

TERRITORY FAMILIES, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES



NT Public Libraries – Connected Communities

Annual Highlights 2021-2022





Contents

Introduction	4
Northern Territory Public Libraries	5
Northern Territory Public Library Key Statistics 2021-2022	6
Celebrating culture, diversity and inclusion	7
Literacy and lifelong learning	10
Digital inclusion	12
Informed and connected citizens	15
Personal development and wellbeing	16
Stronger and more creative communities	18
Economic and workforce development	19
2022 ALIA NT Recognition Awards	20
Across the Territory – Innovation, investment and service improvements	21

Introduction

The Northern Territory (NT) Public Libraries - Connected Communities Annual Highlights 2021-22 showcases the impressive array of services and activities across the public libraries of the Northern Territory.

The six outcome areas adopted in the Connected Communities Strategy aligns the delivery of library services and programs, and identifies the ways in which libraries have a positive impact in their communities.

The Annual Highlights also show how libraries contribute to the local goals

of councils and the Northern Territory (NT) Government.

Library & Archives NT provides significant support to the public library sector through:

- Operational grant funding to local councils and authorities for 31 public libraries via the Public Library Funding agreement 2017-2023
- Funding for hardcopy and electronic collections and eResources for research and study
- A Territory wide library management system – LibrariesNT

- Free public Wi-Fi access to support digital inclusion and access in 48 remote First Nations communities through the Community Internet Service.
- Learning development opportunities and advisory support services
- Supports some of the most remote libraries in the world. They serve culturally and linguistically diverse populations in diverse settings – from cities to remote communities.

We are proud of the achievements of the public library sector.



Alice Springs Public Library School Holiday Program

Northern Territory public libraries

Libraries are places and spaces where people learn and connect.

Library services activate their spaces as one of the ways to engage with communities.

The public libraries located across the NT come in all shapes and sizes – from small shipping containers, digital only services, to beautiful large purpose designed community spaces. Public libraries services, operations and programs are aligned to the *Guidelines, Standards and Outcome Measures for Australian Public Libraries* as part of annual funding requirements.

The NT public library network achieves a common goal of helping their communities to be better connected and informed through access to technology, resources and targeted programs.

Library programs and activities are core services for all public libraries, regardless of size.

Programs highlight the collections, resources, knowledge and expertise that reside in the library to deliver real and significant benefits to communities.

NT public libraries continue to demonstrate that they can deliver best practice programs, services, collections and resources that are curated and tailored to meet the goals of their councils and the needs of their communities.

The financial year 2021-2022 marks a return to normal operations in the COVID-19 recovery phase, with many programs and services restored to regular schedules.

The Annual Highlights 2021-2022 demonstrates the positive impact that public libraries contribute to their communities across six specific outcome areas, and the breadth and depth of services and activities that are delivered.

THE OUTCOME MEASURES INCLUDE



Literacy and lifelong learning



Informed and connected citizens



Digital inclusion



Personal development and wellbeing



Stronger and more creative communities



Economic and workforce development



Alice Springs Public Library Tall Tales Program

Northern Territory Public Libraries key statistics 2021-2022



722,273
LIBRARY VISITS



54,366
LIBRARY MEMBERS



3,487
PROGRAMS
NT PUBLIC LIBRARIES



22%*
NT POPULATION
ARE LIBRARY MEMBERS

70,244 ATTENDEES

TOTAL LOANS
719,127



1,169
EARLY LITERACY SESSIONS

16,175 CHILDREN
ATTENDED A SESSION



572,891
PHYSICAL LOANS



**DIGITAL
LITERACY**

292 SESSIONS
2,822 ATTENDEES



146,236
eLOANS
eBOOKS, eAUDIOBOOKS,
eMAGAZINES



80% PHYSICAL LOANS
20% DIGITAL LOANS



**WI-FI
INTERNET
SESSIONS**

258,946 IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES
113,760 IN URBAN LIBRARIES



72,064
HOURS OF PUBLIC
COMPUTER USE

224,106 WEBSITE VISITS

* Overall NT public library membership is higher than stated. Library membership numbers cannot be ascertained in some remote libraries where library usage is primarily onsite

Celebrating culture, diversity and inclusion

Public libraries welcome people of all ages and abilities, and from all backgrounds.

Most libraries provide collections, services and/or programs to celebrate the culture and diversity of their community.

Our larger communities also have diverse multicultural populations.

Public library services and councils embed inclusive practices to meet the interests and needs of most, if not all, sections of the community.

They partner with community for inclusive programs such as Rainbow Families, Sensory, AUSLAN, and Bilingual storytimes.

Libraries offer multicultural and First Nations collections for borrowing and some libraries offer emagazine collections in 15 languages other than English.



Alice Springs Public Library Multicultural Storytime



City of Palmerston Library, African Drumming Workshop

In focus

Alice Springs Library, Alice Springs Town Council

The library consulted the Multicultural Community Services of Central Australia to launch their Multilingual Storytime program. Storytime sessions in multiple languages are great learning and connecting opportunities for early childhood learners and adults. Research indicates that children are most receptive to learning new languages from the time they are babies to when they are starting primary school. The program featured guest readers with bilingual speaking skills. Amongst our most successful Multilingual Storytimes were Punjabi and Eastern Arrente Storytime.

City of Darwin Libraries, City of Darwin Council

Casuarina Library developed a beautiful new space for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collection called Cultural Connections. The resources found in Cultural Connections are produced by and about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with emphasis on material produced by local authors and communities.

City of Darwin libraries commenced a regular All Abilities Storytime which began as a partnership with Carpentaria Disability Services to deliver modified storytime to clients. The sessions are open to all people in the community as well as other disability services. The program will continue in 2023 as a monthly program.

In addition, as the largest city in the Northern Territory, the City of Darwin

libraries supported their staff in a range of 'homelessness' awareness learning and partnerships. This included a Homelessness Link Up event, partnership with NT shelter and fostering community awareness and support for community initiatives such as Foodbank and the Nappy Collective.

Jabiru Community Library, West Arnhem Regional Council

The library hosts regular interstate and international visitors to the special curated section in their library for the Kakadu Collection.

Taminmin Community Library, Litchfield Council

The library celebrated the traditional culture of our region through partnership activities for Reconciliation Week Storytime, NAIDOC Week Storytime and Seniors Morning Tea, encouraging community connection



Barunga Community Library - outreach at Manyallalok



Katherine Library STARS Storytime



Alice Springs Public Library, High Tea Bingo

with First Nations culture, history and identity to build stronger communities. For Harmony Day celebrations, seniors enjoyed Indonesian culture and music for the 'seniors morning tea' event.

City of Palmerston Library, City of Palmerston Council

Library staff recognise that access to information is a human right and that it is important to ensure that everyone in the community can access the library whenever they need.

As an alternative to restricting community members from entering the library without footwear, the library has purchased pairs of inexpensive thongs that can be given to the public and allow for library access. So far, 33 sets of footwear have been given out, ensuring that 33 people have been able to attend the library who would have otherwise been excluded from access to library services.

City of Palmerston Library celebrated International Women's Day with a week-long program. The library hosted an International Women's Day Storytime led by Amy Hetherington and the IWD Community Forum #BreakTheBias, which featured an afternoon of interesting and inspiring conversation.

Barunga Community Library, Roper Gulf Regional Council

Our Barunga Dogs project demonstrated a commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion through its use of both spoken and written Kriol (the Indigenous language spoken in the region and the first language of the majority of participants), and through its inclusion of audio elements which provide access to those with vision impairment or who cannot read.



City of Palmerston Library Storytime

Literacy and lifelong learning

Fostering literacy and a love of learning is a core goal of the public library mission.

Public libraries play an essential role in literacy development. They foster a culture of reading by providing programs for all ages, abilities and interests, supported by a wide range of reading materials in safe and accessible public spaces.

Literacy has a profound effect on a wide range of life outcomes in Australia, including levels of employment, education, health and interaction with the justice system.

In focus

Most libraries offer early childhood literacy programs such as Storytime, Baby Book Time, Rhyme Time and Toddler Time. They ensure that reading and learning are fun and engaging. They often leverage special themes to broaden the range of other learning and literacy outcomes. Other reading programs include STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) based activities, the

promotion of local authors, and supporting local environment and wildlife initiatives.

Reading and writing skills are supported by art, craft, and performance and storytelling activities. At times the learning and literacy programs extend to community locations, such as the local school or local Early Learning Centre visits.

At Taminmin Community Library, storytime was expanded to an outreach service, visiting the recreation reserves. The Roper Gulf Libraries (Barunga, Mataranka and Ngukurr) all ran regular storytime with their local schools. They also ran outreach programs extended from their small libraries, such as Barunga to the neighbouring communities of Beswick and Manyallaluk.

National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS)

Victoria Daly Regional Council, Pine Creek Library

The library runs the National Simultaneous Storytime annually, in conjunction with the Pine Creek Primary School. It was a great success, with the children loving the book and enjoying listening to the guest reader. Family Tree by Josh Pyke was the NSS book for 2022.

The children developed their own family trees on completion of the reading. The Library Officer attended the primary school the following week, where attendance certificates were presented to the children who all happily showed their completed family trees.



Taminmin Community Library took a unique perspective to support the book theme Family Tree with a visit by the Darwin Wildlife Sanctuary, who brought along local wildlife that raise their families in trees. Each participant took home a native tree.

Chief Minister's Reading Challenge and Families as First Teachers

To support the development of a reading culture across the NT, public libraries partnered with school based initiatives such as the Chief Minister's Reading Challenge (CMRC) and Families as First Teachers (FAFT).

“Reading is the most marvellous adventure anyone can have”, which makes the team at Alyangulya adventure travel agents.
- Lloyd Alexander

2022 saw the launch of the first CMRC, and libraries across the NT supported the schools with copies of physical and E-book titles. Galinwin'ku Community Library hosts weekly visits as part of the Families as First Teachers program.

In focus

City of Palmerston Library, City of Palmerston Council

In celebration of Adult Learners Week, City of Palmerston Library hosted a Song Writing Workshop with Golden Guitar & ARIA winning artist Sara Storer.

Twenty-one adults attended the workshop. City of Palmerston Library also offered The Good Dog Storytimes to foster the joy of reading.

Struggling readers had the opportunity to read to dogs to give them the confidence with a non-human audience and to create awareness of the valuable work of therapy dogs in the community.

Pine Creek Community Library, Victoria Daly Regional Council

Storytimes happen at the library every Friday with the Pine Creek Primary School.

As a lot of the children speak Kriol as their first language at home, books that are written in language have been chosen as the main story for Storytime with one of the Kriol speaking students reading the Kriol sections and the Library Officer reading the English version.

Every Tuesday, the library also hosts an aged care morning tea which includes bingo and chair yoga.

Jabiru Library, West Arnhem Regional Council

Bininj Kunwok language group provides resources in Kunwinkgu language to the library.

Book Club

Across the NT, libraries directly supported over 10 book clubs in both physical and digital formats and indirectly supported many more.

For primary school children, the Taminmin Community Library had a 'Funky Chickens' book club with over 200 members.

To increase membership, the library offers a free 'Funky Chickens' library bag on sign up. All children who read five or more titles go into a monthly draw to win a book pack.



Pine Creek Community Library, Be Connected and Scams Awareness session

Digital inclusion

The ability to access and use technology and digital infrastructure is fundamental to living in Australian society.

The role of public libraries in supporting digital inclusion is critical, particularly in the NT where there are significant regional and remote populations with unreliable or unaffordable access.

Digital inclusion is enabled through the development of digital literacy skills.

Each library service conducts learning support, activities and targeted programs to improve digital literacy skills.

On a daily basis, libraries assist people who lack the access to computers, the internet and scanning, printing or those

who don't have the skills or confidence to undertake essential tasks such as downloading a government app or search to apply for jobs.

There is significant staff time invested in providing one-on-one assistance, group training and learning activities to improve skills.

The larger libraries in urban centres provide access to 3D printers and printing services.

There are also devices that can be borrowed for in-branch use. The daily assistance provided by library staff members for essential, basic digital literacy tasks has an enormous positive impact in the community.



Pine Creek Community Library



DIGITAL LITERACY

292 SESSIONS

113,760 WI-FI SESSIONS IN URBAN LIBRARIES

258,946 WI-FI SESSIONS IN REMOTE COMMUNITY INTERNET SERVICE SITES

FREE COMMUNITY WI-FI HOTSPOTS ACROSS THE TERRITORY



In focus

Jabiru Community Library, West Arnhem Regional Council

The library assists local people on a daily basis with device help, in particular setting up new phones, basic email instructions and how to download and use apps.

There is high demand to teach people how to download photos from their phone to a USB and the library is the only space in Kakadu that provides access to charging docks, scanning and printing services for the public.

Katherine Library, Katherine Town Council

As Katherine Library is the largest town closest to the WA and QLD borders, they provided essential services to thousands of Territorians and visitors

during the height of the COVID-19 restrictions, by assisting the public to navigate COVID-19 requirements and acquiring border passes for interstate travel.

The Katherine Library team were inundated on a daily basis and provided support to visitors with baseline PC access, printing, assisting library users to understand individual state rules and vaccination requirements, downloading forms and attaching documents.

Barunga, Borroloola, Mataranka, and Ngukurr Community Libraries, Roper Gulf Regional Council

Digital inclusion activities held at Roper Gulf libraries included collaboration with NBN for monthly sessions in Barunga on a variety of topics and ad-hoc sessions in Borroloola on cyber bullying and cyber safety.

Roper Gulf have added a dedicated library page on the new council website, and have installed public access computers in Mataranka and Ngukurr.

Taminmin Community Library, Litchfield Council

Taminmin Community Library team used Be Connected resources to assist customers in becoming independent technology users.

Adelaide River Community Library, Batchelor Community Library, Coomalie Regional Council

Coding lessons and LEGO Masters programs were held at both libraries, which were very popular through the school holidays.

City of Palmerston Library, City of Palmerston Council

Code Club is aimed at developing the essential digital skills for the future for children aged 10 - 14 years.

The library holds Code Club every Saturday morning during the school



City of Darwin Libraries Open Day

term. Code Club is a partnership and volunteer-run program with Code Club Australia.

The library also supports Geek Squad, a drop-in program guided by young adults between the ages of 12 and 18 years. Activities include watching anime, sewing, cosplay construction, Manga drawing and VR gaming. During Palmerston's Geekfest, the library hosted an array of geeky experiences including an escape room, tabletop gaming, chess tournament, technology stalls, social playground GIF booth, twitch streaming, 'Just Dance' workshops and two panels 'Local in Technology' and 'Cosplay Life'.

Alice Springs Library, Alice Springs Town Council

Innovation Play Days School Holiday Programs– Youth Engagement in learning. Alice Springs delivered two very successful youth engagement through technology events. Almost 700 young people attended learning

and participated in a range of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematical) activities in a fun way.

There was a comprehensive marketing campaign, and in collaboration the bus from Gap Youth Centre operated from the Town Camps.

The key partners and attractions for the day included STEMfit, an education program that focuses on children's interest in sports and physical activity, engaging children with information on basic heart physiology, including measuring oxygen flow, pulse, heart rate and lung capacity. The Arrente Community Boxing Academy provided physical activities including boxing sessions with three specialised trainers. InnovativeNT provided the morse code bracelet making activity. Central Drones introduced attendees to drone coding and flying.



Alice Springs Public Library School Holiday Program



Adelaide River Community Library

Informed and connected citizens

Libraries are community information hubs that actively support the development of informed citizens who are able to effectively participate in community life, access government services and participate in local, Territory and national political processes.

Public libraries and library staff members have been trusted sources of quality information for decades.

In the explosion of information, people are increasingly turning to libraries for support in navigating the increase of online services across commercial and e-government services.

Government agencies also engage with libraries to provide valuable information sessions in library spaces to library members and the wider community.

In focus

During the various stages of the pandemic, the role of libraries as trusted community connectors and facilitators has been particularly important to navigate government regulations.

The libraries continued to be looked to for authoritative and accessible information and have acted as a clearing house for all levels of government to assist with clear and definitive sources of advice.

Several library services offer a convenient Justice of the Peace (JP) Service where volunteer JPs are located at the library on a weekly basis.

Taminmin Community Library, Litchfield Council

The library hosts a monthly senior's morning tea and invites guest speakers from various organisations to keep the attendees informed and connected.

Participants connect socially, learn new skills, learn about community issues, and how to access various government and community services.

Special guests included Council Animal Rangers, Carers NT support, the Waste Transfer Station and recycling update, Melaleuca Refugee Centre, wildlife rescue, the Indonesian Consulate, Indigenous Elders and Taminmin College students.

Pine Creek Community Library, Victoria Daly Regional Council

Scams Awareness sessions were conducted throughout the year and in particular during the National Scams Awareness Week Campaign running in November 2021. This program was directed at seniors, who are often the target of scammers, as well as the wider community.

Jabiru Community Library, West Arnhem Regional Council

The library hosts a number of free significant events such as NAIDOC Week, International Women's Day and Reconciliation Week which are informative and assist with sharing positive information to create better relationships and challenge bias and misinformation.

Ramingining Community Library, East Arnhem Regional Council (EARC)

The library shares a space with EARC's Youth, Sport and Recreation (YSR) team and EARC Community Radio team.

This sharing of space makes Ramingining Library a hub for YSR clients who come to participate in activities and access digital media, and also for other community members engaged in Yolngu Radio presentations.



722,273
LIBRARY VISITS
22% 
OF TERRITORIANS ARE
LIBRARY
MEMBERS

Personal development and wellbeing

Public libraries in the NT are a trusted resource in communities and our teams are committed and caring.

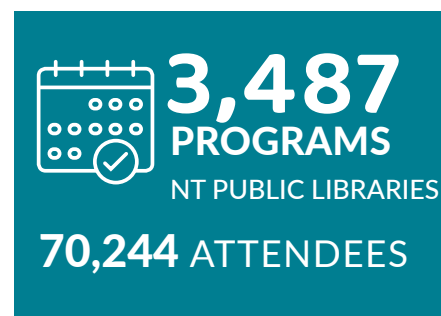
Public libraries help break down barriers and support those individuals experiencing social isolation, disadvantage or mental health issues.

Support is also there for communities to combat remote disadvantage and in times of significant community stress, economic downturn, public health outbreaks and natural disasters.

Libraries support and strengthen communities by running programs to bring people together and build skills and literacy. They offer spaces that are welcoming to relax or meet friends or people with common interests.

Libraries are safe spaces and provide cool respite from the heat, and warmth when it is cold, access to authoritative information that supports health and wellness, and a large resource for reading, viewing or listening for pleasure.

International studies have found a significant association between regular library use and increased wellbeing, as well as correlations between literacy and both physical and mental health.



City of Darwin Libraries, Therapy Dogs at the Libraries

In focus

Partnerships are a critical part of the services and programs that support personal development and wellbeing.

From providing free fruit for Karama Tech Zone activities or Geekfest weekends, to hosting board games, chess clubs or knit and natter.

The Therapy Dog Engagement program at City of Darwin and City of Palmerston provides a calm environment to enhance reading skills, and the wellbeing of all who have shared a pat or cuddle with Roxy, Quinton and Sugar.

Therapy dogs were a feature of the Men's Health Week program held at Casuarina Library, which also offered health and skin checks alongside gym passes.

MacConnect, MacDonnell Regional Council

The MacConnect team members were instrumental in supporting residents of remote communities in the MacDonnell Regional Council to upload vaccination certificates and link to MyGov.

The Project Officer at MacConnect offered regular sessions at the 13 communities to help community members access MyGov and use social media to connect communities to accurate and up to date information.

They also assisted community members to access online resources in areas such as bicycle repair, car repair, gardening, and completing and submitting online forms.

Ramingining Community Library, Angurugu Community Library, East Arnhem Regional Council

The council has a range of partnerships with health providers in their network to bring people together in a welcoming and safe place to share



Taminmin Community Library, Library Buddies Program

resources about improved health and wellbeing outcomes.

Ramingining Community Library hosted visits from the Miwatj Health nurse to promote healthy eating and nutrition for mums and babies.

The youth mental health event in Angurugu was a great success, with the library working with Family Skills and Youth Sport Recreation Coordinators in hosting t-shirt painting and a BBQ to create a safe space for youth to come together and discuss mental health stories.

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

- World Health Organisation

Stronger and more creative communities

Libraries strengthen and help build communities by providing inclusive services and programs, and support expression of creativity and cultural identity.

They provide free, safe public spaces, where people can meet and talk, and are open for a range of community groups and users. Libraries host events, tell local stories and highlight the work of local artists, musicians and community groups and create local collections to document the history of the communities that they serve.

In focus

Katherine Public Library, Katherine Town Council - Seniors Month 2021

The Leading Lines Exhibition was a way for Katherine Public Library to recognise their seniors community in a way that hadn't been done before. The programs coordinator took photographic portraits and interviewed 25 local seniors asking them all the same questions relating to their life and the Katherine community. The library also ran intergenerational versions of storytimes and holiday events to foster connections and reduce social isolation.

Jabiru Public Library, West Arnhem Regional Council

The library's school holiday programs provided a learning opportunity using LEGO, which encourages creative development and the use of fine motor skills in children. It has proved popular with local residents and travelling families, some who are home schooling.

Taminmin Community Library, Litchfield Council

Litchfield LEGO League is held weekly. It is open to all ages but mainly attracts



Alice Springs Public Library School Holiday Program

primary school aged children and their parents. Each week, a different activity is offered to stimulate creativity and problem solving including kit building, marble runs, nerf targets, balloons on LEGO cars and LEGO volcanos.

City of Palmerston Library, City of Palmerston Council

For Reconciliation Week, Palmerston families enjoyed a very special storytime with Larrakia Elder and comedian Dr Richard Fejo. Attendees sang songs by First Nation artists including NT legends Emily Wurrama and Baker Boy, and read books by Indigenous authors. In celebration of NAIDOC Week 2021, City of Palmerston Library hosted Dreamtime Storytime in collaboration with Dingo Cockatoo Aboriginal Culture, Witladla the Puppet show with Aunty June

Mills and Artback NT, and finally an ochre painting workshop where young people were invited to collaborate on a group project which is now hanging in the library space, as well as creating their own masterpieces on individual canvases to take home.

Alice Springs Public Library, Alice Springs Council

The library held an event called Tall Tales which recorded local legends telling their fascinating family histories and stories about living and growing up in the Red Centre.

The records that were created are played randomly on the volunteer-run 8CCC radio, and at one stage in 2022, there were 60 people in the room participating. This is a great way to record history and give the community pride in their town.

Economic and workforce development

NT libraries play a significant economic role within their communities.

They improve employment opportunities through development of literacy and digital skills and through supporting people to undertake formal study with spaces, internet connectivity and collection resources.

Libraries also provide resources for printing and scanning, particularly valuable for mobile workers and tourists.

Learning programs and one-on-one assistance is provided for job seekers on resume writing skills, job applications and security checks.

In focus

Alice Springs Library, Alice Springs Town Council

The future of work and the development of skills for the future is the focus of the regular program RoboCup hosted by Alice Springs Library. RoboCup is an educational initiative that supports local, regional and international robotic events for young people.

The events upskill staff as well as provide a focus on building highly

relevant STEAM and design skills for the young participants.

City of Darwin Libraries, City of Darwin Council

Since its inception in 2021, Job Club has helped 47 people attain work. Community Wellbeing Programs team and library staff work together to deliver the program, providing support and advice to job seekers who do not qualify for support from mainstream service providers.

Job Club provides hands on assistance with searching for job vacancies, resume and cover letter writing and interview preparation.

Pine Creek Community Library, Victoria Daly Regional Council

Pine Creek Community Library runs the Be Connected program and helps jobseekers to assist with and improve their computer skills to widen the scope of jobs available to them.

The library also works with local job search providers by assisting in the updating of resumes and completing applications for Police Checks and Working with Children's cards.



4,226
HOURS OF USE OF MEETING ROOMS
BY SMALL BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT, COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS



City of Palmerston Library, Adult Learners Week

2022 ALIA NT Recognition Awards

Library & Archives NT hosted the 2022 ALIA NT Recognition Awards.

Two public library initiatives won the awards. Both were aimed at improving services and community outcomes.

These innovative programs provided outstanding examples of how libraries work in partnership with their councils and communities, demonstrating the unique ways in which they help children and young adults connect and care for their community.

Winners

Barunga Community Library, Roper Gulf Regional Council – Remote and Regional Library Category

The development of Our Barunga Dogs was a collaboration between four different areas of council operations in the remote community of Barunga.

Animal management, sport and recreation, broadcasting, and the library

pooled resources to teach children about the importance of caring for their pets by celebrating the things they love about their dogs.

The activity started with a reading of Johanna Bell's and Dion Beasley's "Bigismob Jigiwan Dog" (Too Many Cheeky Dogs) book. They photographed, wrote, drew and talked about their dog. Then they spoke with adults about what they had learned. All of these elements were collated and used to develop a children's book called "Our Barunga Dogs".

The published book included a QR code which, when scanned, enables the reader to listen to the audio clips of the children speaking about their dogs.

Taminmin Community Library, Litchfield Council - Urban Library Category

Taminmin Community Library started an inter-generational program 'Students VS Seniors' in March 2022, in partnership with Taminmin College.

The program was designed to connect students and seniors in the community, to develop confidence and provide the opportunity for seniors to enjoy the company of young people.

The Litchfield regional area has a high percentage of seniors who live alone and youth who do not have extended family living nearby. Intergenerational games and puzzles were added to a regular seniors' morning tea.

The games provided positive and fun interaction. The students discovered shared interests and learned about the rich and varied lives the seniors had enjoyed.

Overall, the group sessions dissipated feelings of loneliness, enhanced the sense of belonging for both groups and built trust in each other.

The program's uniqueness and innovation caught the attention of ABC TV and they broadcasted a segment in 'Ageless Friendships' Series 3, Episode 2 in September 2022.



ALIA NT Recognition Awards

Across the Territory – Innovation, investment and service improvements

Library services and their councils have undertaken a range of service and facility improvements.

The new initiatives demonstrate the customer focus of the services, the collaborative nature of the public library sector and the ongoing culture of continuous improvement for a better customer experience.

Services

Collaboration - Group Hold Fulfilment

City of Palmerston Library, City of Darwin Libraries and Taminmin Community Library collaborated on a library system enhancement which means that their members can now place holds and select pickup locations across all three services regardless of their home institution.

Previously, holds across these services were managed through Inter-Library Loan processes. The change to group hold fulfilment has simplified the process for both patrons and staff and offers a more seamless transition between Greater Darwin Area library services.

Darwin City Library, City of Darwin Council

The new media digitisation station at Darwin City Library is popular with customers wanting to convert their analogue memories to digital format. 3D printing remains in demand with printers now available at three libraries.

Taminmin Community Library, Litchfield Council

Storytime was expanded to an outreach service, with the 'Storytime on the Move' program. The library's connectivity with the community has

greatly increased through delivery at council's recreational reserves during the dry season and visiting community organisations during the remainder of the year.

City of Darwin Libraries, City of Darwin Council

A new edition to their CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) collections with e-magazines in 15 languages through Overdrive/Libby.

Alyangula Community Library, Joint Department of Education

An increased social media presence for Alyangula Community Library has helped achieve the goal of higher library attendances by combining forces with the local Country Women's Association and the Community Co-op on Facebook to support and promote each other. Numbers of patrons using the library on Saturdays has grown from an average of 15 to 40 patrons.

Spaces

Barunga Community Library, Ngukurr Community Library, Roper Gulf Regional Council

Council has undertaken improvement works at its Barunga and Ngukurr Libraries to improve their functionality, usability and increase relevance to community life.

Public access computers were also purchased for all libraries. In Barunga, a veranda extension was made to the library building which has increased the library footprint.

The community regularly use this area for activities and a reading space. The refurbishments to the Ngukurr Library were focused on increasing the relevance of the area to community life and meeting key community needs. This included the installation of video conferencing and public access PC



City of Palmerston, Drag Queen Storytime

Barunga Community Library, Roper Gulf Regional Council

The Our Barunga Dogs project was contemporary and innovative, and facilitated the delivery of a targeted message to a unique audience.

It combined a number of different engagement techniques and several stakeholders with different program objectives, while meeting multiple library and community outcomes, including celebrating culture and diversity, literacy and lifelong learning, informed and connected citizens, digital inclusion, personal wellbeing and development, and stronger and more creative communities.

The project demonstrated leadership in library service delivery by developing and piloting a program that was educational and highly relevant to life in

remote Indigenous communities, using Indigenous language in a contemporary way, and incorporating modern media.

The project also showed leadership through facilitating the collaboration of different operational aspects of council to achieve a common goal.

Alice Springs Library, Alice Springs Town Council

The Try & Fly Drones program introduced children to the basics of coding and drone operations with the goal to motivate participants to look to new and innovative career paths.

Alice Springs Police attended in plain clothes, with their police drone, which was a great way to foster positive community engagement. The newest iteration is the introduction of Advance Drones - five new drones with filming capabilities.

Jabiru Community Library, West Arnhem Regional Council

The library was very excited to roll out the first of The Street Library to both Kakadu residents and visitors at the Kakadu pool in May 2022.

Shortlisted for the ALIA NT Recognition Awards, the library developed the Street Library in partnership with Council's Kakadu WALPA and was painted by Kakadu Community Care Team Leader and local artist, Marcia Brennan.

The library hopes to expand the Street Library network to other locations across the region. The Library supports the Street Library with donated books.



Gulwa community recording studio - City of Palmerston Library

