

WHAT'S ON

Winter 2026



Goldfields
Libraries

Conservatism in Crisis

Paul Kelly, Sean Kelly & Sally Warhaft

Fire Moves Faster

Maxine Beneba Clarke & Amaya Laucirica

Sustainable Weaving

Janet Bromley



Library Lock In

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

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

Large print copies of this program are available. Please phone 5449 2790 or email programs@ncgrl.vic.gov.au

eLibrary

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.

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On the cover Library Lock In

Details on page 26.

SPECIAL EVENTS



Conservatism in Crisis with Paul Kelly, Sean Kelly and Sally Warhaft

Since the 2025 federal election, the Liberal Party has been in disarray, beset by a demoralised base, two Coalition splits from the Nationals, bitter infighting and the serious threat of One Nation. How did it come to this?

In this edition of *The Fifth Estate*, Editor-at-Large of *The Australian* Paul Kelly (*The Twilight of Exceptionalism*) and award-winning columnist and former Labor advisor Sean Kelly (*The Game*) come together with host Sally Warhaft to discuss the fractures at the heart of conservative politics in Australia and what they mean for the upcoming Victorian election.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear from two of the country's most prominent political commentators as they analyse how conservative politics lost its way – and what it would take for the Coalition to win back the trust of the Australian voters.

This special event will be located at Ulumbarra Theatre on a pay-as-you-can basis (\$5-\$20).

Presented in partnership with The Wheeler Centre, supported by the City of Greater Bendigo. Bookseller: Bookish.

Wed 22 Jul, 6-7pm
Ulumbarra Theatre, 10 Gaol Rd, Bendigo

BOOK
NOW



Fire Moves Faster with Maxine Beneba Clarke and Amaya Laucirica

Drawing on poems from Maxine Beneba Clarke's acclaimed collection *How Decent Folk Behave* and accompanied by original compositions from Amaya Laucirica, *Fire Moves Faster* is an arresting union of poetry and song that moves through the emotional landscapes of recent years – tracing threads of trauma and joy, confusion and clarity, despair and hope.

Join Clarke and Laucirica in Bendigo for an intimate evening of striking live performance, followed by a Q&A exploring their creative partnership and the role of poetry and music in navigating uncertain times.

Presented by Goldfields Libraries in partnership with The Wheeler Centre and supported by the City of Greater Bendigo and by Red Room Poetry as part of Poetry Month.

Fri 14 Aug, 6-7pm
The Engine Room, 58 View St, Bendigo

BOOK
NOW

NAIDOC Week



Wash my Soul in the River's Flow (the story of Archie Roach & Ruby Hunter) will be screened at Bendigo and Castlemaine libraries for the Central Victorian Indigenous Film Festival.

Ask in branch for details.

Sustainable weaving with Janet Bromley

Enjoy a morning of sustainable weaving with Janet Bromley, a Yorta Yorta artist whose multidisciplinary practice explores sustainability, storytelling, and connection to Country. Participants will be guided through the steps to create a woven wall hanging using recycled textiles and other provided materials. This very special opportunity, in recognition of NAIDOC Week, is specifically for people aged 55 years and over.

Funded by the City of Greater Bendigo for Positive Ageing.

Using both traditional and contemporary materials, Janet's art draws on Aboriginal cultural knowledge systems, and is deeply embedded in caring for Country, storytelling, layers of time and taking only what is needed from the environment. As Aunty, she supports others to explore and develop community connection and cultural knowledge.

BOOK NOW

Sat 4 Jul, 10am-12pm
Kangaroo Flat Library

Men's Health Week

Coffee and chat catchup

Drop by for a free coffee from Redwell, the library cafe, and a relaxed chat with some of our valued male staff members and others. Health information will be available to take away if you wish.

Mon 15 Jun, 10am-12pm
Bendigo Library

Men's health pop-up stall

Drop by for free health checks and information from experts on a range of men's health topics, including counselling, nutrition, walking groups and more. Facilitated by Dhelkaya Health.

Mon 15 & Wed 17 Jun, 10am-2pm
Castlemaine Library





Reimagining death with Hayley West

How can we approach death with creativity, care, and a lighter footprint? Explore meaningful alternatives, from living wakes to natural burials and end-of-life rituals, in this thought-provoking talk. Discover how we, as a community, can reshape our relationship with death.

Hayley West is an independent death worker, end-of-life consultant, and host of *DEAD AIR* on 94.9 MainFM. She runs The Departure funerals, advocating for ethical, personal, and ecological deathcare.

BOOK NOW

Thu 6 Aug, 5.30-6.30pm
Bendigo Library

Fri 7 Aug, 2-3pm
Woodend Library

Children's Book Week

You be the Judge: CBCA shadow judging

See page 28 for details.

Thu 11 & 25 Jun & 16 & 30 Jul, 4-5pm
Bendigo Library

BOOK NOW

Find & Seek: Follow the symphony

See page 28 for details.

August
Participating library branches and agencies

Going Home: Storytime with Simon Howe

See page 30 for details.

Mon 24 & Tue 25 Aug, 11-11.45am
Romsey Library

Thu 27 Aug, 11-11.45am
Kyneton Library



Illustrations: Briony Stewart

A very special Storytime and book character parade

See page 29 for details.

Thu 27 Aug, 10.30-11.30am
Bendigo Library

The Blurbs Book Week Show

See page 28 for details.

Fri 28 Aug, 5-6pm
The Engine Room, 58 View St, Bendigo

BOOK NOW

AUTHORS, READING & WRITING

Author Talks



Maya Linnell: Sunrise at Sunny Cross Farm

Bestselling author Maya Linnell introduces her eighth rural fiction novel with Allen & Unwin. Maya gathers inspiration from her rural upbringing and the small communities she has lived in and loved. A former journalist and radio host, Maya lives in Darwin and loves writing authentically Australian stories about strong country women, relationships and charming close-knit communities. You'll love this talk.

Book sales and signings.

Maya's other novels include: *Cockatoo Cove*, *Wallaby Lane*, *Kookaburra Cottage*, *Paperbark Hill*, *Magpie's Bend*, *Bottlebrush Creek*, and *Wildflower Ridge*.

Wed 17 Jun, 11am-12pm

Woodend Library

Wed 17 Jun, 2-3pm

Kangaroo Flat Library

BOOK
NOW



Tim Pilgrim: Wild by Design

Naturalistic Gardening for Modern Australian Landscapes

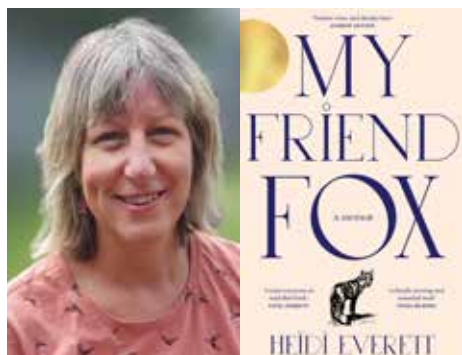
In his first book, central Victorian horticulturalist Tim Pilgrim shares the joys of naturalistic gardening, an approach inspired by the dynamic beauty of untamed plants, the garden as wildlife habitat, the rhythm of the seasons, and our future climate. Tim will share his creative inspiration and discuss how to create your own plant-driven, naturalistic garden, whether you're starting with an existing garden or a blank slate.

Book sales and signings.

Thu 25 Jun, 5.30-6.30pm

Castlemaine Library

BOOK
NOW



Heidi Everrett in Conversation: My Friend Fox

Heidi has many strings to her bow – author, multimedia artist, arts producer, performer and mental health advocate. Her memoir, *My Friend Fox*, is an exhilarating portrayal of complex mental health mirroring the challenged spirit of a fox living in Australia.

Heidi will be the guest speaker at the launch of the MEANDERING Exhibition by Bendigo Schizy Inc. (see page 23 for details).

Book sales and signings.

Heidi Everrett is founder of Schizy Inc, an arts organisation for creative people with complex mental health, and winner of Victorian Government Disability award, Victorian Mental Illness Council Human Rights award and the Wellways Community award.

Fri 26 Jun, 4pm
Bendigo Library

BOOK
NOW

Anna Johnston: When Lemons Give You Life

Join bestselling author Anna Johnston to celebrate the arrival of her brand new book, *When Lemons Give You Life*. Drawing on Anna's experience of working in aged care, this is a sharply funny and deeply moving story about food, family, and rediscovering joy when life has lost its flavour.

Book sales and signings.

Thu 16 Jul, 5.30-6.30pm
Bendigo Library

BOOK
NOW



John Pabon: The Great Greenwashing How brands, governments, and influencers are lying to you

Saving the planet is big business, with savvy companies hopping on the sustainability bandwagon. Some may have altruistic ends in mind, but most want to make a quick buck. As ethical spending and consumer options increase, greenwashing is not only proliferating – it's also becoming harder to discern. But how is someone at the supermarket supposed to decipher all this? In *The Great Greenwashing*, John Pabon pulls no punches in arming consumers and business professionals with the tools they need to educate themselves, filter out the BS from the truth, and make a positive impact.

Book sales and signings.

John Pabon is a globally recognised expert in sustainability and has spent two decades in the business of saving our earth. He has travelled the world studying the impacts of sustainability first-hand in factories, on fields and in Fortune 500s.

Thu 16 Jul, 5.30-6.30pm
Castlemaine Library

BOOK
NOW



Anne Buist and Graeme Simson: The General Hospital

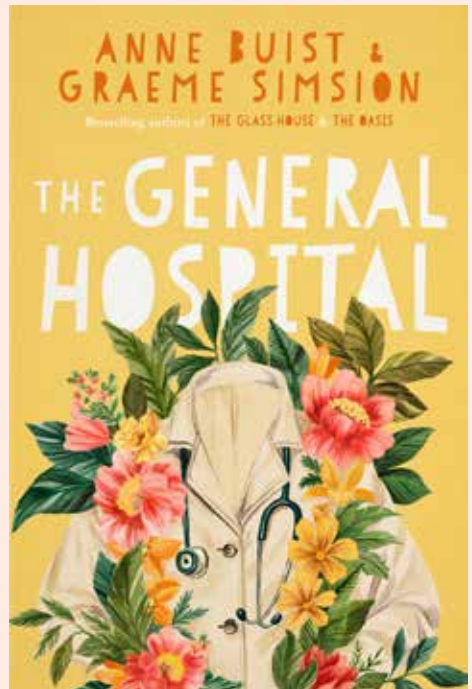
Join us for a special event celebrating *The General Hospital*, the third book in the Menzies Mental Health series by international bestselling author Graeme Simson (The Rosie Project) and esteemed psychiatrist and researcher, Anne Buist AO. Filled with realism, heart and humour, this captivating work of fiction brings us into the world of physical and mental health whilst giving us insight into the minds of those running the hospital.

Book sales and signings.

About the book:

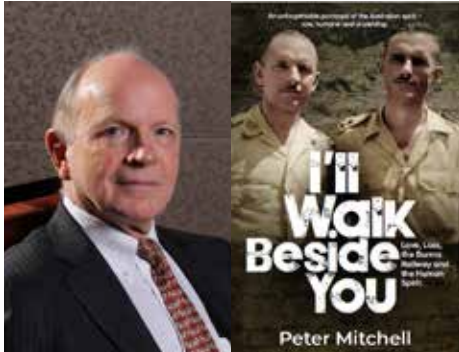
Trainee psychiatrist Dr Hannah Wright is back where she worked as an intern: the General Hospital. This time, instead of dealing with patients' broken bodies, she's tackling their mental health issues, with a roving commission to cover the medical, surgical, and obstetric wards. All the while learning that mental and physical health are inextricably linked.

When she's not on call, Hannah finds herself navigating an unexpected friendship and the promising early days of a new relationship with fellow trainee Alex, before her grandmother reveals an explosive family secret.



BOOK
NOW

Wed 22 Jul, 2-3pm
Romsey Library



Peter Mitchell: *I'll Walk Beside You*

Love, loss, the Burma Railway and the human spirit

Writer and history buff Peter Mitchell returns with *I'll Walk Beside You*, a continuation of his acclaimed book, *Under the Same Moon* (2025). This vivid portrait of a desperate chapter in our nation's history is told through the perspective of ordinary men forced into surrender and enduring years of captivity on the Burma Railway. Disease, starvation, violence and cruel guards claim many lives, yet courage, resilience and a distinctly Australian humour persist, offering moments of humanity amid the horror. Peter deftly personalises the narrative with letters, diaries, official documents and newspaper reports, bringing these experiences to life. Book sales and signings.

BOOK NOW

Thu 23 Jul, 11.30am-12.30pm

Heathcote Library

Thu 23 Jul, 2-3pm

Kyneton Library



Tracy Crisp: *Pearls*

Memoir strands and monologues

Tracy Crisp is a writer, performer, comedian, and funeral celebrant based in Adelaide. *Pearls* was originally performed as a collection of coming-of-age memoirs and monologues. Now published as a book, *Pearls* weaves together the pull of grief, the push of creative ambition, the complexity of marriage and parenthood, and the relationship between mother and daughter. The result: a messy tapestry of human experiences that are relatable and authentic.

Includes performance, and book sales and signings.

BOOK NOW

Wed 5 Aug, 11am-12pm

Kyneton Library

Wed 5 Aug, 2-3pm

Gisborne Library

Sophie Green: *The Frock Shop*

Meet bestselling Australian author Sophie Green touring her latest novel *The Frock Shop* – a sparkling story about the beauty of the second-hand, the power of second chances, and becoming who you were always meant to be (with a little help from your friends).

Sophie resides in Sydney with each of her previous seven heart-warming novels hitting the Australian Top Ten bestseller list.

Book sales and signings.

BOOK NOW

Thu 13 Aug, 10.30-11.30am

Bendigo Library

Demystifying Dementia with Rose Capp

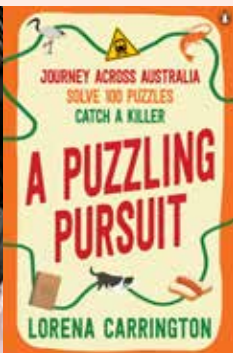
A wonderful opportunity to meet and hear from Rose Capp, dementia expert, policy advisor at Dementia Australia, and author of *Demystifying Dementia: Everything You Need to Know*. Rose's interactive presentation includes basic information about dementia, and key strategies on how to communicate effectively and support identity for people living with dementia. Appropriate for anyone interested in learning more about dementia, including health professionals, people with questions about their own cognitive changes, or family members and friends concerned about others. Questions and contributions will be encouraged throughout, and a range of Dementia Australia resources will be available along with sales of Rose's book.

Following the presentation, there will be a quick show and tell of Goldfields Libraries' Active Minds kits, morning tea and the chance to speak more closely with Rose.

Funded by the City of Greater Bendigo for Positive Ageing, and supported by the Heathcote Dementia Alliance.

Sat 15 Aug, 10.30-11.30am
Heathcote Library

BOOK
NOW



Lorena Carrington: A Puzzling Pursuit

Journey across Australia. Solve 100 puzzles. Catch a killer

Join us in celebrating the release of local author and artist Lorena Carrington's latest book. Do you have what it takes to catch a killer on the run? Featuring 100 puzzles to solve over ten captivating cases, *A Puzzling Pursuit* takes you on an unforgettable yet treacherous road trip across Australia where you must do everything in your power to find this mysterious villain who always seems to be one step ahead of you.

Book sales and signings.

'Perfect for everyone who loves murders and mind-teasers. A sheer delight!' Lyn Yeowart, author of *The Hollow Man*.

Thu 27 Aug, 5.30-6.30pm
Castlemaine Library

BOOK
NOW



Cosy up with a good read this winter!

Reading comes in many forms, and it's easier to find time to read than you think.

The Warm Winter read supports adults and young people (16+) to find more time to enjoy reading. We'll help get you started with recommendations from authors you love, and connect you with other readers to share your thoughts on what you read. Participants will also go into the running to win some great prizes!

For more information, see ncgrl.vic.gov.au/warmwinterread

Winter

All libraries and library agencies

Warm
Winter
Read

Reading

Social Book Club

Love reading but no time for a regular book club? No worries, just drop in! Bring along your current read for a chat about all things bookish – we guarantee you'll quickly build up your 'to be read' pile.

Thu 25 Jun, 10-11am

Mon 20 Jul, 2-3pm

Sat 15 Aug, 10.30-11.30am

Kangaroo Flat Library

BOOK
NOW



Writing



Write your own story with Lauren Mitchell

Everyone has a story in them. Use the stories of your life to preserve memories, build community, and discover truths, metaphors, and meaning. Bendigo writer Lauren Mitchell has been doing just that for more than 25 years. In this welcoming and interactive session, she will share some inspiring advice and published examples, then lead you through a gentle writing exercise designed to motivate.

For ages 55+ years.

Funded by the City of Greater Bendigo for Positive Ageing.

Fri 12 Jun, 11am-12pm
Elmore Library Agency

Sat 27 Jun, 11am-12pm
Eaglehawk Library

BOOK
NOW

Writers Victoria Open Mic Night

Writers Victoria and Castlemaine Library are teaming up for an open mic night, celebrating writers at every stage of their journey – from first drafts to finished masterpieces. A fantastic opportunity for writers to share their work, listen to new stories, and connect with local writers.

All welcome.

For bookings or to read on the night, please email services@writersvictoria.org.au

Funded by the Grace Marion Wilson Fund.

BOOK
NOW

Fri 31 Jul, 6-8pm
Castlemaine Library



Image: artjournalist.com

Poetry Creation Station

Celebrate Poetry Month by cutting and pasting words to create your own poem for display at the library.

August

Participating library branches and agencies

LIFELONG LEARNING



Talks & Presentations

Webinar series at Kangaroo Flat Library

Hear from the experts at these informative and relaxed online talks coming to you on our large screen.

Thinking about an EV? What you need to know in 2026

Find out about the different models available, costs, driving range, towing capability, and charging options away from home.

A live-streamed webinar presented by Bryce Gatton from EV Choice.

Tue 2 Jun, 12.30-1.30pm

Powering your home: Solar and battery options explained

Learn what to consider when planning your home's solar or battery.

Note: this is a screen of the recording of a webinar from Wednesday 5 July.

Tue 11 Aug, 1-2pm

Saturday Philosophy at Castlemaine Library

Gather with like-minded people to enjoy a session of thought-provoking ideas run by the Central Goldfields School of Philosophy.

Exploring the theme of Presence of Mind.

More info at practicalphilosophyvic.org.au

Playing one's part in the world

Sat 6 Jun, 10-11.30am

BOOK NOW

The power of thought

Sat 4 Jul, 10-11.30am

BOOK NOW

The power of decision

Sat 1 Aug, 10-11.30am

BOOK NOW

Parenting Talks & Workshops

CatholicCare Victoria
Regional Parenting Program

Kids and worry

This workshop discusses strategies that may help children worry less, providing information and practical tools to assist children in managing their emotions.

Mon 1 Jun, 1.30-3pm
Woodend 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 intelligence.

Mon 15 Jun, 10-11.30am
Kangaroo Flat Library

BOOK
NOW

Mount Alexander Shire and Dhelkaya
Health

Before the hormones hit the fan

For parents and carers of primary school-aged children. Learn how understanding and parenting this age can help set parents up for the next stage of tweens and teens. Topics covered include puberty, sex, emotions, and how parents can work with social media, while supporting the young person through their friendships and relationships.

Thu 18 Jun, 5.30-6.45pm
Castlemaine Library

BOOK
NOW

All things teens and tweens

Touching on topics that most parents can relate to, including information and tips on communicating, negotiating the world of porn, media, and talking about sex with teens.

Thu 23 Jul, 5.30-6.45pm
Castlemaine 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. Book online or enquire in branch.

Presented by the City of Greater Bendigo.

BOOK
NOW

Wed 17 Jun, 1-3pm.

Mon 27 Jul, 10am-12pm

Mon 10 Aug, 10am-12pm

Bendigo Library

Thu 18 Jun, 10am-12pm

Thu 16 Jul, 2-4pm

Mon 17 Aug, 2-4pm

Kangaroo Flat Library

Tue 21 Jul, 2-4pm

Tue 18 Aug, 2-4pm

Eaglehawk Library

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

Transport Information with Travellers Aid & V/Line

Practical support and reassurance to those who are not confident using public transport, with a special guest from V/Line. Learn how Travellers Aid helps people travel safely and with confidence across Metro Melbourne, country Victoria, and Melbourne Airport.

Bookings preferred but walk-ins welcome.

BOOK
NOW

Wed 15 Jul, 10.30am-12pm

Woodend Library



Grow Great Tomatoes

July is the time to sow your tomato seeds to grow an abundance of delicious tomatoes this summer. Join Duncan from Leaf, Root & Fruit to hear expert tips, and gain inspiration to grow your own terrific tomatoes this year.

BOOK
NOW

Thu 16 Jul, 2-3pm

Kyneton Library



Active Mind Kits: Show and Tell

New to Goldfields Libraries' Library of Things collection – 12 Active Mind Kits suitable for use by carers and family members of older Australians experiencing memory change, early-stage dementia, or cognitive decline. The kits contain books, puzzles, games, and objects set to a theme, and are designed to stimulate memories and conversation. Come have a cuppa with us and learn all about them.

BOOK NOW

Wed 22 Jul, 10.30-11.30am
Woodend Library

Fri 24 Jul, 10.30-11.30am
Castlemaine Library

Wed 29 Jul, 12-1pm
Bendigo Library

Sat 1 Aug, 11.30am
Romsey Library
Mini show and tell following The Memory Place. Details on page 22.

Sat 15 Aug, 11.30am
Heathcote Library
Mini show and tell following Demystifying Dementia with Rose Capp. Details on page 10.

Roadblocks to true connection: Relationships 101

An informal, reflective group presentation for anyone interested in deepening their relationships. Facilitated by Kathryn Fortuna from The Anna Centre.

All welcome (18+ years).

BOOK NOW

Thu 30 Jul, 5.30-7pm
Bendigo Library



Car maintenance for beginners with Rich Bergami

Don't be daunted – mechanic of more than two decades, Rich Bergami, can help you learn how to look after your own vehicle to get the most out of it. He loves what he does, and his patience and knowledge will help you troubleshoot common issues and perform regular maintenance, saving you time and money in the long run.

BOOK NOW

Sat 22 Aug, 10am-12pm
Woodend Library

Ask a mechanic with Rich Bergami

Motor vehicles are changing by the day, and there is much we could all learn about both old and new models. Experienced mechanic Rich Bergami is keen to answer any questions you may have to build your confidence and independence to assist in taking care of your vehicle.

BOOK NOW

Sat 29 Aug, 10am-1pm
Castlemaine Library

Family & Local History

Discovering History

Re-awakening the sleeping cultural knowledges of dingo in south eastern Australia

Barrat-car-loon ngarrwabi-nhuk burduauan Darrwal baap Kaal.

Kelly Ann Blake shares her cultural journey, knowledge, and perspectives on the deep relationship and ongoing connection of dingoes to Aboriginal/First Nations people and Country. Her presentation, based on her research paper, honours dingo cultural connections to Country and people, of the past, present, and beyond the horizon.

Kelly Ann Blake is a proud Wadawurrung woman, owner of Kaal Kaal Murrup Cultural Consultancy, Way show-er, Adjunct Research Fellow at La Trobe University, archaeologist, and heritage advisor.

Kelly (dingo spirit) lives on Dja Dja Wurrung country in central Victoria, and acknowledges and pays her ongoing respects to Dja Dja Wurrung people and Country while honouring her kinship connection to Djaara people and Country.

Thu 30 Jul, 5.30-6.30pm

Bendigo Library or online via Zoom



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

Bendigo Library

Bendigo Regional Genealogical Society

Mon, 11am-3pm

Bendigo Library

Gisborne Genealogical Group

Thu 1-3pm

Gisborne Library

The GGG room is undergoing renovations, and is expected to be available in August.

Ancestry tips and tricks

Ancestry.com holds a wealth of information for family history researchers. We'll share some tips and tricks to make the search easier for you, and to get the most out of this fabulous database.

Fri 17 Jul, 11-12.30pm
Castlemaine Library

BOOK
NOW

Reading and using historical maps and plans

Ever wanted to know what all the names and numbers mean on old maps and plans, and how they link to historical land records? Join Sue from BRAC for a hands-on workshop on navigating these vital records.

Tue 21 Jul, 2-3.30pm
Bendigo Library

BOOK
NOW

Family History 101: Getting started

An introduction to using online resources for family history, including library databases, Births, Deaths and Marriages, Trove, and Australian Defence Force records.

Fri 24 Jul, 1.30-2.30pm
Kangaroo Flat Library

BOOK
NOW

Thu 6 Aug, 2.15-3.15pm
Bendigo Library

Digital Literacy

One-on-one IT help

Book a personalised session with our patient and experienced staff for assistance with laptops, tablets, and phones. Learn how to use email, explore social media, fill in online forms, and access the library's fantastic online collections.

Also available by appointment at all other branches and agencies.

Bookings by phone. Details on back cover

Jun-Aug
All library branches and agencies

Mon 22 Jun, 27 Jul & 31 Aug, 2.30-4pm
Kyneton Library

BOOK
NOW

Introduction to Ancestry

Learn how to start researching your family history using ancestry.com.au, subscribed to by Goldfields Libraries.

Tue 4 Aug, 10-11am
Heathcote Library

BOOK
NOW



Rates, Ratbags & Rebels Finding forebears in the archives

Discover what the Bendigo Regional Archives Centre (BRAC) collection can tell you about your ancestors. Find out what is kept at BRAC, and delve into records from public agencies like courts, councils, and schools, for a deeper story about your Bendigo ancestors – from where they lived and worked, to what they achieved and cared about.

Thu 6 Aug, 1-2pm
Bendigo Library

BOOK
NOW



Get to know your device

Struggling with your phone or tablet? Book some one-on-one time with one of our tech-savvy team members for assistance to confidently navigate your device and troubleshoot common issues.

Jun-Aug
Woodend Library
Bookings: phone 5427 2074

BOOK
NOW



Digital legacy planning

Learn why it is important to have a digital legacy plan, what you need to consider, and how you might go about it.

BOOK NOW

Thu 11 Jun, 2-3pm

Bendigo Library

Tue 28 Jul, 2-3pm

Eaglehawk Library

Fri 7 Aug, 2-3pm

Castlemaine Library

Fri 21 Aug, 1.30-2.30pm

Kangaroo Flat Library

Get ePrepared

We'll help you prepare for any disaster by creating a list of essential documents, and teaching you how to store and access them easily. Being ePrepared, and having everything in one place, can help you feel confident and calm in a crisis, and speed up access to services when needed.

BOOK NOW

Fri 12 Jun, 2-3pm

Castlemaine Library

AI for beginners

Come along to this easygoing, beginner-friendly workshop featuring a show-and-tell of popular AI apps, and information about the capabilities and limitations of the underlying technology.

BOOK NOW

Thu 18 Jun, 10.30am-11.45am

Woodend Library

Tue 21 Jul, 10.30am-11.45am

Kyneton Library

Thu 20 Aug, 2-3.15pm

Bendigo Library

Identifying and avoiding scams

Online scams are increasing, with scammers becoming more sophisticated in their approach to potential victims. Learn what you can do to protect yourself from being scammed, and what to do should you be the victim of one.

BOOK NOW

Tue 23 Jun, 9.30-10.30am

Dingee Library Agency



Introduction to Kanopy and Beamafilm

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

BOOK NOW

Wed 24 Jun, 10-11am

Heathcote Library

Android phones for beginners

Have a question about your Android phone? Learn basic skills to build your confidence. No question is too silly!

BOOK NOW

Thu 25 Jun, 2-3pm

Bendigo Library

iPhones for beginners

Have a question about your iPhone? Learn basic skills to build your confidence. No question is too silly!

BOOK NOW

Thu 9 Jul, 2-3pm

Bendigo Library



Memory Mate

Discover the range of iPhone apps that are readily available for remembering appointments, setting reminders, and recording information. It's your own personal assistant in your pocket! Designed especially for those experiencing memory challenges, including people living with dementia, this relaxed, hands-on workshop will help you build confidence in using your iPhone as a practical and supportive tool for everyday life.

BYO iPhone or iPad (Apple devices only).

BOOK NOW

Fri 17 Jul, 11am-12pm

Elmore Library Agency

Mon 17 Aug, 2.30-4pm

Kyneton Library

Ancestry tips and tricks

See page 18 for details.

BOOK NOW

Fri 17 Jul, 11am-12.30pm

Castlemaine Library

Apps to make everyday life easier

Learn how to download and use apps helpful for everyday life – from safety tips to medication reminders, getting around with maps and Myki, and saving money on groceries and dining!

BOOK NOW

Thu 23 Jul, 2-3pm

Bendigo Library

Family History 101: Getting started

See page 18 for details.

BOOK NOW

Fri 24 Jul, 1.30-2.30pm

Kangaroo Flat Library

Thu 6 Aug, 2.15-3.15pm

Bendigo Library

Introduction to Ancestry

See page 18 for details.

BOOK NOW

Tue 4 Aug, 10-11am

Heathcote Library



Get creative with Canva

A free-to-use graphic design tool

A relaxed, learner-guided session where your ideas take the lead. Whether you're just starting out or love to tinker, build on the skills you already have in a learn-by-doing, go-at-your-own-pace environment. Perfect for beginners and curious creators alike.

BOOK NOW

Wed 12 Aug, 11am-12pm

Woodend Library

Tue 25 Aug, 2-3pm

Eaglehawk Library

CONNECTION & CREATIVITY

Special Activities

Beyond the Books: Library Lounge Nights at Bendigo

Join us each Friday evening for social, relaxing, and fun activities. Bring your friends or family, or come alone. Come to some or come to all!

Families, teens and children.

Board games: Roll and relax

Laughter, friendly competition, and great company! Play classic favourites or try something new! There are games to suit all ages and skill levels.

Fri 5 Jun, 3 & 31 Jul & 7 Aug, 5-6.30pm

Jigsaws: The missing piece meetup

A relaxing and fun-filled evening of puzzles for both seasoned puzzlers and those just wishing to unwind. Enjoy a variety of puzzles, from quick challenges to intricate masterpieces. Work solo or team up with friends and fellow puzzle lovers.

Fri 12 Jun, 10 Jul & 14 Aug, 5-6.30pm



Dungeons and Dragons: Legends of the library

Prepare for an exciting campaign of adventure, storytelling, and imagination guided by a qualified Dragon Master, and filled with mystery, teamwork and epic quests. Whether a seasoned adventurer or brand new to the world of D&D, all are welcome.

Fri 19 Jun, 17 Jul & 21 Aug, 5-6.30pm

Family movies

Young families will love this recent release family movie! Ask at the library if you would like to know the title.

Fri 24 Jul, 5-6.30pm



World Environment Day: Beeswax Wrap Making

Create your own unique beeswax wraps and ditch plastic wrap to help our environment.

For adults.

Fri 5 Jun, 11.30am-12.30pm
Bendigo Library

BOOK
NOW



All Together Storytime

For adults with disability and their carers

Join us for a heartwarming and inclusive Storytime featuring interactive storytelling with music, songs, and gentle dancing in a relaxed and supportive environment. Enjoy the fun and connection – no matter your age or ability – as we share stories, laughter, and meaningful moments together.

Fri 19 Jun, Wed 15 Jul & Fri 14 Aug
1.30-2.15pm
Woodend Library



Kintsugi workshop

Kintsugi is the ancient Japanese art of repairing ceramics with gold or lacquer to celebrate imperfections, not hide them. The philosophy of kintsugi is about loving your own flaws and finding happiness in imperfection. Join us in this workshop to repair your own precious ceramic piece (or provided piece) to save it from landfill and give it a new life.

Sat 20 Jun, 10-11.30am
Woodend Library

BOOK
NOW

Art workshop: Landscapes with graphic pencil

Experienced and aspiring artists are invited to join artist Marilyn Andrews to learn and try the art of landscape.

Refreshments provided.

Adults 18+ years. Beginners welcome.

\$20 materials cost. Please pay cash on the day.

Mon 22 Jun, 10am-3pm

Kangaroo Flat Library

Bookings: phone 5447 8344

BOOK
NOW

Junk journals for adults

Back by special demand! Create or continue working on a customised journal just for you, using recycled materials and creativity for a unique result.

Tue 14 Jul, 2-5pm

Gisborne Library

BOOK
NOW

Creative workshop: Card making

Indulge your creativity and make bespoke cards using beautiful papers, ephemera, and embellishments. No experience necessary and all materials provided.

Adults and 16+ years.

Thu 30 Jul, 2pm-4.30pm

Gisborne Library

BOOK
NOW

The Memory Place

Intergenerational program

Adults and children aged 10+ years.

See page 27 for details.

Sat 1 Aug, 10.30-11.30am

Romsey Library

BOOK
NOW

Then & Now: Rhymes, Games & Storytime

Intergenerational program

Ages 5+ years. Bring a grandparent or special person!

See page 28 for details.

Sat 8 Aug, 10.30-11.15am

Woodend Library

Letters of a bygone era

Visit the bygone era of beautifully handwritten letters as we explore old, original correspondence from the mid-1800s. Enjoy afternoon tea as we chat about, and appreciate, these documents of old.

BOOK
NOW

Wed 12 Aug, 2-3pm
Gisborne Library

The Memory Place: Kitchens and cooking

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 objects can tell.

Refreshments included.

BOOK
NOW

Thu 20 Aug, 1.30-2.30pm
Kangaroo Flat Library

Displays



MEANDERING: More than letters in our alphabet soup

A group exhibition created by the Bendigo Schizy Inc Lived Experience Creative Collective. Artworks were created during a series of workshops and field trips exploring ceramics, painting, photography, creative writing and time spent on Country with Dja Dja Wurrung custodians.

The launch will include guest speaker Heidi Everett (*My Friend Fox*) and performers from Neurovision (sensory-friendly Eurovision).

Schizy Inc is a leading community arts organisation based in Naam-Melbourne and run by and for creatives with complex and diverse mental health across Victoria. Bendigo Schizy Inc meets on the second Friday of the month at Bendigo Library.

Funded by the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal through an In a Good Place grant.

Exhibition launch: Fri 26 Jun, 4-6pm
Exhibition: Fri 26 Jun-Mon 31 Aug
Bendigo Library

50 Years Deadly: A community collaboration

For five decades, NAIDOC Week has celebrated the voices, culture, and achievements of First Nations communities. Help us mark this incredible milestone by contributing to a deadly, collaborative display.

All ages welcome.

July

Participating library branches and agencies

NAIDOC Week Art Exhibition

Romsey Library invites Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander artists to share their creativity and culture through this upcoming exhibition. We welcome expressions of interest from artists keen to display their work in the library and join our community to celebrate the stories, strength, and creativity of First Nations peoples. Both emerging and established artists are welcome and all art forms acceptable.

Collect a form from Romsey library, or email us to have one sent to you at romsey@ncgrl.vic.gov.au

Drop off artwork by Friday 25 June.

July

Romsey Library

Regular Programs

Craft and sewing groups

For the Love of Crochet

Whether beginner or expert, bring along your current project to share tips, ideas, and the love of crochet.

Mon 1 Jun, 6 Jul & 3 Aug, 2-4pm
Gisborne 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.

No sessions on 30 Jun & 7 Jul (school holidays).

Tuesdays, 2-3.30pm
Bendigo Library

Fun and games

Puzzle and Chat

Join others to complete a lovely new jigsaw while chatting.

Refreshments provided.

Wed 3 Jun, 1 Jul & 5 Aug, 1-4.30pm
Kangaroo Flat Library

Social Scrabble

Drop in and test your vocabulary against others in light-hearted social Scrabble.

Refreshments provided.

Fri 12 Jun, 10 Jul & 14 Aug, 1-4.30pm
Kangaroo Flat Library

No Tech Games

Put down the technology and enjoy some classic tabletop games.

Italian Card Games: Thu 18 Jun, 3.30-4.30pm
Mahjong: Fri 17 Jul & 14 Aug, 3.30-4.30pm
Castlemaine Library

Crafternooners

Whether you embroider, knit, weave, crochet or would like to learn, you're welcome to join our monthly textile and fibre craft skill share. Bring along whatever you are working on, or just come for a look, a chat and some inspiration.

Wed 3 Jun, 1 Jul & 5 Aug, 1-3pm
Kyneton Library

Crafting Connections

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

Crochet Hookers Australia members present at Kangaroo Flat.

Wed 10 Jun, 8 Jul & 12 Aug, 5.30-7.30pm
Romsey Library

Thu 11 Jun, 9 & 30 Jul & 19 Aug, 1-2.30pm
Kangaroo Flat Library



Colour Me Happy

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

Resources and refreshments provided.

Wed 17 Jun, 15 Jul & 19 Aug, 1-4.30pm
Kangaroo Flat Library

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, and in the original box with no missing pieces. No children's puzzles, please.

Sat 29 Aug, 10-11.30am
Kangaroo Flat Library



Strong Seniors: Strength training for older adults

Designed specifically for adults over 60 to help rebuild strength lost through ageing. Exercises focus on increasing strength and range of motion to improve health and mobility, with most performed on seated chairs with light weights. We ask that you commit to either Group A or Group B twice a week (Mondays and Thursdays) for this eight-week series. You'll love it!

Supported by the City of Greater Bendigo for healthy ageing.
Based on the Geri-Fit model.

BOOK NOW

GROUP A:
Mon 13 Jul-Thu 3 Sep, 10-10.45am

GROUP B:
Mon 13 Jul-Thu 3 Sep, 11.15am-12pm

Kangaroo Flat Library
Bookings: phone 5447 8344

Library Film Club

Adults are invited to enjoy newly released and classic films on our large screens. Collect a flyer from the library for film titles, then sit back, relax and enjoy!

Bookings preferred, but not essential.

Wed 10 Jun, 8 Jul & 12 Aug
10.30am-12.30pm

Romsey Library
Bookings: phone 5429 3086

Wed 12 Aug, 1-2.40pm

Gisborne Library
Bookings: phone 5428 3962

Thu 23 Jul, 5.15-6.45pm

Castlemaine Library
Bookings: phone 5472 1458



Hitchcock Winter

Golden Age of Cinema at Bendigo Library

North by Northwest (G, 1959)

Fri 19 Jun, 5.30-7.45pm

The Trouble with Harry (A, 1955)

Fri 17 Jul, 5.30-7.10pm

Rear Window (A, 1954)

Fri 21 Aug, 5.30-7.20pm

TEENS & YOUNG PEOPLE



Beyond the Books: Library Lounge Nights at Bendigo

Join us each Friday evening for relaxing and fun activities. Bring your friends or family, or come alone, come to some or come to all!

See page 21 for full details.

Board Games: Roll and relax

Fri 5 Jun, 3 & 31 Jul & 7 Aug, 5-6.30pm

Jigsaws: The missing piece meetup

Fri 12 Jun, 10 Jul & 14 Aug, 5-6.30pm

Dungeons & Dragons: Legends of the library

Fri 19 Jun, 17 Jul & 21 Aug, 5-6.30pm

World Environment Day: Beeswax wrap making

Create your own unique beeswax wraps and ditch plastic wrap to help our environment.

Ages 12-18 years.

Fri 5 Jun, 4-5pm
Bendigo Library

BOOK NOW

Library Lock In

Young peeps of Castlemaine – experience the library like no other time. The annual nocturnal activity-based, fun-filled night is here again! Just teens in the library: they are locked in and everyone else is LOCKED OUT!

Year 7-10 students ONLY.

Includes pizza, gaming tournament and activities galore.

Fri 26 Jun, 6-8.30pm
Castlemaine Library
Bookings: phone 5472 1458

BOOK NOW

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Primary School Years

Minecraft Lab

Come along to Minecraft Lab and enter our Minecraft world with other players.

Ages 8-14 years.

Thu 18 Jun, 4-5.15pm

Kyneton Library

BOOK NOW

Tue 21 Jul, 4-5.15pm

Gisborne Library

Thu 13 Aug, 4-5.15pm

Kangaroo Flat Library

LEGO Club

Calling all brickies to join our four-week Lego Club – a great way to get your Lego kicks, build your skills, and have fun!

Contact the library to reserve your place. Please attend all four sessions if you can.

Ages 8+ years.

**Wed 15, 22 & 29 Jul & 5 Aug
4.45-5.45pm**

Gisborne Library

Bookings: phone 5428 3962

BOOK NOW

Unplugged: Computer science for kids

Codergarten is bringing Unplugged Computer Science to the library – playful, hands-on workshops that build problem-solving and computational thinking skills without screens. Join the fun and explore how technology works through games and challenges.

Ages 6-12 years.

Please be available to attend all four sessions.

Mon 27 Jul, 3, 10 & 17 Aug, 4-5pm

Bendigo Library

BOOK NOW

The Memory Place Intergenerational program

Young and old are invited to come together to learn and reminisce about days gone by, using objects of the past to spark memories and conversation.

Adults and children aged 10+ years.

A brief show and tell of our new Active Mind kits (available for loan) will be included.

Sat 1 Aug, 10.30-11.30am

Romsey Library

BOOK NOW



Then & Now: Rhymes, Games & Storytime

Intergenerational program

A fun, interactive session exploring classic nursery rhymes and old-fashioned games. Discover their origins, compare past and present versions, and enjoy storytelling and play together.

Ages 5+ years. Bring a grandparent or special person!

Sat 8 Aug, 10.30-11.15am

Woodend Library

School Holiday Program

Pick up a program from
15 June, or visit
ncgrl.vic.gov.au/holidayprogram

Children's Book Week

You be the Judge: CBCA shadow judging

Think you know an awesome book when you read one? Jump into the judge's seat and help decide which CBCA shortlisted books are the best, alongside other young book lovers! Enjoy some tasty snacks along the way, and earn a \$25 book voucher when you finish the program.

Ages 9-13 years.

To be part of the team, you will need to be available to attend each session and read six books (provided) in two months. For more info, please email programs@ncgrl.vic.gov.au

Thu 11 & 25 Jun & 16 & 30 Jul, 4-5pm

Bendigo Library

BOOK
NOW

Find & Seek: Follow the symphony

Follow the symphony to find hidden characters and letters throughout the library. Collect each letter to unlock the code for a little surprise.

Ages 3+ years.

August

Participating library branches and agencies



The Blurbs Book Week Show

The Blurbs are back in town with their spectacular Book Week Show. Bring along the whole family to enjoy original songs about books that have been shortlisted by the CBCA for the 'Book of the Year' awards. Great stories, performance and music all rolled into one!

Fri 28 Aug, 5-6pm

The Engine Room, 58 View St, Bendigo

BOOK
NOW

Early Years

A very special Storytime and book character parade

Little kids and their big people are invited to join the Book Week fun! Come dressed as your favourite book character for Storytime, followed by a Book Week parade! Musicians from the Bendigo Symphony Orchestra will lead the way with live music, and after the parade, everyone is welcome to get up close to the instruments, ask questions and discover how they make their wonderful sounds.

All welcome.

Thu 27 Aug, 10.30-11.30am
Bendigo Library



Illustrations: Briony Stewart



Storytime

Join us each week during the school term for joyful stories, songs, and rhymes. Connect with other young families and enjoy the magic of Storytime.

Collect a timetable from your library or visit ncgrl.vic.gov.au/storytimes

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



Storytime Specials

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.

Mon 15 Jun, 13 Jul & 10 Aug, 10.30-11.15am
Bendigo Library

Bonjour Storytime

A joyful bilingual storytime featuring the French language.

Ages 2-6 years.

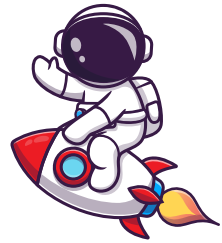
Sat 20 Jun, 10.30-11.15am
Woodend Library

Saturday Storytime: Animal Allsorts!

Join us for a fun celebration of all sorts of animals in this special Saturday Storytime.

Ages 3-7 years. Face painting to follow.

Sat 20 Jun, 10.30am-11am
Kangaroo Flat Library



Curious Kids: Space Explorers

Join the Discovery Science and Technology Centre, Bendigo for Curious Kids – special themed Storytimes with hands-on interactive activities, that foster your child's early literacy and STEM skills.

Ages 3-5 years.

BOOK
NOW

Wed 12 Aug, 10.30-11.15am
Serpentine Playgroup, Memorial Hall,
20 Chapel St

Mon 24 Aug, 10.30-11.15am
Bendigo Library

Wed 26 Aug, 10.30-11.15am
Castlemaine Library

Fri 28 Aug, 10.30-11.15am
Kangaroo Flat Library

Mon 31 Aug, 10-10.45am
Kyneton Library

Tue 1 Sep, 11-11.45am
Romsey Library

Fri 4 Sep, 9.45-10.30am
Heathcote Library



Going Home: Storytime with Simon Howe

Enjoy a special storytime with local author and illustrator Simon Howe featuring his gorgeous new picture story book *Going Home*, followed by a fun craft.

Ages 3-5 years, and young families.

Mon 24 & Tue 25 Aug, 11-11.45am
Romsey Library

Thu 27 Aug, 11-11.45am
Kyneton Library

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

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

Puddle Hunters



Kirsty Murray and Karen Blair

Puddle Hunters

by Kristy Murray and Karen Blair.

Sat 27 Jun-18 Jul

Rotary Gateway Park, High St Kangaroo Flat

The Lost Library

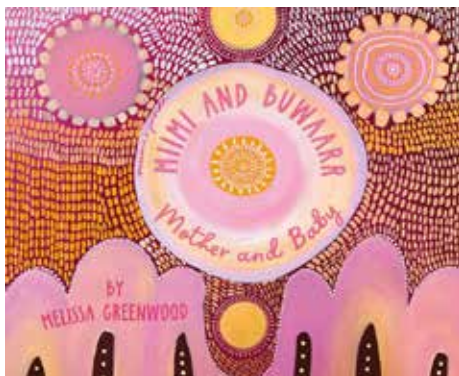
By Jess McGeachin.

Heathcote Playspace, 126 High St

Castle Crashing

By Andrea Rowe and Hannah Sommerville.

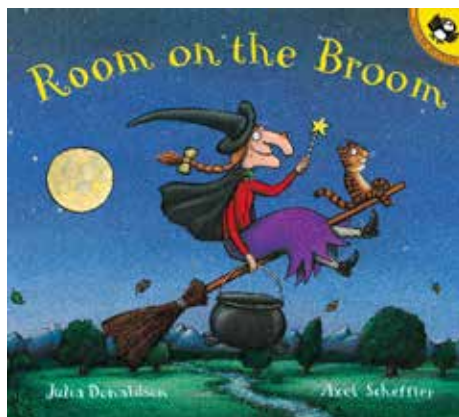
Nardoo Walking Track, Chapel St Wedderburn



Miimi and Buwaarr, Mother and Baby

by Melissa Greenwood.

Kyneton, path by Primary School and Kinder



Room on the Broom

By Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler.

Gingell St, Castlemaine

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