

Annual Report 2022/23





“You can’t underestimate how important these sessions are for the adults, as well as the kids!”

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



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

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

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Cover photo: Bill Conroy



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Message from our Chair & CEO

Our communities continued to return to our libraries in ever-increasing numbers this year after several years of disrupted service and lockdowns. The 2022-23 financial year was the first year since 2018-19 that we were able to open our doors and allow any member of our community to use our space.

The world changed, and we all changed with it, as work from home became more normal, and we all got used to online meetings and events.

Libraries have met this change with an unprecedented level of support for online activity.

We provided an expanded eCollection – a record number of eBooks, audiobooks, eMagazines, movie streaming services and a YouTube channel with events was just a start. We've also upgraded our free public Wi-Fi to a minimum download speed of 500mb/s. In addition, we've introduced remote printing so you can send documents to the library for printing and come and collect them from your local branch. Much of what we offer digitally is available outside the library, but when you do come in, you can find a space, charge your device as you work, and log on to the fastest Wi-Fi in town. All for free.

The library is still a place where people want to meet face to face and connect over stories and ideas, though. There's nothing better than walking the library floor and seeing someone being tutored while an online meeting is happening at the next table, or a school holiday program or a Storytime session fills the space with children talking or singing.

It's an amazing place to work, and a privilege to be a part of what has become a community gathering place.

In 2022, a statewide survey was undertaken to understand more about how our public libraries are used. The survey showed that one of the main reasons libraries were valued was that people feel safe there. Ninety-two per cent of respondents, in fact, noted they value the feeling of safety they have at the local library.

Feeling included, connected and safe in your own community is a key function of a public library that is much more challenging to quantify than how many books are loaned or how many people are library members, but it is no less a function of a library than those more recognisable and measurable elements.

A regular library patron passed on a great story about giving their children a 'Yes' day, where their three kids got to democratically choose the adventures for the day. "Going to see Shae (one of our librarians) at the library" was top of the list.

It's these stories that also provide the measure of success on the connection between our libraries and communities.

We hope to see you at the library on your 'yes' day.



Cr Rod Fyffe
Chair



Mark Hands
Chief Executive Officer

About the Corporation

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

The Corporation delivers services to communities located along the Calder Highway from Boort to Gisborne, covering an area of 12,970 km². With around 100 staff, the service provides for a community of 200,000 people and has a collection of more than 220,000 items. The service is coordinated from an administration hub located in the Bendigo Library.

Our Vision

Goldfields Libraries: Your potential realised.

Our Mission

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

Our Values

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

Our Priorities

Children and Young People – supporting childhood and adolescent development.

Lifelong Learning – encouraging learning at any age or stage.

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

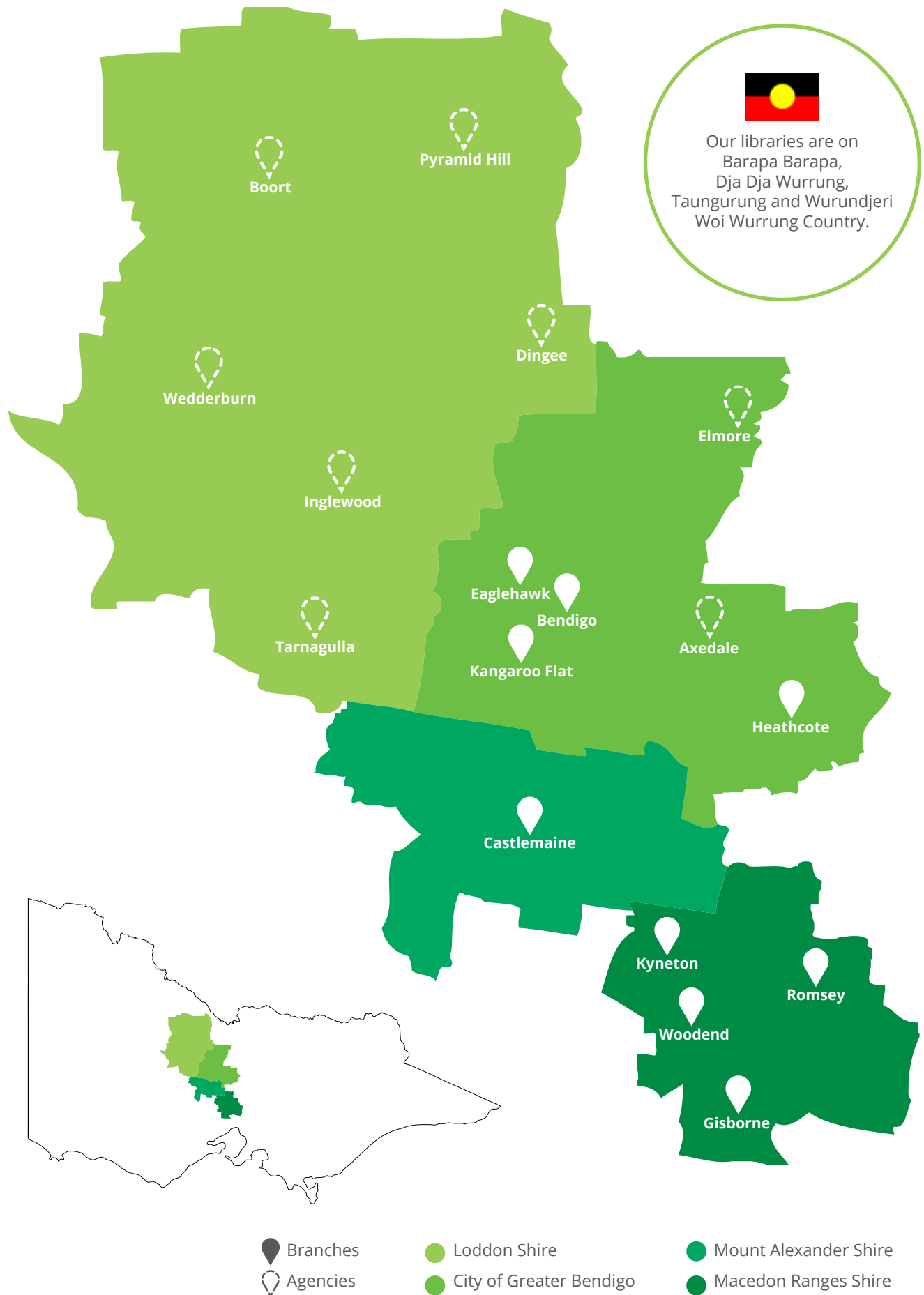
An Informed Community – an engaged, creative, informed community.

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

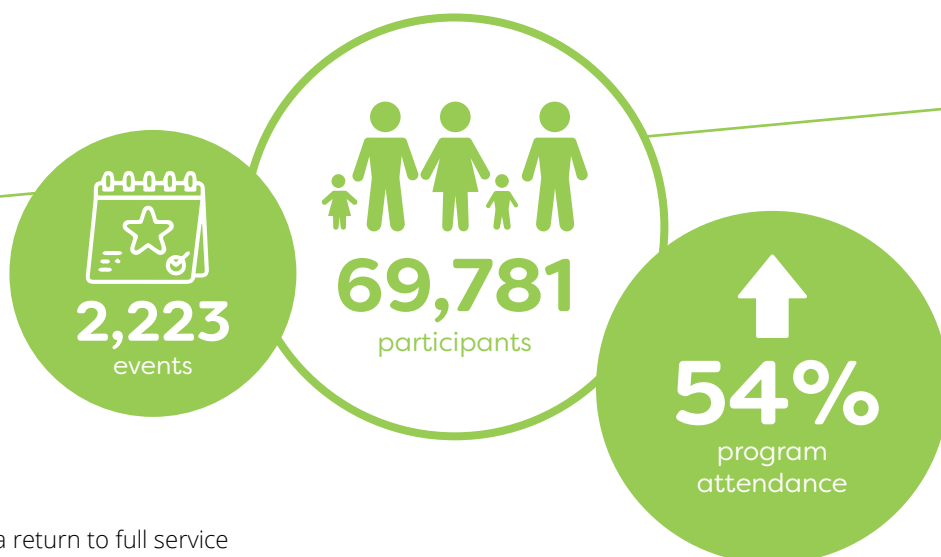
Respecting First Nations Peoples and Cultures – celebrating our nation's first cultures.

A Learning Organisation – learning and growing with our community.

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



Overview



This year has been a year of a return to full service for libraries and a generally steep increase in activity across all our sites as people rediscovered the enjoyment of visiting the library.

On the recovery road

COVID locked us out of libraries in a variety of ways over three years. We've worked hard to find ways to bring people back to the library after years of interrupted service. This year, we ran more than 2,200 programs or events, an almost record level, which attracted just under 70,000 participants – a record for program attendance.

Visits, Wi-Fi logins, and PC usage all increased, and although public libraries are definitely still in recovery mode, our general statistics all indicate a positive return from our community.

Interestingly, our card-holding membership has dropped slightly, and there are several possible factors impacting this result that are worth noting:

Removing the need for member identification for most library services

GLC does not require membership status for most services, except borrowing physical collection and some eResources.

Logging in to Wi-Fi, booking a PC, remote printing, attending a program or just coming in and reading or hanging out with friends requires no membership card. It's been a conscious choice to remove any barrier for the community to access most of the services available from the local library.

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

The continuing impact of COVID

We also know that the impact of COVID had a detrimental effect on new membership.

Over a three-year period of closures and limited access (2020-2022), GLC registered 13,573 new members. In the three years prior to this (2017-2019), we registered 21,808 new members.

This represents a net loss of 8,235 new members between each three-year period, in addition to natural attrition through people moving away or not using the service and being taken off the system as active borrowers.

In future years, we'll continue to work toward maintaining membership for those who find it useful. Indeed, 2022-23 saw an increase in new members from 4,483 in 2021-22 to 5,903 in 2022-23.

A changing use of our service

Interestingly, the use of the physical collection, mainly the traditional book, has seen a slower recovery than some other areas of the service, with our eLibrary maintaining the level of use seen during COVID, where a rapid rise in online library services saw significant increases in the downloading of eBooks and eAudiobooks.

A new area that has seen increased use is specifically linked to remote working, with many more people booking spaces to hold online meetings or use Wi-Fi to work or study remotely. Again, this doesn't require membership but is a new use of spaces due to the changing nature of work and study since lockdowns.

So, our communities and loyal patrons have returned and are using our public libraries in slightly different ways. We are committed to changing with them in order to provide a library service that supports people in their social, recreational, learning and work-related needs.

Our Communities



Goldfields Libraries manages public library services across the four municipalities of Greater Bendigo, Macedon Ranges, Mount Alexander and Loddon.

Most regional areas covered by GLC continue to see a steady level of population growth, in large part due to migration trends from within Australia. However, in some of our smaller regional and rural areas, population size is stagnating or declining. Across our region, in both regional and rural areas, we are continuing to see a consistent increase in older age groups. These steady shifts in our community demographics, combined with the economic environment we're experiencing relating to the higher cost of living, are manifesting in a greater demand for library services that include digital literacy and device support, access to Wi-Fi and public computers, and safe places to find refuge or social connection.

We are learning and evolving as our communities and environments change, along with the services patrons seek from public libraries. In partnership with specialist organisations, councils and community groups, we aim to provide a level and variety of library services to help each individual reach their potential and support our communities' overall health and wellbeing.

Our people-centred strategic plan and mission statements focused on each individual continue to inform our decision-making: *You belong as you are; We start where you are; A learning journey with you; Let's make it fun!*

	City of Greater Bendigo	Macedon Ranges Shire	Mount Alexander Shire	Loddon Shire
Population	122,551	52,132	20,292	7,729
Geographic area	3,000 km ²	1,747 km ²	1,529 km ²	6,694 km ²
Libraries	4 branches (Bendigo, Eaglehawk, Heathcote & Kangaroo Flat) 2 agencies (Axedale & Elmore)	4 branches (Gisborne, Kyneton, Romsey & Woodend)	1 branch (Castlemaine)	6 agencies (Boort, Dingee, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill, Tarnagulla & Wedderburn)
Library members¹	28%	36%	53%	16%
Key demographics	Third largest urban area in Victoria with growing populations Increasingly culturally, linguistically and ethnically diverse Population ageing	Some townships growing rapidly (especially in the south) Diverse set of communities (size and demographics) Commuter corridor	Population growing Ageing population High levels of volunteering	Consistent population Diverse communities – issues of isolation but also high connection to community High levels of volunteering

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

Branches



BENDIGO



CASTLEMAINE



EAGLEHAWK



GISBORNE



HEATHCOTE



KANGAROO FLAT



KYNETON



ROMSEY



WOODEND

Agencies



AXEDALE



BOORT



DINGEE



ELMORE



INGLEWOOD



PYRAMID HILL



TARNAGULLA



WEDDERBURN

Three Year Overview

Indicator	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	% change since last year	% change over last 3 years
Population - regional (ABS ERP)	198,468	200,662	202,704	1%	2%
Library opening hours weekly	334	336.5	334	0%	0%
Agency opening hours weekly	120	132.75	128.5	-3%	7%
Library floor space* (m²)	6,176	6,176	6,176	0%	0%
Staff EFT	49.2	50.2	52.0	4%	6%
Collection items	265,548	222,931	223,199	0%	-16%
Public access internet computers	137	137	138	1%	1%
Activity					
Visits	655,475	737,852	997,145	35%	52%
Members	67,785	65,062	61,781	-5%	-9%
Collection utilisation	1,217,157	1,229,187	1,240,404	1%	2%
Computer bookings	25,800	28,406	36,672	29%	42%
Wireless internet access	34,143	50,147	64,746	29%	90%
Program attendance	50,209	45,364	69,781	54%	39%
Number of programs	1,176	1,662	2,223	34%	89%
Expenditure					
Total operating expenditure	\$5,303,224	\$5,543,393	\$6,033,707	9%	14%
Total capital expenditure	\$718,640	\$1,019,144	\$684,334	-33%	-5%
Capital expenditure on collections	\$594,576	\$525,228	\$528,529	1%	-11%
Total collections expenditure	\$999,420	\$939,038	\$935,010	0%	-6%
Total expenditure (excludes depreciation)	\$6,021,864	\$6,562,537	\$6,718,041	2%	12%
Cost of Service					
Cost per loan	\$4.95	\$5.34	\$5.42	1%	9%
Cost per visit	\$9.19	\$8.89	\$6.74	-24%	-27%
Activity per Capita					
Loans per capita	6.1	6.1	6.1	0%	0%
Visits per capita	3.3	3.7	4.9	32%	48%
Activity per Staff Member					
Loans per EFT staff member	24,739	24,542	23,854	-3%	-4%
Visits per EFT staff member	13,323	14,698	19,176	30%	44%
Activity per Opening Hour					
Loans per operating hour*	70	70	69	-1%	-1%
Visits per operating hour*	38	42	56	33%	47%

*Excludes Agencies



Children and Young People

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

Enjoyment at the heart of early literacy

We were delighted to relaunch the 1000 Books Before School program thanks to significant funding from Bendigo Communities for Children. A small staff team developed collateral for the region-wide program, which fosters a love of story, reading and curiosity within the home, greatly impacting children's school readiness and future prospects.

We've continued to promote our easy readers collection for primary-aged children with a record 33,911 loans from this set across our region. This collection complements the materials available through schools, providing a clear developmental progression for young readers as they grow.

Resources for parents

The usage of the Parenting Collection has increased due to improved accessibility. This demonstrates an ongoing need for parenting-focussed titles as families seek quality resources that supplement their family values and structures.

We also assessed our children's eResources at the end of the financial year, tailoring them to better reflect community usage ahead of the new year.



"After many unsuccessful efforts to get my son to give up his dummy, which he calls 'nunu', we came into the library and noticed the display 'day to day/new experiences'. The first book we looked at was 'Monster won't give up his nuuu'. It was amazing, the book was perfect and now my son is dummy free. I absolutely love the parenting section and how it is so accessible."

Children's programs – more children, more often

Early literacy programs for children aged five and under continue to be the cornerstone of all our programming, consistently and actively connecting young families to stories and language. Over 30 sessions of Baby Rhyme Time, Toddler Time and Storytime are held each week during school terms across our region, positively promoting and modelling an early reading culture.

Valued partnerships have enabled some special events for the early years, including Orchestra Victoria performances, Curious Kids in the Library with The Discovery Centre and Speechie Library Talks with local speech pathologists. We have established strong relationships with local community playgroups, preschools and maternal child health services, which allows us to deliver regular outreach Storytime sessions to young families in rural areas.





The inaugural Teddy Bear Sleepover was a highlight this year and was loved by families and staff alike. Dozens of children came along to a special twilight Storytime before kissing their soft toys goodnight and leaving them in the hands of library staff. Mischief was afoot as the teddies enjoyed stories, games and movies before bunkering down for the night. In the morning, each child was presented with photos of their teddy's adventures.

Primary school aged children are encouraged to use our libraries for both recreation and learning, highlighted in four school holiday programs each year encompassing authors, performers, STEM and craft. We participated in the statewide Big Summer Read program during the summer break, specifically encouraging reading for pleasure. We simplified our approach, enabling both paper-based and online versions with book vouchers as prizes, resulting in our best levels of registration and completion ever.

In fact, a record number of children participated in library programs this year, with 48,484 participants across 1,264 programs and events.

We also ran a range of programs for teens and young adults. Writing, zine and manga workshops were all well received, and a significant number of teens also participated in the Big Summer Read. Gisborne Gazette funded the Gisborne Writing and Illustration Challenge, offering great workshops and writing opportunities for young creatives. Evening youth events were popular, with Castlemaine's Mythological Quiz and library-sized Cluedo, Bendigo's Wear it Purple Day all-gendered fashion parade, and Boort's Library Pizza Night being particularly successful. These are great opportunities to engage with young people who may not otherwise access or engage with libraries.



"Thank you so much. My daughter popped into the library today and was very excited! She loved the Big Summer Read, it really kicked along her reading. Thanks to all of you at Castlemaine Library for being so encouraging, it was such a great thing for the kids over the summer holidays."





"Thanks so much for providing the StoryWalks, my youngest son loves them and we have seen ones at Heathcote, Rotary Park – Kangaroo Flat and Eaglehawk's Canterbury Park."

StoryWalks combine story and activity for children

StoryWalks are a simple and innovative activity that places a children's story along a popular walking route in the community. They are a physical activity and a literary experience in one. In 2021, we partnered with Healthy Loddon Campaspe to establish StoryWalks on semi-permanent bollards in Heathcote, Kyneton, Castlemaine and Long Gully.

This year, we had two very successful StoryWalk® events in Castlemaine and Heathcote. Partnering with local children's entertainers, child care centres, kinders, primary schools and aged-care homes, the program has proven to be a highly entertaining activity for all ages, promoting literacy, exercise and inter-generational connection.

In consultation with our Healthy Loddon Campaspe partners, and in response to positive community feedback throughout the year, we have committed to continuing the StoryWalk® project for another twelve months in Heathcote, Kyneton and Castlemaine.

Introducing children to local history

The team at BRAC have developed several age-appropriate programs for younger visitors, encouraging inquiry and imagination in children from kindergarten through to primary school. This includes insights into changes over time in the materials and methods of record keeping, viewing and handling old records, and highlighting gaps in knowledge due to missing or unrecorded details. One fun activity this year asked students to draw what animal they thought was in the box sent to Melbourne Zoo in 1874. The animal escaped overnight in the railway's parcels office, and while the original correspondence survives, nobody thought to record what the animal was. The Reading Room wall features their diverse and imaginative responses.



Local children's designs now standard library cards

In January, we launched our new community-designed library cards, created as part of a successful school holiday program engaging children aged 5-12. After creating quite the buzz last year, the colourful cards have continued to generate significant attention. Although initially aimed at our younger audience, they quickly gained popularity among adults and are now available for new and existing members of all ages. We are now phasing out the previous design and using these as our library cards moving forward. The program has proven so successful that we hope to run it again or extend it to other applications.

The StoryWalk® project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

Child safety and development prioritised

The Early Years Reference Group reconvened and developed a GLC Early Years Strategy, highlighting priorities for the organisation across eight key areas:

- Cultural safety and celebration of First Nations families
- Independent access and use of the space
- Children and families have a voice and are empowered
- Support for families and carers as first childhood educators
- Read Sing Talk Play
- Healthy and active families: food security/ physically moving
- Social connection and network
- COVID recovery and early years

A new Child Safe Action Plan has been adopted to record the ongoing activities of the organisation in fulfilling our commitments to child safety and wellbeing. Additionally, updates have been made to the Child Safety and Wellbeing policy, increasing the clarity around roles and responsibilities within the organisation and improving the document's effectiveness in guiding us to create a safe and empowering space for children.

Developing staff skills and knowledge

Storytime staff came together in late January for a day of professional development and resource sharing. Guest speaker Anna Manuel, a professional children's storyteller and trainer, was a particular hit, with ideas to help children become motivated and happy learners. Staff learnt techniques such as telling stories to engage children with little to no props: telling stories with paper, story drawings, body percussion, string stories etc., exploring how to tell tales from popular picture books in these ways and storytime transition ideas, including songs, fingerplays, music and movement.

The day also included a presentation from the Discovery Centre about the Curious Kids in the Library program, a show and tell of the new 1000 Books Before School material, and the opportunity for staff to share success stories and challenges.

Early years outreach and inreach in demand

Our libraries are continuing to increase early years outreach services back to pre-COVID rates, and are consistently finding an increase in demand for both outreach and inreach (early years services coming into the library) program requests.



Lifelong Learning

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

Access to information continues to boom

Library members are still seeking out their favourite online platforms to learn and enjoy. Borrowbox continues to be one of the top performing platforms, with an average of 2,740 active users every month.

Non-fiction loans have continued to trend high in both the adult and junior areas. Adult non-fiction loans increased by 9%, and junior non-fiction loans increased by 11% over the 12-month period, showing the community continues to pursue information and has a desire to learn and grow across all age groups.

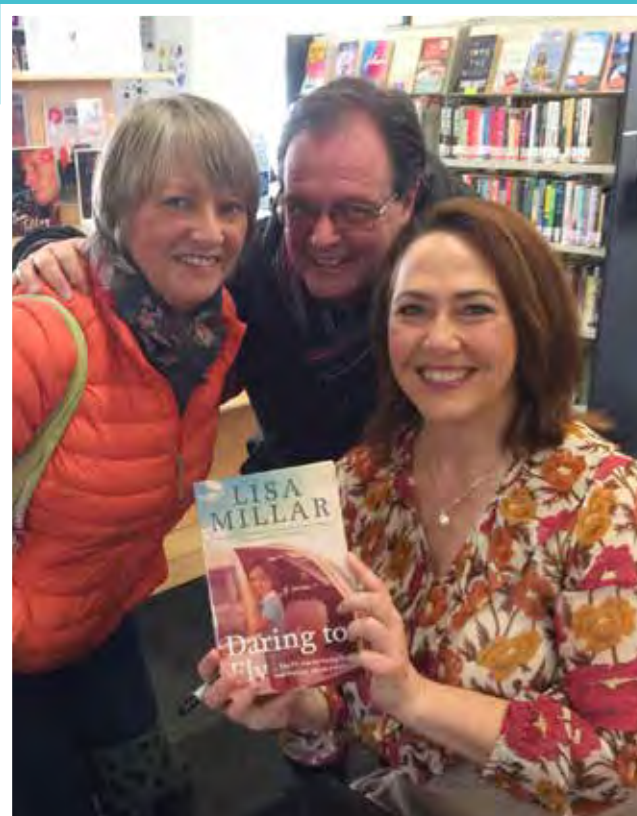
Learning through listening and doing

Our programming offers learning opportunities in varied formats across many areas for all age groups. We partner with a diverse group of service providers as they see the library providing access to a significant and engaged proportion of the community that trusts the information we provide.

Literature and the written word will always be at our core, reflected in a passing parade of visiting fiction and non-fiction authors, and writing and poetry workshops. Most authors come to us free of charge and, in the last 12 months, have included Lisa Millar, Peter Fitzsimmons, Chris Hammer and Peter Quarry.

We program on topical issues, providing quality and current information on topics including asylum seekers, sustainability, personal health and wellbeing, local flora and fauna, parenting and grief.

There is great interest in local and family history, and we provide academic opportunities through presentations by academics and scholars and hands-on workshops for those delving into their own past.



We encourage the learning journey of our seniors transitioning into a digital world with one-on-one IT help and digital literacy workshops. We received government funding to present a workshop series, *Your health in your hands*, assisting seniors to build digital skills to support their health and wellbeing online.

Our science, technology and engineering programs offer a participatory and fun way to learn and are particularly popular with our younger library users. We've run Lego builds, robotics, Minecraft workshops and other sessions that allow children to test, experiment and be curious.

We have also continued to strengthen connections with writers festivals, hosting Bendigo Writers Festival events at the library and facilitating external sessions with staff. A key innovation that has continued to expand over the last two years has been partnering with the Sydney Writers Festival to live-stream events from Sydney to our libraries in Castlemaine and Woodend.

Informing community in our spaces

We have introduced smart screens in almost all library spaces now, with the opportunity to use these to display local information when not being used for library activities. This provides partners with opportunities to deliver information to significant passing foot traffic as part of normal library activity.

Learning about where we belong

BRAC continues to deliver popular and relevant programs designed to impart and share skills and knowledge with our patrons at all stages of life. We recognise that family and property history remain popular subjects with our visitors, and our regular workshops, such as *Rates, Ratbags and Rebels*, highlight the records and information available and provide tools to break down brick walls when seeking answers from the past. Hosting and running the *Land Research Master Class* for the Professional Historians Association in July attracted a different audience and highlighted the demand for skill sharing in this area of history. A new *Introduction to Archives* program annually engages with La Trobe University history students online to create a foot in the door to BRAC and archival research.

“These are all great examples of how the lines between traditional library collections and programs are blurring. Our libraries have blossomed into inclusive learning ecosystems, reaching beyond books to empower everyone to explore knowledge, expand their horizons and cultivate a lifelong love of learning.”

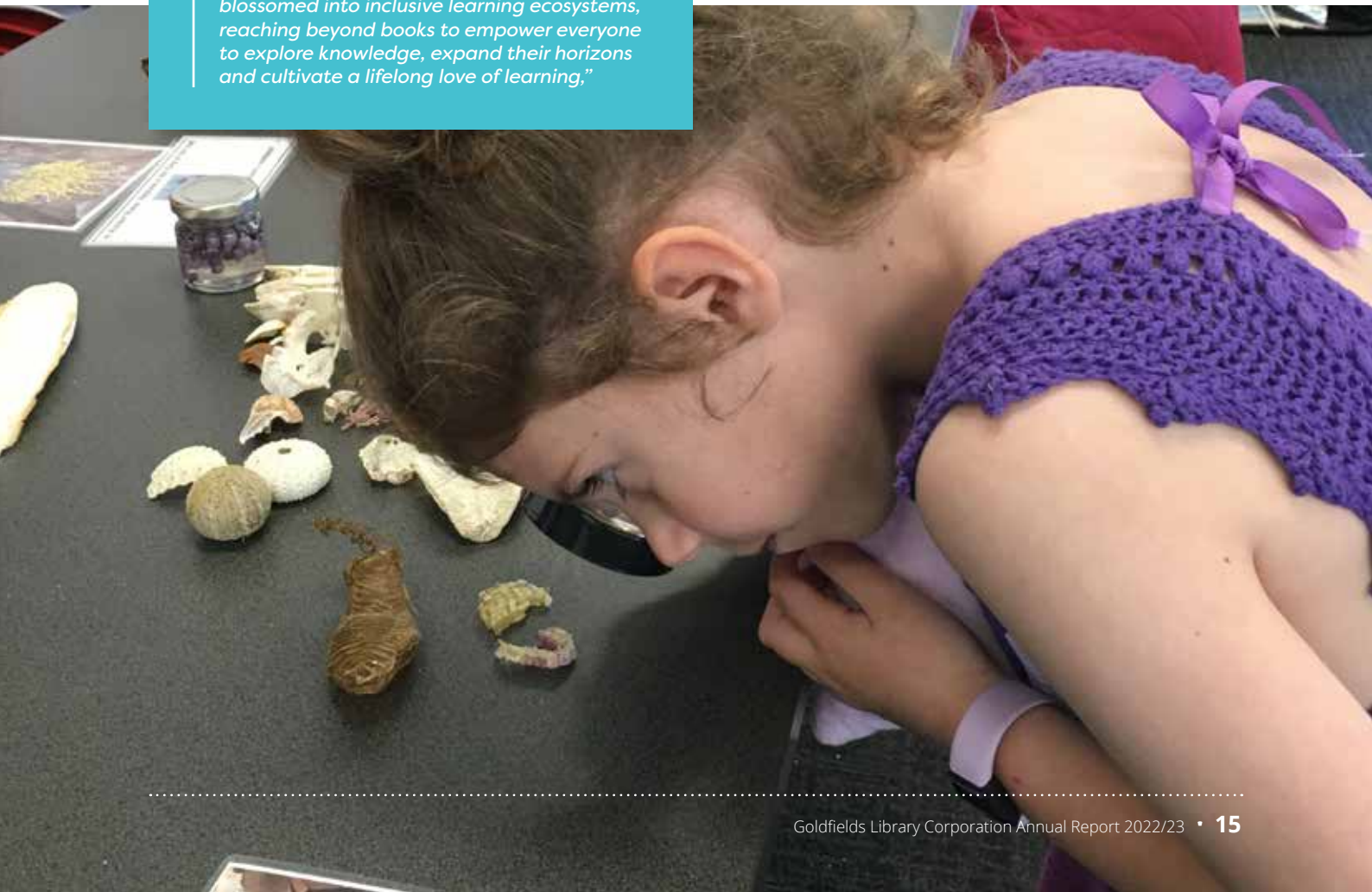
Finding new ways to learn and be curious

This year, we have continued to introduce new initiatives within our spaces to complement our collection and aid engagement and learning. Recognising that many of us learn by doing, seeing, touching and hearing, our libraries now offer programs and opportunities that focus on fun, enjoyment and engagement, and learning naturally follows. This has come in the form of aquariums, possum skin cloaks, wicking beds, StoryWalks, food swaps, seed libraries, murals, artworks, sustainable house kits, sporting equipment, exercise classes and nature tables, which encourage visitors to touch a real snakeskin, a mummified fox and various feathers and bones.

“Some people find it a little bizarre, and that’s OK, but it’s great to encourage curiosity in all ages. Many children have brought in things they’ve found themselves, and many adults share their own experiences, which just adds to the interest.”

Mark Hands, CEO.

Bendigo Library’s aquarium and mural have also been key in engaging and teaching the community about the Bendigo Creek, including its history, wildlife and the important role it plays for the Dja Dja Wurrung Peoples.





Providing new learning opportunities for older adults

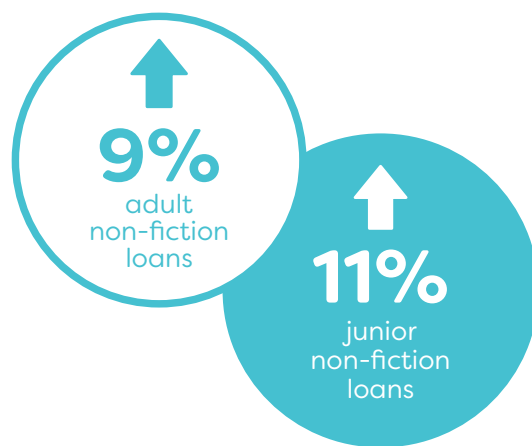
The Device Loan Scheme, in partnership with Loddon Shire, concluded in December 2022. This project aimed to facilitate digital connection for those in the Loddon Shire community who experience hurdles keeping engaged with online services and communication channels. Overall, the project significantly impacted the small number of people who participated.

One participant, in particular, established and maintained an online connection with distant family and friends that they will now continue through their own personal means. The project also helped identify the varying degrees of difficulty experienced by residents in rural and regional areas in joining the online community. These could include lack of device, poor connectivity or simply an unwillingness to engage for a number of reasons.

The Device Loan Scheme has provided a substantial step towards future programming and project ideas for us to support the number of people in our community isolated in this digital era.

“Since the loss of my husband in 2020 and then all the trauma of the pandemic, our local library has been a lifesaver for me.

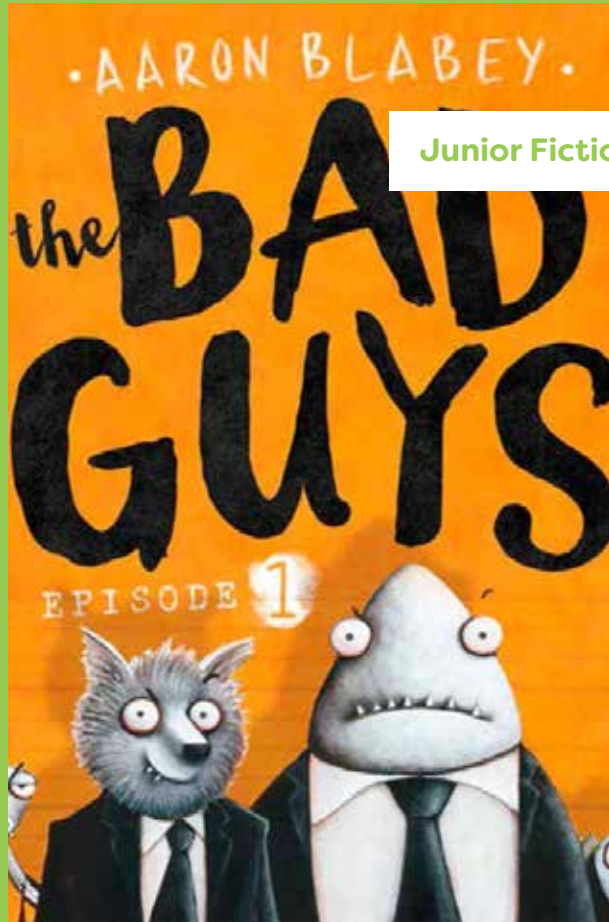
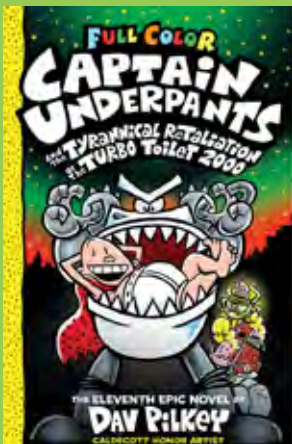
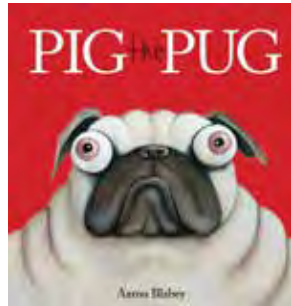
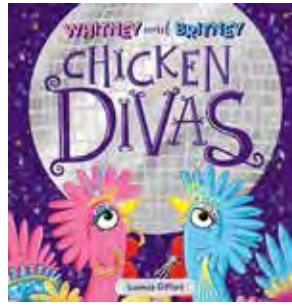
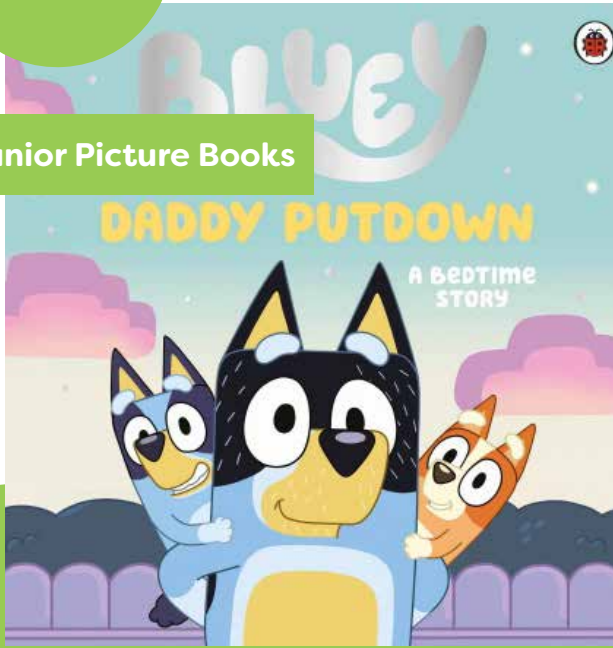
Always welcoming, a safe haven, always helpful, friendly people. A special mention and thanks for the recent loan scheme of iPads (and tuition) between Loddon Shire and Goldfields. At last I am ‘online’ and loving it at 92 years old. Thank you David for your patience.”



eLibrary by section / area	2021/22 usage	2022/23 usage	% change
eBooks and eMagazines	107,683	92,414	-14%
eLearning	86,565	86,507	0%
eAudio and streaming	182,891	171,589	-6%
Databases	38,497	37,174	-3%
Total combined usage	415,636	387,684	-7%

Most Popular

Junior Picture Books



Junior Fiction

Safety and Inclusion

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



Extending collection access

We introduced Braille titles to the picture book collection this year, and added more Dyslexia-friendly content, increasing accessibility and giving library members access to more resources. Both collections will be developed further in the coming year to connect them to community members in other positive ways.

Safety in all its forms

We deliver special programs throughout the year in First Nations and other cultural calendars, including National Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week and Cultural Diversity Week.

A much-anticipated annual event at Bendigo Library is the Chinese New Year Traditional Welcome featuring the Central Victorian Southern Lion, Dragon and Fu Wa Teams, setting us up for a happy and safe year. It's a noisy day at the library, with dragons dancing through to the sound of drums and cymbals.

We make sure our programs reflect a variety of voices and experiences. For instance, in May, Kyneton author Hayden Walsh, a young man living with cerebral palsy, spoke at our Kyneton and Kangaroo Flat libraries about his book *If I Can, You Can*, offering hope and inspiration for those living with disability.

We work closely with our LGBTIQAA+ communities, partnering on a number of successful events, displays and talks.

We value kindness to all, and this year, we participated in the 1000 Hearts Kindness Project for World Kindness Week, and the December Card Project with Bendigo Health, providing personalised messages of kindness to psychiatric inpatients over the Christmas period. Recognising that not all community members can come to us, we conduct outreach programs at organisations and facilities for young and old, as well as offering online events.

Secure technology

GLC introduced systems to protect all staff personal information and allows the use of a single account and password across different systems. All logins are protected from external attacks using multi-factor authentication. The solution was also deployed to our externally hosted Library Management System, Spydus, allowing us to tighten access to all key functions, making staff accountable for changes made to the library database. It has also added greater privacy protection for our patron database.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) was very proactive this year, analysing and providing detailed reporting on security gaps in all Australian government networks. In partnership with our Managed Service Provider, we have implemented all recommendations made by ACSC and currently have no critical vulnerabilities outstanding. We implemented DMARC signatures on all emails to stop anyone pretending to send emails from our servers and tightened security on all websites by increasing encryption levels and securing dormant domains and networks no longer in use.

Feeling included even when you can't come to us

Through our targeted outreach services, we continue to actively engage with members of our community who may not currently use our libraries or are unable to access our library services. We do this daily through connections and collaborations that are inclusive and empowering to the communities we serve and by supporting people to ensure they have equitable opportunities to access our services.

Our Home Library Service (HLS) operates across all library branches and agencies, delivering library materials to community members who cannot access our libraries due to frailness, illness or disability. The HLS is available to people who live in private homes, residential establishments, such as nursing homes, hostels or prisons.

Across the organisation, we have nearly 150 registered HLS recipients, and this year, loaned more than 12,000 items.

We aim to understand, enable and celebrate the diversity of our communities, ensuring everyone is included and empowered to access our services. We continue to build signs of diversity and inclusion into our library spaces, ensuring they are warm, friendly and welcoming, and encouraging a culture of respect and responsiveness, supporting team members to feel empowered, safe and secure. We continue to collaborate with Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services to develop inclusive storytime sessions, with three recorded sessions during 2022-23.

12,502
items borrowed

1,656
Home Library
Service deliveries
and visits

"it [the Home Library Service] is such a great service –it's all mum really has so it's very helpful for her engagement"





Celebrating diversity and community partnerships

We continue to use our platforms to celebrate, show support for and welcome diverse and multicultural communities. This includes dedicated webpages, social media posts, eNews items and physical displays in-branch. For instance, Our Celebrating Pride webpage was refreshed with new links to relevant programs and collections ahead of Pride Week: ncgrl.vic.gov.au/pride. Events and activities were also promoted in a half-page advertisement in the *Bendigo Advertiser*.

Goldfields Libraries has been partnering with AMIDA (Action for More Independence & Dignity Accommodation) since April 2022 to support a local self-advocacy group for people with intellectual disabilities, known as Have a Say Bendigo. The project will continue with GLC as a supporting partner, providing a meeting and programming space, engaging with feedback from the group and promoting educational and informative messaging around self-advocacy and intellectual disabilities.

Bendigo Library also partnered with students from the Bendigo TAFE Vocational English class to create a large-scale simple English library map. The map is proudly displayed on the main desk, improving independent use of the library for all community members.

As part of Cultural Diversity Week and Harmony Week celebrations, we asked library visitors to share what they love about our library in their preferred language. The responses were beautiful and varied, and included English, Dutch, Italian and French. The responses were part of a statewide campaign and were sent to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs to raise awareness of the importance of libraries for multicultural communities.

Assessing libraries as safe public space

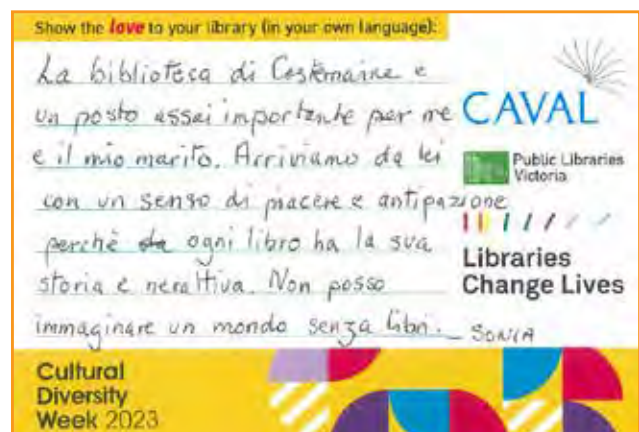
We have worked with member councils to undertake safety assessments of our largest branches to consider how best to manage these libraries as large public spaces. This project has provided valuable guidance in improving internal policies and procedures to improve staff and patron safety in the current environment, as well as some key recommendations for the physical library space.

These learnings will be utilised in future library infrastructure planning, and work towards creating safe and welcoming public library spaces for each person we engage.

Funding a Community Connections Practitioner

In partnership with Bendigo Community Health Services and the City of Greater Bendigo, we have welcomed a Community Connections Practitioner into the Bendigo Library. This will form part of a project to address the increasing frequency and severity of incidents relating to challenging behaviours in the library and immediate CBD area. Additionally, library staff are reporting a growing demand from community members to support more complex and personal needs beyond the scope of our library service. This project is a great step towards a growing industry trend whereby libraries are regularly seen as safe spaces for more vulnerable community members and are increasingly being provided with support from qualified social or community workers located within libraries.

This project will continue to run for 22 months and is funded by the Department of Justice and Community Safety.



"Castlemaine Library is a very important place for me and my husband. We come here with a sense of pleasure and anticipation because each book has its own story and narrative. I can't imagine a world without books."

Continuing a COVID response – RAT distribution across library branches

In November, library branches in Macedon Ranges, the City of Greater Bendigo and Mount Alexander shires became distribution points for Rapid Antigen Tests as part of the council-administered DHHS program. This has become a popular service and a nice antidote to the stress that staff suffered when monitoring vaccination certificates.

Health and Safety Committee

A new Health and Safety Committee was convened in 2023. A new Terms of Reference was adopted, and a decision made to expand GLC's designated work groups to two, to better reflect the operational and safety complexities of the organisation. As a result, two Health and Safety representatives were elected for the new term of the committee. The Health and Safety Committee undertook training as a group in May, run by Safety Australia Group, to better understand roles, responsibilities and associated legislation. They also identified several strategies to include in their 2023-24 action plan.

An audit of safety features within our libraries has been completed, and we are now working towards upgrades or the introduction of duress alarms, CCTV, sharps units etc, where necessary, to help improve staff and patron safety.

Psychological safety in the workplace

Internal reviews of important policies and processes related to our staff's psychosocial and psychological safety are underway. These include considering the display of patron conditions of entry in our spaces, the incident reporting process that captures unsafe hazards and incidents, and the roles of our staff and managers in creating and maintaining a safe work environment.

Additional work will continue over the coming year as changes to Fair Work legislation are introduced and the residual effects of a pandemic on the compassion and resilience of people in our community are managed.



An Informed Community

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

Collection driven by community curiosity and learning

We focussed on fulfilling community requests to enable member-driven learning and growth in community-chosen topics. We have increased our response and reduced the purchase time of titles proposed by community members. This has led to the top non-fiction genres for 2022-23 being biographies, health, gardening, food, and sustainability.

The community use of the eLibrary has remained steady over the last twelve months, with members still seeking reliable information and online content. The Britannica Online database has seen a 9.5% increase in usage this year.

The fastest free internet is now at all branches

Gisborne Library was the last of our large branches to install a 500 Mbps fibre optic NBN internet connection that provides superior internet speeds for our communities. This allows faster downloads and uploads to the internet and provides internet speeds suitable for video conferencing and micro businesses. All branches updated their wireless access hardware to improve speed, reliability and security significantly.

The use of free Wi-Fi to provide internet connection for the community has rapidly recovered since COVID, with almost 65,000 logins throughout the year, up from 50,000 last year.



↑
29%
Wi-Fi logins



1.2M+
total loans



12,015
movies &
documentaries
streamed

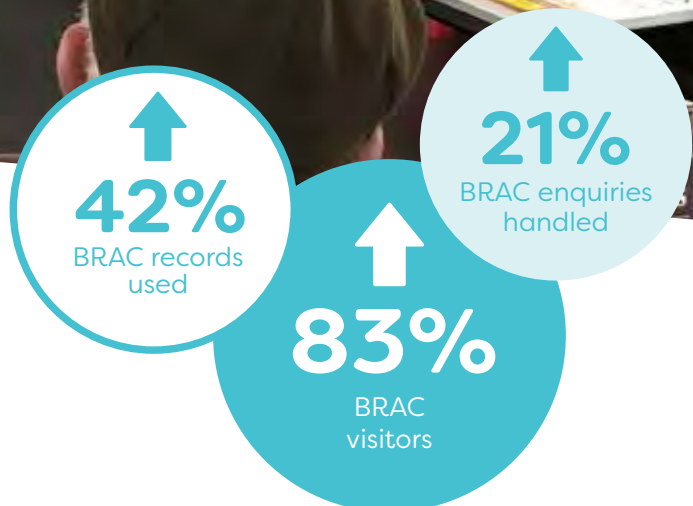




Local connections to new historical records

BRAC's partnership with La Trobe University's *Discovering History* program has continued, with our recent contribution being *Throwing Stones and Mending Their Ways*, which told several stories of the local politics of quarrying, road making and stone use in Bendigo region to an enthusiastic online and in-person audience. We were also proud to organise and host *Handle With Care*, the official launch of the 170 recently transferred Bendigo Health records, which have already become a popular part of our collection. This also coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Public Records Act 1973 and allowed both PROV (Public Record Office Victoria) and the archivist behind the project to provide insights into the processes and work behind making these collections available to the public.

The resolution of early IT issues with the new Warehouse Management System has given more BRAC patrons the confidence to use the PROV online ordering system. While this now accounts for about 15% of our orders, we are determined to remain flexible enough to manage the remaining 85% of record orders that arise from unplanned visits and those taking their planned research a step further after arrival. The new system permits us to



temporarily move records to the Reading Room (and back again) without a formal order, while still ensuring they are counted virtually as engagement with the collection. For those researchers unable to visit due to distance, time, or incapacity, we still provide a free service of finding key details to answer their questions. We continue to look forward to Zara, the guide dog's visit to the Reading Room.

"We were promised a deep dive [into land history research] and such was the comprehensive nature of Sue's presentation that, after three hours, we almost needed the hyperbaric chamber to recover from the wonders of the deep."

Connecting people to information

Our What's On program introduced a change in how we present our programs and events. The revamped program separated events by shire rather than category, helping the community find events in their area more easily, while also showcasing what's on in neighbouring towns. The change was implemented due to feedback from staff and the community and aimed to improve and localise the connection between communities and what's happening at their library.

Efforts in traditional media continue, and through partnerships with member councils, local newspapers and community newsletters, we have published numerous articles, media releases and advertisements. Recognising the ongoing effects of COVID and the current economic crisis, we have focussed our efforts on promoting library spaces as second loungerooms, places for connecting with others, co-working spaces, and sources of free entertainment in tough times.

Through an extensive yearly engagement calendar, we are able to identify key dates, public holidays and deadlines well in advance. This calendar allows us to forward-plan for programs, social media, eNews, articles and displays and has been an integral part of our planning this year.

In response to the Australian Indigenous Voice Referendum announcement, we created a webpage compiling a list of trusted sources and reading materials so that the community can better understand the Referendum and make an informed decision.

Justice of the Peace service expands

We have expanded our Justice of the Peace services to weekly sessions at Bendigo, Castlemaine and Gisborne libraries. The service expansion has seen a steady stream of people utilising this with a variety of requests.

"Your displays are SO effective - I often leave with three times as many books as I intended to! They are curated and maintained so well, I love them!"





Connecting People

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

Latest titles and biographies on the rise

The Read Now Collection has been so successful with our community that we had no option but to expand the collection to encompass additional branches and high collection numbers. This has enabled more library members faster access to top titles with no queues and increased the collection's browsability.

Our communities have been seeking connection with others this past year, with a high trend of loans towards bibliographical stories. Biographies made up 22% of our top 100 adult non-fiction loans in 2022-23.

"The READ NOW collection is great - I just walk in the front door and find a new book every time."



An NDIS support worker came in and was excited about the seeds in the Seed Library as she runs a gardening and cooking group. She loved that she could use local seeds to grow and cook with the clients as it helps create a sense of community.

The value of our volunteers

Volunteers make a valuable contribution to the delivery of our library services, including assisting staff in library branches, supporting our library agencies' operations, and delivering our Home Library Service. The Community Based Services (CBS) team is responsible for facilitating the recruitment of volunteers across the organisation, and we celebrate and acknowledge the significant contribution volunteers make to our services in connecting the community with the library and each other.

In December, volunteers from the Loddon Shire and the City of Greater Bendigo were invited to attend the Volunteer Celebration & Workshop. This was an opportunity for an end-of-year celebration, and thank you to our volunteers for their hard work. It was a chance to catch up and meet other volunteers and the CBS team while also undertaking training. We were lucky to have a special guest appearance from Mindy, the Kangaroo Flat Library dog.

We engaged 16 new volunteers this year, bringing our total to 47 volunteers, assisting staff in library branches or home library service deliveries across the organisation; a team of 14 community volunteers supports our library agencies.

We ensure our libraries are safe spaces where people can come and connect with each other. We provide a whole range of activities designed to support social connection and help combat loneliness. Among these activities are our online book club and craft connections sessions. Memory Place sessions are also very popular, activating the brain by collectively reminiscing using themed objects from past eras.

Connecting people to place

Connecting people and places is a highlight of BRAC's work. The *Streets Ahead* index to the 20th century Bendigo rate books, created by our dedicated volunteer transcribers, is well underway with 1955 complete and 1915 and 1945 in progress. Already, it is proving useful by helping to streamline research assistance required by BRAC staff. We have also had further opportunities to take to the road and deliver a talk on BRAC's services and resources at the Castlemaine Historical Society and Malmsbury Bluestone at the Castlemaine Library.

These events, which draw on work skills, personal knowledge and experience, broaden our audience and often initiate follow-up visits or enquiries from keen audience members we might otherwise never meet. Our dedicated Facebook page invites an even wider audience to share history and archival knowledge.

Connecting in person and online

Our social media presence continues to rise, with almost 17,000 people now following GLC across Facebook and Instagram. Regular posts mean ongoing engagement, with an average of 7,500 people commenting, liking, clicking and sharing posts each month.

Our Macedon Ranges libraries combined their social media pages in March, now operating as 'Macedon Ranges Libraries' on both Facebook and Instagram. The new centralised approach has improved our social media content, minimises messaging duplications, and is more efficient and coordinated across the four branches. So far, the change has resulted in significantly increased engagement across both platforms.

To celebrate Library Lovers Day, we ran a snap Facebook-only competition. We asked our followers to share what they love most about the library in just one sentence for a chance to win a Readings voucher.

"It doesn't matter how I feel when I come to the library, I always leave feeling uplifted – even if I don't get a book. It's saying hello to all the staff who know me by name, and who will say 'Lois, I thought you would like this book.' The Library is really our own little community."

↑
34%
volunteers





Newsletter for record number of book clubs launched

An online newsletter for Book Clubs was launched in January to promote new book club titles and help connect book clubbers with relevant news, reviews, events, programs and other book clubbers within the region. It has been an instant success, with many recipients visiting the website, the catalogue, and even booking into events.

We now have more than 260 book clubs registered with GLC.

“Loved the new book club email! As a longtime book club, we were running out of books we haven’t already had. It was great to hear of new titles and author talks coming up!”

Passive programs build connection

Many branches run passive, low-key programs that offer stimulation and the opportunity to lightly connect, such as *Crochet & Conversation*, *Social Scrabble*, *Make-Do and Mend*, and *Library Movie Club*. Community jigsaws are also a popular addition to our library spaces.

A particularly lovely program was the *December Card Project*, where patrons were invited to write a message of support and hope to psychiatric patients for Christmas.

We also ran *Dungeons and Dragons* sessions, and a *Teen Writing Club* was initiated by staff at Castlemaine Library and then continued and taken over by the young people involved who wanted to stay connected and keep the group going.

Partnering to promote connection and advocacy

Partnering with the Self Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU), we have extended a project to support the Have a Say Bendigo (HaSB) group members who meet weekly to independently engage with the library and other services. HaSB is a self-advocacy group that supports people with intellectual disabilities to increase independence and awareness of their rights. The project has been successful thus far, and following an interim report and meeting with both GLC and SARU, it has been extended to the end of 2024.

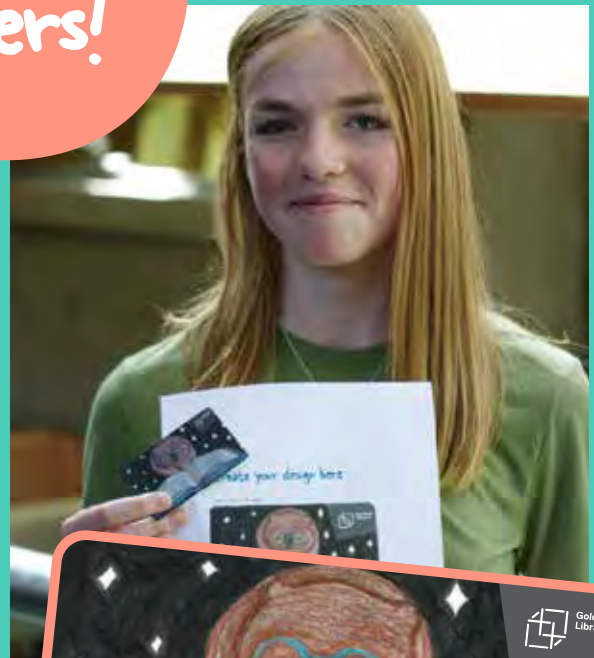
Investment in spaces that make people want to stay a while

Each year, we invest in new furnishing purchases to update our spaces and provide greater comfort, safety and flexibility of use for patrons and staff. In recent surveys, patrons have indicated that comfy furniture is an important element in being able to stick around or chat with friends.

An emphasis on welcoming spaces to support community connections continues, especially through the prism of the updated Child Safe Standards. Child-friendly spaces have been a focus over the past year, with colourful and smaller-scale furnishings for children and comfortable seating for parents. Planning for spaces and equipment to support the growing demand for remote work, study and meetings also continues.



Design a children's library card
Winners!



Respecting First Nations Peoples and Cultures

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

First Nations collection

We are always looking for ways to increase the representation of First Nations authors and literature within our collection. This year, we have focussed on collection displays during key celebrations and important dates such as NAIDOC week and Sorry Day.

First Nations partnerships and programs

Our programs reflect the building community interest and desire to better understand the culture and stories of First Nations Peoples. We have built meaningful relationships with local Aboriginal people through work on planning and facilitation of programs.

National Reconciliation Week is a focus, with GLC hosting the launch of the Central Victorian Indigenous Film Festival, including a Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremony and film screening. Castlemaine

Library hosted John Bonnice for a talk on white privilege, and Gisborne Library screened *The Drover's Wife*, starring Aboriginal actor Leah Purcell.

The Bendigo NAIDOC Committee supported us in funding a wonderful *Aboriginal Evening Storytime* facilitated by Aboriginal musician and storyteller Ron Murray and his partner Sara James.

Aunty Kerri Douglas hosted summer yarning circles of Dja Dja Wurrung Culture and Craft, and we presented a popular online event with Aboriginal author Tyson Yunkaporta. The Possum Skin Cloaks created by the Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative continue to travel around the region, and it's lovely to see them soften and change through interest and the touching by many hands.

Kath Coff from Nalderun gives a beautiful, performative reading of the Djaara story *Tarengower and Lalgambook*, which was displayed on our Castlemaine StoryWalk® between Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week.



Cultural sensitivity with the Koorie Heritage Trust

Both PROV and the Koorie Heritage Trust provide culturally sensitive support and guidance for Aboriginal researchers. Through the support of PROV, BRAC holds free copies of support materials and guides to Aboriginal records to assist anyone beginning their own journey.

Acknowledging and respecting the Traditional Owners

Recognising the deep emotional impact of 'Australia Day' on the First Nations community, this year, we made the decision to refer to this date as the 'January 26 Public Holiday'. We also took the opportunity to highlight the First Nations books and resources within our collection.

We continue to monitor and update the First Nations pages on our website. These pages are accessible from the home page and link to collection items, previous programs and events, as well as useful resources for people wishing to learn more about the history of our country's first people.

Work is in progress to update all GLC corporate documents to include an Acknowledgement of Country. This will also extend to our website and email signatures.

Acknowledgement of Country plaques are now on display at all libraries, including agencies.

Informing community about the Voice to Parliament Referendum

We developed a 2023 Voice to Parliament Referendum webpage to highlight relevant collection items, articles and related resources to help the community make an informed decision. We have added several new titles to our collection as they've come to print, and we have shared this practical webpage through posters in-branch and online, through eNews and on social media. Printed materials from the Australian Government were also distributed from our libraries.

Reconciliation Action Plan in development

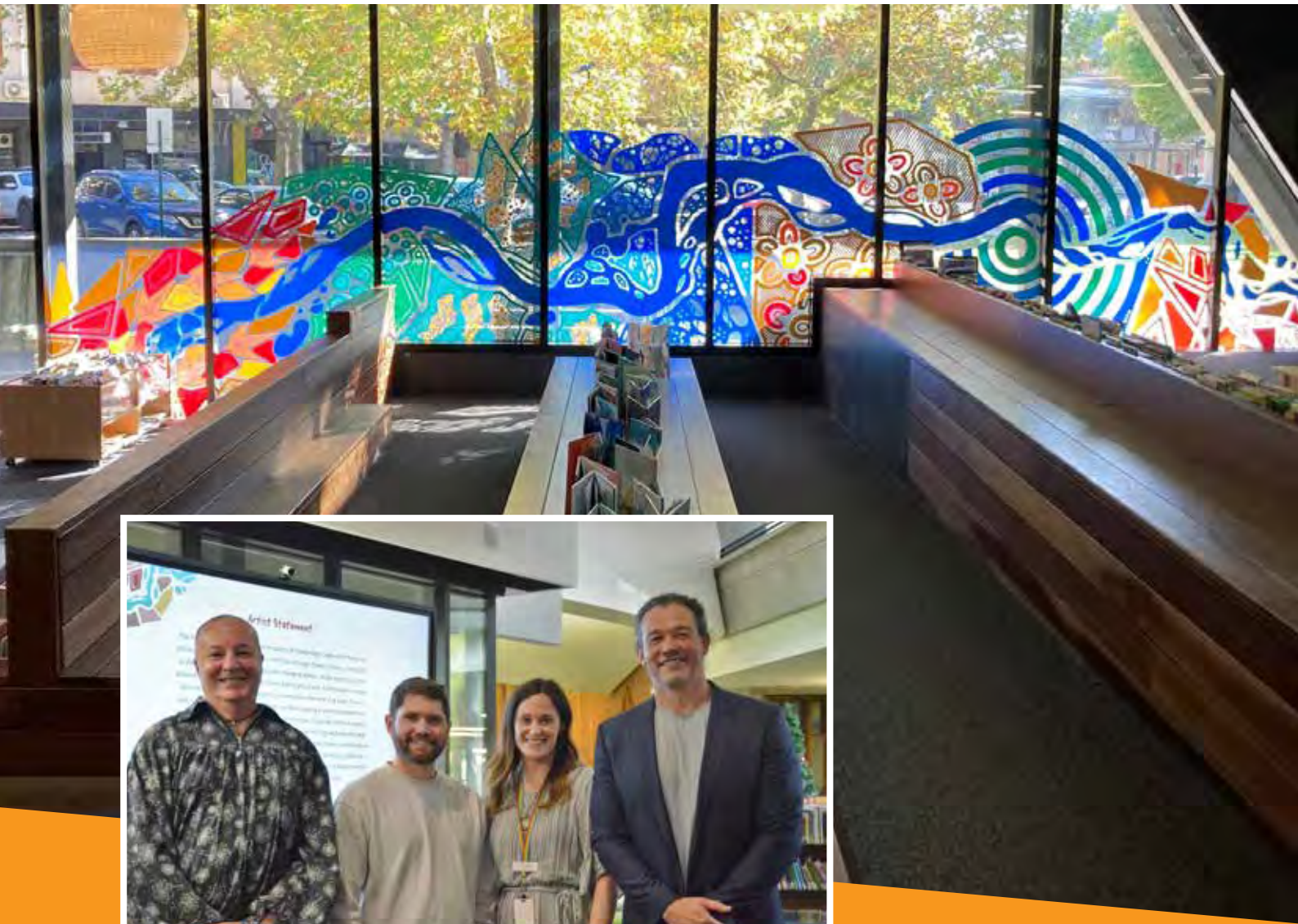
A Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) working group was established to develop and deliver the first RAP for GLC. The working group is focussed on delivering a Reflect-RAP, registered with Reconciliation Australia and establishing the commitments of group members and the wider organisation. This is an important step in the reconciliation process for GLC, and one that represents the beginning of a long journey of learning and evolving as an organisation and community.



Welcoming spaces with First Nations art and design

We continue to focus on signs of welcome and cultural celebration within our library spaces. Across the region, Indigenous-designed soft furnishings, furniture and artwork have been installed to increase representation and reflection of First Nations communities. Local artists have been commissioned over the years, and we continue to seek opportunities to engage local First Nation artists and introduce new symbols and art pieces into our libraries.

Bendigo Library new children's area was launched in December and features artwork by Indigenous artist Troy Firebrace. The artwork depicts his interpretation of the Bendigo Creek waterway as it changes through the seasons. This incredible piece offers vibrant, Indigenous representation in the Bendigo Library space, and will provide programming opportunities to further connect our local community to First Nations culture and the significance of the Bendigo Creek.





Cultural competency and safety training

Staff continue to be offered opportunities to develop their knowledge and deepen their understanding and respect of First Nations Peoples and cultures through local and remote training avenues.

Acknowledgment of Country training was offered in October to support staff in developing knowledge and confidence in the background, meaning and delivery of acknowledgements – a key aspect of our storytimes, events and meetings. This training was delivered online via Koori Curriculum with positive feedback from those who participated.

In March, several staff participated in a consultative process facilitated by Dr. Terri Janke, an expert in engagement with Indigenous communities and author of *True Tracks: Respecting Indigenous Knowledge and Culture*, along with other library managers and leaders across Victoria. It provided an opportunity for meaningful discussion about what we, and others in the sector, are doing well, and what further steps we can take to create welcoming and safe services that include and celebrate First Nations peoples, cultures and stories.



All-staff Q&A with Auntie Kerri Douglas

We were honoured to present Auntie Kerri Douglas as a guest speaker at our all-staff Professional Development Day held in March. Auntie Kerri held an hour-long Q&A with staff, covering topics such as culturally sensitive collections, incorporating Aboriginal perspectives within Storytimes, activities and programs and creating culturally safe spaces.

A Learning Organisation

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

Continuous improvement in technology

We have undertaken a series of upgrades throughout the year that provide technical efficiency, higher security and capacity to continue matching future demands with IT infrastructure.

Technical changes include:

- Upgrades of file server environment to the latest Microsoft versions. This ensures we have access to the latest platform features and security protections.
- The completion of the deployment of large smart screens to all branches. This has proven to be an invaluable multipurpose solution for digital signage, program delivery and, increasingly, for hybrid remote meetings.
- Implementation of a platform to update software quickly across the network. A critical software update can be deployed to all PCs across the region within minutes.
- Internal staff support platform allowing us to prioritise and monitor IT requests and issues rather than using direct emails.

All-staff Professional Development Day

Our first in-person all-staff PD Day since the advent of COVID-19 was held at Bendigo Library in March. A varied and interactive program included:

- a presentation on the accessibility features of the Borrowbox app
- Djaara Q&A with Aunty Kerri Douglas
- a mental health in the workplace workshop
- guest presenter Sally Rippin discussing her book *Wild Things: How We Learn to Read and What Can Happen If We Don't*.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with staff with staff rating the day 4.44 out of 5 for overall value.





Libraries Victoria Conference – a chance to share our learnings

We were thrilled to have been awarded two speaking opportunities at the statewide Public Libraries Victoria Conference held in May – the first since 2019.

Castlemaine librarian Stuart Winsor presented a stellar lightning talk on StoryWalks – an initiative Stuart was integral in establishing at GLC as a groundbreaking project in Victoria.

CEO Mark Hands delivered an opening keynote on our people-centred strategic plan. This was referenced in almost every presentation over the following two days and has generated much interest, with Mark being invited to speak to both our plan, and its rewards, at subsequent events.

Building our communications capacity

Selected interested staff attended a Canva training session in February, run by our graphic designer. The workshop shared basic design principles and tips and tricks for using Canva to create imagery for branch use. The information learned in this session will be extended for use in Library Aware, a collection promotion software package, and both will be used to complement promotional material created by our Communications Team. The introduction of these tools gives staff the creative outlet to create imagery on demand for their branches, allowing the Communications Team to focus on organisation-wide content.

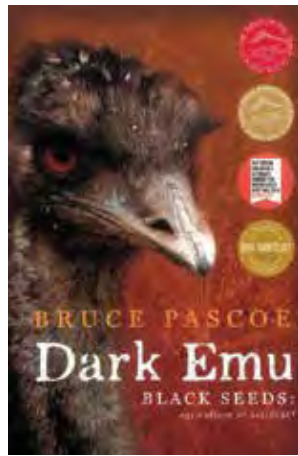
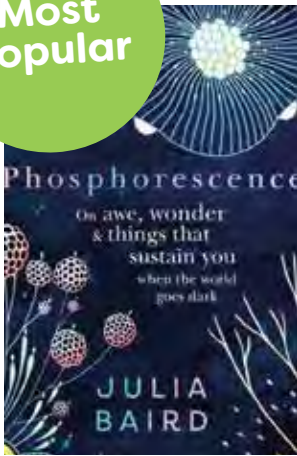
Peer to peer mentoring in specialist areas

Cross-organisational reference and working groups have been established to draw from expertise across the region and provide opportunities for networking and peer-to-peer mentoring. These include Early Years, Reader Advisory, and the first Reconciliation Action Plan working group.

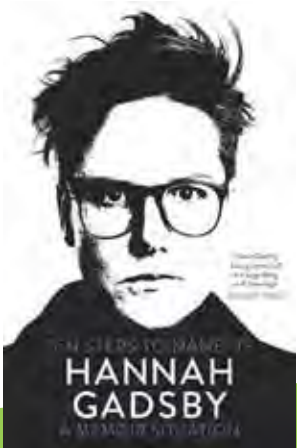
Strategic planning

Our Management team came together for a full day of strategic planning, discussing new Library Plan actions for 2023-24 and formulating ideas for branch and functional area plans for the financial year ahead. We also took the opportunity for a presentation and roundtable discussion on psychological safety in the workplace and a refresher on Goldfields Libraries values of inclusion and safety, curiosity and inquiry and collaboration and cooperation.

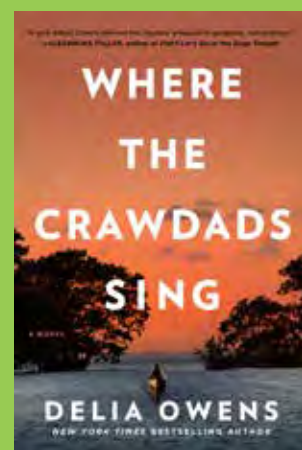
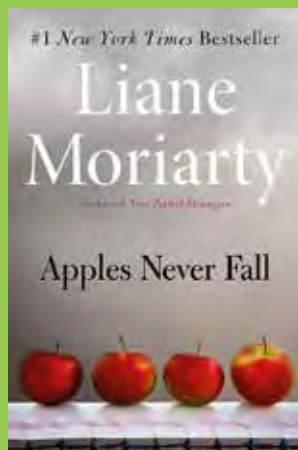
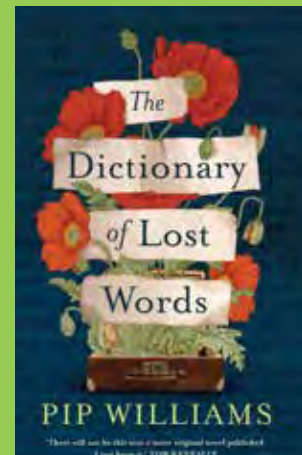
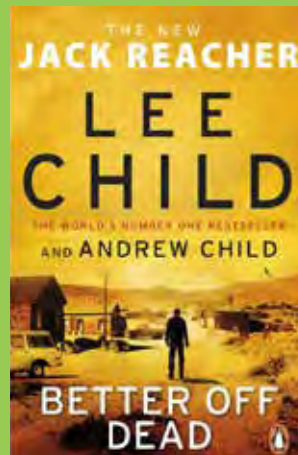
Most Popular



Adult Non-Fiction



Adult Fiction





A Sustainable Future

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

Moving toward paperless administration

We partnered with the City of Greater Bendigo to implement a digital timesheet system using Microsoft Single Sign-on. This has significantly reduced staff paper usage as all timesheets, leave applications, and other allowances can be applied for and approved online.

Sustainable House Kits in high demand

Our Sustainable House Kits have proven to be of huge interest to our communities, with 101 loans in the last year, and 134 reservations at last count. The kits contain a thermal imaging camera, thermometer, Powermate to measure electricity usage of appliances, and a copy of the *Energy Freedom Home* book. Introduced last year with thanks to the City of Greater Bendigo, this year we've expanded our kits from 4 to 12, courtesy of funding from Macedon Ranges Shire Council and Mount Alexander Shire Council. Feedback has ranged from general excitement to actual evidence of patrons using these kits to improve their living environments.

"[The kits] highlighted where insulation was missing in the roof – we will add extra. Temperature differences in surfaces has prompted us to fit a blind to a window."





“Thank you so very much for arranging such a wonderful speaker. We were all so very impressed and I’m certain the birds of Bendigo will have new habitat in the very near future. Our planet, gardens, insects and wildlife, mental and physical health will also benefit indirectly too. What a bonus.”

Community interest in sustainability reflected in loans and programs

Community interest in future sustainability was reflected in programs, allowing for the sharing of ideas and up-to-date information.

The Sustainability Hour continued to be an excellent forum for showcasing authors writing on aspects of climate change and sustainability. Included were David Holmgren, a globally recognised ecological thinker with *Building a Resilient Future in Our Own Backyards*, climate scientist Joelle Gergis with *Humanity’s Moment*, and Aboriginal author Tyson Yunkaporta with *Sand Talk: how Indigenous thinking can save the world*.

Other programs focussed on individual actions a little closer to home, such as *Hack Your Home: Intro to energy efficiency*, *Fast Fashion*, *Backyard Food Forests*, *Bird Habitat Gardens* and presentations across the regions by horticulturist Craig Castree.

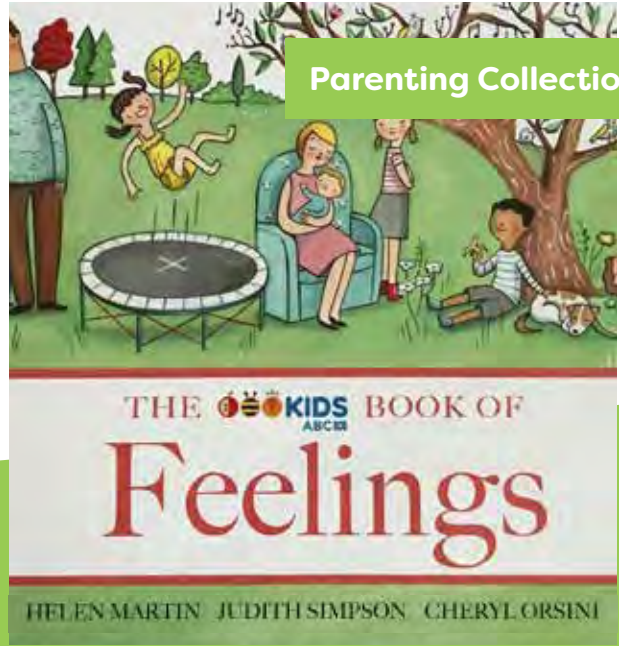
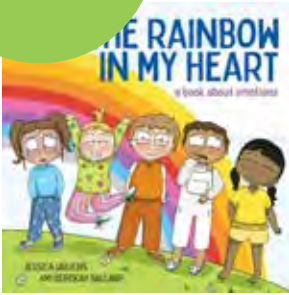
There was also a place for more simple programs such as *Make-do and Mend*, a regular gathering at Kyneton Library to rediscover the art of mending.

Bendigo Library hosted a Family Sustainability Day with a range of activities, including a talk on bird habitat gardens and a performance from Lilly Pilly Green, a charmingly cheeky advocate for sustainable communities and connection. Children got to make seed bombs with a mix of seeds wrapped in some muddy clay to take home and plant.

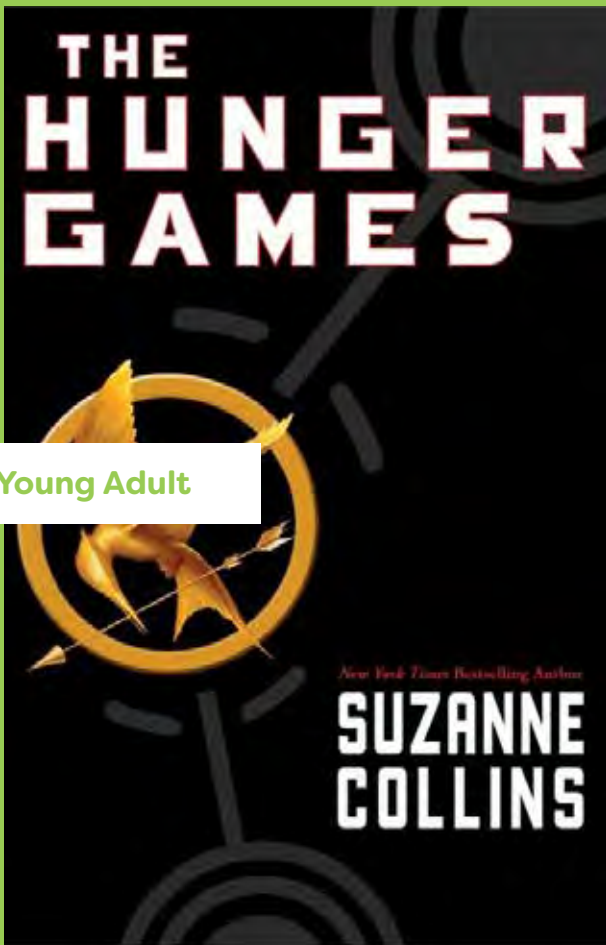
We participated in the Macedon Ranges Cool-ER Changes program, offering Sustainable House kit show and tells and sessions from the Macedon Ranges Veg Action Group, and horticulturist Craig Castree on producing and growing your own food.

Books on sustainability, environment and gardening became one of the highest borrowed subjects for the year compared to last year when self-help and health and wellbeing collection topped the list.

Most Popular



Parenting Collection



Young Adult



Board Members



Cr. Rod Fyffe
Greater Bendigo City Council
(Chair)



Stacy Williams
Greater Bendigo City Council



Cr. Dan Straub
Loddon Shire Council



Lincoln Fitzgerald
Loddon Shire Council



Cr. Bill West
Macedon Ranges Shire Council



Maria Weiss
Macedon Ranges Shire Council



Cr. Rosie Annear
Mount Alexander Shire Council



Lisa Knight
Mount Alexander Shire Council

**North Central Goldfields
Regional Library Corporation**

Trading as
Goldfields Library Corporation

Financial Report

For the year
1 July 2022
to
30 June 2023



Financial Report

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Certification of the Financial Statements

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



Nathan Morsillo, FCPA
Principal Accounting Officer

Date : 15/09/2023

Bendigo, Victoria

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of the North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation for the year ended 30 June 2023 and the financial position of the Corporation as at that date.

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

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



Stacy Williams
Board Member

Date : 15/09/2023

Bendigo, Victoria



Lisa Knight

Board Member

Date : 15/09/2023

Bendigo, Victoria



Mark Hands

Chief Executive Officer

Date : 15/09/2023

Bendigo, Victoria

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board members of North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation (the corporation) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance sheet as at 30 June 2023 • comprehensive income statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • statement of cash flows for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies • certification of the financial statements. <p>In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the corporation as at 30 June 2023 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>, the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the corporation in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's <i>APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Board members' responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Board members of the corporation are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>, the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014</i> and for such internal control as the Board members determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Board members are responsible for assessing the corporation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

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

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

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

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

MELBOURNE
21 September 2023


Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Comprehensive Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Income / revenue			
Member contributions	3.1	5,454,093	5,360,288
User fees, charges and fines	3.2	199,834	158,690
Grants - operating	3.3	1,493,370	1,593,520
Grants - capital	3.3	39,064	39,064
Non-monetary contributions	3.4	6,120	25,225
Interest on investments		155,527	20,592
Other income	3.6	16,895	8,600
Total income / revenue		7,364,903	7,205,979
Expenses			
Employee costs	4.1	5,096,045	4,800,690
Plant and equipment costs	4.2	390,894	322,245
Depreciation	4.3	897,378	949,058
Administration and maintenance charges	4.4	568,766	457,891
Amortisation - right of use assets	4.5	24,693	24,693
Finance costs - leases	4.6	8,687	9,287
Net loss on disposal of plant, resources and equipment	3.5	-	4,272
Other expenses	4.7	351,103	338,125
Total expenses		7,337,566	6,906,261
Surplus for the year		27,337	299,718
Total comprehensive result		27,337	299,718

The above Comprehensive Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	596,510	2,721,610
Other financial assets	5.1	4,005,390	1,321,548
Trade and other receivables	5.1	52,172	5,031
Other assets	5.2	136,759	185,929
Total current assets		4,790,831	4,234,118
Non-current assets			
Resources, plant and equipment	6.1	3,112,984	3,319,908
Right-of-use assets	5.7	296,310	321,003
Total non-current assets		3,409,294	3,640,911
Total assets		8,200,125	7,875,029
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5.3	60,769	77,689
Unearned income/revenue	5.3	249,014	-
Provisions	5.4	1,284,417	1,217,105
Lease liabilities	5.7	22,191	21,574
Total current liabilities		1,616,391	1,316,368
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	5.4	144,690	124,764
Lease liabilities	5.7	290,248	312,438
Total non-current liabilities		434,938	437,202
Total liabilities		2,051,329	1,753,570
Net assets		6,148,796	6,121,459
Equity			
Member contributions		2,466,638	2,466,638
Accumulated surplus		2,520,089	2,528,334
Reserves	9.1	1,162,069	1,126,487
Total Equity		6,148,796	6,121,459

The above Balance Sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	Total \$	Member Contributions \$	Accumulated Surplus \$	Discretionary Reserve \$
2023					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		6,121,459	2,466,638	2,528,334	1,126,487
Surplus for the year		27,337	-	27,337	-
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	-	-	(36,322)	36,322
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	-	-	740	(740)
		<u>6,148,796</u>	<u>2,466,638</u>	<u>2,520,089</u>	<u>1,162,069</u>
Balance at end of the financial year		6,148,796	2,466,638	2,520,089	1,162,069

		Total \$	Member Contributions \$	Accumulated Surplus \$	Discretionary Reserve \$
2022					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		5,821,741	2,466,638	2,244,658	1,110,445
Surplus for the year		299,718	-	299,718	-
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	-	-	(51,542)	51,542
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	-	-	35,500	(35,500)
		<u>6,121,459</u>	<u>2,466,638</u>	<u>2,528,334</u>	<u>1,126,487</u>
Balance at end of the financial year		6,121,459	2,466,638	2,528,334	1,126,487

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	Inflows/ (Outflows)	Inflows/ (Outflows)
Note	\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Member contributions	5,999,502	5,896,317
User fees, charges and fines	199,834	170,815
Grants - operating	1,493,370	1,598,798
Grants - capital	39,064	39,064
Interest received	126,239	14,651
Other receipts	16,895	9,460
Employee costs	(5,027,865)	(4,749,204)
Plant and equipment costs	(366,309)	(395,460)
Administration and maintenance charges	(549,778)	(544,670)
Other expenses	(351,103)	(371,938)
Net GST payment	(306,513)	(410,440)
Net cash provided by operating activities	9.2 <u>1,273,336</u>	<u>1,257,393</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments for resources, plant and equipment	6.1 (684,334)	(1,019,144)
Proceeds from sale of resources, plant and equipment	3.5 -	19,045
Payments for investments	(2,683,842)	(1,321,548)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(3,368,176)</u>	<u>(2,321,647)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities		
Interest paid - lease liability	(8,687)	(9,287)
Repayment of lease liabilities	(21,573)	(20,974)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(30,260)</u>	<u>(30,261)</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(2,125,100)	(1,094,515)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	2,721,610	3,816,125
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	5.1 <u>596,510</u>	<u>2,721,610</u>
The following notes also provide details on the Corporations cash position:		
Financing arrangements	5.5	

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Statement of Capital Works for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Resources	6.1	528,529	525,228
Plant and equipment	6.1	-	35,811
Information technology	6.1	130,412	409,451
Office equipment, furniture and fittings	6.1	25,393	48,654
Total capital works expenditure		684,334	1,019,144
Represented by:			
Asset renewal expenditure		684,334	1,019,144
Total capital works expenditure		684,334	1,019,144

The above Statement of Capital Works should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation

Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 1 Overview

Introduction

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

Statement of compliance

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

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

Significant accounting policies

(a) Basis of accounting

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

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

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

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

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The financial statements are in Australian dollars. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar unless otherwise specified.

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

- the fair value of resources, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.1)
- the determination of depreciation for resources, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.1)
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.4)
- the determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether an arrangement is within the scope of *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* or *AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (refer to Note 3)
- the determination, in accordance with *AASB 16 Leases*, of the lease term, the estimation of the discount rate when not implicit in the lease and whether an arrangement is in substance short-term or low value (refer to Note 5.7)
- other areas requiring judgements

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

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

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

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 2 Analysis of our results

2.1 Performance against budget

The performance against budget notes compare Corporation's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* requires explanation of any material variances. The Corporation has adopted a materiality threshold of 10 percent or at least \$10,000 where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

These notes are prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

2.1.1 Income / revenue and expenditure

	Budget 2023 \$	Actual 2023 \$	Variance \$	Variance %	Ref
Income / revenue					
Member contributions	5,454,093	5,454,093	-	-%	
User, fees, charges and fines	148,753	199,834	51,081	34%	1
Grants - operating	1,486,140	1,493,370	7,230	-%	
Grants - capital	89,000	39,064	(49,936)	100%	2
Non-monetary contributions	2,000	6,120	4,120	206%	3
Interest on Investments	15,000	155,527	140,527	937%	4
Other income	41,919	16,895	(25,024)	-60%	5
Total income / revenue	7,236,905	7,364,903	127,998	2%	
Expenses					
Employee costs	5,267,876	5,096,045	171,831	3%	6
Plant and equipment costs	338,217	390,894	(52,677)	-16%	7
Depreciation	1,168,842	897,378	271,464	23%	8
Administration and maintenance charges	479,918	568,766	(88,848)	-19%	9
Amortisation - right of use assets	24,693	24,693	-	-%	
Finance costs - leases	8,687	8,687	-	-%	
Other expenses	415,027	351,103	63,924	15%	10
Total expenses	7,703,260	7,337,566	365,694	5%	
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(466,355)	27,337	493,692	-106%	

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance		Explanation
Ref	Item	
1	User, fees, charges and fines	The Corporation received WorkCover reimbursements for an employee on WorkCover (\$42,000). The WorkCover reimbursement is an unbudgeted recovery of costs. The community utilised printing at the Corporation above budgeted projections.
2	Grants - capital	The Corporation budgeted to receive a \$50,000 grant however, the grant was received with works and milestones to be undertaken in the 2023/2024 financial year, resulting in the grant being moved to unearned income for 2022/2023.
3	Non-monetary contributions	The Corporation received higher donations of resource assets than budget projections. The donated assets are shelf-ready and been added to the collections.
4	Interest on Investments	During the financial year, the Corporation received and recognised high interest on investment due to investing more cash in term deposits compared to the adopted budget projections.
5	Other income	The Corporation experienced lower room rentals at Bendigo Library resulting in lower and income.
6	Employee costs	Employee costs were lower than budget projections due to reduced employment and positions not immediately filled.
7	Plant and equipment costs	The Corporation has expended a higher volume of funds on the Read Now program which expands the leasing of books. The adopted budget assumed a higher volume of funds would be spent on physical books rather than this program.
8	Depreciation	The Corporation purchased more e-resources that are expended annually, which resulted in less purchase of physical collection base reducing annual depreciation.
9	Administration and maintenance charges	Human resources legal consultant expenditure higher than budgeted due to unforeseen and confidential expenditure during the financial year.
10	Other expenses	Other expense is favourable to the annual budget due to reduced expenditure of processing supplies, postage and periodicals. The Corporation has invested more funds into e-resources and digital content resulting in lower expenses in freight, getting books shelf ready and reduced magazine purchases.

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

2.1.2 Capital works

	Budget 2023 \$	Actual 2023 \$	Variance \$	Variance %	Ref
Resources	683,916	528,529	(155,387)	-23%	1
Plant and equipment	50,000	-	(50,000)	-100%	2
Information technology	130,000	130,412	412	-%	
Office equipment, furniture and fittings	35,314	25,393	(9,921)	-28%	3
Total plant and equipment	899,230	684,334	(214,896)	-24%	
Represented by:					
Asset renewal expenditure	899,230	684,334	(214,896)	-24%	
Total capital works expenditure	899,230	684,334	(214,896)	-24%	

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Resources	During the financial year the Corporation reduced the purchase of physical collections for a new approach of purchasing and leasing copies of popular titles. This has resulted in reduced asset purchases.
2	Plant and equipment	During the financial year the Corporation decided to defer a vehicle replacement into the 2023/2024 financial year, due to current asset conditions meeting Corporation needs. The delay enables the Corporation to evaluate a more environmental purchase option in 2023/2024.
3	Office equipment, furniture and fittings	During the financial year the Corporation deferred the purchase of some items of furniture and equipment due to current assets meeting service standards.

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation

Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 2.2 Analysis of Corporations results by program

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

2.2.1 Branch

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

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

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

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

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

	Income / revenue	Expenses	Surplus/ (deficit)	Grants included in income/ revenue	Total assets
2023	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Regional Headquarters	7,208,233	4,235,697	2,972,536	1,532,434	8,200,125
Bendigo Regional Archives Centre	92,428	102,056	(9,628)	-	-
Bendigo branch	17,819	1,038,613	(1,020,794)	-	-
Castlemaine branch	16,580	477,856	(461,276)	-	-
Eaglehawk branch	-	86,985	(86,985)	-	-
Gisborne branch	5,175	238,252	(233,077)	-	-
Heathcote branch	205	49,559	(49,354)	-	-
Kangaroo Flat branch	7,395	348,296	(340,901)	-	-
Kyneton branch	7,260	309,672	(302,412)	-	-
Romsey branch	6,259	174,228	(167,969)	-	-
Woodend branch	3,549	276,352	(272,803)	-	-
	7,364,903	7,337,566	27,337	1,532,434	8,200,125

	Income / revenue	Expenses	Surplus/ (deficit)	Grants included in income/ revenue	Total assets
2022	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Regional Headquarters	7,066,161	3,534,296	3,531,865	1,632,584	7,877,167
Bendigo Regional Archives Centre	91,242	112,163	(20,921)	-	-
Bendigo branch	14,104	1,418,441	(1,404,337)	-	-
Castlemaine branch	12,074	491,314	(479,240)	-	-
Eaglehawk branch	-	58,237	(58,237)	-	-
Gisborne branch	3,428	242,029	(238,601)	-	-
Heathcote branch	737	44,648	(43,911)	-	-
Kangaroo Flat branch	4,715	297,787	(293,072)	-	-
Kyneton branch	5,732	260,216	(254,484)	-	-
Romsey branch	5,109	224,359	(219,250)	-	-
Woodend branch	2,677	222,771	(220,094)	-	-
	7,205,979	6,906,261	299,718	1,632,584	7,877,167

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

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 3 Funding for the delivery of our services	2023	2022
3.1 Member contributions		
Annual member council contributions per capita	27.49	27.41
Annual member contributions are recognised as revenue when the Corporation issues invoices to the member Councils.		
	\$	\$
City of Greater Bendigo	3,297,881	3,236,558
Loddon Shire	205,410	205,661
Mount Alexander Shire	549,766	541,395
Macedon Ranges Shire	1,401,036	1,376,674
Total member contributions	<u>5,454,093</u>	<u>5,360,288</u>
3.2 User fees, charges and fines		
Fines	348	258
Inter library loans	1,501	2,616
Reimbursements	137,131	110,670
Book recovery	3,907	3,221
Photocopying and printing	56,947	41,925
Total user fees, charges and fines	<u>199,834</u>	<u>158,690</u>

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

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

3.3 Funding from other levels of government

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Grants were received in respect of the following :		
Summary of grants		
State funded grants	1,517,428	1,497,032
Local funded grants	-	99,909
Other grants	15,006	35,643
Total grants received	<u>1,532,434</u>	<u>1,632,584</u>
(a) Operating Grants		
<i>Recurrent - State Government</i>		
Library grant	1,478,364	1,456,877
Total recurrent operating grants	<u>1,478,364</u>	<u>1,456,877</u>
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>		
State library grant	-	1,091
<i>Non-recurrent - Local Government</i>		
Other Grants	-	99,909
<i>Non-recurrent - Other</i>		
Sandhurst Trustees - Aquatic worlds	-	29,552
LBW Trust - Backyard cricket	-	1,091
Good things foundation	4,000	5,000
AMIDA - Have a say	7,029	-
AMIDA - Action for ondependence and dignity in accommodation	3,977	-
Total non-recurrent operating grants	<u>15,006</u>	<u>136,643</u>
Total operating grants	<u>1,493,370</u>	<u>1,593,520</u>
(b) Capital Grants		
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>		
Premiers Reading Challenge	39,064	39,064
Total non-recurrent capital grants	<u>39,064</u>	<u>39,064</u>
Total capital grants	<u>39,064</u>	<u>39,064</u>

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

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

(c) Recognition of grant income

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

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

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

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

	2023	2022
Income recognised under AASB 1058 <i>Income of Not-for-Profit Entities</i>	\$	\$
General purpose	1,478,364	1,483,968
Specific purpose grants to acquire non-financial assets	54,070	68,616
Other specific purpose grants	-	80,000
Revenue recognised under AASB 15 <i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i>		
Specific purpose grants	-	-
	1,532,434	1,632,584

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

Operating

Balance at start of year	-	-
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	249,014	-
Balance at year end	249,014	-

Unspent grants are determined and disclosed on a cash basis.

3.4 Contributions

Non-monetary	6,120	25,225
Total contributions	6,120	25,225

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

Information technology	-	25,225
Resources	6,120	-
Total non-monetary contributions	6,120	25,225

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

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

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

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Proceeds of sale	-	19,045
Written down value of assets disposed	-	(23,317)
Total net loss on disposal of plant, resources and equipment	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,272)</u>

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

3.6 Other income

Rental income	14,898	7,261
Other	1,997	1,339
Total other income	<u>16,895</u>	<u>8,600</u>

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

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 4 The cost of delivering services

4.1 (a) Employee costs	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Wages and salaries	3,846,998	3,686,731
Annual leave	370,868	369,494
Sick leave	201,657	197,070
Long service leave	158,842	74,821
WorkCover	22,424	19,916
Superannuation	464,953	424,998
Fringe benefits tax	8,830	7,290
Staff training/conferences	21,473	20,370
Total employee costs	5,096,045	4,800,690

(b) Superannuation

The Corporation made contributions to the following funds:

Defined benefit fund

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	23,992	23,926
	23,992	23,926
Employer contributions payable at reporting date.	-	-

Accumulation funds

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	227,776	220,019
Employer contributions - other funds	213,185	181,053
	440,961	401,072
Employer contributions payable at reporting date.	-	19,453

Refer to note 9.3 for further information relating to the Corporation's superannuation obligations.

4.2 Plant and equipment costs

Plant operating and maintenance	20,203	27,790
Resources lease	52,425	10,485
Photocopier expenses	11,409	11,443
Photocopier lease	13,800	17,595
General office equipment	46,179	43,563
Automated systems maintenance	246,878	211,369
Total plant and equipment costs	390,894	322,245

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

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

4.3 Depreciation	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Resources	680,231	764,047
Plant and equipment	15,345	13,300
Information technology	166,572	143,502
Office equipment, furniture and fittings	35,230	28,209
Total depreciation	897,378	949,058

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

4.4 Administration and maintenance charges

Administration charge	79,301	79,301
Insurances	88,331	79,150
Headquarters maintenance charge	10,825	6,681
Database costs	312,406	269,197
Consultants fees	66,474	14,067
Human resources	11,429	9,495
Total administration and maintenance charges	568,766	457,891

4.5 Amortisation - right of use assets

Property	24,693	24,693
Total Amortisation - right of use assets	24,693	24,693

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

4.6 Finance Costs - leases

Interest - lease liabilities	8,687	9,287
Total finance costs	8,687	9,287

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

4.7 Other expenses	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Rural transaction centre	26,627	27,380
Postage/freight	36,100	24,870
Marketing/promotion/advertising	12,790	16,617
Children program promotion	25,355	22,363
Adult program promotion	21,391	26,860
Printing and stationery	34,445	31,956
Periodicals	41,685	40,287
Internet expenses	69,801	51,518
Newspapers	23,889	18,443
Processing supplies	14,651	13,628
Travelling	2,015	6,343
Inter library loan costs	280	355
Membership/sponsorships	6,089	12,411
Audit fees	10,750	6,500
Bank charges	3,883	4,607
First aid	1,333	7,484
Board costs	27	-
Collection software	13,570	16,079
Recycling/shredding collection	3,178	2,278
Materials, maintenance and other consumables	3,244	8,146
Total other expenses	351,103	338,125

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 5 Our financial position	2023	2022
5.1 Financial assets	\$	\$
(a) Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand	2,490	2,070
Cash at bank	594,020	852,019
Term deposits	-	1,867,521
Total cash and cash equivalents	596,510	2,721,610
(b) Other financial assets		
Current		
Term deposits - current	4,005,390	1,321,548
Total other financial assets	4,005,390	1,321,548
Total financial assets	4,601,900	4,043,158

Intended allocations

Although not externally restricted the following amounts have been allocated for specific future purposes by the Corporation:

- Long service leave - investments *	812,658	744,057
- Discretionary reserves (note 9.1)	1,162,069	1,126,487
Total funds subject to intended allocations	1,974,727	1,870,544

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

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

Other financial assets include term deposits and those with original maturity dates of three to 12 months are classified as current, whilst term deposits with maturity dates greater than 12 months are classified as non-current.

* Intended allocations for long service leave is based on the former *Local Government Long Service Leave Regulations 2002* and does not necessarily equate to the long service leave liability disclosed in Note 5.4 due to a different basis of calculation prescribed by the regulation. Changes to the *Local Government Long Service Leave Regulations 2002* during the 2012 financial year has meant that under the regulation the requirement to maintain separate investments for long service leave balances no longer exists. As at 30 June 2023 the Corporation still maintains the investment balance under the former regulation requirements.

(c) Trade and other receivables

Current

Statutory receivables

Net GST receivable	15,715	(2,138)
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Non statutory receivables

Interest receivable	36,457	7,169
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Total current trade and other receivables	52,172	5,031
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North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

5.2 Non-financial assets	2023	2022
(a) Other assets	\$	\$
Prepayments	136,759	185,929
Total other assets	136,759	185,929
5.3 Payables, trust funds and deposits and unearned income/revenue		
(a) Trade and other payables		
Current		
<i>Non-statutory payables</i>		
Trade payables	44,219	36,841
Sundry payables	-	27,863
Accrued expenses	16,550	12,985
Total current trade and other payables	60,769	77,689
(b) Unearned income/revenue		
Current		
Grants received in advance - operating	249,014	-
Total current unearned income/revenue	249,014	-

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

5.4 Provisions

	Annual Leave	Long Service Leave	Total
2023	\$	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of the financial year	385,561	956,308	1,341,869
Additional provisions	308,529	144,575	453,104
Amounts used	(304,829)	(75,304)	(380,133)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	-	14,267	14,267
Balance at the end of the financial year	389,261	1,039,846	1,429,107
Provisions - current	389,261	895,156	1,284,417
Provisions - non-current	-	144,690	144,690
2022			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	350,664	931,486	1,282,150
Additional provisions	316,420	130,442	446,862
Amounts used	(281,523)	(49,999)	(331,522)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	-	(55,621)	(55,621)
Balance at the end of the financial year	385,561	956,308	1,341,869
Provisions - current	385,561	831,544	1,217,105
Provisions - non-current	-	124,764	124,764
		2023	2022
		\$	\$
(a) Employee provisions			
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months			
Annual leave		345,105	341,047
Long service leave		89,219	114,762
		434,324	455,809
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months			
Annual leave		44,156	44,514
Long service leave		805,937	716,782
		850,093	761,296
Total current employee provisions		1,284,417	1,217,105
Non-current			
Long service leave		144,690	124,764
Total non-current employee provisions		144,690	124,764
Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:			
Current		1,284,417	1,217,105
Non-current		144,690	124,764
Total aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions		1,429,107	1,341,869

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

5.4 Provisions (cont'd)

(a) Employee provisions

Annual leave

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

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

Liabilities that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits as current liabilities, measured at the present value of the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Long service leave

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

Key assumptions:	2023	2022
- discount rate	4.06%	3.69%
- index rate	4.35%	3.85%

5.5 Financing arrangements

The Corporation has the following funding arrangements in place as at June 30 2023.

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Credit card facilities	23,000	15,000
Total facilities	23,000	15,000
Used facilities	2,387	3,985
Unused facilities	20,613	11,015
	23,000	15,000

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

5.6 Commitments

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

(a) Commitments for expenditure

2023	Not later	Later than 1	Later than 2	Later than 5	Total
	than 1 year	year & not later than 2 years	years & not later than 2 years	years	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Operating					
Financial services	90,394	-	-	-	90,394
Maintenance contracts (RFID)	31,427	31,427	62,854	-	125,708
Information management contracts	9,786	-	-	-	9,786
Cleaning contracts	5,873	5,873	3,920	-	15,666
Mechanical services	240	240	220	-	700
Fire services	327	109	-	-	436
Lifts and hoists	251	168	-	-	419
Automatic doors	111	74	-	-	185
Security services	50	50	50	-	150
Total	138,459	37,941	67,044	-	243,444

Capital

The Corporation has no outstanding capital commitments as at 30 June 2023.

2022	Not later	Later than 1	Later than 2	Later than 5	Total
	than 1 year	year & not later than 2 years	years & not later than 2 years	years	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Operating					
Financial services	79,301	-	-	-	79,301
Maintenance contracts (RFID)	28,721	28,721	86,163	-	143,605
Information management contracts	14,678	9,786	-	-	24,464
Cleaning contracts	55	-	-	-	55
Fire services	394	394	131	-	919
Lifts and hoists	267	267	177	-	711
Automatic doors	117	117	196	-	430
Security services	15	-	-	-	15
Total	123,548	39,285	86,667	-	249,500

Capital

The Corporation has no outstanding capital commitments as at 30 June 2023.

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

5.7 Leases

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

5.7 Leases (cont'd)

Right-of-Use Assets	Property	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2022	321,003	321,003
Additions	-	-
Amortisation charge	(24,693)	(24,693)
Balance at 30 June 2023	296,310	296,310

Lease Liabilities	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows		
Less than one year	30,261	30,261
One to five years	151,305	151,305
More than five years	181,566	211,827
Total undiscounted lease liabilities as at 30 June:	363,132	393,393

Lease liabilities included in the Balance Sheet at 30 June:

Current	22,191	21,574
Non-current	290,248	312,438
Total lease liabilities	312,439	334,012

Short-term and low value leases

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

Expenses relating to:	\$	\$
Leases of low value assets	189,768	180,134
Total	189,768	180,134

Non-cancellable lease commitments - low-value leases

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

Payable:

Within one year	147,501	147,501
Later than one year but not later than five years	57,989	205,490
Total lease commitments	205,490	352,991

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 6 Assets we manage

6.1 Resources, plant and equipment

Summary of resources, plant and equipment

	Carrying amount 30 June 2022	Additions	Contributions	Depreciation	Disposal	Carrying amount 30 June 2023
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Resources	2,518,265	528,529	6,120	(680,231)	-	2,372,683
Plant and equipment	59,774	-	-	(15,345)	-	44,429
Information technology	573,005	130,412	-	(166,572)	-	536,845
Office equipment, furniture and fittings	168,864	25,393	-	(35,230)	-	159,027
	3,319,908	684,334	6,120	(897,378)	-	3,112,984

	Resources	Plant and Equipment	Information Technology	Office equipment, furniture and fittings	Total Resources, plant and equipment
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
At fair value 1 July 2022	4,212,797	87,127	928,086	458,477	5,686,487
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2022	(1,694,532)	(27,353)	(355,081)	(289,613)	(2,366,579)
	2,518,265	59,774	573,005	168,864	3,319,908
Movements in fair value					
Additions	528,529	-	130,412	25,393	684,334
Contributions	6,120	-	-	-	6,120
Disposal	-	-	(65,926)	-	(65,926)
	534,649	-	64,486	25,393	624,528
Movements in accumulated depreciation					
Depreciation	(680,231)	(15,345)	(166,572)	(35,230)	(897,378)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	-	-	65,926	-	65,926
	(680,231)	(15,345)	(100,646)	(35,230)	(831,452)
At fair value 30 June 2023	4,747,446	87,127	992,572	483,870	6,311,015
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2023	(2,374,763)	(42,698)	(455,727)	(324,843)	(3,198,031)
Carrying amount	2,372,683	44,429	536,845	159,027	3,112,984

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

6.1 Resources, plant and equipment (cont'd)

Acquisition

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

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

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

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

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

Depreciation and amortisation

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

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

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

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

Repairs and maintenance

Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Note 7 People and relationships		
7.1 Corporation and key management remuneration		
(a) Related Parties (board representatives)		
City of Greater Bendigo	2	2
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	2	2
Mount Alexander Shire Council	2	2
Loddon Shire Council	2	2
Subsidiaries and Associates		
Nil		
(b) Key Management Personnel		
Key management personnel (KMP) are those people with the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Corporation. The Board Members, Chief Executive Officer and Managers are deemed KMP.		
Details of KMP at any time during the year are:		
Board Members		
Cr Rod Fyffe - City of Greater Bendigo	1	1
Stacy Williams - City of Greater Bendigo	1	-
Vicky Mason - City of Greater Bendigo (July 2021 to 31 May 2022)	-	1
Cr Bill West - Macedon Ranges Shire Council	1	1
Maria Weiss - Macedon Ranges Shire Council	1	1
Fiona Alexander - Macedon Ranges Shire Council (July 2021 to 30 April 2022)	-	1
Cr Dan Staub - Loddon Shire Council	1	1
Lincoln Fitzgerald - Loddon Shire Council	1	1
Jude Holt - Loddon Shire Council (July 2021 to 7 October 2021)	-	1
Lisa Knight - Mount Alexander Shire Council	1	1
Cr Rosie Annear - Mount Alexander Shire Council	1	1
Mark Hands (Chief Executive Officer)	1	1
Gemma Rayner (Manager Engagement and Operations) (September 2022 to June 2023)	1	1
Tara Everist (Manager Engagement and Operations) (February 2022 to June 2023)	1	1
Lucy Mayes (Manager Engagement and Operations) (July 2021 to April 2022)	-	1
Clare Brown (Manager Collections) (July 2021 to May 2022) & (May 2023 to June 2023)	1	1
Leslie Baker (Manager Collections) (April 2022 to May 2023)	1	-
David Coughlan (Manager Information Technology)	1	1
CEO		
Mark Hands (Chief Executive Officer)	1	1
Managers		
Gemma Rayner (Manager Engagement and Operations) (September 2022 to June 2023)	1	1
Tara Everist (Manager Engagement and Operations) (February 2022 to June 2023)	1	1
Lucy Mayes (Manager Engagement and Operations) (July 2021 to April 2022)	-	1
Clare Brown (Manager Collections) (July 2021 to May 2022) & (May 2023 to June 2023)	1	1
Leslie Baker (Manager Collections) (April 2022 to May 2023)	1	-
David Coughlan (Manager Information Technology)	1	1
Total Number of Board Members	8	10
Total of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel	6	6
Total Number of Key Management Personnel	14	16

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

(c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

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

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

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

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

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

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:		
Short-term benefits	533,275	452,119
Long-term benefits	17,954	11,486
Post employment benefits	58,670	48,155
Total	609,899	511,760

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

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
\$0-\$9,999	8	10
\$30,000 - \$39,999	-	1
\$40,000 - \$49,999	1	-
\$50,000 - \$59,999	-	1
\$60,000 - \$69,999	-	1
\$70,000 - \$79,999	-	1
\$80,000 - \$89,999	2	-
\$90,000 - \$99,999	1	-
\$110,000 - \$119,999	-	1
\$120,000 - \$129,999	1	-
\$160,000 - \$169,999	-	1
\$170,000 - \$179,999	1	-
	14	16

(d) Remuneration of other senior staff

Other senior staff are officers of the Corporation, other than Key Management Personnel, whose total remuneration exceeds \$160,000 and who report directly to a member of the KMP. The Corporation does not have any senior officers with an income range over \$160,000 who report directly to a member of the KMP.

*Due to a definitional change the comparative figures in this note may not align with the previous year's annual report, which included disclosure of senior officers as defined in the *Local Government Act 1989*.

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
7.2 Related party disclosure		
(a) Transactions with related parties		
During the period the Corporation entered into the following transactions with related parties.		
Income		
Council contribution received from City of Greater Bendigo	3,297,881	3,236,558
Council contribution received from Macedon Ranges Shire Council	1,401,036	1,376,674
Council contribution received from Mount Alexander Shire Council	549,766	541,395
Council contribution received from Loddon Shire Council	205,410	205,661
Reimbursement for running the Bendigo Regional Archive Centre (BRAC) received from City of Greater Bendigo	92,428	91,242
Grant - Heathcote Library relocation project received from City of Greater Bendigo	80,000	-
Grant - Kangaroo Flat Library outdoor signage received from City of Greater Bendigo	10,000	-
Grant - Get Moving Program Exercise for Older Adults received from City of Greater Bendigo	2,727	3,400
Stop Motion Holiday Workshops received from Mount Alexander Shire Council	126	-
Grant - Get Moving: Kangaroo Flat Library received from City of Greater Bendigo	-	1,636
Grant - Storytime Easter Festival received from City of Greater Bendigo	-	2,547
Grant - Carer's received from City of Greater Bendigo	-	1,559
Grant - GrantsOut received from City of Greater Bendigo	-	24,950
Grant - Service planning for Huntly - Epsom received from City of Greater Bendigo	-	10,000
Grant - Healthy Heart of Victoria Funding Story walks project received from City of Greater Bendigo	-	30,000
Grant - Healthy Heart of Victoria Funding Story Walk to School received from Macedon Ranges Shire Council	-	15,000
Grant - Healthy Heart of Victoria Funding Story Walk received from Mount Alexander Shire Council	-	15,000
Grant - Get making, moving and reading Community Mural Art Project received from City of Greater Bendigo	-	10,000
Contribution - Peter Krenz video shoot Eaglehawk Library received from City of Greater Bendigo	-	112
Contribution - Welcome decal Kangaroo Flat Library received from City of Greater Bendigo	-	2,000
	<u>5,639,374</u>	<u>5,567,734</u>
Expenses		
Financial Services paid to City of Greater Bendigo	79,301	79,301
Rent and outgoings of Headquarters at Bendigo Library paid to City of Greater Bendigo	47,766	36,942
CPR refresher course paid to Macedon Ranges Shire Council	182	-
Contribution to library renewal work paid to Macedon Ranges Shire Council	-	5,455
Repair works to damaged Romsey Library ceiling paid to Macedon Ranges Shire Council	-	1,350
	<u>127,249</u>	<u>123,048</u>

(b) Outstanding balances with related parties

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

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

7.1 Corporation and key management remuneration (cont'd)

(c) Loans to/from related parties

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

(d) Commitments to/from related parties

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

The Corporation had an agreement with the Greater Bendigo City Council for accounting and financial services to be provided to 30 June 2023 for which a fee is paid. This agreement had an option to extend for a year, this extension has been executed. The agreement will expire at 30 June 2024 with an additional option to extend for a year. The Corporation also has a 10 year lease agreement for buildings with the City which commenced on 1 July 2015, for which rental is paid.

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 8 Managing uncertainties

8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities

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

(a) Contingent assets

Contingent assets are possible assets that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Corporation. At balance date the Corporation is not aware of any contingent assets.

(b) Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:

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

Superannuation

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

8.2 Change in accounting standards

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2023 reporting period. The Corporation assesses the impact of these new standards. As at 30 June 2023 there were no new accounting standards or interpretations issued by the AASB which are applicable for the year ending 30 June 2024 that are expected to impact the Corporation.

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

8.3 Financial instruments

(a) Objectives and policies

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

(b) Market risk

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

Interest rate risk

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

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under *Local Government Act 1989* (as per the transitional provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*). The Corporation manages interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

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

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

(c) Credit risk

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

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

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

8.3 Financial instruments (cont'd)

(d) Liquidity risk

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

To help reduce these risks the Corporation:

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

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

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

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

(e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

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

- A parallel shift of +3% and -3% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 4.56%.

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

8.4 Fair value measurement

Fair value hierarchy

The Corporation's financial assets and liabilities are not valued in accordance with the fair value hierarchy, the Corporation's financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

Impairment of assets

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

8.5 Events occurring after balance date

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

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 9 Other matters

9.1 Reserves	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$	Increment (decrement) \$	Balance at end of reporting period \$
2023			
Discretionary Reserves			
Plant replacement	157,918	20,000	177,918
Local history bequest	385,990	13,110	399,100
Defined benefits	500,000	-	500,000
Unexpended grants	-	-	-
Art book bequest	82,579	2,472	85,051
Total Discretionary Reserves	1,126,487	35,582	1,162,069
2022			
Discretionary Reserves			
Plant replacement	172,918	(15,000)	157,918
Local history bequest	404,703	(18,713)	385,990
Defined benefits	450,000	50,000	500,000
Art book bequest	82,824	(245)	82,579
Total Discretionary Reserves	1,110,445	16,042	1,126,487

Discretionary reserves

Plant Replacement Reserve

This reserve was established for future vehicle purchases.

Local History Bequest Reserve

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

Defined Benefits Reserve

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

Art Book Bequest Reserve

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

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)		
Surplus for the year	27,337	299,718
Depreciation and amortisation	922,071	973,751
Loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	-	4,272
Non-monetary contributions	(6,120)	(25,225)
Finance costs - leases	8,687	9,287
<i>Change in assets and liabilities:</i>		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(47,141)	14,600
(Increase)/decrease in other assets	49,170	(74,525)
Decrease in trade and other payables	(16,920)	(4,205)
Increase in unearned income	249,014	-
Increase in provisions	87,238	59,720
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,273,336	1,257,393

9.3 Superannuation

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

Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation category, Vision MySuper/Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2023, this was 10.5% as required under Superannuation Guarantee (SG) legislation (2022: 10%)).

Defined Benefit

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

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

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

9.3 Superannuation (cont'd)

Funding arrangements

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

A triennial actuarial investigation is currently underway for the Defined Benefit category which is expected to be completed by 31 December 2023. The Corporation was notified of the 30 June 2023 VBI during August 2023 (2022: August 2022). The financial assumptions used to calculate the 30 June 2023 VBI were:

Net investment returns	5.7% pa
Salary information	3.5% pa
Price inflation (CPI)	2.8% pa

As at 30 June 2022, an interim actuarial investigation was held as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. The vested benefit index (VBI) of the Defined Benefit category of which the Corporation is a contributing employer was 102.2%. The financial assumptions used to calculate the VBI were:

Net investment returns	5.5% pa
Salary information	2.5% pa to 30 June 2023, and 3.5% pa thereafter
Price inflation (CPI)	3.0% pa

The Corporation was notified of the 30 June 2022 VBI during August 2022 (2021: August 2021).

Vision Super has advised that the estimated VBI at June 2023 was 104.1%.

The VBI is used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the 30 June 2022 actuarial investigation determined the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

Employer contributions

(a) Regular contributions

On the basis of the results of the 2022 interim actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund Actuary, the Corporation makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2023, this rate was 10.5% of members' salaries (10% in 2021/22). This rate is expected to increase in line with any increases in the SG contribution rate and was reviewed as part of the 30 June 2022 triennial valuation.

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

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

9.3 Superannuation (cont'd)

(b) Funding calls

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

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

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

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

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

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

The 2022 interim actuarial investigation surplus amounts

An actuarial investigation is conducted annually for the Defined Benefit category of which the Corporation is a contributing employer. Generally, a full actuarial investigation is conducted every three years and interim actuarial investigations are conducted for each intervening year. An interim investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2022 and the last full investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2020.

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

	2022	2021
	(Interim)	(Triennial)
	\$m	\$m
- A VBI Surplus	44.6	214.7
- A total service liability surplus	105.8	270.3
- A discounted accrued benefits surplus	111.9	285.2

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2022.

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

9.3 Superannuation (cont'd)

The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses as at 30 June 2022.

The discounted accrued benefit surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category exceeds the value of benefits payable in the future but accrued in respect of service to 30 June 2022.

The 2023 interim actuarial investigation

A triennial actuarial investigation is being conducted for the Fund's position as at 30 June 2023. It is anticipated that this actuarial investigation will be completed by 31 December 2023. The financial assumptions for the purposes of this investigation are:

	2023 Triennial Investigation	2020 Triennial Investigation
Net investment returns	5.7% pa	5.6% pa
Salary information	3.5% pa	2.5% pa for the first two years and 2.75%pa thereafter
Price inflation (CPI)	2.8% pa	2.0% pa

Superannuation contributions

Contributions by the Corporation (excluding any unfunded liability payments) to the above superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 are detailed below:

Scheme	Type of Scheme	Rate	2023 \$	2022 \$
Vision super	Defined benefit	10.5% (2022:10.0%)	23,992	23,926
Vision super	Accumulation fund	10.5% (2022:10.0%)	227,776	220,019

There were no contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes at 30 June 2023.

The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2024 is \$15,366.

Note 10 Change in accounting policy

There have been no changes to accounting policies in the 2022-23 year.

There are no pending accounting standards that are likely to have a material impact on the Corporation.



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