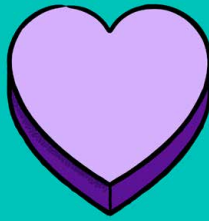


**CONNECTED  
LIBRARIES**



# Annual Report

## 2022-2023

[connectedlibraries.org.au](https://connectedlibraries.org.au)

**Ignite your imagination**

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# Foreword

## Casey Cardinia Library Corporation has a new trading name – Connected Libraries!

In December 2022 when Cardinia libraries left our network to partner with Myli – My Community Libraries, we asked the Casey community for their ideas on what to call their library service.

More than 750 responses were received in less than 10 days. Many of the suggestions included the words “connected” or “connect”, so we listened. Connected Libraries is now our new name, and we have a fresh brand to go with it.

This name speaks to the heart of what we do in libraries – we bring people together with ideas, information and inspiration.

It has been another year of change and transformation for us, including the change of trading name, and a re-sizing of our service after the Cardinia branches and team members transitioned to Myli.

Despite the challenges transformation of this size raises, our team has been resilient and has consistently demonstrated our values of creativity, love of learning, social intelligence, humour, teamwork and fairness.

Community members of all ages rely on their public library for free and universal access to resources that improve their literacy, wellbeing and connectedness.

Victorian public libraries have two million members and many more visitors. As at 30 June 2023, Connected Libraries has over 77,000 members.

Public libraries mitigate the significant social and economic costs generated when people struggle to access resources and opportunities.

We are committed to addressing the following issues through our library services:

- **44% of adults do not have the literacy skills needed for everyday life<sup>1</sup>**
- **20% of very young children need more play-based development and reading to be ready for school<sup>2</sup>**

- **33% of adults feel lonely<sup>3</sup>**
- **28% experience digital exclusion with affordability a key driver<sup>4</sup>**

Increasingly communities are facing new challenges – such as the impacts of climate change and associated need for refuge and emergency resources, aging population, gambling rates, drug dependency and increases in cost of living – that impact more Victorians. ([Public Libraries Victoria Strategic Plan 2023-26](#))

Our libraries provide resources that can help reduce these issues, creating benefits for individuals, families and communities. Even people who are not regular users of libraries have reported they would feel a loss if they were gone. A 2022 survey with a sample of more than 34,000 Victorian library users found:

- **92% feel safe at the library**
- **88% believe libraries welcome people from all walks of life, and**
- **72% ‘feel better’ at the library.<sup>5</sup>**

The Board and Executive team are extremely grateful for the commitment the library team has shown to deliver excellent services to our community despite the changes occurring behind the scenes.

Read on for a snapshot of the ways we have supported literacy, lifelong learning and community health and wellbeing.



**Angie Peresso**  
Chairperson



**Beth Luppino**  
CEO

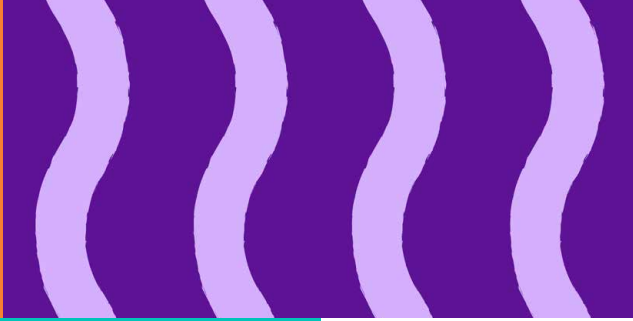
<sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013) [4228.0 Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies Australia, 2011-2012](#)

<sup>2</sup> Australian Government (2021) [Australian Early Development Census 2021](#)

<sup>3</sup> Australian Institute of Health & Welfare [Social isolation and loneliness](#), 16 Sept 2021.

<sup>4</sup> Centre for Social Impact Collaboration of Universities, ‘[Digital inclusion improving nationally but more to be done on affordability and equal access](#)’, 15 Oct 2021.

<sup>5</sup> SLV and PLV (2022) Victorian Public Library Survey 2022 summary results: [Inside our public libraries](#).



## Our Vision

Inspiring spaces where everyone is free to discover possibilities.

## Our Mission

To encourage lifelong learning, increase literacy and build strong, resilient communities across the Casey region.

## Governance

We are a values led organisation.

Our governance structure reflects our commitment to achieving a genuine model of community participation.

We are absolutely committed to supporting good governance as an organisation.

## Our Approach

We

- Put people first
- Pay it forward
- Follow up and reciprocate good deeds
- Help each other grow
- Share our stories and learn from each other
- Encourage authentic and courageous conversations
- Take quick little steps
- Give new things a go
- Choose momentum over perfection
- Encourage each other to take calculated risks
- Build confidence and resilience by working to our strengths
- Embrace the opportunity to learn when, things don't go as planned
- Share ideas freely
- Acknowledge our partners
- Celebrate success

## Acknowledgement of Country

Connected Libraries acknowledges the Bunurong, Boonwurrung and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we meet and work, and offer our respect to their Elders past and present.





# Our Values and Guiding Behaviours

## Teamwork

- When we all contribute, we excel
- We look out for each other
- We play to each other's strengths
- We work with our community

## Humour

- Our humour enables us to express how we feel
- We like to laugh, bringing smiles to other people
- We use humour to build connections and create a positive experience for everyone



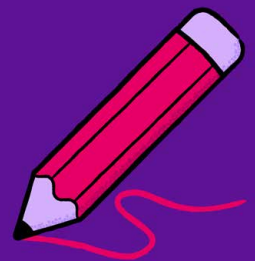
## Creativity

- Thinking of new ways to do things is crucial to our success
- We challenge the status quo, if we believe a better way is possible
- We cultivate creativity in others



## Social Intelligence

- We are mindful of people's feelings
- We know what to do to put others at ease
- We are kind, compassionate and look for the best in each other



## Love of Learning

- We love learning about new things.
- We believe there is always an opportunity to learn
- We learn from each other

## Fairness

- We treat people fairly and recognise them as individuals
- We do not let our personal feelings bias our decisions about others
- We actively support social inclusion and connection
- We are accountable for our behaviour

# The Board

## City of Casey

**Miguel Belmar**

Administrator  
Chairperson until November 2022



**Steve Coldham**



**Keri New**



**Noelene Duff**

Administrator \*

## Cardinia Shire

**Angie Peresso**

Cardinia Representative from December 2022  
Chairperson from February 2023



**Cr Jeff Springfield**

Until October 2022



**Lili Rosic**

Until December 2022



**Cr Jack Kowarzik**

Alternate Until December 2022\*  
Chairperson from November 2022

\* Alternate delegate

# The Executive Team

**Beth Luppino**

Chief Executive Officer



**Emily Ramaswamy**

General Manager, Finance and Digital Operations



**Janine Galvin**

General Manager, Organisational Development



**Bec Mitchem**

General Manager, Customer Experience  
- Acting until 1 December 2022

**Daniel Lewis**

General Manager, Digital Operations - Until 22 March 2023

**Sue Brown**

General Manager, Strategy and Customer Experience - From 18 January until 17 May 2023

# Our Community



Casey Cardinia Library Corporation operates in the traditional lands of the Bunurong, Boonwurrung and Wurundjeri peoples. First nations people from many different places live in the Casey Cardinia Region.

Our region continues to experience rapid population growth with significant residential development occurring in Clyde, Cranbourne and Officer. Cranbourne East had the largest population growth in Victoria in 2020-2021.

The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics report shows Casey's population has increased to 369,453 across the region's 409 square kilometers and Cardinia's 123,020 across its 1,282 square kilometers. ([Regional Population Growth, Australia – 3218.0 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Revised April 2023](#)). Our population is estimated to exceed 734,000 by 2041 across the Casey Cardinia region.

Our community is diverse. More than a quarter of residents were born in non-English speaking countries. Almost a third of the Casey Cardinia region's population speak a language other than English at home. Key languages other than English include Persian/Dari, Sinhalese, Punjabi, Mandarin, Hindi, Arabic and Spanish.

Casey Cardinia region has more couples-with-children households (43%) and single-parent households (11%) than the Melbourne average. Nearly 55% of residents are families with children.

Compared with other OECD countries, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reports that Australians are struggling to achieve a work-life balance ranking in the bottom third of the OECD countries. ([Australia's Welfare 2017, AIHW, October 2017](#)). Despite satisfactory job performance and earnings, Australians spent less time on leisure and

personal care than those in other OECD countries. ([How's life in Australia? OECD, 2020](#)).

The City of Casey has the second highest Pokies expenditure of Victorian Local Government Areas. There are thirteen venues with Pokies across Casey and another five in Cardinia, with a total 1,237 Electronic Gaming Machines (EGM's). ([Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation, 2020](#)). More than \$138 million dollars was spent on the Pokies in the Casey Cardinia region in 2021-2022.

Our community faces challenges with income, education, employment, occupation and housing. Casey and Cardinia rank 49th and 59th respectively in Victoria for socio-economic disadvantage. ([Population and Housing: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas \(SEIFA\), Australia – 2033.0.55.001 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Revised March 2019](#)). Mortgage and rental stress are common in the Casey Cardinia region.

Casey Cardinia region has some of the highest recorded number of family violence incidents in Victoria. Both Local Government Areas have experienced increases in family violence levels in recent years, with City of Casey up 8.8 percent compared to the previous year. ([Crime Statistics Agency, Family incidents, March 2023](#)).

Time is a precious resource in our community. More than 93% of residents (15 years+) are employed. Approximately 65% of working people from Casey and Cardinia live in the area but work outside the area.

# The Numbers

Visits total  
**1,674,637**

physical visits **759,721**  
virtual visits **914,916**  
Average per week **32,205**



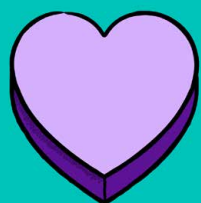
Loans total  
**2,253,335**

physical loans  
**2,190,682**  
and eLoans  
**783,053**

Membership at end of  
2022-2023, we had  
**77,341**

Membership before Cardinia withdrew  
at 30 November 2022 was 100,849.

Membership continues to grow with new members  
continuously being signed up.



eNewsletters  
over **73,125**  
subscribers

Online  
programming  
**youth 869**  
attendees to 76  
online sessions  
**adult 145**

attendees to 16  
online sessions.

Note: We observed a  
shift of participation  
this year from online to  
in-person programs as  
community confidence  
returned post-  
pandemic.

Total items  
**digital -27,027**  
(eAudio and eBooks)  
**physical - 241,954\***

\*includes magazines title issues.

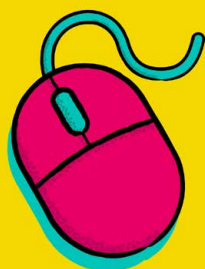


Programs (all)  
**youth - 49,500**  
attendees over 1,990 sessions  
**adult 8,599**  
attendees over 1,068 sessions



**LOTE items  
8,547**

in Chinese, Hindi,  
Panjabi, Persian  
and Sinhalese



Internet bookings  
**55,363**



Wi-Fi  
sessions  
**91,164**

**458,787**

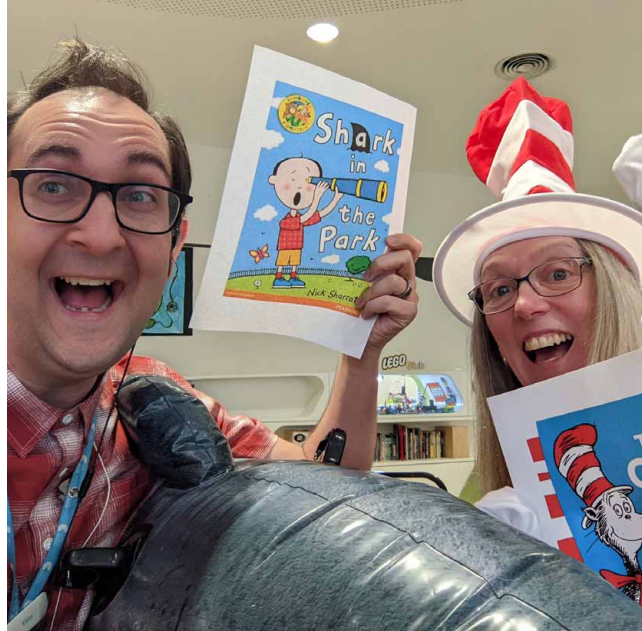
Website visits  
New Connected  
Libraries website  
was launched in  
June 2023.



Note – statistics for 2022-2023 are challenging to compare when interpreting with previous year's performance due to the withdrawal of Cardinia on 30 November 2022.



# Events Calendar



## **Casey Winter Arts Festival**

June – July

## **Naidoc Week**

3–10 July 2022

Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!

## **Library and Information Week**

25–31 July 2022

Rewrite, Renew, Reimagine

## **National Science Week**

13–21 August 2022

Glass more than meets the eye

## **CBCA Book Week 2022**

20–26 August 2022

Dreaming with Eyes open

## **Adult Learners Week**

1–8 September 2022

## **Archibald Prize at Bunjil Place**

3 September–16 October 2022

## **Loud at the Library**

26 September–2 October 2022

## **Celebrate Doveton**

30 September 2022

## **Ageing Positively and Seniors Month**

October 2022

## **16 Days of Activism - Orange the World**

25 November–10 December 2022

## **Christmas/ End of Year celebrations**

December 2022

## **Big Summer Read**

1 December 2022–31 January 2023

## **Library Lovers Day**

February 2023

## **International Women's Day**

8 March 2023

## **National Simultaneous Storytime**

24 May 2023 - The Speedy Sloth

## **Reconciliation Week**

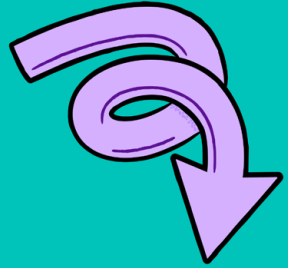
27 May – 3 June 2023

Be a voice for generations

## **Refugee Week**

18–24 June 2023

# A Year of Significant Change



## Withdrawal of Cardinia Shire

This has been a year of significant change for Casey Cardinia Libraries – now trading as Connected Libraries. While navigating the post-pandemic landscape of health, economic and social impacts that have followed two years of lockdowns, our Corporation has made big steps through a journey of transformation.

In September 2021, our member councils City of Casey and Cardinia Shire agreed to dissolve the Casey Cardinia Library Corporation (CCL). The decision was made due to several contributing factors, most notably the significant growth and change in demographics in Casey and Cardinia communities, along with new legislation in the Local Government Act 2020, which requires the current regional library model to be changed by 2030, and the timely need for a review of the existing model. Both Councils undertook a market testing exercise, and due diligence to explore the best models of service for their libraries in the future.

After the Councils explored all options, they landed on different pathways for their respective services.

Cardinia resolved to withdraw from the Regional Library Agreement and instead partner with other Councils through Myli – My Community Library Ltd. Myli is known for delivering high quality contemporary library services for the communities of Baw Baw, Bass Coast and South Gippsland Shires. Myli completed its transformational journey to become a not-for-profit charity and beneficial entity under the

new Local Government Act in 2021. Cardinia completed the process of withdrawing from CCL on 1 December 2022. Pakenham, Emerald and the Cardinia Mobile library branches are all now affiliated with Myli.

Casey, with the support of Cardinia and the CCL Board, decided to continue with CCL as their library provider. Casey also resolved to support CCL to make the necessary transition to a corporate entity that complies with the Local Government Act 2020 over coming years.

With the decisions made on a pathway forward by each member Council there was a requirement to transition three library branches and a proportion of our workforce to Myli, and to create efficiencies with the remaining service.

Following Cardinia's withdrawal from the service, the CCL Executive led a broad service review and change process largely relating to the size and structure of the Connected Libraries workforce, to align with available funding from State and Local Government and future community needs.



## Rebrand

In December 2022, CCL asked the Casey community for their ideas on what to call their library service moving forward.

More than 750 responses were received in less than ten days. Many of those suggestions included the words “connected” or “connect” as part of the library name - so we listened. Connected Libraries is now our new trading name and there’s an exciting new brand to go with it. The new look and feel reflects our local library service, which is modern, forward-thinking and focuses on connecting people with information and each other. The brand is colourful and fun. It reflects the vibrance of our community, and the huge variety of programs and services on offer in our libraries.

## Regional Library Agreement and Local Law

Along with an update to our trading name, our library Board, member Council and the Minister for Local Government endorsed updates to our key Governance documents - the Regional Library Agreement and Local Law No.1 - to reflect the withdrawal of Cardinia and to allow us to continue to manage the corporation under the Local Government Act 1989.

## Independent Board Members

With the update to our Regional Library Agreement, and resignation of the Cardinia representative from the CCL Board, came the recruitment of two new Non-Executive Independent Board members who will be in place from the beginning of the new financial year. Penny Holloway and Helen Partridge will join the Board from 3 July 2023.

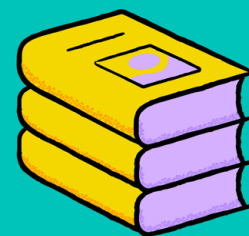


# Our Performance





# 1. Gather and Learn



Create safe, welcoming spaces that provide free access to information, knowledge and resources.

## Creating safe, accessible spaces

### NDIS Partnership

Connected Libraries conducted a review of accessibility in our branches with the support of NDIS workers. We made improvements to signage, accessible resources like keyboards, installing hearing loops and providing communication boards/magnifying sheets.

Our online images all have text tags that makes reading our website and social posts easier for people using aids.

We have made sure that there is wheelchair access available for people using library computers, self-loan kiosks and library catalogues.

### NDIS at Storytime

Author Julie Dascoli visited Bunjil Place Library for Storytime in December to share the book she wrote about making friends at school (with a focus on children with autism) called 'That Boy'. She also discussed her work as a disability carer in schools and how the story in the book is based on a real-life student.

This visit coincided with Nicole James from Link Health who came to talk with parents about the NDIS and how to seek support for their children if needed.

Our work with Link Health is one example of how health providers can share information with families who often don't approach their services directly, promoting better outcomes for our community.

*"It was very helpful to learn about the NDIS support. I would like to learn more.*

**- Bunjil Place Library storytime parent**

*"Making a connection between Link Health and Storytimes is a very good way to spread the word about the NDIS and support it provides in a safe and welcoming environment.*

**- Nicole James Link Health employee**

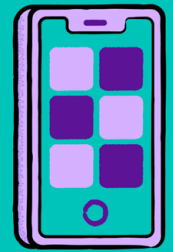
### Quiet Hour

As part of our ongoing commitment to provide an inclusive and accessible service, the provision of a low sensory environment across all library branches was launched on 29 July.

Between 9-10am every Friday, our branches offered a "Quiet Hour". We invited community to experience our libraries during this time while lights were dimmed, phones and PC volumes turned down, movement reduced and conversations kept low.

*"This first neurodiverse friendly hour has been long awaited by me. Local PHD student with autism can now be in the library for more than 10 minutes Please expand this.*

**- Pakenham Library member**



# Bridging the Digital Divide

## Fountain Gate Community Hub

The library engaged in a weekly technology outreach program to the Fountain Gate Community Hub. By partnering with the Hub we were able to provide our skilled services to culturally and linguistically diverse community members.

We supplied tailored content and laptops and iPads, while the Hub gathered interested participants as well as assisting with translating and provision of childcare services.

From July to December the program worked on digital literacy skills including: emails, travel - google maps and the PTV app, basic Microsoft skills, online security and library resources including digital resources like Press Reader, Learning English and AussieDriver.

Some participants went on to engage in other library programs as a result of this success, including Women's Preventable Health in December.

*“They [the participants] were very happy that they had someone to help them understand the digital world and they know now how important technology is. They are keen to continue learning to get skills for future work.*

**- Mehnaz, Fountain Gate Community Hub Coordinator**

## Doveton

Doveton Digital Day Out was a wonderful collaboration supporting digital literacy opportunities for local community. Hosted at the Autumn Place Hub and Doveton Library, the event was supported by a range of service providers including: City of Casey Digital Services and Open Data Platform, Narre Warren Neighbourhood Learning Centre, City of Casey Job Advocates, Minnovation Technologies, Casey Tech, Lively, Deakin University and NBNCo, who all provided advice and helped attendees learn and grow their technology skills. Local community members enjoyed fun technology play, augmented and virtual reality and 3D printing.



# Literacy and Learning

## Bunjil Place Writing Groups

In December, Bunjil Place Library hosted its first end of year showcase for our two Bunjil Place Writing Groups. Members read their writing pieces to a large and appreciative audience.

Our Writing Groups are welcoming and inclusive, involving a broad demographic of writers aged between 19 to 86 years, all wanting to cultivate their writing and their connections to each other.

At this first showcase event, members felt vulnerable to share their pieces, but afterwards proud of their bravery. Fostering a love of literature, creativity and reading is essential work for Connected Libraries, and we are proud to support these groups of creative individuals.

## Book Matters Podcast

Connected Libraries podcast Book Matters has taken twelfth spot in a list of the top 42 podcasts and is testament to the hard work and passion of our small production and broadcast team. The Book Matters podcast inspires adults to share their passion for books and reading through author interviews and reading recommendations.

In under three years the team has managed to reach 3,500 podcast downloads. To put that in perspective that breaks down to almost 100 downloads per month over three years. This success story was shared on the statewide stage at the Public Libraries Victoria triennial conference in May.

## Authors in Conversation

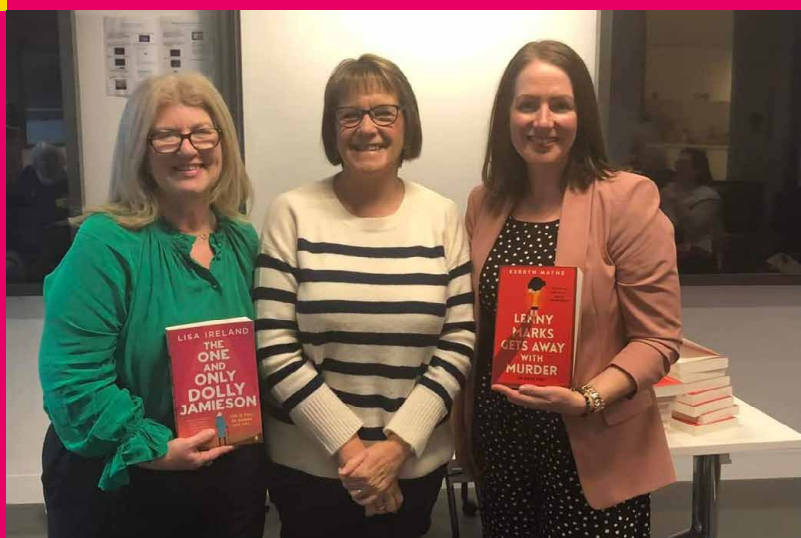
Authors in Conversation events featured a range of talented writers throughout the year and are a key element of our Reader Development programming.

## In Conversation with Rachael Johns

In November, popular West Australian and leading Australian Women's Fiction author Rachael Johns came to Bunjil Place Library to speak about her writing life and her new novel 'The Work Wives' which had just been released and was part of our Top Titles Collection. She is a prolific author with 25 titles to her name. A spirited discussion with Rachael was hosted by team member Janine (one of our own most prolific readers and connector with authors!) to the delight of our book-loving audience.

## In Conversation with Lisa Ireland and Kerryn Mayne

This was our second In Conversation using the author-interviewing-author interview format and it was a delightful event. Authors Lisa and Kerryn had a prior relationship and natural rapport. They spoke about their latest works, and Robinsons bookshop representatives sold signed copies of their books to enthusiastic audience members.





# STEAM

## Make-Do World Building

The Make-Dos are cardboard construction tools that allow children to imagine and build a new world.

During the September school holidays we had a delightful 75 Scallywags (newbie pirates) step aboard the Jolly Roger and claim some booty (make pirate hats and swords). In the April holidays the Cranbourne team welcomed budding knights and royalty to the branch for an afternoon of medieval fun, using the Make-Dos to build a castle with essential accessories – swords, shields, sheaths and of course crowns.

## Stop Motion

This fantastic program held at Bunjil Place Library explored the principles of filmmaking and combining still imagery to create motion.

Tables were set up with an iPad, a book stand and two Lego figures. Children were asked to use one Lego figure and make it walk across the screen from left to right. Then they learned how to manipulate objects at different speeds – participants had to put two Lego figures side-by-side and have a race. The next task was voice recording where the children made their two figures talk to each other. They mastered a free app so they could take their new skills home and create movies for fun. The children really had fun and learned a very easy activity to do despite never having done stop motion before – a great program supporting technology, engineering, art and mathematics.



## Eco Art

Eco Art ran at Cranbourne Library this year. Preschool and Primary aged kids got their hands dirty in the fun and mindful session, finding new scents, textures and shapes while creating a story. They were excited to play with the different autumn plant life and so proud to take home an art piece to share with their families. We also promoted our 'Seed Library', available to use at all our branches. This enabled the families to take their experience 'full circle' with the opportunity to create new plant life at home.

*“The families and children really appreciated the opportunity to get a “little” messy! I spoke to them about how mindfulness and connection to nature is so wonderful and having this opportunity to also explore a creative element really tied the experience together. The adults were so grateful to be part of the program*  
**– Jadine, Children and Youth team member**

## Australian Ballet

Hampton Park Library welcomed the Australian Ballet to work with local kids in the nearby Arthur Wren Hall during the April school holidays. The instructor presented an interactive version of the ballet of 'Sleeping Beauty' in a way that involved the young children. Children enacted various parts of the ballet – a prince, a cat, a wolf. The sessions involved dance, movement and sound. Mood colour lighting in the hall helped too! This was an imaginative session perfect for budding performing artists.



# Our Collections

The library collections provide our community with access to a wide range of physical and electronic items, fiction and non-fiction books, magazines, newspapers and audio supporting their literacy, reading, learning, information and leisure.

The most popular physical collections this year were adult fiction, junior fiction, board books, begin-to-read level books and our Top Titles collection.

We know our community loves digital content, and our digital collections include over 26,000 borrowable e-titles as well as streaming platforms, newspapers and many varied databases.

This year Connected Libraries continued to lend laptops and personal computers to help people access information from home.



## Junior Top Titles

Building on the success of our adult Top Titles range, we released a Top Titles range for junior readers, ensuring that children have quick and easy access to the most popular current titles (these items are non-reservable, only available when you visit the library, and for a 2-week loan). While we added many titles to this collection throughout the year, some new releases included the 156-Storey Treehouse, Cheesy Weird!, Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Di\*per Overload, and Bad Guys 16.

## Big Summer Read – a roaring success in 2023

Over 11,500 children and young people across Victoria set a new summer reading record, logging 133,885 books in this year's Big Summer Read – an increase of nearly forty per cent – or over 37,000 books. Connected Libraries was the fourth highest participating service in the state. Here's how our local readers stacked up:

- 837 individual readers signed up
- 12,582 books read
- 987 entries in the prize draw.

Furthermore, we received generous donations for our prize packs (to award our local winners) from Moonlit Sanctuary, Gumbaya World, Paint a Pot, Lollipops Playland and Bunjil Place Theatre.

We had 129 people join us at Bunjil Place for the Big Summer Read party in February. It was a joy to see so many young people loving their library and reading over December and January. Tim Credible gave a hilarious performance and our team did a great job juggling bookmarks, scavenger hunts and prize handouts for the kids.

Big Summer Read is supported by the Victorian Government, sponsored by Bolinda Publishing and BorrowBox, and delivered in partnership with the School Library Association of Victoria. Statewide prizes of book vouchers and book packs were awarded in partnership with Readings Books. One of the winners of the major prize draw was local student Grace – she won a \$250 Readings bookstore voucher.



# Changes to Interlibrary Loans

Connected Libraries is part of the Public Libraries Victoria shared collections and services agreement.

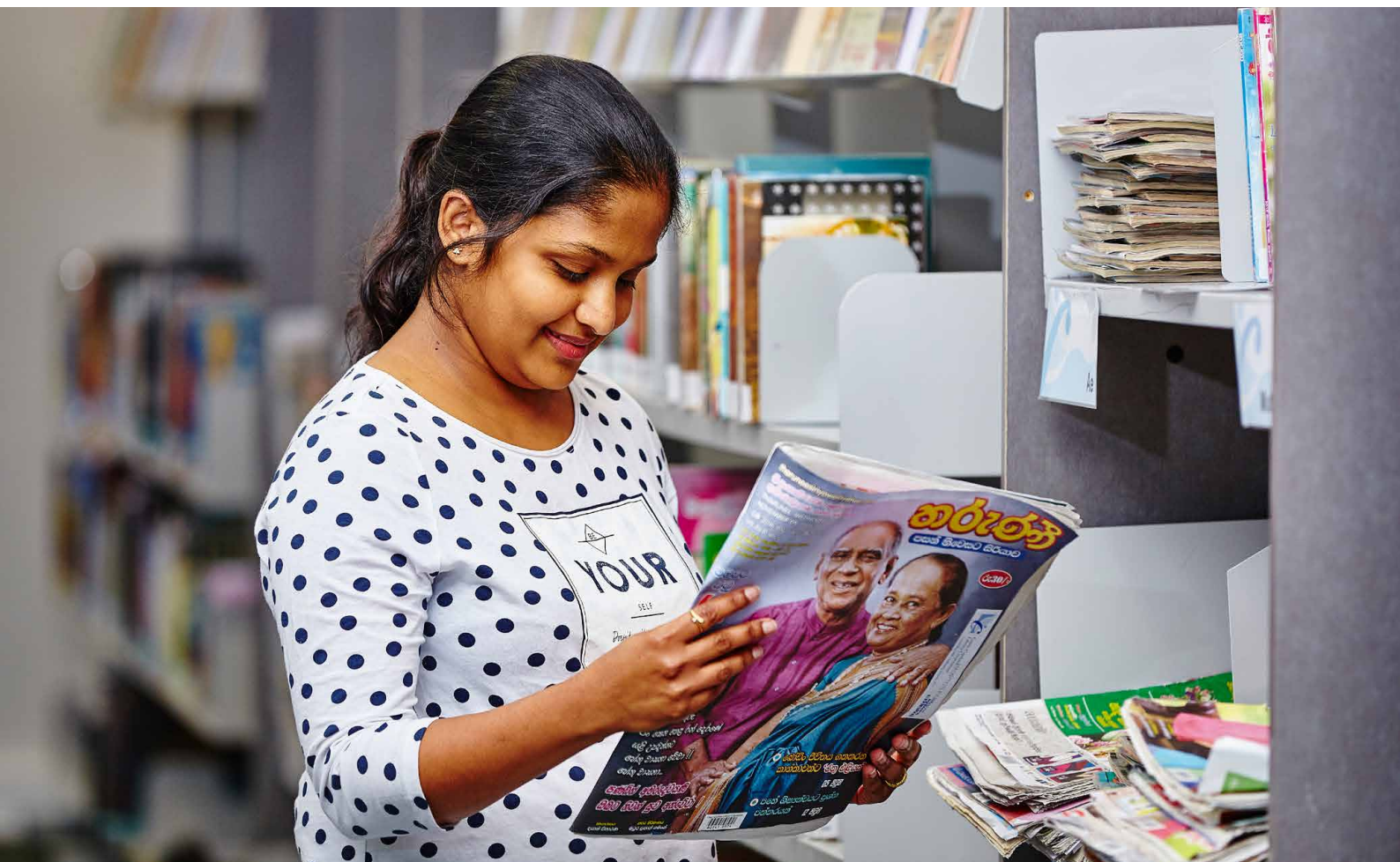
The Victorian State Government's courier service contract that is used by more than 500 organisations including the Libraries Victoria network underwent a tender process and review this year. Services were paused for several months while the review took place, and an alternate funding model was sourced.

Throughout that period, Connected Libraries worked with Myli – My Community Library and other neighbouring services to maintain smaller local exchanges, so that our borrowers did not completely miss out.

From May the service was reinstated, but with some new limitations in place to help manage the load in line with the current costs of courier services:

- a limit of 20 holds per member at any one time
- weekly deliveries of these items (rather than a daily service); and
- new release titles not eligible for interlibrary loans.

Our team and members were relieved to see the service back up and running again.





# This Year's Most Popular Adult Reads



## Adult fiction

- 1 **Exiles**  
by Jane Harper
- 2 **Lying Beside You**  
by Michael Robotham
- 3 **Girl, Forgotten**  
by Karin Slaughter
- 4 **Where the Crawdads Sing**  
by Delia Owens
- 5 **Dirt Town**  
by Hayley Scrivenor



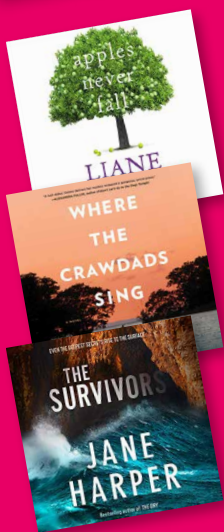
## Adult non-fiction

- 1 **Why Has Nobody Told Me This Before?**  
by Julie Smith
- 2 **Spare**  
by Prince Harry 1984
- 3 **The Barefoot Investor: The Only Money Guide You'll Ever Need**  
by Scott Pape
- 4 **Palace Papers**  
by Tina Brown
- 5 **The Psychology of Money: Timeless Lessons on Wealth, Greed, and Happiness**  
by Morgan Housel



## Adult fiction eAudio

- 1 **Apples Never Fall**  
by Liane Moriarty
- 2 **Where the Crawdads Sing**  
by Delia Owens
- 3 **Survivors**  
by Jane Harper



- 4 **Murder Rule**  
by Dervla McTiernan
- 5 **You Need to Know**  
by Nicola Moriarty

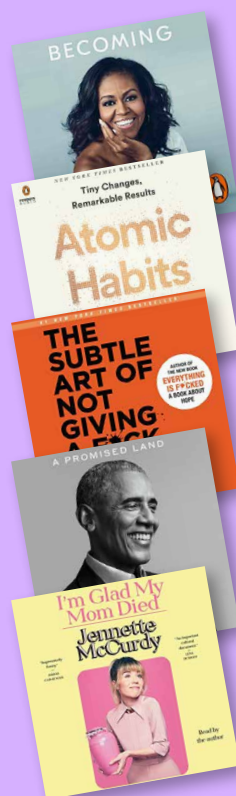


## Adult fiction eBooks



- 1 **Exiles**  
by Jane Harper
- 2 **Apples Never Fall**  
by Liane Moriarty
- 3 **The Last Thing He Told Me**  
by Laura Dave
- 4 **Murder Rule**  
by Dervla McTiernan
- 5 **Tattooist of Auschwitz**  
by Heather Morris

## Adult non-fiction eAudio



- 1 **Becoming**  
by Michelle Obama
- 2 **Atomic Habits**  
by James Clear
- 3 **Subtle Art of Not Giving a F\*ck**  
by Mark Manson
- 4 **Promised Land**  
by Barack Obama
- 5 **I'm Glad My Mom Died**  
by Jennette McCurdy

## Adult non-fiction eBook



- 1 **Atomic Habits**  
by James Clear
- 2 **Nazis Knew My Name**  
by David Brewster, Magda
- 3 **Let Go**  
by Hugh van Cuylenburg

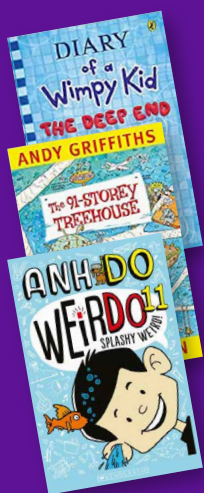


- 4 **Small Habits for a Big Life**  
by Rebecca Ray
- 5 **Ciao Bella!**  
by Kate Langbroek



# This Year's Most Popular Junior Reads

## Junior fiction



- 1 **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Deep End (15)**  
by Jeff Kinney
- 2 **91-Storey Treehouse**  
by Andy Griffiths
- 3 **Splashy Weird!**  
by Anh Do



- 4 **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Meltdown (13)**  
by Jeff Kinney
- 5 **Bad Guys Episode 15: Open Wide and Say Arrrgh!**  
by Aaron Blabey

## Junior fiction eAudio



- 1 **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**  
by J.K. Rowling
- 2 **Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**  
by J.K. Rowling
- 3 **Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**  
by J.K. Rowling
- 4 **Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone**  
by J.K. Rowling
- 5 **Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**  
by J.K. Rowling

## Junior fiction eBooks



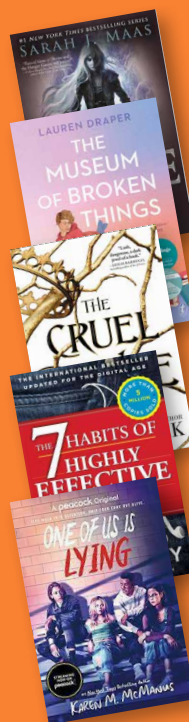
- 1 **Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**  
by J.K. Rowling
- 2 **Really Weird**  
by Anh Do and Jules Faber
- 3 **Tasty Weird**  
by Anh Do and Jules Faber
- 4 **Extra Weird!**  
by Anh Do
- 5 **Even Weirder!**  
by Anh Do

## Young adult fiction



- 1 **The Summer I Turned Pretty**  
by Jenny Han
- 2 **One of Us is Lying**  
by Karen M. McManus
- 3 **A Good Girl's Guide to Murder**  
by Holly Jackson
- 4 **The Final Gambit**  
by Jennifer Lynn Barnes
- 5 **Dragon Ball Super. 15**  
by Akira Toriyama

## Young adult fiction eBooks

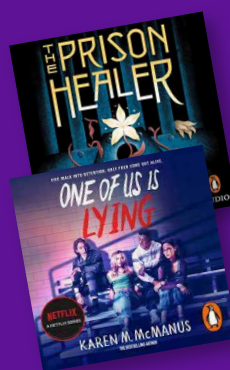


- 1 **Throne of Glass**  
by Sarah J. Maas
- 2 **Museum of Broken Things**  
by Lauren Draper
- 3 **Cruel Prince**  
by Holly Black
- 4 **7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens**  
by Sean Covey
- 5 **One of Us is Lying**  
by Karen M. McManus

## Young adult fiction eAudio

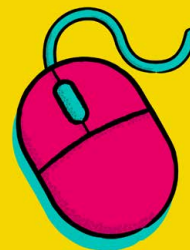


- 1 **Cruel Prince**  
by Holly Black
- 2 **Good Girl's Guide to Murder**  
by Holly Jackson
- 3 **The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes**  
by Suzanne Collins



- 4 **Prison Healer**  
by Lynette Noni
- 5 **One of Us is Lying**  
by Karen M. McManus

## 2. Partnership and Innovation



Strengthen partnerships and encourage innovation to broaden and deepen our impact.

### Libraries and Council teams – working together

#### Casey Kids Carnival

The Connected Libraries youth team had a strong presence at Casey Kids carnival in March. It was the first year the event had been held since pandemic disruptions with a sell-out crowd of over 1,000 people. The event is one of the biggest community days held in Casey and was a great opportunity to promote library memberships to new and existing families.

The team set up a reading corner and read and sang to the children while promoting the Autumn events booklet and our Sid the Sloth membership campaign.



#### Emerald Library and Hills Hub Family Fun Day

The Family Fun Day was supported by the Emerald Library and Hub teams, precinct partners U3A and Men's Shed and offered a broad range of opportunities to discover something new. Both buildings came alive as hundreds of people joined in, enjoying toddler play spaces, fairy tea parties, robotics, Japanese doll painting, giant bubble blowing, percussion workshops, a science show, live music and face painting. There were activities for people of all ages and visitors made the most of the day, enjoying everything on offer at the Hills precinct.





## The Archibald Prize at Bunjil Place

Australia's oldest and most prestigious art award, The Archibald Prize was shown exclusively in Victoria at Bunjil Place providing the library team with a unique opportunity to work with the broader precinct partners to deliver a range of tie in activities and events.

Our Children and Youth team hosted Art Storytime and Rhyme Time sessions that included a tour of the Young Archies, and award-winning artist Neloo Kreltzheim delivered a three-week Acrylic Portraiture workshop for beginners and advanced students. Visitors were encouraged to think outside of the box with a hands-on digital workshop demonstrating our free online resource Creativebug.

We used our strong relationships with publishing bodies across Australia to secure an author talk with author Anne-Louise Willoughby (official biographer of Nora Heysen, the first woman to win the Archibald Prize in 1938 for portraiture and the first Australian woman appointed as an official war artist).

*"I'd like to thank you and the team at Bunjil Place for a truly wonderful experience. I have done many talks around the country at major institutions and would like to say that the beautiful organisation and elegant evening that resulted was such a pleasure to be a part of, one of the best I have participated in. Everything was so well organised and the facilities are absolutely outstanding - a real gift for any guest speaker. The visitors that I spoke to after the event were so impressed with the auditorium and with the extraordinary creative hub that is Bunjil Place."*

**- Anne-Louise Willoughby, author**



## Night MODE at Bunjil Place

Night MODE was created by the Bunjil Place Gallery, Bunjil Place Plaza and Bunjil Place Library teams. Held every three months, the program was modelled on the late-night programs run by National Gallery of Victoria (NGV). Designed to engage with a traditionally hard to reach audience (18–30-year demographic); the program offered late night access to the gallery with music, craft activities, artist talks, food, and more across the Bunjil Place precinct. The Bunjil Place team delivered three iterations of Night MODE, delivering on different themes that connect with the exhibitions on display in the gallery, including the Cycle of Life, Abundance and Portraiture editions.





## Celebrate Doveton

Connected Libraries partnered with the City of Casey and Autumn Place to Celebrate Doveton. Almost 1,000 people visited the library throughout the day, and the atmosphere was alive with fun and laughter. The library had free books to giveaway, a magician's performance, face painting and art classes. We ran a hands-on robot demonstration using sferos and beebots which was extremely popular. Outside the library was a petting zoo and police car for children to sit in and experience. We asked visitors to complete a survey to help us shape future programs and events – a random prize-winner was selected and the winner received a refurbished laptop.

## 16 days of activism – campaign against Gender-based Violence

This year we hosted a program of events in partnership with Casey and Cardinia Councils across all branches, spanning the entire 16 days of the campaign November 25 – December 10.

\$5,000 was granted from Safe & Equal to develop Storytime Kits that supported the development and delivery of Intentional Storytime kits. They contained a curated collection of books and materials promoting gender equality, kindness and respect for differences. The kits also contain support notes for presenters/caregivers. The kits were used as the basis for themed storytime sessions across the 16 Days campaign and made available for loan to families and community services afterwards.

*“Celebrate Doveton is one of the most important events that the library participates in each year. It helps the community recognise that they are valued; and for many, it is one of the only opportunities they have to visit an animal farm, enjoy the experience of having their face painted or see a magician live. To be able to connect this sort of experience back into the library and have people see it as an extension of their learning environment is just wonderful.*

*- Library team member*



# Infrastructure investment and improvement

## Endeavour Hills Library

The City of Casey celebrated a new chapter for the Endeavour Hills Library following the completion of a \$114,000 renewal project at the facility. The project was jointly funded by Council and the State Government and delivered:

- A more welcoming, fully accessible service desk and self-check station
- A dedicated meeting room for study and group use
- Re-purposed floor space after the removal of an old, indoor garden to create extra room for activities and programs.

We wanted to create a more welcoming, inclusive and creative space for all. Students and community groups embraced the new meeting room, furnished by Connected Libraries' partner - Federation University. Our youngest community members now enjoy a newly defined children's area; and the new health and wellbeing corner and gaming zone are popular with older kids and teens.

This project was made possible thanks to a \$54,000 grant from the State Government's through the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program, with Council funding the remaining \$60,000.



## Emerald Library

Upgrades were completed at the entrance to Emerald Library thanks to a grant secured by Cardinia Shire Council to improve access and use of the reading garden. A large permanent shade structure was installed to improve the usability of the space all year round, as well as strategically placed fixed tables where people now enjoy their lunch or place to work outdoors. Two chess tables were installed, along with a new bench seat and large moveable cushions. The Reading garden was made more inviting by the improvements, allowing for more flexibility to deliver outdoor programs and events for children and families.



*“Lovely to have the new meeting room for quiet community use. The set up and renovations are lovely and welcoming.  
- Kate, Emerald Library user*



# Community partnerships

## Seed Library

The Seed Library officially launched across all our branches on 10 October after a successful pilot program at Hampton Park and Pakenham Libraries. Borrowers took up to three different types of seeds each season and were able to return and donate other seeds to help build a sustainable collection. The Seed Library had over 470 members sign up this year. We are grateful to our partner Enliven for supporting this initiative.

## Midsumma Picnic

In January, we participated in the Midsumma Picnic at the Old Cheese Factory in Berwick. The Midsumma Picnic is an inclusive annual event hosted by City of Casey and Casey Rainbow Community to celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community. The event hosted a number of different organisations and services that operate in the City of Casey as well as performances from LGBTQIA+ artists.

This year the library had a stall, where passionate staff talked to community members about the services we offer highlighting our Rainbow Collection (LGBTQIA+ resources), Rainbow bookclub, and online Living Libraries project that documents and archives local LGBTQIA+ stories from the area. It was the perfect opportunity to run a Rainbow Storytime and craft for kids, grab some new members and lend out items from our Rainbow Collection.

## Driver Education

Our six-week Driver Education Program delivered at Hampton Park by SouthEast Community Links supported newly arrived Afghan community members. The program was delivered through a series of workshops and included sessions by Victoria Police, RACV and the Department of Transport. Participants used library laptops to practice the Hazard Perception Test online. We love connecting community to lifelong learning opportunities and supporting settlement needs.

## Headspace

Headspace are one of the largest providers of Mental Health Services in Australia. Casey and Cardinia both have high demand for their services and these centres serve a huge amount of young people. The Headspace centre in Narre Warren can be daunting for newcomers. Visiting Headspace can feel the same as visiting a clinic or hospital. The Headspace team identified Bunjil Place Library as a warm and welcoming space to connect with young people about their services, and make referrals for further support.

The Headspace team ran games in the library every Tuesday afternoon from February to April. This was a great way to capture after school groups who socialise in the library.

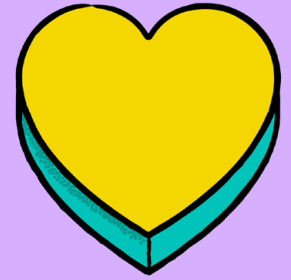
To support young adults (18-25 years) there was a Headspace Drop in Service available on Mondays at the library, with a peer support worker from Headspace available.

*“The Library [is] a nice place (to run events) that’s a little less intimidating for curious young people or for those who might be a bit scared of attending a Headspace centre.”*  
- Caitlin Frost, Headspace





# Our Volunteers



Connected Libraries sincerely appreciates the contributions made by our volunteers and supporters. In 2022-2023 they helped:

- Provide prizes for reading programs and writing competitions
- Promote the value of libraries to their networks
- Deliver the Home Library Service to housebound community
- Assist and run informal programs for library users including Tinies Time, hand crafting, English conversation classes and Code club.

## Home Library Service Volunteers

This year Connected Libraries provided a free Home Library Service (HLS) to 135 members living in the City of Casey and 85 to people living in Cardinia Shire, delivering over 1,700 times. The HLS supports people who are unable to access the library due to illness, age, disability, being housebound, a full-time carer or a resident in a care facility.

This service would not be possible without our Home Library Service Officers, Makaila and Donna and the help of our incredible volunteers who donated their time to select items and deliver loans to our members.

*“I just wanted to thank you for taking the time and making the effort to drop in some talking books for me. These books are essential for me as they help me pass some of the fairly lonely time that I get to spend in hospital. Thanks again to Makaila...  
- John, HLS recipient*



## Friends of Casey Cardinia Libraries

The Friends of Casey Cardinia Libraries (FOCCL) are valued and important supporters of our libraries. One of the most important ways our Friends supported the library is by spreading the word to the whole community that 'Libraries Change Lives'. This group is the first to receive our published strategic reports and news announcements, and are often consulted as key stakeholders when we are conducting surveys about improving our service.

## Farewell - Friends of Doveton Library

In April 2023, we farewelled our loyal Friends of Doveton Library (FODL) volunteers. After many years of support, events, fundraising, fun and friendships, the Friends of Doveton Library were celebrated and thanked at an afternoon tea at Doveton Library. The outgoing committee members were each presented with a gift and a certificate of appreciation, marking their commitment to support library services in Casey.

Over many years this group have delivered a young writer's competition for young people 8 to 15 years. The prize-winners celebration was held in October, attendees heard young people read their entries and receive prizes. Award winning author Andrea Rowe kindly contributed her time and expertise, providing valuable feedback on each individual entry helping to inspire an ongoing love of writing.

### History of the Friends of Doveton Library

- Doveton Library formed in the 1960's from a book exchange at the Doveton Presbyterian Church, officially becoming a library run by the Doveton Library Committee (volunteers) in 1967. In 1973, two years after the Dandenong Valley Regional Library Service began, Doveton Library became their second branch when the

Committee donated all assets to DVRLS.

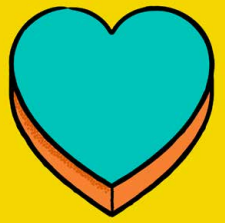
- In 1983, Doveton Library moved to its newly refurbished building in Autumn Place (the building used to be a service station). The Friends group was established at the time of the move – and the Friends had their first meetings and constitution signed in 1984 (their official start year).
- In 2006, the Friends group was petitioning the City of Casey to commit to expansion plans for the Doveton Library.
- In 2009, when the library was extended, a meeting room was built and named in Connie Newman's honour in 2011. Connie had lived in Doveton since 1958 and had been a longstanding member of the Doveton Friends group.
- The Friends ran booksales and events for decades, raising money for the library service, and promoting literacy and lifelong learning to the Doveton Community.
- A most valuable event delivered annually was the Young Writers Competition, open to all junior library members, and was funded, supported and judged by the Doveton Friends.

*(Historical tribute – Kate Davis,  
Local History Librarian)*



*Photo provided by Connected Libraries Local History Archive*

# 3. Community Connection



Contribute to thriving, healthy and inclusive communities.

## Health and wellbeing

### Loud at the Library

Funded through the SLV Libraries Change Lives and PLV Vaccination Ambassador programs, we hosted “Loud at the Library” – a week of loud, unexpected events across the service. Running from September 26 to October 2, Loud at the Library was created to connect with people of all ages to enhance mental wellbeing, promote social connectedness and offer a subtle reminder of the important role of vaccinations.

Raucous events that turned up the volume included Laughing Yoga, a toddler disco, drumming circles, an Open Mic Night with Frock Hudson, a choir, Bollywood dance demonstrations and workshops, live acoustic music from Rogerson, circus workshops and Hooperclass class.



### Tiny Art Show

Modelled on the American public libraries ‘Mini Art Show’ program; our Tiny Art Show fostered creativity on really small canvases in a range of mediums including wool, paint, watercolour and ink.

Hosted at Cranbourne, Emerald, Endeavour Hills, Hampton Park and Pakenham Libraries, the program was wildly popular and due to the high level of engagement, extended out beyond the original timelines. Library visitors were encouraged to vote for their favourite winners across the last week.

Feedback was overwhelming, with many people sharing their delight and enthusiasm for the event. We received 78 entries and the artists of the winning entries received a \$50 art pack.

Our regional winner was Kathleen Kendall – her work was a showstopper.





# Children and Youth

## Children's Book Week

Our staff brought the magic of reading to life during children's Book Week in August. This year's theme, 'dreaming with eyes open' provided a wonderful opportunity to encourage children from birth to get lost in the wonder of storytelling and let their imaginations soar.

More than 1,000 children and their families across Casey and Cardinia were taken on flights of fantasy through story, song and costume, with our always inspiring youth team stepping up the game with some inspirational costumes and displays. With changes in Covid restrictions, for the first time in three years our team was able to take Children's Book Week beyond the library walls, making 22 external visits to childcare centres and schools.

A special thanks to Councillor Brett Owen who visited Hampton Park Library and shared a storytelling of the CBA winning title, 'Jetty Jumping' by Andrea Rowe.



## Wilson Botanic Park Storytime

2023 saw the return of our Storytime in the Park events at Wilson Botanic Park in Berwick. We supported families in the area with the Bunjil Place Library team presenting a storytime in the park on the first Thursday of each month. The event attracted current and new members, making use of the beautiful outdoor spaces of the gardens and the creative and fun storytelling of our youth library team. Groups from local kinders and childcare centres often attended as part of a regular field trip. We valued the support of the Wilson Botanic Park management team who consistently promoted the storytime

through their popular social media page and helped setup every month with their Friends of the Garden group. This program has been a great success drawing big numbers - the first event for 2023 saw a crowd of 76 people join in the fun.

*"We wish it could be on every week, the kids get a lot out of it!"*

**- Friends of the Garden volunteer**

*"It was so much fun today, everyone really enjoyed themselves, lots of energy well done!"*

**- Janelle Sale (Wilson Botanic Park event organiser)**



## National Simultaneous Storytime

Over 300 children and their carers celebrated National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) across our Connected Libraries and out into the community at 11 am on the 24 May. This annual event featured *The Speedy Sloth* by Rebecca Young and Heath McKenzie and promoted the value of reading and literacy across libraries, schools, preschools, childcare centres, bookshops and homes across Australia.

At Cranbourne Library children got the chance to show how “speedy” they were with jumps, runs, bean bag toss and footy handball, alongside our own library mascot Sid the Sloth.

At Hampton Park Library, Senior Constable Brett Owen read the story to students from Noble Park Language School giving children newly arrived to Australia the opportunity to meet a police officer and see a police car in a non-threatening environment. Brett also brought photos of police on horseback and in helicopters and working with police dogs to show students the variety of police work.

Naomi from Doveton Library took NSS to Myuna Farm and over 100 parents and children.



## Orana Community Place Opening

Connected Libraries was at Orana Community Place to celebrate the opening of this new community facility. The centre provides a variety of support services as well as a coffee shop and early years learning centre.

Orana is a 25-minute drive from Bunjil Place and nearly 20 from Cranbourne Library- to date, library support for this community comes through online programming and outreach. It was exciting to meet some of our long-standing code club students in person. Our team was happy to be a part of this event to connect with a part of the community that does not have a nearby library branch.

*“We love Code club. I can join after school and I don’t have to race to the library in the car.”*

**- Kris 12, Code Club student**

## Wetland Birds – With City of Casey Sustainability Team

A joint session was developed between City of Casey’s sustainability team and our library youth team, presenting an interactive talk on the Wetland wildlife of Casey.

The information described ways the community can support local wildlife, ecosystems and reduce damage caused by human interference. Our audience discovered what birds could be found in Casey’s wetlands and children learnt about how to identify birds through a scavenger hunt, feather experiment and bird sorting activity.

## Thank a First Responder Week

June 7 was Thank a First Responder Day, and to celebrate all the great work our first responders do Cranbourne Library had events for an entire week. Keith and Silv from the SES paid a visit to After School Club, Senior Sergeant Nigel from the Police visited Storytime, and Frank and a team from our local Fire Rescue Victoria arrived for Toddler Time. Children and families were so thrilled to learn more about the work the responders do and meeting these real life heroes. The Responders were delighted to receive handwritten messages of thanks from staff and community in return.





## Inclusive Communities

### Kaleidoscope of Cultures

The Kaleidoscope of Cultures outdoor event highlighted the diverse and broad communities of Casey. The library was part of this Council-led event with stalls, activities, live performance celebrating local cultures to entertain both kids and adults. With a high number of families with young children present, it was the perfect place to attract more members to our libraries. Over 100 library bags containing our promotional flyer, Cranbourne Library kids' program trimmings, and the Sid the Sloth stamp bookmarks, were handed out – and some also contained information in local community languages of Singhalese, Panjabi and Hindi.

### Native Bush Gardening

Passionate cooks and gardeners came to the Cranbourne Library fascinated by this opportunity to learn more about Australia's native food plants. They learnt which plants grow best in different gardens, including guidance in growing and propagating native food plants. The session then extended into culinary uses, which included a lovely morning tea of Home baked Lemon Myrtle Anzac biscuits and a variety of teas.

### Bush Playgroup

Meeting every Tuesday for the past five years at the Cranbourne Royal Botanic Gardens (RGB), Bush Playgroup provides indigenous families an opportunity to connect with country and culture through the exploration of language, traditional craft and flora and fauna. Originally facilitated in partnership with Communities for Children (CFC) Cranbourne, the Bush Playgroup was at risk of ending when the CFC funding ceased at 30 June 2022.

Having identified the program as essential to the wellbeing of our local Indigenous community, work began to ensure that the partnership could continue into the future.

With the support of the Cranbourne Library youth team, the gardens have been able to continue to offer the program weekly. The successful transition of this program has allowed for further conversations to take place on the development of an MOU between Connected Libraries and RGB Cranbourne which will capture the cross sharing of training, programs and information to better support our local indigenous community long term.



## Communities of Practice

Hampton Park Library participated in a Community of Practice (CoP) for Early Years services working with children and families of refugee backgrounds.

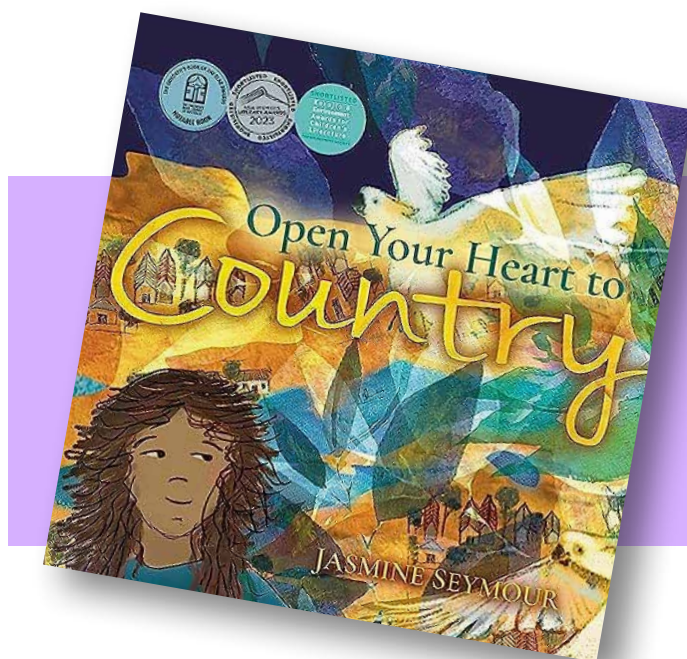
Facilitated by Foundation House, staff participated in workshops and meetings and were provided resources from service providers to build professional development within the early years sector and enhance opportunities for people with a refugee background to engage with services.

The library is a key early years' service provider in the local Hampton Park area. Recently the team have contributed to a new edition of Jeanette Rowe's book 'Whose Animals' - translated into Dari and Samoan, with copies shared throughout early years services and available for borrowing through our library.

## NAIDOC Week

We celebrated NAIDOC Week with events at Bunjil Place and Pakenham Libraries alongside a colouring competition for children, with a winner at each branch receiving a copy of 'Open Your Heart to Country' by Jasmine Seymour and 'My Kind' by Eddie Betts.

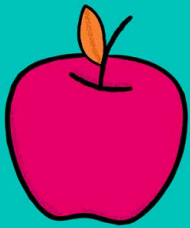
A highlight was a community mural event at Bunjil Place, with artist, teacher and parrdarrama pangenna woman N'dene Riley, guiding an artwork inspired by the message **'Get Up! Show Up! Stand Up!'** 65 people of all ages joined in, and their beautiful works of art were then displayed in the library.



“

*Love, love this venue (Bunjil Place), something for everyone....The library has to be the best I've had the pleasure to explore, 3 stories of magnificent architecture loaded with an endless supply of books, DVDs (Cheryl, community member). Well laid out place for people to meet, learn and enjoy, always something of interest. Caters for all ages which is a real plus. I personally am part of the knitting group that meets every Friday, the community spirit is very strong in this group.*

**- Sandra, Bunjil Place Library user.**



“

*It's great that you do these free activities. We have all the cousins with us and we could all attend. It's wonderful, we might do Tie Dye at home after this.*

– Caitlyn, parent

## Paying it Forward

### International Women's Day Storytime for Children

Recognising the tremendous work of women in the world, International Women's Day was a chance to read stories of women, by women and raise awareness of the significant contributions made by women to the world we live in. In particular we looked at the book 'Girls Can Do Anything!' By Caryl Hart. Children made a crafty paper heart to accompany the storytime

### Asylum Seekers Resource Centre Food Drive

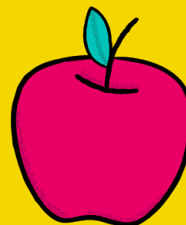
We participated in the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) annual food drive for a second year, raising more than \$2,800 in donations for asylum seekers in need. Coordinated by Connected Libraries team member Sam, a passionate human rights supporter, we delivered more than 60 boxes of food to ASRC. We thank Australia Post for delivering this mighty load for us free of charge.

### Library Lovers Day Donation Drive

In celebration of Library lovers Day 2023 we partnered with The Kimbe Assistance Project to collection donations of brand-new books for primary school aged students and preschool children The project since 2010 has sent more then 8,500 boxes of books, school furniture and equipment, tables, wheelchairs, waling frames and other hospital equipment and aids that have been donated to the people in Kimbe Papua New Guinea.

Our community generously donated over \$4,000 worth of new books that included, junior fiction, secondary textbooks, young adult fiction, picture books and so much more.

## 4. Organisational Excellence



Strengthen our capacity to lead adapt and innovate to meet changing community needs



In 2022-2023 Connected Libraries employed the equivalent of

**77.96 full-time staff** (FTE)

**176 staff** (41 full-time and 135 part-time) were employed across 2022-2023

### Service Review

After the withdrawal of Cardinia from the Casey Cardinia Regional Library Agreement (No.4) on the 30 November 2022, City of Casey became the sole member of the Regional Library Corporation. A service review was conducted between January-June 2023 and a new organisational structure developed. There was a focus on key areas of community need such as services for children/youth, outreach, diverse communities, digital literacy and technology services, and building membership in newly developed areas in Casey South.

Alongside the Service Review, there were several other key projects and activities including the rebrand and search for a trading name, the updating of our Regional Library Agreement and Local Law, and the recruitment of new Independent Board members.

The process of change was challenging, particularly in light of the pandemic, post-pandemic and organisational change announcements that had buffeted the workforce in previous years. Our team were feeling the effects of the previous years before the challenge of the current changes had even begun. The Connected Libraries Executive are proud of and grateful for the endurance, resilience and values-driven performance that the library team has shown throughout the process, and look forward to the changes coming to life over the coming year, making a real difference to our members.

### Representation on Public Libraries Victoria (PLV) and the Libraries Victoria Consortium

There is a strong network of professional groups for Victorian Public Libraries, headed by the peak body PLV. The Connected Libraries team represented our service on the following Special Interest Groups in 2022-23:

- PLV Executive, and Managers group
- Reader Development
- Library Operations
- Multicultural Services
- Marketing and Advocacy
- Collections
- ICT
- Home Library/Outreach Services
- Childrens and Youth Services
- Libraries Victoria (Shared Collections and services Consortium)
- VALA (Libraries, Technology and the Future)



# Our Key Measures

Connected Libraries used the following measures to track our performance in 2022-2023.

Measure	Actual 2020/2021	Actual 2021/2022	Projections 2022/2023*	Actual 2022/2023
<b>Engagement</b>				
<b>Utilisation of Technology</b> (Wi-Fi, Public PC user in branch)	107,171	100,188	266,050	146,527
<b>Net Promoter Score</b> (Community Survey)	76	75.5	65	N/A
<b>Memberships**</b>	105,930	99,264	89,400	77,341
<b>Visits</b>				
<b>Visits – physical</b>	435,263	507,704	983,450	759,721
<b>Visits – virtual</b>	847,362	939,118	793,050	914,916
<b>Total visits</b>	1,282,625	1,446,822	1,776,500	1,674,637
<b>Program and events attendance</b>	36,345	33,279	58,650	58,099
<b>Collection</b>				
<b>Loans</b> (total physical and digital)	2,055,629	2,216,273	2,125,000	2,253,335
<b>Turnover rate – physical items</b>	4.5	4.6	7.0	
<b>Turnover rate – digital items</b>	21.1	32.6	20.0	
<b>Physical quality of library collection</b> (age of collection - less than 5 years)	66.2%	69.7%	68.0%	
<b>Cost of Delivery</b>				
<b>Cost of library service per capita</b>	\$23.20	\$23.82	\$23.99	
<b>Cost of library service per visit</b> (total expenditure)	\$27.12	\$9.79	\$10.89	

\* Revised projections from those presented in the Library Plan 2021 – 2025 (Updated April 2023). Revised projections for 2023/23 were based on 5 existing branches in the City of Casey and include Cardinia Shire branches (Emerald, Pakenham and the mobile library service) for 5 months (July to November 2022)..

\*\* Membership database impacted by the split in membership when Cardinia Shire withdrew on 30 November 2022.

## For more detail:

- Local Government Reporting Framework measures go to [City of Casey](#) websites
- Key Performance Indicators can be sourced from the [Annual Survey of Public Libraries](#)
- Australian Library and Information Association ([ALIA](#)) [Guidelines, Standards and Outcome Measures for Australian Public Libraries -2020](#)

# Funding Partners, Philanthropy and Donations



Connected Libraries is largely funded through contributions from City of Casey, Cardinia Shire Council (to 1 December 2022) and the Victorian State Government. We also receive in kind and financial support from local businesses and community organisations.

Connected Libraries are grateful to partners who support our mission to encourage lifelong learning, increase literacy and health and wellbeing, and build strong, resilient communities across the Casey Cardinia region.

Connected Libraries is endorsed by the Australian Tax Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR). We welcome bequests, donations and sponsorships.

We are deeply thankful to those members of our community who have considered or committed a bequest to our library service to benefit the community.

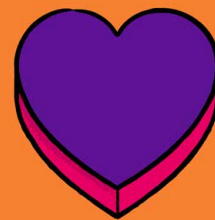


“

*Today we came in to print information and fix up our library cards.  
We were welcomed with friendly helpful staff.  
It was a joy to enter the library. What an amazing public service.  
Thank you to the wonderful staff.*

**- Fiona, Bunjil Place Library user**

# Thank you, we are grateful

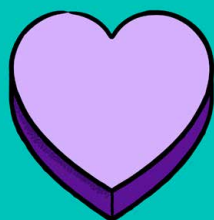
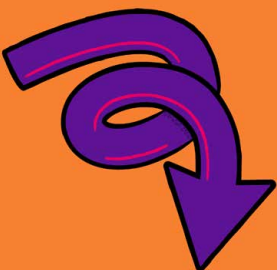


Casey Tech  
Federation University  
Monash Health  
YMCA  
Aligned Leisure  
AMES  
Andrews Centre, Endeavour Hills  
Arthur Wren Hall Management,  
Hampton Park  
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre ASRC  
Australian Library and Information  
Association (ALIA)  
Australian Taxation Office (ATO)  
Australia Post  
Autumn Place Community Hub  
Balla Balla Community Centre  
Be Connected Grant funding  
Berwick Mechanics Institute  
Bunjil Place Precinct Partners  
Casey Aboriginal Gathering Place  
Casey North Information and  
Support Services  
Casey Rainbow Community  
Catalyst Training  
Chisholm Institute  
City of Casey Digital Services and  
Open Data Platform  
City of Casey – Job Advocates  
Community Information and Support  
Cranbourne Inc. (CISC)  
Cranbourne & District Community  
Services Group (CDCSG)  
Cranbourne West Community Hub  
Dandenong and District Aborigines  
Co-Operative Limited (DDACL)  
Doveton College  
Doveton Eumemmerring  
Township Association  
Doveton Neighbourhood  
Learning Centre  
DSS – Australian Government  
Department of Social Services  
Eastern Regional Mental Health  
Association (ERMHA)  
Emerald Arts Society

Emerald and District Lions Club  
Emerald Hills Hub  
Endeavour Hills Town Square  
Endeavour Hills Shopping Centre  
Endeavour Hills Neighbourhood House  
enliven Enhancing Social Health:  
Food from Home  
Escabags  
Family Life  
Friends of Casey Cardinia Libraries  
Friends of Doveton Library  
Follow Bless Collective  
Greater Dandenong Libraries  
Grow Australia  
Gumbaya World  
Hampton Park Community Gardens  
Hampton Park Community House  
Hampton Park Youth Services  
Holy Family Doveton  
Jobs Victoria  
Justices of Peace  
Kaye Charles Real Estate Emerald  
Libraries After Dark  
Linkedin Learning Partnership with  
Casey Cardinia  
Local Community Houses and  
Community Groups across the  
Casey Cardinia Region  
Local History Societies  
Local Maternal Child Health  
Centres, Childcare and Kindergartens  
and schools.  
Lollipops Playland  
Max Employment  
Men's Shed  
Moonlit Sanctuary  
Myuna Farm  
Narre Warren & District Family  
History Group Inc  
Neighbourhood and Learning Centres  
across the Casey Cardinia Region  
Orange Door  
Paint a Pot  
Pakenham Gazette

Pakenham Living and Learning Centre  
Peninsula Community Legal Centre  
(PCLC)  
Public Libraries Victoria  
Readings Books  
Reclink  
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria,  
Cranbourne  
Salvation Army  
(Doveton and Pakenham)  
Save the Children Australia  
School Library Association of Victoria  
Share the Dignity  
Sikh Community  
Spectrum Real Estate  
South East Local Learning and  
Employment Network (SELLEN)  
Springvale Learning and Activity  
Centre (SLAC)  
Springvale Monash Legal Services  
(SMLS)  
Star News  
State Library of Victoria  
Southeast Community Links  
South East Yoga  
Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre  
(SMRC)  
The Andrews Centre  
The Emerald Messenger  
The General Food Store, Emerald  
Transit Soup Kitchen and Food  
Support  
U3A – Cardinia, Casey, Cranbourne  
and Emerald  
Uniting Church – Romina Perera  
VACCA - Victorian Aboriginal Child  
Care Agency  
WAYSS – Homelessness  
Wellsprings for Women  
Women's Friendship Groups  
WIRE (Women's Information and  
Referral Exchange)  
Woolworths Dandenong South  
Writers Victoria





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1800 577 548



# Connected Libraries Annual Financial Report

For the year ended 30 June 2023

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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*), and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*, the Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.



Mrs Emily Ramaswamy - CPA

**General Manager, Finance**

DATE: 30th October 2023

LOCATION: Bentleigh East, VIC 3165

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of Casey-Cardinia Libraries (the Corporation) for the year ended 30 June 2023 and the financial position of the Corporation as at that date.

As 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 Board of the Corporation and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulation 2014* to certify the financial statements in their final form.



Penny Holloway

**Chairperson**

DATE: 30th October 2023

LOCATION: Highett, VIC 3190



Miguel Belmar

**Board Member**

DATE: 30th October 2023

LOCATION: Melbourne VIC 3000



Beth Luppino,

**Chief Executive Officer**

DATE: 30th October 2023

LOCATION: Berwick, VIC 3806

# Independent Auditor's Report

## To the Board members of Casey-Cardinia Library Corporation

<b>Opinion</b>	<p>I have audited the financial report of Casey-Cardinia Library Corporation (the corporation) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• balance sheet as at 30 June 2023</li><li>• comprehensive income statement for the year then ended</li><li>• statement of changes in equity for the year then ended</li><li>• statement of cash flows for the year then ended</li><li>• statement of capital works</li><li>• notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies</li><li>• certification of the financial statements.</li></ul> <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>
<b>Basis for Opinion</b>	<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 APES 110 <i>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>
<b>Other Information</b>	<p>The Board members of the corporation are responsible for the Other Information, which comprises the information in the corporation's annual report for the period ended 30 June 2023, but does not include the financial report and my auditor's report thereon.</p> <p>My opinion on the financial report does not cover the Other Information and accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the Other Information. However, in connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the Other Information and in doing so, consider whether it is materially inconsistent with the financial report or the knowledge I obtained during the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the Other Information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.</p>

<b>Board members' responsibilities for the financial report</b>	<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>
<b>Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report</b>	<p>As required by the <i>Audit Act 1994</i>, 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.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board members</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>



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<b>Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report (continued)</b>	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.
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MELBOURNE  
30 October 2023

Travis Derricott  
*as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria*

## Comprehensive Income Statement

### For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Income</b>			
Contributions - monetary Member Councils	2.1	9,083,431	8,772,499
Contributions - monetary Government	2.2	2,441,949	3,059,758
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of equipment	2.3	(1,856)	(2,536)
Other income	2.4	205,708	144,168
<b>Total income</b>		<b>11,729,232</b>	<b>11,973,889</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employee costs	3.1	9,013,510	8,832,200
Materials and services	3.2	931,517	1,319,918
Depreciation and amortisation	3.3	1,174,847	1,428,471
Other expenses	3.4	418,483	462,098
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>11,538,357</b>	<b>12,042,687</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>		<b>190,875</b>	<b>(68,798)</b>
<b>Total comprehensive result</b>		<b>190,875</b>	<b>(68,798)</b>

The above comprehensive income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**Balance Sheet**  
As at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4.1	313,493	454,162
Trade and other receivables	4.1	119,707	64,491
Other financial assets	4.1	2,500,000	3,500,000
Inventories		722	4,111
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>2,933,922</b>	<b>4,022,764</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Plant and equipment	5.1	3,277,465	4,256,682
Right-of-use assets	4.5	-	111,551
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>3,277,465</b>	<b>4,368,233</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>6,211,387</b>	<b>8,390,997</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	4.2	396,550	732,829
Unearned Income/Revenue	4.2	209,162	6,985
Provisions	4.3	1,116,247	1,747,944
Lease Liabilities	4.5	-	26,907
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>1,721,959</b>	<b>2,514,665</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Provisions	4.3	92,519	111,920
Lease Liabilities	4.5	-	89,314
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>92,519</b>	<b>201,234</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>1,814,478</b>	<b>2,715,899</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>4,396,909</b>	<b>5,675,098</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Members contribution on formation	8.3	1,562,887	2,051,239
Accumulated surplus		2,834,022	3,623,859
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>4,396,909</b>	<b>5,675,098</b>

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



**Statement of Changes in Equity**  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

			Accumulated	Member
	Note	Total	Surplus	Contribution
2023		\$	\$	on Formation
				\$
Balance at beginning of the financial year		5,675,099	3,623,860	2,051,239
Withdrawal of Cardinia Shire Council	8.3	(1,469,065)	(980,713)	(488,352)
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		190,875	190,875	-
<b>Balance at end of the financial year</b>		<b>4,396,909</b>	<b>2,834,022</b>	<b>1,562,887</b>

			Accumulated	Member
	Note	Total	Surplus	Contribution
2022		\$	\$	on Formation
				\$
Balance at beginning of the financial year		5,743,896	3,692,657	2,051,239
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(68,797)	(68,797)	-
<b>Balance at end of the financial year</b>		<b>5,675,099</b>	<b>3,623,860</b>	<b>2,051,239</b>

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

**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

		2023	2022
	Note	Inflows/ (Outflows)	Inflows/ (Outflows)
		\$	\$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Council contributions		9,989,210	9,649,749
Government grants		2,655,646	3,078,056
Interest received		115,933	17,213
Overdue fines		130	44
Other Income		165,007	69,403
Employee costs		(10,433,699)	(8,680,939)
Library materials		(370,789)	(424,245)
IT and communications		(536,284)	(876,113)
Other payments		(867,349)	(659,314)
Net GST refund/(payment)		(887,714)	(720,403)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		(169,909)	1,453,451
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment		3,541	6,030
Proceeds from / (payments for) investments		1,000,000	-
Payments for books, furniture, plant and equipment	5.1	(1,241,214)	(1,435,771)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(237,673)	(1,429,741)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Payments received from Cardinia on withdrawal	8.3	266,913	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		266,913	-
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(140,669)	23,708
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		454,162	430,454
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		313,493	454,162

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

**Statement of Capital Works**  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Capital Expenditure		
Motor Vehicles	-	-
Furniture and equipment	173,421	222,263
Books and materials	1,067,793	1,213,508
<b>Total Capital Works</b>	<b>1,241,214</b>	<b>1,435,771</b>

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



## OVERVIEW

### Introduction

Casey-Cardinia Library Corporation (trading as Connected Libraries from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023) was established under the provisions of Section 196 of the *Local Government Act 1989* by the Minister of Local Government on September 26, 1996. The Libraries' main office is located at 65 Berwick-Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne.

### 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 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*.

### Significant accounting policies

#### a. Basis of accounting

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 thousand dollars unless otherwise specified. Minor discrepancies in tables between totals and the sum of components are due to rounding.

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 determination of depreciation for plant and equipment (refer to Note 3.3)
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 4.3)
- 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 2)
- 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 4.5)
- 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.

**b. Withdrawal of Cardinia Shire Council from the Regional Library Corporation.**

Local Government Act 2020 received royal assent on 24 March 2020, replacing the Local Government Act 1989. Implementation of the new Local Government Act 2020 requires Library Corporations and their Member Councils to find an alternative legal entity governance model. Library Corporations have 10 years to make the transition from 1 July 2021.

In October 2022, the Casey Cardinia Libraries Board endorsed Cardinia Shire Council's decision to withdraw from the CCL Regional Library Agreement, effective 30th November 2022 under Clause 12 of the Regional Library Agreement. In the withdrawal agreement, both councils agreed that any additional costs incurred in the process of the withdrawal would be born entirely by the 2 member councils. Based on average historical contributions to the Corporation, the councils agreed on a percentage to split net assets as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 (refer to Note 8.3).

**c. Service review and rebranding exercise.**

Following the withdrawal of Cardinia Shire Council from the Regional Library Agreement, Casey Cardinia Library Corporation, with the support of the City of Casey, underwent a service review and rebranding exercise. It was agreed between the City of Casey and the corporation that the council would fund the costs incurred in relation to the rebrand and service review (including staff termination benefits paid).

## NOTE 1

### Performance against budget

The performance against budget notes compare the Corporation's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variances. The Corporation has adopted a materiality threshold of the lower of 10 percent or \$50,000 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.

The budget figures detailed below are those adopted by the Corporation's Board on 22 June 2022. The Budget was based on assumptions that were relevant at the time of adoption of the Budget. The Corporation sets guidelines and parameters for income and expense targets in this budget in order to meet the Corporations planning and financial performance targets for both the short and long-term. The Budget did not reflect any changes to equity resulting from asset revaluations, as their impacts were not considered predictable.

At the time of adoption of the budget, a decision regarding the possible dissolution of the RLA or withdrawal of one member council had not yet been made. As such, it was agreed that the 2023 Budget would be produced on the basis that Casey Cardinia Library Corporation would continue to operate as per usual (providing library services for both councils).

These notes are prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

#### 1.1 Income and expenditure

	Budget 2023 \$	Actual 2023 \$	Variance 2023 \$	Variance 2023 %	Ref
<b>Income</b>					
Council grants & contributions	8,926,017	9,083,431	157,414	1.8%	1
Government grants & contributions	3,150,930	2,441,949	(708,981)	-22.5%	2
Interest on investments	15,750	123,287	107,537	682.8%	3
Other income	233,325	80,565	(152,760)	-65.5%	4
Total income	12,326,022	11,729,232	(596,790)	-4.8%	
<b>Expenses</b>					
Employee costs	9,263,795	9,013,510	(250,285)	-2.7%	5
IT & communications	765,500	487,531	(277,969)	-36.3%	6
Library materials	389,692	337,081	(52,611)	-13.5%	7
Programs Promotions	142,215	106,905	(35,310)	-24.8%	8
Administration	529,865	418,483	(111,382)	-21.0%	9
Depreciation and amortisation	1,332,813	1,174,847	(157,966)	-11.9%	10
Total expenses	12,423,880	11,538,357	(885,523)	-7.1%	
			-		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(97,858)	190,875	288,733	-295.1%	



Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Council grants & contributions	Cardinia Shire Council withdrew from the RLA on 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2022, as such \$1.35m was not received in regular member contributions for the 7 months (Dec22-Jun23). \$1.5m was received through Council's commitment to pay
2	Government grants & contributions	Cardinia Shire Council withdrew from the RLA on 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2022, as such Connected Libraries received only 41.7% of the State Government Public Libraries Funding Program funding for Cardinia.
3	Interest on Investments	After 3 years of consistently low interest rates (between 0.1% & 1%) 2023 saw the RBA continually raise the cash rate each month, resulting in higher than expected revenue on term deposits secured.
4	Other Income	Cardinia Shire Council withdrew from the RLA on 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2022, printing, photocopying, library programs & meeting room hire was only received for Cardinia branches for the first 5 months of the year. Connected Libraries was unable to submit for further grants and fundraising programs until after the withdrawal was complete and the new service review & branding exercise had been completed.
Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
5	Employee Costs	The withdrawal of Cardinia translated to large savings in employments costs as 3 library branches were only staffed by Connected Libraries until 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2022. Connected Libraries was able to commence the Service review during the second half of the financial year and began to achieve further savings as a result. However the exit of Cardinia and subsequent service review also, lead to unbudgeted redundancy costs of \$1.5m.
6	IT & Communications	The withdrawal of Cardinia resulted in large savings in communications & software licenses. The staffing restructure of Connected Libraries that commenced in March 2023, prompted the delay of some projects until the next financial year .
7	Library Materials	Library materials expenditure related to Cardinia branches (e.g. magazine & newspaper subscriptions) were only incurred during the first 5 months of the year, resulting in savings of \$52,000.
8	Programs Promotions	Programs and Marketing expenditure related to Cardinia branches (e.g. School Holidays entertainers, brochures, etc.) were only incurred during the first 5 months of the year, resulting in savings of \$35,000.
9	Administration	The withdrawal of Cardinia translated to large savings in administration costs as 3 library branches were no longer being managed by Connected Libraries (e.g. stationary, insurance, freight). The courier service between libraries across the state were suspended for a large portion of the year and a new courier service was funded as a trial, achieving high savings throughout the year in freight costs.
10	Depreciation	Delayed & decreased capital expenditure, with only 5 months of Cardinia included in the purchasing of equipment & collections, resulted in lower than budgeted depreciation.

## 1.2 Capital works

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Variance	
	2023	2023	2023	2023	Ref
	\$	\$	\$	%	

### Capital Expenditure

Library materials	1,246,123	1,067,793	(178,330)	-14.3%	1
Furniture and equipment	196,324	173,421	(22,903)	-11.7%	2
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>1,442,447</b>	<b>1,241,214</b>	<b>(201,233)</b>	<b>-14.0%</b>	

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Library Materials	The withdrawal of Cardinia Shire Council in November 2022, resulted in decreased Capital Expenditure, in line with contributions being received from Council & State Government.
2	Furniture and equipment	Connected Libraries reduced investment in furniture & equipment to reflect the loss of 3 locations in Cardinia requiring equipment.

**NOTE 2****Funding for the delivery of our services****2.1 Contributions**

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Member Council Contributions:		
City of Casey	6,614,089	6,495,948
Cardinia Shire	963,740	2,276,551
City of Casey service review costs funding	666,976	-
Cardinia Shire withdrawal redundancies funding	838,626	-
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>9,083,431</b>	<b>8,772,499</b>

Figures are stated exclusive of GST

Member Council Contributions are recognised on receipt, as there are no performance obligations associated with the contribution.

**2.2 Funding from other levels of government**

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Grants were received in respect of the following:		
Commonwealth funded grants	-	192,094
State funded grants	2,441,949	2,867,664
<b>Total grants received</b>	<b>2,441,949</b>	<b>3,059,758</b>

Figures are stated exclusive of GST

Grant income is recognised at the point in time when the organisation satisfies its performance obligations as specified in the underlying agreement. Where there are no specific funding obligations, income is recognised on receipt.

**2.3 Net gain/(loss) on disposal of plant and equipment**

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Proceeds of sale	3,219	6,030
Written down value of assets disposed	(5,075)	(8,566)
<b>Total net gain/(loss) on disposal plant and equipment</b>	<b>(1,856)</b>	<b>(2,536)</b>

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



## 2.4 Other income

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Overdue fines	130	44
Membership cards	618	378
Photocopying	(72,003)	37,574
Meeting room hire	5,591	2,235
Lost books	11,217	7,706
Library programs	11,223	30,611
Sundry recoverable	125,645	44,222
Interest on term deposits	123,287	21,398
Total other income	205,708	144,168

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

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.

During the withdrawal of Cardinia Shire Council, the organisation saw a derecognition of \$121,022.96 of Printing & Photocopying revenue – representing the refundable balance of Credits available to patrons on 30th November 2022. Printing & Photocopying Credits are available for transfer to Myli , or refund by patrons.

**NOTE 3****The cost of delivering services****3.1 Employee costs**

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Wages and salaries	6,577,370	7,963,704
Travel allowance	12,532	8,221
WorkCover	54,194	59,786
Superannuation	736,649	709,441
Redundancy costs	1,505,602	-
Other	127,163	91,048
Total employee costs	9,013,510	8,832,200

**(i) Superannuation**

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
CCL made contributions to the following funds:		
Defined benefit fund		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	31,901	48,843
	31,901	48,843
Accumulation funds		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	578,137	515,405
All Other Superannuation Funds (Choice of Super)	88,251	62,967
	666,388	578,372
Employer contributions payable at reporting date.	38,360	82,226

Refer to note 8.2 for further information relating to the Corporation's superannuation obligations.

### 3.2 Materials and services

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
IT & Communications	487,531	796,467
Library materials	337,081	385,677
Marketing and promotions	106,905	137,774
Total materials and services	931,517	1,319,918

### 3.3 Depreciation and amortisation

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Books and materials	991,746	1,197,066
Furniture and equipment	176,792	202,584
Motor vehicles	6,309	5,182
Right-of-Use Assets	-	23,639
Total depreciation and amortisation	1,174,847	1,428,471

Refer to notes 4.5 and 5.1 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation and amortisation changes and accounting policy.

### 3.4 Other expenses

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements	14,560	15,000
Auditors' remuneration - RSM - Nov 30th 2022 audit of the special purpose financial statements	15,163	-
Freight - daily transfer of collection between library branches	96,393	125,974
Home Delivery Service	21	28,809
Photocopying, Printing & Stationary	51,998	53,567
Others	240,348	238,748
Total other expenses	418,483	462,098

**NOTE 4****Our financial position****4.1 Financial assets**

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand	250	1,065
Cash at bank	177,274	72,749
Term deposits	135,969	380,348
Total cash and cash equivalents	313,493	454,162
Other financial assets		
Term deposits - current	2,500,000	3,500,000
Total other financial assets	2,500,000	3,500,000
Trade and other receivables		
Prepayments	45,239	55,102
Interest Receivable	16,744	9,389
Other Receivables	57,724	-
Total current trade and other receivables	119,707	64,491

Short-term receivables are carried at invoice amount.

**4.2 Payables and Unearned Income/Revenue****Trade and other payables**

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Trade payables	56,246	354,725
Accrued expenses	340,304	378,104
Total trade and other payables	396,550	732,829



**Contract Liability**

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Grants received in advance - operating	209,162	6,985
Total unearned income/revenue	209,162	6,985

Unearned income/revenue are derecognised and recorded as revenue when promised goods and services are transferred to the customer.

**4.3 Provisions**

	2023	2022
	\$	\$

**Current Provisions**

Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months

Annual leave	365,712	567,091
Long service leave	77,161	318,254
	442,873	885,345

Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months

Annual leave	156,989	191,123
Long service leave	516,385	671,476
	673,374	862,599
Total current employee provisions	1,116,247	1,747,944

**Non-current**

Long service leave	92,519	111,920
Total non-current employee provisions	92,519	111,920

Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:

Current	1,116,247	1,747,944
Non-current	92,519	111,920
Total aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions	1,208,766	1,859,864

The calculation of employee costs and benefits includes all relevant on-costs and are calculated as follows at reporting date.

#### *Wages and salaries and annual leave*

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, and annual leave expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits in respect of employee services up to the reporting date, classified as current liabilities and measured at their nominal values.

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 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. Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability. 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.

## 4.4 Financing arrangements

	2023	2022
	\$	\$

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

Credit card facilities	10,000	35,000
Transaction negotiation authority	500,000	500,000
Total facilities	510,000	535,000

#### Used facilities

Credit card facilities	8,192	7,858
Total Used facilities	8,192	7,858

#### Unused facilities

Credit card facilities	1,808	27,142
Transaction negotiation authority	500,000	500,000
Total Unused facilities	501,808	527,142

## 4.5 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.

## Right-of-Use Assets

2023	Property \$	Other, etc \$
Balance at 1 July 2022	111,551	-
Adjustments due to contract changes	(111,551)	-
Balance at 30 June 2023	-	-

2022	Property \$	Other, etc \$
Balance at 1 July 2021	135,190	-
Adjustments due to contract changes	-	-
Amortisation expense	(23,639)	-
Balance at 30 June 2022	111,551	-

## Lease Liabilities

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows		
Less than one year	-	27,400
One to five years	-	98,183
More than five years	-	-
Total undiscounted lease liabilities as at 30 June:	-	125,583
Lease liabilities included in the Balance Sheet at 30 June:		
Current	-	26,907
Non-current	-	89,314
Total lease liabilities as at 30 June:	-	116,221

When measuring lease liabilities, The Corporation discounted lease payments using an incremental borrowing rate 3.42% for office space leases.

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022, The Corporation and Cardinia Shire Council agreed to terminate the lease of hot-desk space at no financial cost to either party. The Corporation was under no further lease obligations at the time these financial statements were prepared.



## NOTE 5

## Assets we manage

### 5.1 Plant and equipment

#### Summary of plant and equipment

	Carrying Value 30 June 2022 \$	Additions \$	Depreciation \$	Disposal \$	Transferred to Cardinia SC \$	Carrying Value 30 June 2023 \$
Motor Vehicles	28,355	-	6,309	-	-	22,047
Furniture and equipment	453,751	173,421	176,792	5,075	129,963	315,342
Books & Materials	3,774,576	1,067,793	991,746	-	910,546	2,940,077
	4,256,682	1,241,214	1,174,847	5,075	1,040,509	3,277,465

#### Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods

	Depreciation Period Years	Depreciation Rate %	Threshold Limit \$
Books & Materials	6 - 7	15%	Nil Limit
Motor Vehicles	6 - 7	15%	Nil Limit
Furniture & Equipment			
Furniture and Fittings	10	10%	500
Electrical Equipment	5	20%	500
Computer Equipment	3	33%	500
Mobile Devices	2	50%	500

#### 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 and amortisation

Plant and equipment and other assets 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.

**NOTE 6****People and relationships****6.1 Corporation and key management remuneration****(a) Key Management Personnel**

Details of persons holding the position of Board Members or other members of key management personnel at any time during the year are:

**Board Members**

	2023 No.	2022 No.
<b>City of Casey</b>		
Miguel Belmar(Chairperson, from Nov 2021 to Nov 2022)	1	1
Steve Coldham	1	1
Noelene Duff*	1	1
Keri New (from Mar 2022)	1	1
Bernard Rohan (until Mar 2022)	-	1

**Cardinia Shire Council**

Cr Jeff Springfield (Chairperson, until Nov 2021)	1	1
Angie Peresso (Chairperson from Feb 2023)	1	-
Lili Rosic (from Oct 2021 until Nov 2022)	1	1
Cr Jack Kowarzik (Until Nov 2022) *	1	1
Jenny Scicluna (until Oct 2021)**	-	1
Total Number of Councillors & Member Council Delegates	8	9

**Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel**

Beth Luppino - Chief Executive Officer (From Oct 2021)	1	1
Bec Mitchem - Acting GM, Customer Experience (From Oct 2021, until Nov 2022)	1	1
Janine Galvin - GM, Organisational Development (From Mar 2022)	1	1
Daniel Lewis - GM, Digital Operations (Until Mar 2023)	1	1
Emily Ramaswamy - GM, Finance & Digital Operations	1	1
Beth Luppino - GM, Customer Experience (Until Oct 2021)	-	1
Melissa Martin - GM, Organisational Development (Until Feb 2022)	-	1
Chris Buckingham - Chief Executive Officer (Until Oct 2021)	-	1
Sue Brown - GM, Customer Experience & Strategy (Jan-May 2023)	1	1
Avtar Singh - Acting GM, Finance (Until Dec 2021)	-	1
Total Key Management Personnel	14	19

\* Alternate Delegate. \*\* Retired

GM (General Manager)

## (b) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Board Members who are Councillors and Officers nominated by the Member Councils do not receive remuneration from Casey Cardinia Libraries.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Total remunerations of key management personnel was as follows:		
Short term benefits	733,337	860,128
Post employment benefits	71,320	78,006
Long-term benefits	18,333	21,503
Termination Benefits	172,313	-
Total	995,303	959,637

The number of Key Management Personnel whose total remuneration from the Corporation and any related entitled, fall within the following bands:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
\$40,000 - \$49,999	-	1
\$50,000 - \$59,999	-	1
\$70,000 - \$79,999	1	1
\$110,000 - \$119,999	-	1
\$120,000 - \$129,999	-	1
\$140,000 - \$149,999	-	1
\$160,000 - \$169,999	2	1
\$200,000 - \$209,999	1	-
\$220,000 - \$229,999	2	-
\$240,000 - \$249,999	-	1
	6	8

## (c) Remuneration of other senior staff

Other senior staff are officers of Connected Libraries, other than Key Management Personnel, whose total remunerations exceeds \$160,000 and who report directly to a member of the KMP.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Total remunerations of Senior Officers was as follows:		
Short term benefits	215,666	-
Post employment benefits	22,083	-
Long-term benefits	5,392	-
Termination Benefits	318,265	-
Total	561,405	-

The number of Senior Officers are shown below in their relevant income bands:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Income Range:		
<\$240,000	-	-
\$240,000 - \$249,999	1	-
\$320,000 - \$329,999	1	-
	2	-

## 6.2 Related party disclosure

### (a) Transactions with related parties

During the period the Corporation entered into the following transactions with related parties.

The Corporation purchases financial services, catering services and rents office space for the Library's Administration from the City of Casey and Cardinia Shire. The Corporation used the onsite catering services at Bunjil Place Library for events held on site during the year. Contributions are received from both Member Councils and separately disclosed in Note 2.1.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Financial Services paid to City of Casey	36,859	42,350
Catering services paid to City of Casey	3,664	416
LinkedIn Learning Contribution Received from City of Casey	(15,000)	-
Building maintenance costs paid to Cardinia Shire Council	1,430	
Emerald Library Upgrade Project - Contribution paid to Cardinia Shire	-	27,500
	26,953	70,266

#### Funding Allocation

City of Casey	24,090	61,330
Cardinia Shire	2,863	8,936
	26,953	70,266

Figures above are stated inclusive of GST

### (b) Outstanding balances with related parties

The following balances were outstanding with related parties that required disclosure during the 2022-23 year.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Catering services owed to City of Casey	-	3,358
	-	3,358
Funding Allocation		
City of Casey	-	2,487
Cardinia Shire	-	871
	-	3,358

### (c) Loans to/from related parties

No loans have been made, guaranteed, or secured by the Corporation to related parties during the 2022-23 or 2010-22 reporting years.



#### **(d) Commitments to/from related parties**

No commitments have been made, guaranteed or secured by the Corporation to related parties during the 2022-23 or 2021-22 reporting years.

### **NOTE 7 Managing uncertainties**

#### **7.1 Contingent assets and liabilities**

##### **(a) Contingent assets**

There are no anticipated contingent assets.

##### **(b) Contingent liabilities**

###### **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 below. As a result of the volatility in financial markets the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists.

###### *Future superannuation contributions*

There were no contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to any schemes as at 30 June 2023. The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2023 are \$11,660.20.

#### **7.2 Change in accounting 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 2023 that are expected to impact the Corporation.

#### **7.3 Financial instruments**

##### **(a) Objectives and policies**

The Corporation's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables (excluding statutory payables) and bank borrowings. 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 the *Local Government Act 1989*. 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.

Interest rate movements have not been sufficiently significant during the year to have a large impact on the Corporation's year-end result.

### **(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 have exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in the balance sheet. To help manage this risk:

- the Corporation has a procurement policy to manage levels of authority, purchasing limits and contractual time-lines established credit controls for the entities we deal with;
- the Corporation may require collateral where appropriate; and
- the Corporation only invests surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in the Corporation's investment policy.

Receivables consist of business and government sector customers. Credit risk associated with the corporation's financial assets is minimal.

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

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. Credit risk is not considered significant for the Corporation given the minimal dealings with counterparties giving rise to debts receivable.

### **(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:

- Has contractual funding agreements with the Member Councils;

- Has a liquidity portfolio structure that requires surplus funds to be invested within various bands of liquid instruments;
- Monitors 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.

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 + 2% and -2% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end weighted average rates of 4.10%.

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.

#### **7.4 Events occurring after balance date**

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

**NOTE 8****Other matters****8.1 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)**

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	190,875	(68,798)
Depreciation/amortisation	1,174,847	1,428,471
Profit/(loss) on disposal of plant and equipment	1,856	2,536
Non cash movement in lease liability	(4,670)	(27,400)
<i>Change in assets and liabilities:</i>		
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(45,767)	(4,184)
Increase/(decrease) in employee provisions	(1,407,473)	157,311
Increase/(decrease) in payables	(284,761)	(1,692)
Increase/(decrease) in Inventory purchased for sale	3,262	-
Increase/(decrease) in contract liability	201,923	(32,796)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(169,909)	1,453,448

**8.2 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.

## 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% 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

### 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 interim 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.

### 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 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 investigations identified the following for the Defined Benefit category of which the Corporation is a contributing employer:

	2022 \$m	2021 \$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.

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 triennial 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 Return	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	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 \$000	2022 \$000
Vision Super	Defined Benefits	10.0%	31.9	48.8
Vision Super	Accumulation	10.0%	616.5	597.6
All Other Superannuation Funds (Choice of Super)	Accumulation	10.0%	88.3	63.0

In addition to the above contributions, the Corporation has paid unfunded liability payments to Vision Super totalling \$0 paid during the 2022-23 year, (2021-22: \$0).

There were \$0 contributions outstanding and \$0 loans issued from or to the above schemes as 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 are \$11,660.20.

### 8.3 Withdrawal of Cardinia Shire Council from the Regional Library Corporation

	2023 \$
<b>Equity withdrawn by Cardinia Shire Council</b>	
Members contribution on formation	488,352
Accumulated surplus	980,713
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>1,469,065</b>
<b>Distributions to Cardinia on withdrawal:</b>	
<b>Assets Transferred</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	192
Trade and other receivables	8,849
Inventories	127
Plant and equipment	1,040,509
<b>Total assets transferred</b>	<b>1,049,677</b>
<b>Liabilities transferred</b>	
Trade and other payables	(62)
Provisions	(152,264)
<b>Total liabilities transferred</b>	<b>(152,326)</b>
<b>Net assets transferred</b>	<b>897,351</b>
Add withdrawal related expenses (Cardinia SC liable), paid by CCL*	838,626
Less total net cash payments made to CCL (from Cardinia SC) on withdrawal **	(266,913)
<b>Total Net assets / benefits received by Cardinia Shire Council on withdrawal</b>	<b>1,469,065</b>

\* In the Withdrawal Agreement, the City of Casey, Cardinia Shire Council and Casey Cardinia Libraries Board, agreed that Cardinia would reimburse CCL for the relevant expenses relating to the withdrawal of \$838,626.

\*\*Net cash payment Cardinia Shire Council paid net \$266,912 to CCL in the withdrawal process.