we share our beautiful themed memory kits. Enjoy reflecting on or learning about the past and the stories that objects can tell.

Refreshments included.

BOOK  
NOW

**Thu 19 Feb, 1.30-2.30pm**  
Kangaroo Flat Library





## Regular Programs

### Craft and Sewing Groups

#### Crafting Connections

Join our friendly gatherings and connect over craft. Bring your current crochet, knitting or craft project, share tips and learn new skills.

Preemie Heart supplies available at some locations.

Crochet Hookers Australia members present at Kangaroo Flat.

**Wed 3 Dec & 4 Feb, 2-4pm**

Woodend Library

**Thu 11 Dec, 8 & 29 Jan, 12 Feb, 1-2.30pm**

Kangaroo Flat Library

#### Studio Social

Are you an artist or crafter that would like to meet with other creative people? Come along to Studio Social. Bring your art or craft materials and join in the creative fun.

All welcome.

**Tue 3, 10, 17 & 24 Feb, 2-3.30pm**

Bendigo Library

BOOK  
NOW

#### A Curious Circle

Gather together in our inclusive and friendly craft circle for creativity and conversation.

Refreshments provided.

**Wed 11 Feb, 5.30-7.30pm**

Romsey Library

BOOK  
NOW



# Fun and Games

## Colour Me Happy

Take time out and join others for some intricate, mindful and relaxing colouring.

Resources and refreshments provided.

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**Tue 2 Dec & Wed 18 Feb, 1-4.30pm**

Kangaroo Flat Library

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## Puzzle and Chat

A good puzzler can complete a 500-piece jigsaw in three hours, but how quickly can a group of keen puzzlers do it? Join others to complete a lovely new jigsaw while chatting.

Refreshments provided.

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**Wed 3 Dec & 4 Feb, 1-4.30pm**

Kangaroo Flat Library

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## Jigsaw puzzle swap

Bring along an unwanted puzzle to trade for one that's new to you. Puzzles must be at least 500 pieces, in good condition, in original box, with no missing pieces. No children's puzzles, please.

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**Sat 6 Dec, 10am-12pm**

Woodend Library

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**Sat 21 Feb, 10-11.30am**

Kangaroo Flat Library

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## Social Scrabble

Drop in and test your vocabulary against others in light-hearted social Scrabble – a great way to keep your brain active!

Refreshments provided.

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**Fri 12 Dec & 13 Feb, 1-4.30pm**

Kangaroo Flat Library

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## Jigsaw puzzle meet-up and swap

Bring along your completed or gently used puzzles to trade, share your favourites, and connect with others who enjoy piecing things together.

Suitable for both seasoned puzzlers and newbies.

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**Mon 22 Dec, 19 Jan & 23 Feb**

**11.30am-12.30pm**

Elmore Library Agency

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## No Tech Games

### Mahjong

Enjoy this relaxing tile-based game typically played by four players and similar to Gin Rummy.

Beginners and more experienced players welcome.

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**Fri 12 Dec, Thu 29 Jan & Fri 20 Feb**

**3.30-4.30pm**

Castlemaine Library

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### Italian card games

Discover the charm of a traditional Italian card game in a relaxed social setting.

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**Thu 22 Jan, 2.30-3.30pm**

Castlemaine Library

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# Game On @ Kangaroo Flat Library

## Challenge a librarian

Think you've got what it takes to outplay a librarian? Come test your skills in a friendly game showdown – bragging rights and fun guaranteed.

Wed 7 Jan, 2-4pm



## Italian card games

Discover the charm of a traditional Italian card game in a relaxed social setting.

Fri 23 Jan, 11.30am-12.30pm



## Golden Age of Cinema

### It's a Wonderful Life (G, 1946)

This beloved holiday classic is loosely based on the 1843 Charles Dickens novella, *A Christmas Carol*. The film stars James Stewart as George Bailey, a man who learns the value of life through the intervention of his guardian angel.

Fri 19 Dec, 5.30-7.40pm

Bendigo Library



### The Court Jester (G, 1955)

A hapless carnival performer masquerades as the court jester as part of a plot against an evil ruler who has overthrown the rightful King. Starring Danny Kaye.

Fri 20 Feb, 5.30-7.15pm

Sat 21 Feb, 12-1.45pm

Bendigo Library



# TEENS & YOUNG PEOPLE



## Custom Cricuts

Get creative and customise your own tee using our sparkly new Cricut machine. This is a two-part workshop and attendance at both sessions is essential.

Ages 10-16 years.

**Fri 9 & 16 Jan, 10-11am**  
Bendigo Library

BOOK  
NOW

## Custom vinyl stickers

Design and print your own vinyl stickers.

Ages 10-16 years.

**Tue 20 Jan, 2-3pm**  
Eaglehawk Library

BOOK  
NOW

## Junk-it!

Enjoy working on your own customised journal using recycled materials and quirky embellishments – a fun and creative way to preserve your story. Bring along your own personal mementos to include if you wish (items must be flat). Snack break included.

Ages 12-18 years.

**Mon 12 Jan, 1.30-4.30pm**  
Gisborne Library

BOOK  
NOW

## Vision boards for teens

Mix it up with a bit of art, craft and handmade collage to set focus on goals and dreams for 2026. We'll have magazines to cut out pics and words to represent your goals, and bits and pieces to decorate.

Materials and snacks provided.

Ages 12-18 years.

**Thu 22 Jan, 10-11.30am**  
Woodend Library

BOOK  
NOW

## Game on: Nintendo Switch challenge

Ready to level up your game skills? Join us for a Nintendo Switch face-off in a fast-paced, fun-filled challenge.

Ages 10-18 years.

30-minute timeslots available.

**Wed 14 Jan, 11.30am-1pm**  
Kangaroo Flat Library

BOOK  
NOW

# CHILDREN & FAMILIES

## Primary School Years

### Summer in the Citizen Science Corner

Join us for a Summer Storytime and ice-cream craft activity – the next instalment in our CSC seasonal nature observation. And don't forget to drop into BRIC to grab your free Citizen Science Pack and get observing in nature during summer.

Ages 2-7 years.

**Thu 11 Dec, 10.30-11am**  
Boort Library Agency

### STEM Club

Sign up for this exciting series of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) activities designed to spark inspiration and curiosity. Perfect for enthusiastic tinkerers who like to know how things work.

Ages 7+ years.

**Thu 8, 15, 22 & 29 Jan, 10.30-11.30am**  
Heathcote Library

BOOK  
NOW

## Makar Sankranti

Join in with the joyful spirit of Makar Sankranti, a Hindu festival celebrating the end of winter and the start of the sun's northward journey.

### Make a kite

Make a colourful kite to fly to symbolise the joy of harvest and the welcoming of longer, sunnier days.

Ages 8-13 years.

**Tue 20 Jan, 10-11am**  
Bendigo Library

BOOK  
NOW

### Rangoli workshop for kids

Learn about the vibrant art form of rangoli, thought to bring good luck. Watch a demo and have a go at creating your own design to take home.

Ages 8-13 years.

**Tue 20 Jan, 11.30am-12.30pm**  
Bendigo Library

BOOK  
NOW





A child enjoying a creative workshop.  
Photo: Eugene Hyland.

## NGV Kids on Tour

We've partnered with the National Gallery of Victoria to bring you a taste of the NGV Kids Summer Festival. Engage with the inspiring art on display at the NGV through creative activities for the whole family, based on the exhibitions: *Let's Party*, *NGV Fashion for Kids*, *Plans for the Planet*, and *Olaf Breuning for Kids*.

Ask at your library for details of activities.

[Bendigo, Castlemaine and Kyneton libraries](#)

## Summertime Fun!

**Mon 5–Fri 23 Jan**

Pick up a program from mid-December, or visit [ncgrl.vic.gov.au/holidayprogram](http://ncgrl.vic.gov.au/holidayprogram)

## Game On @ Kangaroo Flat Library

### Nintendo Switch challenge

Ready to level up your game skills? Join us for a Nintendo Switch face-off in a fast-paced, fun-filled challenge.

Ages 7-10 years.

30-minute timeslots available.

**Wed 14 Jan, 10-11.30am**

BOOK NOW

### Lego challenge

Your mission is to complete a Lego activity within 30 minutes and move on to the next challenge. Can you do it?

All ages.

**Wed 21 Jan, 2-4pm**

BOOK NOW

### Italian card games

Discover the charm of a traditional Italian card game in a relaxed social setting.

Ages 7-12 years.

**Fri 23 Jan. 10-11am**

BOOK NOW

# BIG SUMMER READ

## JOIN. BORROW. READ. WIN!



### The BIG Summer Read is back!

Read five books, or for five hours over summer and be in the running to win great prizes, including book, EB Games and Smiggle vouchers.

To get started, register at your local library or visit [ncgrl.vic.gov.au/bigsummerread](http://ncgrl.vic.gov.au/bigsummerread)

For children and young people up to 18 years.

#### Dec-Jan

All libraries and selected library agencies

### Launch parties

Let's get this BSR party started! Come along and sign up on launch day and enjoy all the action. Music, face painting, free icy poles and activities. On top of that, the first 30 kiddos to sign up at each party will receive a free BSR goody bag. Be there or be square!

**Sat 6 Dec, 10am-12pm**

[Bendigo and Castlemaine libraries](#)

**Sat 6 Dec, 10.30am-12pm**

[Gisborne Library](#)

## BSR ACTIVITIES

### Book match challenge

A scavenger hunt, BIG Summer Read style! Grab an entry form and search the library to match each BSR author ambassador to their book. It's tricky but fun with a small reward at the end.

### Ichigo remix challenge

Get creative and give Ichigo a wild new look! Use vibrant colours, crazy patterns, or unexpected designs to create a strawberry that's totally one-of-a-kind. Lovely art packs to be won.



## Early Years

### Storytime Specials



#### Expression Australia Auslan storytime

Celebrating the vibrant and expressive language of Auslan. Presented by a deaf storyteller and an Auslan interpreter.

For both deaf and hearing children.

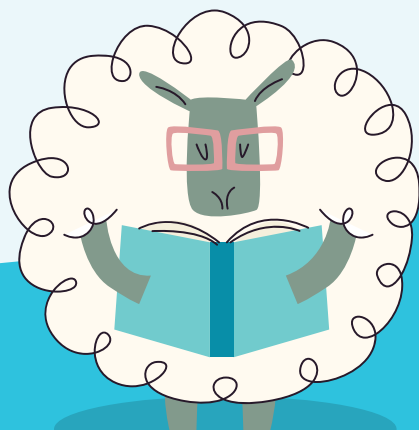
Ages 2-6 years.

Funded by a Multicultural Storytime grant from the Department of Health to Expression Australia.

**Fri 5 Dec, 11.15am-12pm**

**Mon 12 Jan & 9 Feb, 10.30-11.15am**

Bendigo Library



## 1000 BOOKS BEFORE SCHOOL



Get in the reading habit and join 1000 Books Before School!

For more information, ask at your local library or visit [ncgrl.vic.gov.au/1000books](http://ncgrl.vic.gov.au/1000books)

### Life's Beachy!

Summer and the seaside equal fun! Come along and enjoy beachy stories, activities, and face painting on a Saturday.

Ages 3-7 years.

**Sat 13 Dec, 10.30-11.15am**

Kangaroo Flat Library

### Children's book launch: Imagine a Place

See page 10 for details.

**Fri 20 Feb, 11am-12pm**

Bendigo Library



## Thank you Storytimers

Thank you to our wonderful Storytime families for sharing stories, songs and rhymes with us in 2025. We hope it was fun, and we can't wait to see you all next year!

Collect a 2026 timetable from your library from mid-January, or visit [ncgrl.vic.gov.au/storytimes](http://ncgrl.vic.gov.au/storytimes)

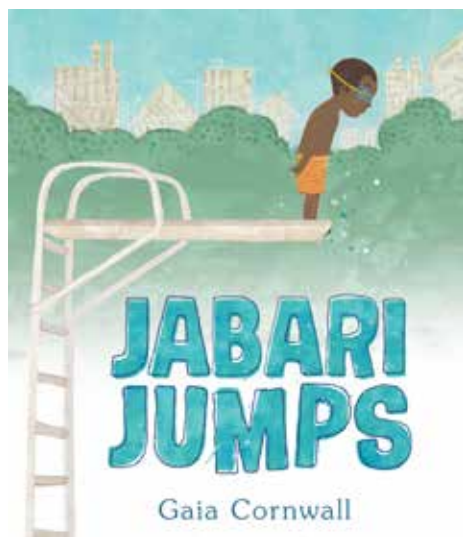


# StoryWalks

Enjoy reading a children's picture book as you walk in the sunshine and fresh air.

Full details at [ncgrl.vic.gov.au/storywalk](http://ncgrl.vic.gov.au/storywalk)

Supported by Healthy Loddon Campaspe.  
Created by Anne Ferguson and the Kellogg-Hubbard Library.



## Jabari Jumps

by Gaia Cornwall.

**Mon 12-Sat 31 Jan**

Rotary Gateway Park, High Street,  
Kangaroo Flat

## Grace and Mr Milligan

By Caz Goodwin, illustrated by Pip Kruger.

Heathcote Playspace, 126 High Street

## Family Tree

By Josh Pyke, illustrated by Ronojoy Ghosh.

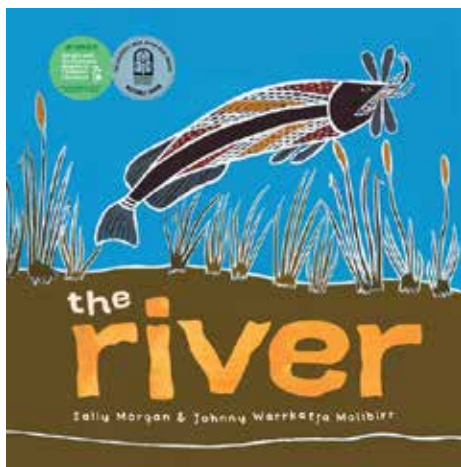
Kyneton, path by Primary School and Kinder



## Possum Magic

By Mem Fox, illustrated by Julie Vivas.

Gingell Street, Castlemaine



## The River

By Sally Morgan, illustrated by Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr.

Nardoo Walking Track, Chapel Street  
Wedderburn

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.

## LIBRARIES

### 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

121 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 Mclvor 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

### WEDDERBURN

Wedderburn Community Centre  
24 Wilson Street

### Library Agencies

p: 5449 2790

For opening hours and accessibility information visit

**[ncgrl.vic.gov.au](http://ncgrl.vic.gov.au)**



Goldfields  
Libraries

