

# Northern Territory Public Libraries

Connected Communities Annual Highlights 2022-2023





*City of Darwin Libraries - Seniors Family History Workshop*

*Front cover Image: Alice Springs Public Library – Robotics Workshop*



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# 1. Introduction

The Northern Territory (NT) Public Libraries—Connected Communities Annual Highlights 2022-23 showcases the services and activities offered by the Northern Territory's public libraries over the past year.

The six outcome areas adopted in the Connected Communities Strategy align the delivery of library services and programs and identify how libraries positively impact their communities:

- Literacy and lifelong learning
- Informed and connected citizens
- Digital inclusion
- Personal development and wellbeing
- Stronger and more creative communities
- Economic and workforce development

## 1.1. Principles



- Access for all
- Responsive to community needs
- Inclusive services
- Respect for aboriginal culture
- Customer focused
- Innovative solutions and partnerships
- Effective and efficient services
- Sustainable services
- Effective network

*City of Palmerston Library – Rainbow Storytime*

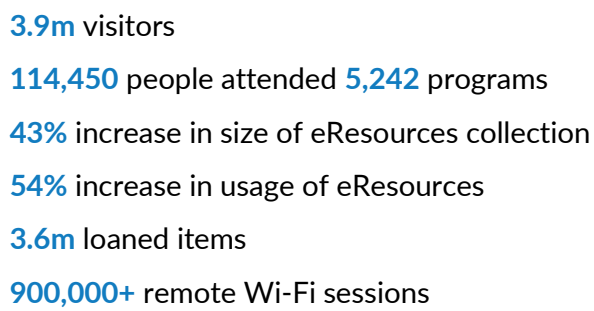
The Annual Highlights also show how libraries contribute to the goals of local councils and the Northern Territory (NT) Government.

## 2. Connected Communities Strategy

The Connected Communities Annual Highlights Report 2022-23 represents the final report under the *Connected Communities Vision for Northern Territory Public Libraries 2017-2023*.

Over the five years of the strategy, public libraries in the NT have welcomed over 3.9 million visitors and loaned over 3.6 million items from their collections including over half a million eBooks and eResources. Remote community Wi-Fi sessions alone have provided over 900,000 Wi-Fi sessions in just 3 years since the commencement of the Community Internet Service. During this period, physical loans decreased by 32% but still remain highly valued by members. Notably the usage trend of eResources increased by 54%, including eAudiobooks by 84%. To meet this increased demand, the size of the eResources collection has increased by 43%, supported by an increased investment of \$49,000 from the available funding.

### 2.1. NT Public Libraries achievements 2017-2023



- 3.9m visitors
- 114,450 people attended 5,242 programs
- 43% increase in size of eResources collection
- 54% increase in usage of eResources
- 3.6m loaned items
- 900,000+ remote Wi-Fi sessions

Prior to the end of the previous five-year strategy, a series of workshops was held in collaboration with the NT Public Library Sector to develop a new strategy, *Libraries Connecting Communities Strategic Vision 2023-2028*, along with a new 5-year funding agreement. This new strategy will inform the work of the public library sector for the next five years.

### 3. Northern Territory Public Libraries

Libraries are places and spaces where people learn and connect, where communities are engaged and a diverse range of needs are catered for. Public libraries across the NT come in all shapes and sizes – from small shipping containers and digital-only services to impressive multi-purpose community spaces. Public library services, operations and programs are aligned with the *ALIA Guidelines, Standards and Outcome Measures for Australian Public Libraries 2021* 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. NT public libraries continue to demonstrate that they can provide best practice programs, services, collections, and resources that are curated and tailored to meet their councils' goals and their communities' needs. The Annual Highlights Report 2022-2023 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 delivered.



City of Darwin Libraries – National Simultaneous Storytime

## 4. NT Public Library key statistics 2022-2023

801,334 library visits  
402,628 website visits  
3,498 programs attended by 74,961 people  
1,106 early literacy sessions attended by 37,175 people  
443 digital literacy sessions attended by 3,642 people  
85,440 library members  
33.84% of the population are library members  
764,726 total loans  
558,286 physical loans  
206,440 eLoans – eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines  
74,356 hours of public device usage  
333,260 Wi-Fi sessions  
281,813 hours of Wi-Fi usage



## 5. Stronger sector

Library & Archives NT (LANT) 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 (CIS)
- learning development opportunities and advisory support services
- support for some of the most remote libraries in the world, serving culturally and linguistically diverse populations in diverse settings – from cities to remote communities.



*Taminmin Community Library – NAIDOC Week weaving workshop*

Regional and remote library support is a key priority for Library & Archives NT. In 2022-2023 LANT visited 16 council libraries in person to provide on the ground support and training to public and community library services. In addition to sectoral support, in-person library visits are an essential element of developing connections and strengthening relationships with colleagues across the library sector and particularly those in local government who supervise our public libraries.

Library & Archives NT further strengthened its partnership with the Department of Education through the development of a memorandum of understanding (MOU), administering the Chief Minister's Reading Challenge, providing advice and booklists for the different age groups, as well as allocating \$12,000 to the purchase of eBook and eAudiobook titles on the challenge booklists.



A number of sectoral working groups were convened by Library & Archives NT throughout 2022-2023, to meet, collaborate and progress initiatives under the Connected Communities Strategy including:

- Public Libraries Strategic Development Committee
- Library Management System User Group
- Collection Development Working Group.

In 2022-2023, Library & Archives NT provided a range of learning and development support to the library sector, including online professional development session in collection management, free webinars on research skills, as well as both informal and formal training on use of the Library Management System.

Representation of the Northern Territory Library sector is a key role of Library & Archives NT. Through its partnerships with the Australian Public Libraries Alliance (APLA), Australian Library & Information Association (ALIA) and National & State Libraries Australasia (NSLA), Library & Archives NT has worked on several key committees for the benefit of NT Public Libraries.

## 6. Celebrating culture, diversity and inclusion

Public libraries welcome people of all ages and abilities and from all backgrounds. Most libraries provide collections, services, and programs to celebrate the culture and diversity of their local communities. Through their councils, public library services embed inclusive practices to meet the interests and needs of a variety of community groups. They partner with the 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 as many as fifteen languages other than English.



*City of Darwin Libraries – 'Geektacular' event*

## 6.1. In focus

### Taminmin Community Library, Litchfield Council

Seniors Morning Tea enjoyed a themed Harmony Day activity, with a dance presentation by a local Colombian Dance Troupe. For NAIDOC Day, the Students vs. Seniors program hosted numerous guest speakers including LANT's Don Christopherson to talk about very personal Indigenous family experiences of the Stolen Generation, particularly about the Kahlin Compound.

### Ti Tree & Lajamanu Community Libraries, Central Desert Regional Council

Central Desert Regional Council Libraries support First Nations People with online access to eGovernment services and help with cultural storybooks to enable them to pass on their cultural knowledge to their children.

### Alice Springs Public Library, Alice Springs Town Council

Alice Springs Public Library has enabled the development of a not-for-profit group called 'Alice Speaks French, Inc.'. The group's founding members met at one of the library's multilingual Storytime sessions in French. These programs often include crafting sessions to provide hands-on experiences of different cultures, and numerous Council employees have assisted in these sessions to showcase the diverse workforce of the Alice Springs Town Council. The LOTE collection at the library is also showcased via these sessions, which makes the sessions more inclusive.



*Alice Springs Public Library – NT Writer's Festival Author Talk*

## City of Palmerston Library – City of Palmerston Council

City of Palmerston presented a week-long program for International Women's Day, which included a diverse range of activities:

- 'Hire a Granny' Storytime encouraging intergenerational play and connection between local children and grannies
- 'She n' D' event – the library's Geek Squad group held a special DnD session with all female characters
- Australia Reads National Hour - the library hosted a Reading Picnic, which included books featuring stories about amazing women
- Late Nights at the Library' program held a 'Boss Babe Bingo' event highlighting influential women.

## 7. Literacy and lifelong learning

Public Libraries play an essential role in literacy development in the Northern Territory. Literacy has a profound and positive effect on a wide range of life outcomes including higher employment rates, higher living standards, healthier lifestyles and personal development. Public Libraries foster a culture of reading in early childhood by providing a wide range of family reading materials in safe, supported and accessible public spaces and through the delivery of early childhood literacy programs such as Storytime and Rhymetime. Libraries also provide opportunities for learning throughout the lifespan through extensive collections, adult programs, informal and formal learning, and one-on-one support from library staff.



Milingimbi Library – Storytime



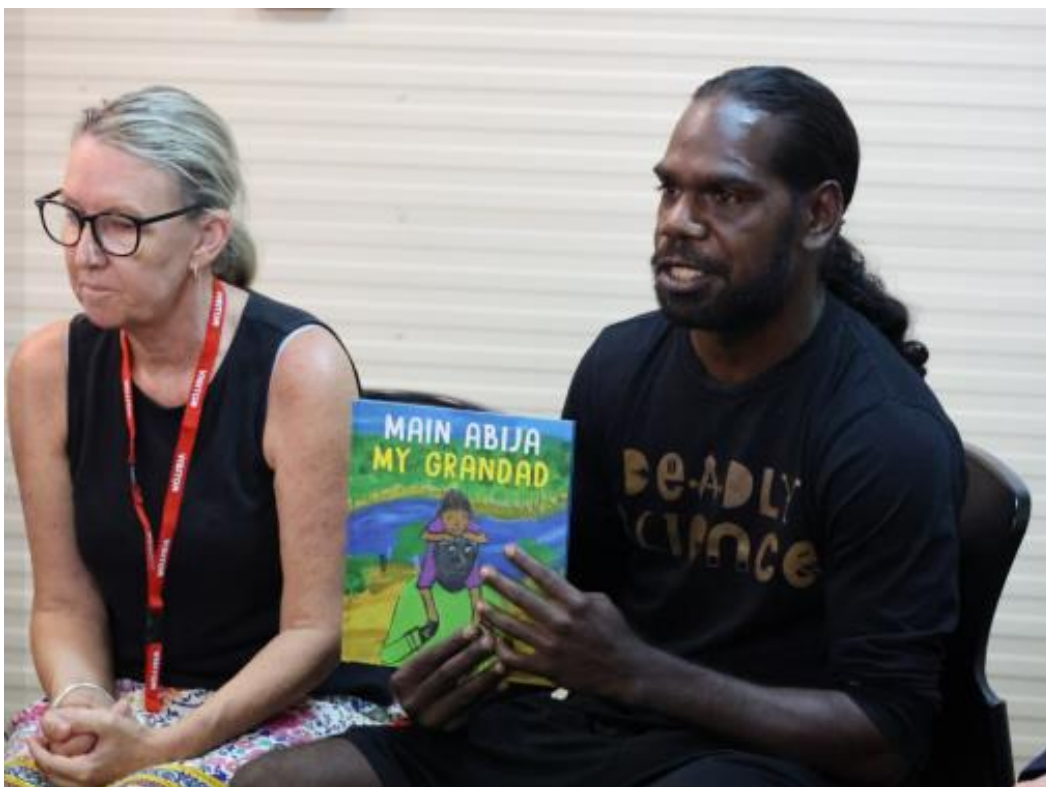
## 7.1. In focus

### **Pine Creek Community Library, Victoria Daly Regional Council**

Victoria Daly Regional Council actively supports the community to enjoying learning by providing activities and facilities through the Pine Creek Community Library. The local primary school commenced attending the library for a weekly session of Storytime and free time to participate in activities such as Lego, jigsaw puzzles, reading, drawing, colouring, or watching a program on ABC Kids. The staff select books that teach children about different subjects, such as the environment, social issues, and technology. Some children speak Kriol, so when the staff read Kriol books, they ask those children to assist them. This practice helps enhance the other children's knowledge of the different languages spoken in the region.

### **Mataranka Library, Roper Gulf Regional Council**

In March 2023, Mataranka Library hosted a special event for Australian Reading Hour where they hosted Jilkminggan School, Jilkminggan Family as First Teachers (FaFT) and local Aged Care clients for a community 'Reading Hour' at the Mataranka Hall. The audience listened to four local guests read their favourite books, including Aaron Mardi and Kerri Coghlan, teachers from Jilkminggan School, reading 'Main Abija' (My Grandad) by Karen Rogers. Main Abija is a bilingual book in Kriol and English. Another highlight was Mataranka Police Sergeant Michael Valladares, who read the book he wrote for his sons. After the panel guests read their books, the students picked their favourite books from the library selection and broke up into smaller reading circles.



*Mataranka Library – Australian Reading Hour event*

**Jabiru Public Library, West Arnhem Regional Council**

Early childhood literacy programs are delivered weekly to small groups of children from childcare and the Families as First Teachers program (FaFT). The library hosts guest readers for National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week.

**City of Palmerston Library, City of Palmerston Council**

The National Week of Deaf People (NWDP) is a week-long national celebration of deaf individuals and the Australian Deaf Community. In recognition of NWDP, the City of Palmerston Library hosted a special Auslan Storytime that involved members from the local deaf community presenting in Auslan.

## 8. Informed and connected citizens

Public Libraries are trusted community information hubs that actively support the development of informed citizens to be able to effectively participate in civic life. Libraries provide support for people to access and discriminate between misinformation and factual information. Libraries are usually placed in a central location facilitating ease of access and are free to enter<sup>1</sup>. People are increasingly turning to libraries for support in navigating e-government services, and government agencies are using library spaces to provide information services.

### 8.1. In focus

**City of Darwin Libraries, City of Darwin Council**

Following the success of Homeless Link Up in 2021, and with community and sector feedback, the Community Wellbeing Officer established Community Support and Advice (CSA) Group sessions. These sessions bring together community service agencies and organisations at a designated date and time for the community to access multiple services in one location. Held at Casuarina Library, organisations who attend include Centrelink, Darwin Community Legal Service, Housing Support Program representatives, Salvation Army, Catholic Care and NT Shelter. One customer who accessed services was able to secure temporary accommodation for her and her family and received clothing and food support.

**Alice Springs Public Library, Alice Springs Town Council**

The 'Read Write Chat' program at Alice Springs Public Library connects participants to the community in transformative ways. This initiative, transcending boundaries of language and culture, is a beacon of inclusivity and empowerment. It is a program designed for anyone seeking assistance with reading, writing, or spoken English, regardless of their language background. It offers a safe, welcoming space where individuals, often stepping outside their comfort zones, can seek the help they need. Participants find solace in the private, confidential one-on-one sessions with dedicated tutors. These sessions are not just about imparting knowledge; they're about building trust and fostering confidence. The program goes beyond literacy support. Participants learn life skills, from navigating government processes to filling out forms - whether it's helping someone apply for a driver's license, assisting with a tenancy application, or guiding them through the process of opening a bank account.



*Katherine Public Library – Water Safety Week  
Pine Creek Library – Scams Awareness session*



## 9. Digital inclusion

Digital inclusion means that everyone regardless of background or circumstances has access to and can effectively use digital technologies such as computers, internet, and digital devices. The aim is to bridge the digital divide as digital literacy has been identified as one of the most important skills required for current and future workforces. Libraries promote digital equity through the provision of online resources and services, undertaking skills building programs, informal and formal learning initiatives and access to digital content.

### 9.1. In focus

#### **MacConnect, MacDonnell Regional Council**

MacConnect offers participants a space to converse in the Rec. Hall Reading and Device Advice programs. Community members can sit with staff and ask questions pertinent to their literacy and digital literacy needs. This ranges from asking for help to access myGov accounts, unlocking their blocked phone or discussing the 'Voice to Parliament' referendum. Sitting together and reading with children allows them to spend time together away from home. They can also ask for specific training when the MacConnect Coordinator visits the community next. Participants engage with videos made by other community members when participating in the 'Arrkene-Ileme/Inkanyi' and 'Mpwartyeke/Palyantjaku' programs. These videos contain bush trips and stories that are part of their shared experience and promote connection and wellbeing. They can help create these resources and share their own stories. MacConnect addresses online safety as part of its Device Advice program. Participants can learn about spotting scams and safely using online banking and passwords. Activities to counter cyber-bullying and promote better social media practices can also be part of the session.



### **Pine Creek Community Library, Victoria Daly Regional Council**

The Pine Creek Community Library conducts Scams Awareness Sessions throughout the year. As the ever-increasing number of daily scams primarily targets vulnerable seniors, the library has aimed these sessions at seniors learning to become tech-savvy. However, all community members are welcome to attend the sessions regardless of age.

### **City of Palmerston Library, City of Palmerston Council**

International Games Month is an initiative to reconnect communities through their libraries around the educational, recreational, and social value of all types of games. The City of Palmerston Library partnered with Wicksees Educational Technology to host a fun-filled afternoon with quirky gadgets. Wicksees brought an array of technologies, including VR, 3D Pens, drones, and solar-powered DIY miniature cars.



*City of Palmerston Library – DJ Workshop*

## 10. Personal development and wellbeing

Public Libraries contribute to the wellness of their communities by supporting health and wellbeing initiatives, assisting people to connect with relevant services, and helping people to build skills and confidence that support their physical and mental health. Libraries are safe spaces where people can connect, avoid social isolation and feel welcomed, supported and valued. Public libraries are dedicated to building strong and resilient communities.



*City of Palmerston Library – 'Late Nights at the Library - Murder Mystery' event*

### 10.1. In focus

#### **Jabiru Public Library, West Arnhem Regional Council**

West Arnhem Regional Council (WARC), Youth Sport & Recreation and Red Lily Health Board (RLHB) collaborated to deliver a ten-week Alcohol and Drug Awareness program to young people aged ten to seventeen. The outcome was to make a song with clear messaging around drugs and alcohol. The program participants were highly engaged and attended weekly sessions at the library, where they produced a music video in the meeting room.



### **Pine Creek Community Library, Victoria Daly Regional Council**

Pine Creek Community Library hosted aged care programs, including morning tea, bingo, and chair yoga sessions. The library held a number of information sessions covering topics such as the NBN, communication, and internet connections in the area. Representatives from the relevant organisations were invited to speak at these sessions.

### **Alice Springs Public Library, Alice Springs Town Council**

During the school holidays, the Alice Springs Public Library teamed up with the Arrente Boxing Academy, run by an Arrente man and traditional owner of Alice Springs. He found that boxing turned his life around when he was a troubled young person. He was an Australian Boxing Champion and now trains and works with kids on the streets, and believes that the boxing ring teaches balance, structure, self-control, and ambition. The library program team and Arrente Boxing delivered active fitness classes based on the principle of boxing and sparring on the lawns outside the library. With Indigenous trainers providing a safe program, all cultures and fitness levels were welcomed. Not everyone who participated wanted to train, so a community barbeque took place at the same time, allowing for an intergenerational activity. Many grandparents connected over a sausage while the young ones sweated it out. This program proved to be a fantastic pathway to something greater. Kids and adults built a supportive, ongoing network and become stronger physically and mentally.



*Alice Springs Public Library – Arrente Boxing Club*



### **Katherine Public Library, Katherine Town Council**

November 2022 saw the hosting of 'Speechie Library Talks', recognising the important work of the Speech Pathology field in developing literacy and language. Students from Flinders University worked with the library to present two sessions to the community. Each session focused on the importance of reading in children's language development, and each presentation was tailored to birth to two years and three to five years. The event was well received, with parents taking home information sheets to assist with literacy at home.

### **City of Darwin Libraries, City of Darwin Council**

Understanding the past through family history is important for wellbeing and sense of place and identity. The City of Darwin Libraries designed 'Our Family History' presentations to share people's various methods and tools to research and record family history. The City of Darwin Libraries featured free access to archives at Library & Archives NT, National Archives of Australia, TROVE, and paid options such as Ancestry. Demonstrated options needed to be no/low cost to reduce financial barriers to accessing family history. It also provided an opportunity to showcase the library's Media Digitisation Station. This bookable resource enables users to convert photographs, slides and VHS content into digital formats.

### **Taminmin Community Library, Litchfield Council**

Taminmin Community Library hosted various programs to encourage personal development and wellbeing among participants. Some of these activities included 'Dinomania', which took place at reserves and encouraged a love for all things related to dinosaurs, including dinosaur-themed stories, dancing, and yoga. The library hosted other activities centred around appreciating the natural world with programs like 'Early Bird McMinns', which was a basic introduction to bird watching for families and Photo Scavenger Hunts, which involved finding and taking photos of found items.



*Taminmin Community Library – 'Seniors vs Students' program*

## 11. Stronger and more creative communities

Libraries build social capital in communities primarily through programs designed to showcase, engage and connect. Library programs are free and affordable, ensuring equitable access and participation for people. Public libraries are place-based and provide opportunities, spaces and support to showcase stories that inspire and reflect the creativity of their local communities. Libraries collect and preserve history and facilitate exhibitions, performance and visual art, contributing to a sense of belonging and community involvement.



*City of Darwin Libraries – ‘Gaming After Dark’ program*

### 11.1. In focus

#### **City of Darwin Libraries, City of Darwin Council**

Engagement with young people through youth programming grows year on year. This year the library offered monthly ‘Gaming After Dark’ sessions, partnered with Council’s LAUNCH youth team and young producers to deliver ‘Geektacular’ at Casuarina Library, engaged with early years young people at Tech Zone in Karama Library, and attended external events and expos to engage and undertake surveys.



### **Jabiru Public Library, West Arnhem Regional Council**

The library hosted an event around language and launched a West Arnhem Map in language, supported by the Bininj Kunwok Language group. The library promotes Kakadu languages and provides local keywords to the public. The library also hosted International Women's Day promoting female weavers from the West Arnhem Region. One of the key speakers was the manager of Marrawudi Art Centre in Jabiru, who also invited local community members to do some weaving.



*Jabiru Library – West Arnhem Map event*

### **Pine Creek Community Library, Victoria Daly Regional Council**

The Pine Creek community celebrates its local history with an annual Gold Rush Festival. The local children are encouraged to enter artwork into the Art Show, held in conjunction with the Gold Rush Festival. The library, in conjunction with Pine Creek Primary School and the Victoria Daly Regional Council (VDRC) Sport and Recreation Team, mentors and assists the children with the creation of their artwork.

### **Katherine Public Library, Katherine Town Council**

Katherine Public Library participated in National Indigenous Literacy Day with assistance from the STARS Academy and the reading of 'Where is the Green Sheep' by Mem Fox, translated into Kriol. Additionally, Katherine Public Library celebrated NAIDOC Week with a special Storytime event, reading books from Indigenous authors and participating in painting artworks in the style of Aboriginal art.



### **Alice Springs Public Library, Alice Springs Council**

During National Heritage Week, the Alice Springs Public Library organised a Trivia Night, a fun event to celebrate, preserve, and share the community's heritage. By focusing the event on the history of Alice Springs and utilising photographs from the Special Heritage Collection the library celebrated local heritage and promoted their valuable resources. The event occurred in a local pub, demonstrating that libraries are not just repositories of knowledge but also vibrant and fun community hubs. This unique venue choice supported a local business. It attracted a diverse audience, including those who might not typically visit the library. Participants were engaged and enthusiastic, answering questions that delved deep into the town's history. This event tested their knowledge and reinforced their connection to Alice Springs. The trivia night showcased the library's heritage collection, and sparked interest in archival materials and research opportunities. The event's success was evident in the pride and excitement it generated among attendees, fostering a deeper appreciation for the Alice Springs community's history and identity. It exemplified the library's role as a dynamic cultural institution, bringing people together and instilling a sense of belonging and pride in their shared heritage.

### **Elliot Community Library, Barkly Regional Council**

Elliot Community Library had children from the Elliott School practice their dances for the annual School Christmas Concert at the library and encouraged participating children to showcase their dance moves (with their classmates) to their families, friends, and community. Many children felt a sense of accomplishment upon completing their dance routine, which in turn gave them the confidence to participate the following year.

### **Batchelor Community Library, Coomalie Council**

Batchelor Community Library introduced a Sunday Jam Session where participants could bring their musical instruments and join in and learn more about music. Participants could also borrow instruments to play or participate in singing. The sessions were primarily ukelele-based, but any instrument was welcome. There were guitarists, drummers, and even a keyboardist who came along to join in the fun and music sessions!



*Barunga Library – Camp dog vet information session*

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

The 'Our Barunga Dogs' project was a collaboration between four areas of Council operations in the remote Indigenous community of Barunga: Animal Management, Sport & Recreation, Broadcasting, and Library Services. The Council's Animal Management team was looking for a way to teach children the importance of caring for their pets by celebrating what they love about their dogs. 'Camp dogs' can be a safety issue in communities, where neglected dogs form packs that can be dangerous to community members as they seek food and security. This project highlighted to children the importance of caring for their dogs, as a loved and cared-for dog is less likely to stray, take on a pack mentality, and be a danger in the community. This project culminated in a book showcasing the children's storytelling skills and focusing on the importance of camp dogs in the community. 'Our Barunga Dogs' was written and illustrated by the children of Barunga in collaboration with Johanna Bell of StoryProjects, who facilitated the workshop, and Dr Greg Dickson from Meigim Kriol Strongbala for Kriol translation. Roper Gulf Regional Council was nominated and received the Regional and Remote Category Award for this project at the ALIA NT Recognition Awards in November 2022.



*Barunga Library – 'Our Barunga Dogs' event*

## 12. Economic and workforce development

Public Libraries support economic and workforce development through programs to assist jobseekers, and through free and affordable access to computers, Wi-Fi, printing, scanning and other business requirements. They support mobile workforces and entrepreneurship. Libraries partner with a range of organisations to promote small business initiatives, connect people to providers and support vocational education and training opportunities.



*City of Darwin Libraries – Job Club*

### 12.1. In focus

#### **Pine Creek Community Library, Victoria Daly Regional Council**

Pine Creek Community Library regularly partners with local groups to improve their services to the community. Katherine High School provides a teacher to come to Pine Creek to deliver lessons in the library to the high school students who live in Pine Creek and Kybrook Farm. These lessons are delivered in conjunction with Wagiman Rangers, which assists in transitioning students into traineeships with the Rangers and with local mining companies to enable students to follow a career path in mining.

#### **Elliot Community Library, Barkly Regional Council**

Beginning in 2022, the library hosted the Deadly Hair Dude (DHD) to provide hair styling training programs in Elliott. By providing a community space that could serve over half the town with cuts and colours, the library enabled volunteer/trainee residents to obtain training qualifications and broaden their employment opportunities.



### **City of Palmerston Library, City of Palmerston Council**

The City of Palmerston Library's recording studio is available to the public for hire. The studio is an affordable alternative for members of the community seeking a sound-proof recording or rehearsal space. It offers state-of-the-art recording equipment and has been used by local NT artists, performers, and school groups to record a variety of things, including debut albums and demos.



*City of Palmerston Library – 'Gulwa' recording studio session*

### **Katherine Public Library, Katherine Town Council**

Katherine Public Library works closely with community NGOs to facilitate workshops that promote personal growth in the community. The Wurli Wurlinjang Health service lead, Pathways Program, acts as a connector to the library and literacy space, signing participants up as members, providing access to computers, and developing skills such as resume writing, job seeking, and other life skills.

## 13. Across the Territory - innovation, investment, and service improvements

### 13.1. In focus

#### Jabiru Public Library, West Arnhem Regional Council

Jabiru Public Library has recently been renovated, adding new shelving and different shelving locations. With the renovations, the library has introduced a free bookable meeting space for the community and has also become more accessible through extended opening hours.

#### Mataranka Library, Roper Gulf Regional Council

The Roper Gulf Regional Council has undertaken works at its Mataranka library to improve usability and increase relevance to community life. The Council utilised participants from the Community Development Program in Mataranka to reinvigorate the soul of the library, attracting both residents and tourists alike and showing the history of Mataranka and all that it stands for. The library is a meeting place for the community to commemorate the history of Mataranka's oldest residents and celebrate the future of Mataranka's youngest residents – all in one place. The refurbishments focused on increasing the relevance of the area to community life and meeting fundamental community needs. The refurbishment included interior painting, decorating, and upgrading furniture and shelving. Since these works have taken place, community use of the library has increased.



*Mataranka Library – Foyer refurbishment*



*MacConnect - 'Arrkene-Ileme/Inkanyi' program*

### **MacConnect, MacDonnell Regional Council**

MacConnect proudly introduced two new services, 'Mpwartyeke/Palyantjaku' and 'Arrkene-Ileme/Inkanyi', which are genuinely innovative. The 'Mpwartyeke/Palyantjaku', meaning 'making' in Arrernte/Luritja, is a program designed to teach people about creating digital media assets. Using industry-standard equipment, they work with MacYouth and MacCare to capture community life in new and exciting ways. Participants get to use 360° cameras, drones, field recording audio hardware, iPads and Apple Pencils, Wacom graphics tablets and lighting rigs (as well as the requisite software) to record bush trips, reading sessions, wellbeing resources and elder's storytelling, both for themselves and future generations. 'Arrkene-Ileme/Inkanyi', meaning 'play' in Arrernte/Pitjantjatjara, is a program that uses Oculus Quest 2 headsets to expose people to the thrilling world of mixed reality technology. A typical session involves setting up safety equipment and teaching people how to use the VR devices correctly. Each participant has fifteen minutes of free time to play a curation of VR games and access video resources created by the Mpwartyeke/Palyantjaku program. Through using Chromecasts to stream to projectors, the session becomes a group activity that shares mutual pleasure and learning between the audience and the user.

### **Taminmin Community Library, Litchfield Council**

The library has improved the service it provides its community through increasing the number of public access PCs from 3 to 7. EFTPOS machines have also been installed to give the public more payment methods, including contactless payment.

### **Alyangula Community Library, Department of Education**

Alyangula Community Library extended its weekend opening hours and introduced 24/7 digital library access. These changes have made its resources and services more accessible to a broader audience. In addition, physical improvements to the library facilities, such as rearranging the shelves, providing accessible restrooms, and improving the air conditioning, have enhanced visitor experiences.

### **Elliot Community Library, Barkly Regional Council**

The Elliott Community Library (ECL) Coordinator worked in collaboration with the Elliott School to organise an afterschool program involving three different classes as well as the Families as First Teachers Program (FaFT). The ECL Coordinator picked the children up after school and walked them to the library for 30-60 minutes of activities. Activities include (supported) access to the PCs, reading books and watching DVDs. The ECL Coordinator then walked the children to the Barkly Regional Council (BRC) Sport & Recreation Program to ensure that the children arrived safely.





Adelaide River Library