

# Koori Library Pathways Project

## Project Team:

Sharon Firebrace (KRIC)

Libby Woodhouse (GVRLC)

Tui Crumpen (KRIC)

Sheila Atley (GVRLC)

Raquel Davis (KRIC)

GOULBURN VALLEY  
REGIONAL LIBRARY  
CORPORATION  
P.O. Box 632 (MARUNGI STREET)  
PHONE: (03) 5832 1600  
FAX: (03) 5832 1690  
ABN: 44 381 751 770



Koori Resource & Information Centre Inc  
*An Independent Centre for Innovation & Leadership*

## The Koori Resource & Information Centre



The Koori Resource & Information Centre's (KRIC) involvement in the Koori Library Pathways Project began with:

- An identified need within the Aboriginal community to explore ways in which its historical knowledge and information could be shared with the wider community.
- A desire to share this information in a way that respects the sensitivities around local Aboriginal history and protects the use of personal stories and knowledge of local Aboriginal people.
- And KRIC'S strong and well established networking role in the Indigenous community to facilitate links and support from other local Indigenous organisations.

## Goulburn Valley Regional Library Corporation



- The Goulburn Valley Regional Library Corporation identified a need to work with the local Aboriginal community to develop a model that best meets the library service needs of local Indigenous people.
- GVRLC successfully applied for a Libraries Building Communities Demonstration Project for funding from the State Library of Victoria to implement the Koori Library Pathways Project
- GVRLC, in partnership with KRIC, aim to establish a sense of belonging and connectedness for Indigenous people so that they feel included and welcomed in libraries and become pro-actively linked to its community networks and services.

## Project History

- The Koori Library Pathways Project is a response to KRIC's approach to the Library for support.
- Shepparton has the largest concentrated population of Indigenous people in Victoria outside of Melbourne. The community is a growing population and a youthful community.
- KRIC's vision for community strengthening and empowerment lies in turning the focus to the information needs of the local Indigenous community to encourage literacy growth, and to build on the valuing of our shared cultural history.
- The role for the public library in this project is particularly important as it enables a pathway that will facilitate the use of information and library resources by Indigenous people, while at the same time providing information and resources on the local Aboriginal community and history of the Goulburn Valley area.

## Project Timeline

October 2006:	Establish KLPP Steering Committee (Achieved)
November:	KRIC Coordination and Launch of Project (Achieved)
December:	Logo design (Achieved)
January:	Web Site <a href="http://www.koorilibrary.8ways.net">www.koorilibrary.8ways.net</a> & Storytelling (Achieved)
February:	Indigenous Library section (Achieved)
March :	Networking – Public Records Office (Achieved)
April:	Outreach Service & Library Bags (Achieved)
May:	Cultural Awareness Training (Achieved)
June:	Indigenous Librarians Conference (Achieved)
July:	NAIDOC Week: Living Library (Achieved)
August:	Focus Groups (Achieved)
August:	Networking - Koori Heritage Trust, Bunjilaka & State Library
September	Mobile Visit to Cummeragunja & Elders Visit to SLV (Achieved)
<b>September 2007:</b>	<b>Project Evaluation and End of Project</b>

## Project 1: Supporting the Archiving Working Bees for KRIC

- *KRIC has an 20 year collection of materials from its involvement in Indigenous affairs since 1988.*
- *This project aims to organize and file KRIC's records.*
- *Having a system that catalogues these records makes this information more accessible.*
- *Links through this project have also been made with the Shepparton Family History Group. KRIC aims to further explore ways in which KRIC can continue working with the Shepparton Family History Group*



Tui Crumpen (KRIC Senior Programs Manager), Libby Woodhouse (GVRLC Librarian), Dr. Katrina Alford viewing KRIC presentation for launch



Filed documents related to organisations nurtured by KRIC

# Project 2: Launch the Koori Library Pathways Project

Monday 20 November 2006

- The Honorable John Cain, President of the State Library of Victoria, Library Board, was guest speaker for the event.
- A diverse audience of around 70 people attended the launch, including local community Elders and library staff
- The Yachad Accelerated Learning Project invited Indigenous students from Gowrie Street Primary School who are involved in their project to display their electronic readers. Student created electronic readers as part of their work for the YALP on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history.

## Signing the Memorandum at Launch



Peter Darbyshire (GVRLC Chairman), John Murray (KRIC Chairperson), Sharon Firebrace (KRIC Manager John Cain (State Library Board of Victoria, Chairman)



## Project 3: Aboriginal Storytelling in Library's School Holiday Program

*This project aimed to incorporate local Aboriginal history in programs offered by the library.*

- *Story Telling by Elders*
- *This shows the value of having Indigenous people participate in the library's school holiday program, as the sharing of stories is able to reach a variety of audiences.*



Aunty Irene Thomas reading to children as part of the School Holiday Program

## Project 4: Indigenous Library Section

- *This project aimed to establish an identifiable section within the library of Indigenous books.*
- *The collection is still in development, however, the use of the section has been increased due to its visibility.*
- *The collection is located next to the local history and the project team are making stickers for these books, to identify local Indigenous references within books.*



*Beginning of the Indigenous Collection at the library in Non-Fiction and Children's picture book section*

## **Project 5: Cultural Awareness Workshop**



Goulburn Valley Regional Library staff and Indigenous community members from Cummergunja Village in front of the Cummergunja school house - the oldest building in the village



## Project 6: Networking

- *A key element to our project has been to network with similar projects/programs and organisations that have specialised skills in relevant areas*
- *The project has so far liaised with the Public Records Office of Victoria, for indexing knowledge for our archiving project and the Queensland State Library. KRIC attended 2 day workshop on Records Management*
- *Networking with the State Library of Victoria to support the Connecting Communities Project with access to focus groups for identifying why Indigenous groups use or don't use the library*
- *KRIC also met with the Koori Heritage Trust at the beginning of the project*
- *Power-point presentations were delivered to DSE, GVRLC Library Board, Library Board of Victoria's Advisory Committee on Public Libraries, City of Greater Shepparton Council and Shepparton Home Library*



- *KRIC and GVRLC presented with the State Library of Victoria at the fifth International Indigenous Librarians Forum held in Brisbane*

## Project 7: NAIDOC Week



*NAIDOC Week Display by Raquel Davis*

## *NAIDOC Living Library*



- *This project aims to provide further awareness to library staff and the general public by coordinating a Living Library activity to celebrate NAIDOC Week.*



**Guest Book (Above):** Justin Mohamed with Shepparton High School Students and **(Right)** Project promotion through the Shepparton News, Wednesday, 25 July, 2007



## Project 8: Children's Visits to the Shepparton & Mooroopna Libraries

- *This project invited young people into the library to experience the library and its resources.*
- *Shepparton Library was visited by the Cummergunja School Holiday program and Badtja Kindergarten.*
- *Mooroopna Library was visited by Ardmona Primary School.*



**Cummeragunja Village School Holiday Program**

Behind the scene – seeing how the library works



**Cummeragunja Village School Holiday Program**

Storyteller for the day was Cathy Artridge, GVRLC Children's Librarian



**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders Children's Day at Mooroopna Library**  
With Ardmona Primary School  
Storyteller for the day was Aunty Kella Robinson



**Aboriginal Torres Strait Islanders Children's Day at Shepparton Library**  
With Batdja Kindergarten  
Storyteller for the day was Aunty Irene Thomas



Batdja Kindergarten's artwork display for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander's Children's Day

## Project 9: Focus Groups

- *The final project for the KLPP was to get feedback from the community to pave the way forward*
- *Focus groups were held with Cummeragunja & Barmah communities, ASHE Students and the Aboriginal Community Strategic Planning & Policy Unit's Community Engagement Team*
- *A final focus group of interested Elders visited the State Library of Victoria.*

## Elders Visit the State Library of Victoria



## Additional Flow On Projects

- **YALP Electronic Readers:**
- Electronic readers produced by Manega Students are now available for loan from the GVRLC. Ardmona Primary School and Verney Rd School were the books' first borrowers. Electronic readers have also been made available to Viney Morgan Health Service located in Cummergunja Village.
- **Promotions:**
- The KLPP bags were handed to students attending the NAIDOC Living Library and ATSI Children's Day. The bags included additional information on organisations and current projects within the Indigenous community:
- **Organisations**  
Rumbalara Football Netball Club (RFNC): Rumba Rumbles Newsletter  
Aboriginal Community Strategic Planning & Policy Unit (SPPU): Newsletter  
Academy of Sport Health & Education: Course Guide, Pens and Bags
- **Projects**  
My Moola Program, partnership between First Nations Foundation & the ANZ Bank;  
Yenbina Training Centres Cultural Awareness Program
- **Mobile Bus School Holiday Visits to Cummergunja Village and Old School Library Development**

## The Mobile Bus Visit Cummeragunja Village



## Developing a Library at the Old School House in Cummeragunja Village





## **Project Conclusion**

- Completion in September 2007
- Project Evaluation by Aboriginal Community Strategic Planning & Policy Unit in October 2007
- Raquel Davis now works each Friday in the Library  
KLPP has paved the way for continued positive engagement with the local Indigenous community
- A revised MOU to continue the partnership between KRIC & GVRLC was signed on 30 April 2008
- Preparation of a brief to seek funding opportunities to further the overall objectives of the Koori Library Pathways Project