YARRA PLENTY REGIONAL LIBRARY

AGENDA PAPER

and

accompanying documents

for the

Ordinary Meeting of the Board

of the

Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service

Thursday 22 October 2026

at

6:00 pm

Thomastown Library

52 Main Street, Thomastown, VIC 3074

TO BOARD MEMBER

Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board Meeting will be held on:

DATE AND TIME:

Thursday 22 October 2026 at 6:00 pm

LOCATION:

Thomastown Library, 52 Main Street, Thomastown, VIC 3074

APOLOGIES:

If you cannot attend the meeting, please email dlamb@yprl.vic.gov.au

by **Monday 19 October 2026**

Chief Executive Officer

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1 Welcome and Apologies

Cr Alison Champion, Banyule City Council

2 Acknowledgement to Traditional Custodians

"YPRL acknowledges the Wurundjeri, Woi-wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of this Land, paying respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and emerging who have resided in the area. We support the Uluru Statement from the Heart."

3 Disclosures of Interest, Declaration of Pecuniary and Conflict of Interest

4 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

4.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 27 August 2026

That the Board resolves to confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 27 August 2026.

Minutes of the Meeting

of

27 August 2026

5 Actions Arising from Previous Meetings

AUGUST 2026

6.3 End of Financial Year 2025/2026 Financial Report

Action:

YPRL will determine what portion of the reported surplus is required to ensure financial commitments can be honoured prior to any discussions on potential utilisation of surplus to member councils. Noting that any utilisation will be applied to support ongoing library services across each council area.

Outcome:

YPRL continues to review where potential opportunities exist to positively impact library service delivery across all three member councils.

Further discussions with member council Executives will take place in the coming months and YPRL will provide an update once concluded.

6 Presentation of General Reports

Presentation of General Reports

6.1 Thomastown Branch Manager Presentation (NOTING)

Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Debbie Lamb, PA to the CEO
Attachments:	Nil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Branch Manager from Thomastown will deliver a presentation outlining branch activities, successes and challenges.

The report is for noting.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board resolves to RECEIVE and NOTE the presentation

REPORT

CONSULTATION

YPRL Senior Leaders

CRITICAL DATES

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All financial implications are included within the body of this report.

STRATEGIC RISKS

SR 07: Organisational Infrastructure - Existing assets fail to meet the minimum service requirements

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

N/A

LINKS TO LIBRARY PLAN

Priority 1: Literacy and Learning for Life
Priority 2: Connection and Wellbeing
Priority 3: Digital Access and Innovation
Priority 4: Organisational Resilience

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Under section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 officers providing advice to the Library must disclose any interests, including type of interest.

The Responsible Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with the relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

END OF AGENDA ITEM

6.2 Formal Adoption of 2025/2026 Annual Report (DECISION)

Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Joyce Halwenge, Senior Manager Operations
Attachments:	1. 2026 YPRL Annual Report 2025 2026 [**6.2.1** - 92 pages]

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report is for Board Members' approval and decision.

YPRL produces an Annual Report detailing the organisation's performance and activities throughout the preceding financial year as per the *Local Government Act 1989*, Section 133 – 134.

The Annual Report monitors progress against YPRL's Library Plan 2025 – 2029 and the draft Annual Report was approved 'in principle' by the Board at the YPRL Ordinary Board meeting on 27 August 2026. The final published copy of the YPRL Annual Report is now presented to the Board to consider and formally adopt.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board resolves to RECEIVE and ADOPT the YPRL Annual Report 2025 – 2026.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Annual Report was lodged with the Minister on 30 September 2026.

Residents of the Cities of Banyule and Whittlesea and the Shire of Nillumbik were advised by Public Notice in The Age newspaper on 5 October 2026 that copies of the Annual Report were available for public inspection on YPRL's website and that it would be considered by the YPRL Board at this October meeting.

CONSULTATION

YPRL Senior Leadership Team.

CRITICAL DATES

22 October 2026 – Meeting to consider the Annual Report and formal adoption of the Report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All financial implications are included within the body of this report.

STRATEGIC RISKS

SR 02: Finance Governance - Failure to ensure financial sustainability
SR 04: Governance - Failure to comply with statutory obligations, policies or governance frameworks
SR 09: Organisational Service Delivery - Risk of failing to meet evolving community needs or Member Council expectations

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 1989, Section 133 (2) and (3) and Section 134(1) and (2)

LINKS TO LIBRARY PLAN

Priority 1: Literacy and Learning for Life
Priority 2: Connection and Wellbeing
Priority 3: Digital Access and Innovation
Priority 4: Organisational Resilience

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Under section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 officers providing advice to the Library must disclose any interests, including type of interest.

The Responsible Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with the relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

END OF AGENDA ITEM

Annual Report 2025–2026





Yarra Plenty Regional Library







Banyule City Council | City of Whittlesea | Nillumbik The Green Wedge Shire | YARRA PLENTY REGIONAL LIBRARY

yprl.vic.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

Yarra Plenty Regional Library acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation, the traditional owners of this Country, paying respect to Elders past, present, and emerging, who have been an integral part of the region's history. We acknowledge the leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the right to self-determination in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect. We support the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Recognition of Diversity and Inclusion

Yarra Plenty Regional Library is committed to equality, inclusivity, and respect. We welcome and respect everyone in our communities irrespective of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, ability, or generation.

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Images

Brett Scapin (*Front cover, pages: 5, 7, 10, 13, 14, 16, 21, 22, 30, 33, 34, 39, 40, 48 and inside back cover)*

SDP Media (*Pages: 26, 27, 36, 37)*

About Us

Yarra Plenty Regional Library (YPRL) delivers public library services throughout Banyule City Council, Nillumbik Shire Council and the City of Whittlesea in Melbourne's north-east. Our network of 11 libraries, 4 community hubs, mobile and outreach services, and extensive digital resources, provides free access to information, technology and ideas to strengthen literacy, learning, digital inclusion and community participation across our region.

Our Corporation

Yarra Plenty Regional Library (YPRL) is a Regional Library Corporation operating on the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation. The Corporation is a partnership between the three Member Councils of Banyule City Council, Nillumbik Shire Council and the City of Whittlesea, with each providing strategic leadership and shared investment to support library services across Melbourne's north-east.

Public library services in our region began operating in Heidelberg from 1899. Heidelberg City Library launched Victoria's first bookmobile service in 1954 and became Heidelberg Regional Library in 1965. Renamed Yarra Plenty Regional Library in 1985, the organisation became a Regional Library Corporation in 1996.

Today, YPRL is one of Victoria's largest regional library services providing library services to a population of more than 450,000 people. The strength of our Member Council partnerships continues to deliver the benefits of regional collaboration, shared resources and long-term planning, ensuring library services remain responsive to the needs of our diverse and growing communities.

Contact Us

Bag 65 Bundoora VIC 3083
(03) 9408 7888
ypmail@yprl.vic.gov.au


Whittlesea
Nillumbik
Banyule
Whittlesea
murnong
Wollert
Mernda
Doreen
Kirrip
Galada
Epping
Mill Park
Lalor
Thomastown
Diamond Valley
Watsonia
Heidelberg West
Rosanna
Bellfield
Ivanhoe
Arthurs Creek
St Andrews
Hurstbridge
Yarrambat
Panton Hill
Christmas Hills
Diamond Creek
Kangaroo Ground
Eltham
Warrandyte North
Library Branches
Click & Collect Hubs
Mobile Library Stops

Our Plan on a Page



Our Vision

Literacy, learning, and connection are essential to community wellbeing and resilience.



Our Purpose

To provide accessible, future-focussed library services that connect people with the knowledge, tools, and support they need to grow, adapt, and participate fully in community life.



Our Objective

To advance equity, participation, and positive impact by delivering inclusive library services that respond to local needs, strengthen digital access and support learning, wellbeing and connection across all life stages.



Our Enablers

Member Councils / Community Voice
Active Partnerships / Empowered Workforce



Our Priorities

Literacy and Learning for Life / Connection and Wellbeing
Digital Access and Innovation / Organisational Resilience



Our Values

Respect for All / Integrity / Service / Empower


MAKING HAPPY THINGS

Message from our Chair & CEO

We are delighted to present the 2025–26 Yarra Plenty Regional Library (YPRL) Annual Report highlighting a year of growth and community impact.

As the incoming Chair and Chief Executive Officer, we thank former Chair Cr Grant Brooker, Chief Executive Officer Jane Cowell and Interim Chief Executive Officer Clem Gillings for their leadership and passionate support of our libraries and the communities who use and enjoy them across the region.

YPRL is a partnership between the Member Councils of Banyule City Council, Nillumbik Shire Council and the City of Whittlesea, with each providing strategic leadership and shared investment to support library services across Melbourne's north-east. This year marked 60 years of service across some of Victoria's most diverse and fast growing communities.

This year we delivered our Library Plan 2025–2029, setting the strategic direction for the library service over the next four years. Developed through engagement with Member Councils, community members, stakeholders and staff, the plan outlines a shared vision for our libraries as trusted, inclusive and future-ready community hubs and social infrastructure supporting reading, literacy, lifelong learning, digital inclusion, social connection and wellbeing.

Demand for our library services continues to grow at pace with an increase in library memberships to over 251,000 and more than 1.6 million visitors across our branches. Collection use grew to over 3 million loans for the first time since Covid-19 while our investment in digital collections saw a 98% increase in digital newspaper use, leading large percentage increases across formats including eBooks, eAudiobooks and digital magazines. Boobook, our digital library collaboration with Whitehorse Manningham Libraries and Your Library Limited, reached a huge 3.3 million loans across the libraries this year.

We expanded our network by opening Rosanna and murnong libraries. Rosanna introduced the network's first podcasting and recording studios, while murnong's co-location with Maternal and Child Health and kindergarten services has established it as an important community hub in the growth corridor of Donnybrook. Capital upgrades at Thomastown, Watsonia and Mill Park libraries, supported through partnerships with Member Councils and the Victorian Government, kept our library spaces contemporary and accessible.

With research from the Grattan Institute showing one in every three Australian children is unable to read proficiently, our role in supporting early years literacy is more important than ever. We delivered Storytime sessions to 94,327 children and their families, welcomed 2,438 new junior members through our Children's Membership Campaign, and promoted children's reading through National Simultaneous Storytime, Children's Day First Nations Storytime, and the Big Summer Read.

We supported digital and media literacy with programs addressing online safety, scams, artificial intelligence, cyber security and misinformation to help build confidence navigating digital environments.

Strong partnerships diversified and amplified our programming offerings. These included Open House Melbourne, Sydney Writers' Festival, FamilySearch, RMIT, Melbourne Polytechnic, Loyola College, Writers Victoria, the Department of Home Affairs, Public Libraries Victoria and many local community organisations.

Community wellbeing and inclusion was strengthened through a range of activities large and small. More than 400 people contributed to our large-scale collaborative exhibition *The World We Can Build*, which celebrated inclusion and belonging. Cards of Kindness invited people to share handwritten messages of support to others in the community, while Libraries After Dark supported free and accessible opportunities for people to connect, learn and engage in community life outside traditional library hours.

YPRL operates in one of Victoria's fastest-growing regions and demand for our services continues to increase rapidly. However, State Government funding for public libraries has not kept pace with population growth, inflation and rising service expectations, resulting in a growing funding gap that is increasingly being met by local councils. Public libraries play a vital role in supporting literacy, digital inclusion, lifelong learning and community wellbeing, and YPRL will continue to advocate alongside Public Libraries Victoria and our Member Councils for sustainable funding that reflects the needs of growing communities. We thank Banyule City Council, Nillumbik Shire Council and the City of Whittlesea for their ongoing investment in public libraries and their advocacy for sustainable State Government funding.

As part of our sector advocacy efforts, we welcomed ABC Radio Melbourne to Mill Park Library for a week-long Radio in Residency project. Through this, we created opportunities for library advocates, community organisations and everyday library users to share the importance and impact of libraries with a large audience across Victoria.

This report highlights the broad range of work our libraries do to provide opportunities for people at every life stage. None of it would happen without the expertise, enthusiasm and commitment of our staff and volunteers. Their dedication, professionalism and care create welcoming environments, meaningful programs, and builds lasting connections within our communities.

Today, we celebrate YPRL as a library service as strong and diverse as the people who call this region home – supported by the ongoing commitment of Banyule, Nillumbik, and Whittlesea Councils and shaped by the communities we serve.

On behalf of the Board and the whole YPRL team, we are proud to present the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Annual Report 2025–26.



Deputy Mayor Cr Rick Garotti
Banyule City Council
Chair, Yarra Plenty Regional Library Corporation Board



Nicole Rudden
Chief Executive Officer,
Yarra Plenty Regional Library Corporation

The Year in Numbers

251,488
Members

6,283
Events

$445
On average each library member saved $445 borrowing rather than buying books

3,076,023
Loans

148,853
Event Participants

884
Library opening hours per week across the network

501,792
Collection Items

2,126
Storytime Sessions

1,641,187
Library Visits

94,327
Storytime Attendees

Digital Engagement



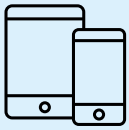
2,664,153
Website Hits



535,179
Catalogue Hits



110,026
Public Internet Sessions



583,185
App Sessions

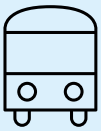


147,929
Wi-Fi Sessions



110,200
eNewsletter Subscribers

Extending Our Reach



31,655
Mobile Library Visits



3,405
Home Library Deliveries



27,846
Community Hub Loans



66,523
Mobile Library Loans



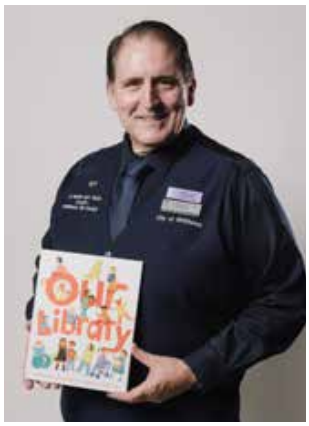
47
Outreach Visits

Our Board



Deputy Mayor of
Banyule City Council

Cr Rick Garotti (Chair)
Banyule City Council



Cr Martin Taylor
(Deputy Chair)
City of Whittlesea



Cr Grant Brooker
Nillumbik Shire Council



Mayor of Banyule
City Council

Cr Alison Champion
Banyule City Council



Cr Peter Perkins
Nillumbik Shire Council



Cr Christine Stow
City of Whittlesea

Responsibility for the provision and management of the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Corporation rests with the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board.

Representation on the Board, including the selection of delegates, is determined by the Regional Library Agreement between the three Member Councils, Banyule City Council, Nillumbik Shire Council, and City of Whittlesea Council. Responsibilities and authorities of the Board are determined as if they are a council under the Local Government Act. Board meetings are held regularly with meeting dates and agendas for each meeting published on the YPRL Website.

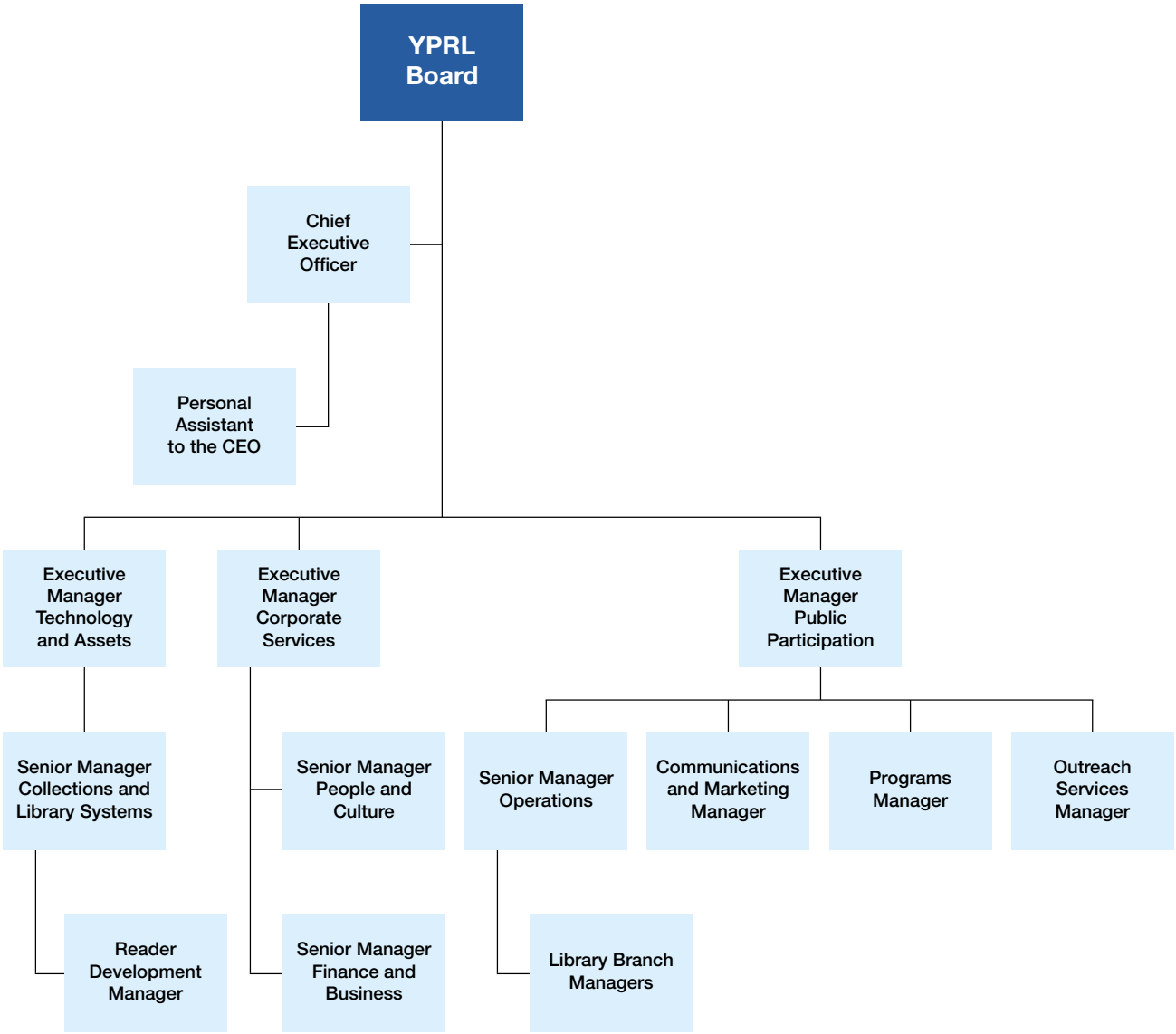
Yarra Plenty Regional Library Corporation operates as an independent legal entity and is audited annually by the Auditor General.

Attendance at Scheduled and Special Board Meetings

Board member	Max. possible number of board meetings to attend	Meetings attended
Deputy Mayor Cr Rick Garotti (Chair)	7	7
Cr Martin Taylor (Deputy Chair)	7	7
Cr Grant Brooker	7	7
Mayor Cr Alison Champion	7	6
Cr Peter Perkins	7	6
Cr Christine Stow	7	5

Organisational Structure

Organisational Structure as at 30 June 2026 (Board to Manager Level)




THE
MILKWOOD


SUSAN MALLERY
DAPHNE
JOSH MALERM
INSPECTION
JOSH MALERM
KAREN MAITLAND
HALF TRUTH
Nadia Mahi
DEBBIE MACOMBER
Must Love Flow
INSIDE JUVIE
ELIZABETH MACNEAL
DOGS OF WAR
THE THERAPIST
ANNIE LYONS

Report of Operations

The Yarra Plenty Regional Library Plan 2025–2029 sets our direction for the next four years. In this report we look back over the year to map our activity against our plan priorities.

Priority 1: Literacy and Learning for Life

Focus YPRL supports people of all ages to build curiosity, literacy and critical thinking, enabling them to navigate change, develop strong information and media literacy, express creativity, and engage as informed citizens – through inclusive collections and access to information.

1.1 Communities actively engage with diverse and accessible collections and learning programs that foster participation, social connection and lifelong learning

Our Collections

The Library's collections remain the core of our function. They inform, entertain, and teach our communities and anchor all our programs and activities.

This year, YPRL activated its 2026–28 Collection Development Policy, reinforcing our commitment to collections that are relevant, inclusive and responsive to community needs. Guided by community demand, diverse perspectives and emerging interests, the policy supports equitable access to information through a broad range of print, digital and accessible formats. It also strengthens representation of First Nations, LGBTQIA+, culturally diverse and local communities, helping ensure members can discover high-quality resources that support learning, literacy, recreation and cultural connection.

In 2025/26, members borrowed an extraordinary **3,076,023 items** from YPRL's physical and digital collections, the highest level of collection use in recent history. The Library maintained a collection of **501,792 physical and digital items** and added **107,031 new resources**, ensuring access to contemporary and in-demand content across a broad range of formats. YPRL's Community Language collections included more than **31,500 items in Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Hindi, Italian, Macedonian, Punjabi and Vietnamese**, providing fiction, non-fiction, magazines, newspapers and digital resources for adults, young people and children.

Demand for digital content continued to grow through the **Boobook consortium**, YPRL's shared digital library partnership with Whitehorse Manningham Libraries and Your Library Limited. Since Boobook's launch in October 2024, consortium library members have borrowed more than **3.3 million items**, demonstrating strong and sustained demand for digital collections. Loans of YPRL **digital collections grew 35.26%** this year, as members increasingly enjoy the convenience of borrowing anytime, anywhere. Film and TV streaming on Kanopy continued to be popular, with members watching **over one million minutes** of free content this year.



Targeted investment in junior fiction, graphic novels and digital resources supported reader engagement programs, while improved acquisitions processes, new supplier arrangements and a trial collection leasing program enabled popular titles to reach readers more quickly and helped ensure collections remain relevant, responsive and sustainable.

YPRL also maintained one of Victoria's largest public library book group collection providing 19,936 books to support approximately **1,500 readers in 148 book groups**, each connecting through discussion, reflection and a shared love of books.

More than **1,000 items** were added to the YPRL Digital Archive. New additions included the Matt Dickinson Collection documenting the aftermath of Black Saturday in Whittlesea, the digitised Whittlesea Sporting History Project, *Memories of the Heidelberg Town Hall*, the Donnybrook Cemetery Collection, *Archaeology Dig at Mernda*, the Rex Smith Collection on Greensborough Football Club history, the Casa D'Abruzzo Club Collection, the Jagajaga Community Volunteer Awards Collection and YPRL archives.

Access to family history resources was significantly expanded through YPRL's new status as a FamilySearch Affiliate Library. Members can now access the world's largest genealogical repository, complementing YPRL's extensive local and family history collections. Our Family History and Research platforms saw more than **55,000 user searches** this year, with tens of thousands of documents accessed across Ancestry, Gale Primary Sources and Findmypast.

Family History and Local History

Family History Month was marked with talks, workshops and research support sessions exploring genealogy, migration and personal storytelling. Highlights included presentations by genealogy expert Craig Smith on genetic genealogy, Charlotte Chidell on writing family histories, Smita Biswas on researching family history in South Asian countries, and the Whittlesea Historical Society's exploration of local farming families. Demand for Family History Help sessions and family history groups continued to grow, while projects such as *Homeland: Treasured Objects from Afar* encouraged people to explore identity, migration and belonging through personal stories and cultural heritage.

'When I was a child we didn't have much but my dad took us to the library and I would borrow 10 books every time. Reading gives me so much without it I wouldn't have gotten through everything.'

Jobs, Skills and Career Support

Partnerships with Melbourne Polytechnic, RMIT, Skills and Job Centres and the Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and Employment Network helped to deliver programs that connected people with career guidance, employment support and practical skills development opportunities. Virtual Reality Career Exploration experiences, small business workshops and jobs and careers advice sessions helped explore pathways into education and employment.

1.2 Literacy is strengthened across all life stages through YPRL-led initiatives and partnerships

Early Years Literacy and Storytime

Storytime continued to be one of YPRL's most significant contributions to literacy development and school readiness across the region. During 2025/26, YPRL delivered **2,126 Storytime sessions** attended by **94,327 children, parents and carers**, providing opportunities for young children to develop language, literacy and social skills in welcoming and engaging environments.

Programs were delivered across branches, outreach locations, community centres and library hubs, ensuring families throughout Banyule, Nillumbik and Whittlesea had access to high-quality early literacy experiences close to home.

National Simultaneous Storytime remained a highlight of the year, bringing together more than 500 participants across the network to celebrate the joy of reading and shared storytelling. We thank our Member Councils for supporting this program and our Board Members for personally participating in Storytime reading during the day.

Through the support of our Member Councils and community partners, these programs help build literacy, learning and school readiness across the region.

StoryBox Hub

StoryBox Hub is a digital storytelling and literacy development platform for children.

In August 2025, we partnered with StoryBox Hub to film at Diamond Valley Library, recording author and disability advocate Eliza Hull reading *The World We Can Build*, her book co-written with Sally Rippin. A second recording featured Peter Houghton reading *Bigfoot vs Yeti* by James Foley, helping bring another Australian story to children, families and educators through the platform. StoryBox Hub use **grew 75%** this year as members logged in more than **12,500 times**, enjoying thousands of local and celebrated stories.

Children's Membership Campaign

In February 2026, YPRL launched a network-wide Children's Membership Campaign to encourage children to begin their own independent library journey. In the first 6 weeks the campaign generated **1,629 new members** aged 0–12, an **increase of 320%** over the same period in the preceding year. At the end of the four-month campaign **2,426 new junior members** had joined the Library, making it one of YPRL's most successful literacy initiatives. New members received custom designed membership cards, library bags and activity packs featuring artwork by local children's authors and illustrators Emma Sjaan Beukers, Annabelle Hale, Jodi Wiley, Judith Rossell and Marc McBride. Borrowing from children's collections **increased by 12.5%** during the campaign period, while more than 200 children completed Library Passport challenges designed to encourage exploration of library collections, spaces and services.

First Nations Storytimes

First Nations Storytime is a co-designed program developed with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, grounded in a culturally sustaining approach to storytelling, language and connection to Country. Delivered by First Nations staff and Elders, including Aunty Sharon Hughes, sessions attracted between 50 and 120 participants and contributed to increased borrowing from our Deadly Collection.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day celebrated First Nations storytelling under the theme of "Little Footsteps, Big Future," honouring the journeys of First Nations children guided by culture, community, and connection to Country. More than **611 participants** attended the 14 Storytime sessions across YPRL branches, community hubs and outreach locations.

Big Summer Read

The Big Summer Read is a strategic statewide library campaign that aims to keep children reading over the summer school break to maintain their literacy skills. At YPRL, we focused on reading for pleasure and encouraging children to feel empowered through their reading choices. Children tracked books completed or days spent reading in a reading log, with more than **1,100 logs completed**. *The Big Summer Read* was complimented with school holiday activities such as a booked-out workshop with bestselling illustrator Ben Wood, creator of the popular *Real Pigeons* series.

School Holiday Programs

School holiday programs are one of YPRL's most well-attended learning initiatives. Across July, September, January and April school holiday periods, YPRL delivered more than **210 events** to approximately **6,500 participants** at library branches, outreach locations, community centres, hubs and the Mobile Library. Programs combined literacy, creativity and learning through a diverse range of experiences, including First Nations storytelling and cultural programs, author and illustrator events, workshops with the Australian Ballet, STEM and coding activities, citizen science programs, creative writing and illustration workshops, LEGO® Masters sessions and Science Discovery Dome experiences.

1.3 Community members gain increased digital, media and health literacy skills, empowering informed, critical engagement in society

Digital and Media Literacy

During Scams Awareness Week in August, we hosted a series of workshops to help recognise, avoid and report scams including *Protecting Yourself Against AI Scams*, *Blocking Scammers, Protect Your Data, Fraud and Scam Prevention*, and *How to Use Facebook Marketplace*. We partnered with RMIT to deliver *Facts or Fakes: Spot the Difference Online*, presented by journalism lecturer Sushi Das, to build understanding of misinformation, disinformation and the growing influence of artificial intelligence on digital content. *Cybersecurity for Small Business*, delivered in partnership with Watsonia Traders Association, supported local business operators to better understand online threats including phishing, payment fraud, ransomware and supplier impersonation scams.

Health Literacy

YPRL supported health literacy through programs that connected people with evidence-based information and practical wellbeing strategies. As part of the *Libraries After Dark* health education series, sessions including *Diet Choices for Better Health*, *Gut Health and Navigating Food Allergies and Intolerances* explored nutrition, digestive health and informed decision-making around food and wellbeing. Health literacy was also supported through author events such as Matilda Boseley's discussion of ADHD, which encouraged awareness and understanding of neurodiversity through personal storytelling and practical advice.

1.4 A reading community is cultivated and supported by library collections that are well used, valued and enjoyed

Author Events

We run a rich and diverse program of author events connecting readers with local, emerging, and nationally recognised writers, illustrators, journalists and storytellers.

A Night of Crime and Mystery at Eltham Library, featured crime writers Kelly Gardiner, Sharmini Kumar and Angela Savage, and combined author discussion with theatre, trivia and audience participation to create a highly engaging evening event.

Other highlights included the launch of local author Ingrid Laguna's *Edie Tells a Lie*; author talks with bestselling crime writer Christian White, children's author Felice Arena, novelist Michelle Wright, memoirist Clara Brack, journalist and author Matilda Boseley, and local writer Kate Solly. Family History Month featured author Charlotte Chidell, who shared insights into researching and writing family histories, while Open House Melbourne included author Sofie Laguna in a panel discussion exploring storytelling, place and identity. As part of *The World We Can Build* exhibition launch, authors Sally Rippin and Eliza Hull participated in a special event celebrating creativity, inclusion and storytelling.

Sydney Writers' Festival Live & Local

The Sydney Writers' Festival *Live & Local* program brought one of Australia's premier literary festivals to Eltham and Diamond Valley libraries. More than **130 attendees** enjoyed free access to livestreamed sessions featuring celebrated authors including Dav Pilkey, Yann Martel, Stephanie Alexander and Trent Dalton. This partnership program removed geographical and financial barriers to participation in one of Australia's leading literary festivals.

Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Writing

Diamond Valley Library was proud to host the presentation of the 2026 Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Writing. Delivered in partnership with Nillumbik Shire Council and Writers Victoria, the biennial competition attracted **1,126 entries** from writers across Australia. The awards presentation ceremony welcomed **133 attendees** and featured readings, music, and the launch of an anthology featuring winning works, which was added to the Library collection. The prize continues to support creative expression, encourage participation in writing and strengthen literary culture across the region.

Reading Communities

YPRL supports reading communities through collections, book groups, literary events and opportunities for readers to connect through shared interests.

YPRL maintains one of Victoria's largest public library book group collection and supports 148 book groups to participate in discussions, share ideas and build social connections through literature. Programs such as *Reading on Country*, author conversations, literary festivals and writing events make reading both an individual and shared experience.





Priority 2: Connection and Wellbeing

Focus YPRL creates opportunities for social connection through programs and collections where people feel welcome, included, and connected — experiencing a sense of belonging and community in spaces that celebrate diversity, value their voices, and reduce social isolation.

2.1 Library spaces and activities are inclusive, safe, accessible and adaptable, reflecting and respecting the diversity of the communities they serve

Celebrating Diverse Communities

YPRL serves one of the most diverse communities in Victoria. We celebrated this through programs that fostered cultural understanding, inclusion, reconciliation and belonging. First Nations engagement included *First Nations Storytime*, delivered in partnership with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and Elders including Aunty Sharon Hughes, *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day*, *Reading on Country*, the *Country Tells the Story* exhibition, and creative programs with Indigenous artists including Kristen Munro, Emma Sjaan Beukers, and Emmy Webbers. Broader multicultural and social cohesion initiatives included the *Homeland: Treasured Objects from Afar* exhibition – later highlighted at the Utah Library Conference – *Chinese Cultural Night*, and inclusive programs such as *Art is for Everyone*. To support language diversity and accessible literacy experiences we delivered **114 Storytime sessions** in or incorporating languages other than English, including AUSLAN.

Accessible and Inclusive Participation

This year we piloted a *Relaxed Halloween* program for primary school-aged children and their families. The program created a welcoming and accessible experience through sensory-friendly and inclusive practices, including visual schedules and social stories, flexible participation options, enhanced pre-event support and communication, reduced group sizes, sensory regulation resources, quieter environments and facilitators experienced in delivering sensory-friendly events.

People of different abilities explored new artistic skills and connected socially through our *Art is for Everyone* program facilitated by art therapist Rachel Holland.

Access to library services was improved for culturally and linguistically diverse communities with the introduction of the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) to communicate with people in more than **150 languages**.

Supporting Safe and Welcoming Experiences

We supported LGBTQIA+ inclusion and allyship through programs such as *Allyship in Action*, delivered in partnership with Banyule City Council for the International Day Against LGBTQIA+ Discrimination, featuring a panel of LGBTQIA+ community members sharing personal experiences and perspectives. We also hosted LGBTQIA+ online book group sessions to foster inclusive and engaging literary discussion.

Youth Wellbeing

Young people aged 13–18 across the region helped shape our youth activities to foster creativity, wellbeing, career development and social connection. Highlights included *Immersive Worlds* delivered in partnership with Banyule Youth Services, *DIY Skin Care for Teens* delivered in partnership with Nillumbik Shire Council, and *Youth Takeover Night* delivered in partnership with the City of Whittlesea.

2.2 Community resilience and social inclusion are strengthened through low-barrier opportunities for engagement, volunteering and participation, empowering people to connect and contribute

Programs and Events Across the Region

YPRL delivers a significant program of community participation activities creating opportunities for learning, connection, creativity and engagement across the municipalities of Banyule, Nillumbik and Whittlesea.

YPRL delivered **6,283 programs** and events attended by **148,853 participants** this year, ranging from large-scale exhibitions and cultural celebrations to small group workshops, health information sessions, creative activities, technology support and community discussions. Together, these activities strengthened social connection while providing opportunities for people to actively participate in their communities.

‘Libraries are our family’s happy place—welcoming, free, and full of wonder. As a mum of two from a multicultural household, I love that my kids can learn, play, and grow in a space that celebrates diversity, curiosity, and connection. It’s more than books—it’s belonging.’

The World We Can Build

The World We Can Build was a major collaborative project that encouraged people of all ages and abilities to imagine and create a more inclusive world through creativity and collaboration. Inspired by the children’s book of the same name by Eliza Hull and Sally Rippin, *The World We Can Build* delivered workshops, facilitated by Fleassy Malay and LEGO® Master Annie Ronzan, where participants decorated book buildings with dwellings, landscapes and public spaces representing accessibility, inclusion and belonging. More than **400 community-created contributions** formed a large-scale exhibition at Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub. Contributors included Briar Hill Primary School, Rosanna Fire Station Community House, Barrbunin Beek Aboriginal Gathering Place, St John of God Accord, Islamic Museum of Australia, and Ivanhoe Primary School. The project culminated in a special event featuring authors Sally Rippin and Eliza Hull, supported by AUSLAN interpretation to maximise accessibility and participation. The exhibition attracted more than **1,500 visitors** during the week it was open. *The World We Can Build* was supported through an Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) Community Cohesion Grant and delivered in partnership with the Department of Home Affairs’ Office for Social Cohesion and Banyule City Council.

Stronger Together

Supported through ALIA Community Cohesion funding and the Department of Home Affairs, *Stronger Together* delivered a range of programs designed to strengthen community participation, belonging and social connection. Activities included the *Dear World* creative engagement projects, *Cards of Kindness*, *Art is for Everyone*, *Connecting with Creatives*, and *Building Resilience Against Mis- and Dis-information* workshops.

Creativity as a Connector

During Cultural Diversity Week, our *Connecting with Creatives* program, Indigenous artist Emmy Webbers was installed as Artist in Residence at Lalor Library. More than 60 participants engaged with Emmy as she created new artwork, discussed her practice, and promoted YPRL's Deadly Collection and art books. Children used Indigenous stamps to create library bags, while adults participated in a workshop to produce their own artistic work.

Libraries After Dark

Libraries After Dark aims to reduce social isolation and gambling harm by providing safe, inclusive alternatives to gambling venues through free and accessible evening events hosted outside normal library opening hours. With funding support from Public Libraries Victoria and the Victorian Government, we created activities focused on culture, creativity and wellbeing including *Chinese Cultural Night*, *Diet Choices for Better Health*, *Gut Health*, and *Navigating Food Allergies and Intolerances*.

Women of Whittlesea

Women of Whittlesea held at Whittlesea Library marked International Women's Day with a program featuring a panel of local women, including representatives from the Country Fire Authority and the Women's Shed, who shared their personal stories and experiences with more than **70 attendees**. The event was delivered in partnership with the Country Women's Association.

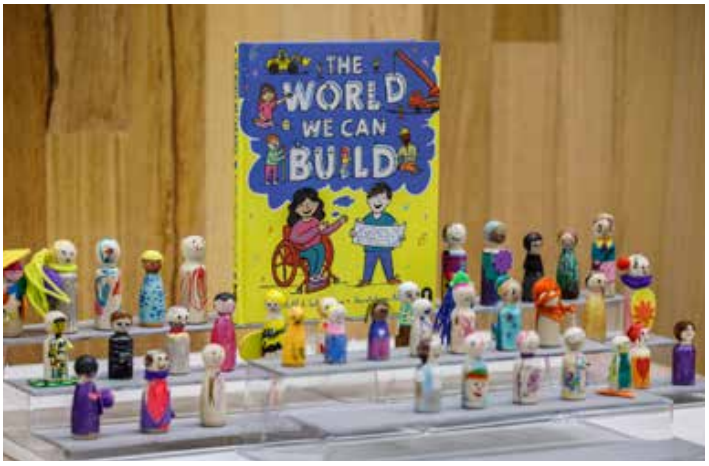
Sustainability and Environmental Learning

Community environmental sustainability was supported through practical programs focused on household electrification, energy efficiency, repair and reuse. In partnership with REthink Nillumbik and Going Green Solutions, residents participated in workshops including *Electrification 101: Making the Switch*, helping community members understand solar, battery storage, rebates and pathways to reducing household emissions. The REthink Nillumbik program is funded by Nillumbik Shire Council in support of Council's climate action goal of net zero community emissions by 2035. Reducing waste was the focus of Thomastown Library's, *Sew, Chat and Repair* program which encouraged circular fashion and sustainable consumption by helping participants repair and repurpose existing items while building practical skills and social connections. Throughout the year our programs were run in Garden Maker Spaces and community gardens, teaching environmental and sustainable practice including food swaps, garden talks, community gardening sessions, seed sharing, and healthy eating workshops.

The World We Can Build










BESTIE





2.3 Social isolation is reduced through outreach and expanded service delivery beyond traditional library spaces

During 2025/26, YPRL extended services beyond library buildings through its Mobile Library, Home Library Service, Outreach Service and partnerships with community organisations, bringing library services to people in their own neighbourhoods and homes.

Mobile Library Service

The Mobile Library provides an important service for communities without ready access to a library branch or hub in Banyule, Nillumbik and Whittlesea municipalities. The Mobile Library welcomed **31,655 visits**, supported **8,380 members** and facilitated **66,523 loans** throughout the year and delivered regular collection boxes to **31 kindergartens and early learning centres**, providing books, literacy resources and learning materials to children and educators.

Home Library Service

The Home Library Service ensures residents who are unable to visit a library branch remain connected to reading, information and community life. This year our team of outstanding volunteers delivered **3,405 personalised selections** of library materials to 40 customers across the region. Collections were tailored to individual interests and reading preferences to maintain a connection to books, stories and lifelong learning. Regular visits and personal interactions help reduce social isolation and ensure people remain connected to their community.

Outreach Service

YPRL's Outreach Service brings collections and library services directly to people in community settings. Throughout the year, the service visited **47 aged care facilities**, retirement villages, festivals and local events, facilitating **7,743 loans** and creating opportunities for residents to access our collections and people in familiar and accessible environments.

Sharing Stories

Through *Sharing Stories: A YPRL Outreach Pilot*, we worked with **20 people** living in residential aged care to explore family experiences, memories and personal stories through creative activities designed to foster wellbeing and social connection. The pilot project was supported by the ALIA.

Technology Beyond the Branch

The Outreach Service, Mobile Library and community-based programs helped extend access to digital resources and technology support beyond traditional library locations, helping people experiencing barriers to technology access, reducing isolation and improving confidence in navigating an increasingly digital world.

Community-Based Partnerships

YPRL partnered with catalyst training & disability service to welcome young adults with disabilities to library spaces where they could access facilities, build confidence, develop independent learning skills and explore employment pathways. Participants used library resources to support job searching, digital literacy and career exploration, while becoming more familiar with the library as a welcoming and safe space. The partnership also supported work experience opportunities for participants interested in careers within libraries and community services.

2.4 Strategic partnerships with Member Councils and others contribute to improved community outcomes by identifying and meeting local needs

Council Partnerships

Through its regional partnership model, YPRL worked closely with Banyule City Council, Nillumbik Shire Council and the City of Whittlesea to deliver programs that strengthened inclusion, literacy, wellbeing, sustainability, employment pathways and community connection. Collaborative initiatives included *Reading on Country, Allyship in Action*, *The Adaptation Game*, *the Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Writing*, *Women of Whittlesea*, *Youth Takeover Night*, *Reflections on Australian Service*, the *Middle Years Program*, environmental sustainability programs, and jobs and skills development activities.

Open House Melbourne

YPRL partnered with Open House Melbourne for the first time during 2025/26, showcasing Eltham Library's distinct and significant architecture. The Library featured in Open House Melbourne's *Stories of the City* program, celebrating the work of its architect, Greg Burgess. Activities included a panel discussion featuring Greg Burgess, author Sofie Laguna, artist Siri Hayes and YPRL's Local and Family History Librarian Liz Pidgeon and a family-focused Open Play session. Later, Eltham Library hosted a screening of the documentary *Modern Melbourne: Greg Burgess* which Open House Melbourne filmed at the Library.

Education and Workforce Development Partnerships

Partnerships with RMIT, Melbourne Polytechnic, Skills and Job Centres, Loyola College and the Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and Employment Network expanded learning opportunities ranging from jobs and career advice to technology exploration, digital literacy and support business workshops. These partnerships delivered specialist expertise that helped build confidence and develop new skills.

ABC Radio Melbourne Residency

One of the year's highest profile partnerships was YPRL's collaboration with ABC Radio Melbourne for a week-long *Radio in Residency* project at Mill Park Library. Through this, we created opportunities for Public Libraries Victoria, the Victorian Public Libraries Ambassador, the Australian Children's Laureate, Araluen, Big Group Hug, and everyday library users to share the importance and impact of libraries with a large audience across Victoria.



Priority 3: Digital Access and Innovation

Focus YPRL equips people with the digital skills, confidence, and access they need to participate fully and equitably in modern life, bridging the digital divide and thriving in an increasingly complex world.

3.1 Community members have equitable access to technology and devices helping to reduce the digital divide and enabling full participation in today's connected world

YPRL helps reduce digital exclusion and ensures community members can participate fully in an increasingly digital society by providing free and equitable access to technology, digital resources and internet connectivity. In 2025–26 we hosted **147,929 Wi-Fi Sessions** and **110,026 Public Access Internet Sessions** across our library network.

Creative Technology and Digital Storytelling

We provide free access to digital tools, equipment and creative technologies across the library network. A significant addition during the year was the introduction of Podcasting and Recording Studios at Rosanna Library, creating new opportunities to explore digital storytelling, audio production, content creation and creative expression using professional-grade equipment. These facilities complement our broader creative technology and equipment offer, which includes the Design Maker Space at Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub, featuring 3D printers, laser cutting technology and digital design software, and the Textile & Craft Maker Space at Thomastown Library, with specialist maker equipment and creative technologies. Together, these facilities give community access to technology, equipment and creative opportunities that may otherwise be unavailable or unaffordable.

3.2 Library members have free access to digital library collections and online resources, supporting lifelong learning, research, entertainment and access to information

YPRL provides free access to expansive digital collections and online resources to remove financial and geographic barriers to information, learning and entertainment.

Growing Use of Digital Collections

Use of digital resources increased across all major formats during 2025/26, with members borrowing **812,635 digital items**, demonstrating a growing demand for flexible access to content. Growth was especially evident across digital newspaper borrowing, which increased by **98.2%** compared with the previous year, showing a strong demand for convenient access to trusted news, current affairs and global perspectives through platforms such as PressReader.

Digital Borrowing by Format

Format	2024/25	2025/26	Growth
eBooks	205,554	232,897	13.3%
eAudiobooks	268,546	317,819	18.3%
eMagazines	126,715	155,349	22.6%
eNewspapers	53,764	106,570	98.2%
Total Digital Loans	**600,815**	**812,635**	**35.3%**

eAudiobooks remained the most heavily used digital format, reflecting the growing popularity of flexible reading experiences that fit around work, study and family commitments.

Specialist Digital Resources

Beyond eBooks, eAudiobooks and digital news, members had ready access to specialist online platforms such as Kanopy for free access to films and documentaries, LinkedIn Learning for professional development and skills building, FamilySearch for family history research, and StoryBox Hub for early literacy through interactive storytelling experiences.

3.3 Digital literacy and confidence are strengthened across all age groups and community segments

As digital technologies continue to shape how people access information, communicate, learn and participate in society, YPRL works to help the community build the skills, confidence and critical thinking needed to engage safely and effectively online.

Building Community Digital Skills

YPRL delivered programs focused on everyday technology use, including iPad workshops, Facebook Marketplace sessions, and Services Australia-supported information sessions. **848 Tech Help sessions** were delivered providing one-on-one assistance tailored to individual learning needs and levels of digital experience. Together, these initiatives helped build digital confidence to participate more fully in an increasingly connected world.

Be Connected: Young Mentors

The *Be Connected: Young Mentors Program*, delivered at Watsonia Library in partnership with Loyola College, provided one-on-one support for people seeking assistance with technology. The program saw students from Loyola College mentoring older community members to increase their confidence using digital devices, accessing online services and maintaining social connections online. Meaningful intergenerational learning and student leadership opportunities were created.

> ‘I used to be stuck and lonely, now I can come here (to the library), meet others and learn so much about computers and my phone. It feels like I can now learn everything!’

Business and Workforce Capability

Partnership programs with Business Victoria, the City of Whittlesea Economic Development Team and industry experts supported local businesses and entrepreneurs to strengthen their digital capability, supporting small business growth and economic participation across the region. Programs focused on social media marketing, content creation, Google Business Profiles, audience engagement, cybersecurity and digital business planning, helping participants improve their online presence and business resilience.

Technologies and Future Skills

Children and families explored new and engaging technologies through hands-on programs featuring virtual reality, robotics, coding and STEM learning. Activities using Edison Robots, Spheros, LEGO® Spike Essential, Makey Makey and Virtual Reality encouraged experimentation, problem-solving and creativity while building confidence with technology.

3.4 Emerging technologies and data-driven insights are leveraged to enhance systems, services and user experiences

Smart Technologies Improving Service Delivery

During 2025/26, an RFID-enabled automated book sorter was installed at Mill Park Library, joining similar systems operating at Eltham, Ivanhoe and Rosanna libraries. Using RFID technology, the system automatically checks in, sorts and routes returned items for reshelving, increasing the speed of book circulation and availability while reducing manual handling for staff.



Customer Communications

The introduction of enhanced customer engagement tools enabled more targeted communication with library members based on interests, location and service usage, improving the relevance and effectiveness of library communications.

Platform	2024/25	2025/26	Growth
eNewsletter Subscribers	68,491	110,200	60.90%
Facebook Followers	8,047	8,284	2.95%
Instagram Followers	5,006	5,593	11.73%
LinkedIn Followers	1,161	1,343	15.68%


PEAPLY COLLECTION
welcome to country
AUNTY JOY MURPHY AND LISA KENNEDY

Priority 4: Organisational Resilience

Focus YPRL has the people, tools, and infrastructure to innovate, manage complexity, and deliver sustainable, high-quality services — while driving financial efficiencies through smart resource management, strategic investment and operational agility.

Growing Our Library Network

In partnership with Banyule City Council and the City of Whittlesea, YPRL expanded its network opening two new libraries in January to provide welcoming, accessible and future-focused library services for existing and emerging communities across the region.

Rosanna Library represents a significant investment by Banyule City Council to deliver a contemporary library and community destination for local residents. The library was embraced immediately recording more than **11,000 loans** and **603 new members** within its first two weeks. Rosanna Library introduced YPRL's first Podcasting and Recording Studios, creating new opportunities for digital storytelling, content creation and creative expression.

> 'The librarians have such a knack of making it a happy & welcoming space for our kids. Thank you!'

Thanks to the City of Whittlesea's investment in library services and community infrastructure, murnong Library was opened in Donnybrook – one of the fastest-growing areas in Melbourne's northern corridor. murnong Library is located within the murnong Community Hub alongside Maternal and Child Health and kindergarten services and has already become a focal point in the diverse and expanding region. Since opening in February, murnong Library has welcomed **37,232 visits**, issued **8,135 loans** and attracted **1,036 new members**.

Supporting a Future-Ready Workforce

YPRL invested in staff capability through a comprehensive learning and development program that supports the delivery of safe, inclusive and high-quality library services.

Workplace Safety and Compliance

Training focused on workplace health and safety, child safety, equal employment opportunity, bullying and harassment prevention, fraud and corruption awareness, cybersecurity, responsible conduct and emergency preparedness. Staff also completed First Aid, CPR, defibrillator, emergency warden and Health and Safety Representative training.

In line with YPRL's Occupational Violence and Aggression Framework, both staff and volunteers completed Occupational Violence and Aggression training to strengthen their ability to recognise and respond appropriately to challenging situations while supporting their personal safety and wellbeing.

Inclusion and Community Service Excellence

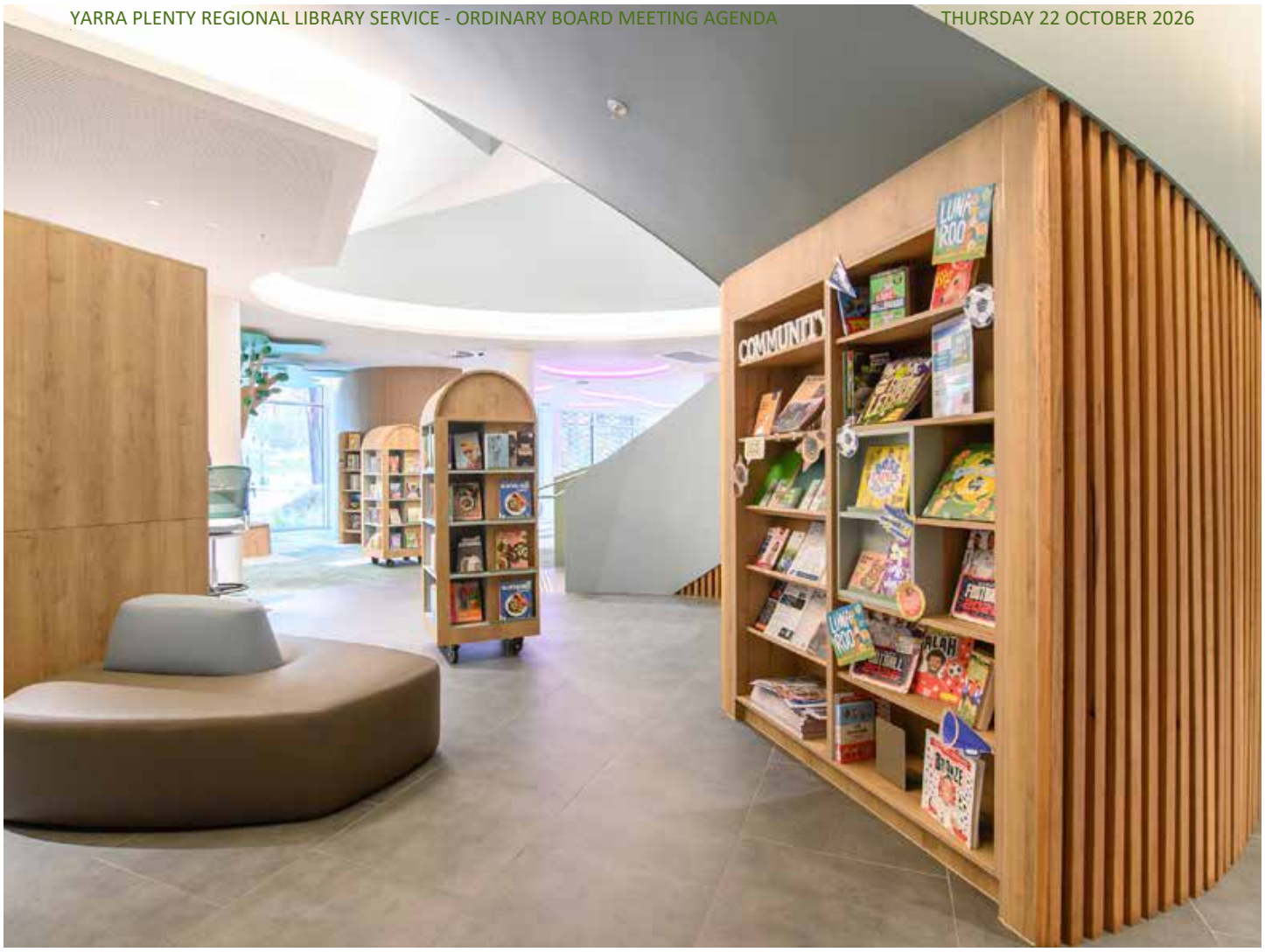
Professional development strengthened staff capability in cultural safety and Aboriginal cultural competency, anti-racism, neurodiversity and autism-friendly services, trauma-informed practice, LGBTQIA+ inclusion, de-escalation techniques, mental health awareness, reader development, collections management and digital services.

Leadership and Professional Development

Staff participated in industry conferences, professional networks and specialist training opportunities, including the ALIA National Conference, ALIA New Librarians' Symposium, State Library Victoria Leadership Learning Forum and Leadership Alignment and Delivery Workshop. These opportunities strengthened leadership capability, professional knowledge and sector engagement, helping ensure YPRL remains informed by emerging trends and best practice.

The New Rosanna Library




COMMUNITY




VOX



Volunteers

More than **80 volunteers** support YPRL. They make a valuable contribution across the organisation through programs including the Home Library Service, *Reading Dogs*, *Fitness After 50*, *Bilingual Storytime*, *Tech Help*, and community programs and events. Their dedication extends the reach of library services and creates a welcoming and connected library experience across the region. We are proud of the care, dedication, and enthusiasm they bring to their roles and grateful for the contributions they make to our communities every day.

Service Recognition

YPRL recognised the contribution and dedication of 10 staff members who celebrated service milestones of 20 years or more during the year. These achievements reflect decades of expertise, professionalism and commitment, highlighting the enduring impact of our staff in supporting library services and strengthening community connections across the region.

Governance, Accountability and Sustainability

Key governance achievements during the year included:

- ✓ Completion of the YPRL Library Plan 2025–2029
- ✓ Completion of the Board Code of Conduct
- ✓ Finalisation of the Board Meeting Procedural Local Law
- ✓ Completion of the YPRL Supplemental Agreement
- ✓ Review of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter
- ✓ Adoption of the Fraud and Corruption Control Framework and Fraud and Corruption Control Policy
- ✓ Adoption of the Occupational Violence and Aggression Policy
- ✓ Adoption of the Responsible Conduct Policy (Public)
- ✓ Adoption of the Procurement Policy
- ✓ Adoption of the 2026-28 Collection Development Policy

The Library also introduced an Occupational Violence and Aggression Framework supported by standards and guidance materials, completed and submitted its first Gender Equality Action Plan, and appointed the Australian Childhood Foundation to lead YPRL's Safeguarding Children Certification Program.

Operationally, YPRL increased use of State Purchase Contracts, delivering greater procurement efficiency while securing key courier and financial services contracts. YPRL also continued to secure external funding and partnership opportunities that support innovation and expanded community outcomes, including ALIA Community Cohesion Grants and Libraries After Dark funding.

This governance and sustainability work strengthens the regional partnership between Banyule City Council, Nillumbik Shire Council, and the City of Whittlesea, ensuring YPRL remains well placed to deliver responsive and sustainable services for growing communities.

Celebrating Milestones

Several significant milestones provided an opportunity to reflect on YPRL's history and longstanding contribution to the region.

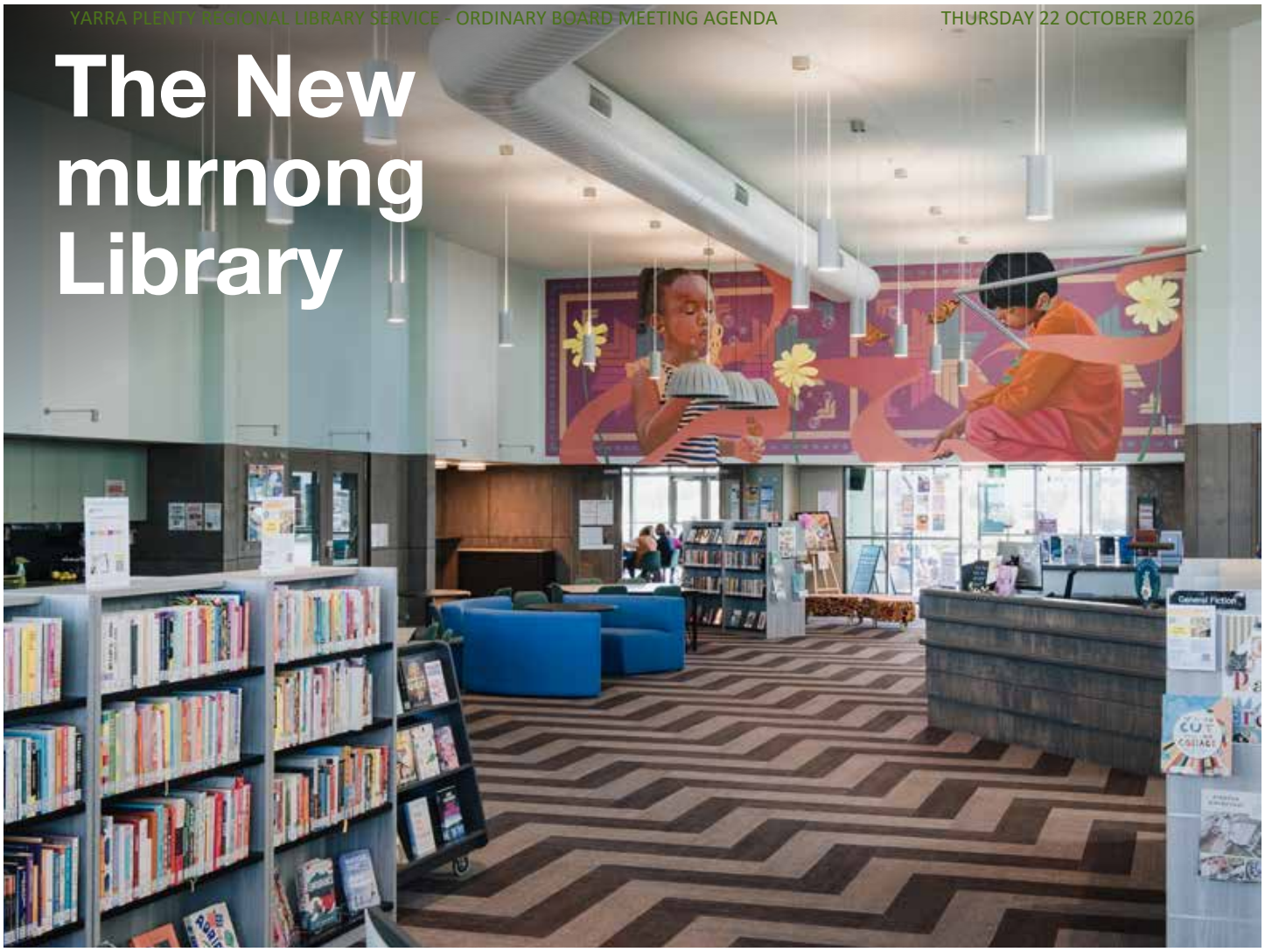
During 2025/26, YPRL celebrated:

- ✓ 60 years of library services across the region
- ✓ 60 years of Ivanhoe Library
- ✓ 50 years of partnership with the City of Whittlesea

These milestones recognise decades of investment by our Member Councils in literacy, learning, access to information, connection, and YPRL's enduring place in the lives of the communities it serves.

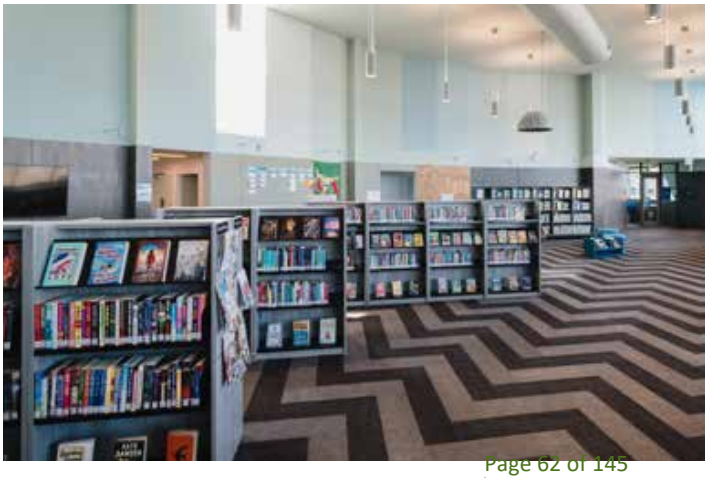

Our Library

The New murnong Library









Performance Summary

Membership and Community Reach

Library Overview

Indicator	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Population – Regional (ABS Estimates Resident Population)	427,062	436,513	448,399	456,326
Total Members	156,426	180,592	212,263	251,488
Members as % of Population	36.63%	41.37%	47.33%	55.11%
Active Users	67,243	77,163	90,790	108,324
Mobile Library Locations	13	15	15	14
Total Physical Collection	342,500	360,237	347,392	374,557
New Physical Collection Items	119,802	95,396	70,794	80,173
Digital Collection Loans	404,309	543,542	600,815	812,635
Wi-Fi Sessions	125,694	145,601	145,349	147,929
Public Access Internet Sessions	87,682	95,294	108,917	110,026
Programs Total	4,605	4,962	6,428	6,283
Staff (FTE)	99.92	99.94	106.03	112.98

Services Snapshot

Indicator	Measure	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Total Loans*	Number of Items borrowed	2,693,546	2,821,965	2,889,514	3,076,023
Program Attendance	Number of participants in programs	118,289	127,404	143,617	148,853
Visitation Total	Door count	1,277,373	1,395,569	1,493,598	1,641,187
Opening Hours	Hours per week	741	823	793	884

* Combined total of physical and digital loans

Collections and Borrowing

Collection Items	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Total Physical Items	**342,500**	**360,237**	**347,392**	**374,557**
Banyule	111,197	112,149	106,952	127,946
Whittlesea	151,117	159,292	155,520	158,840
Nillumbik	80,186	88,796	84,920	87,771
Total Digital Items	**60,743**	**60,802**	**157,787**	**127,235**
eBooks	39,011	35,954	74,021	50,867
eAudio	19,005	21,067	74,135	62,991
eMags	2,727	3,781	9,631	10,459
eNewspapers	1	1	2,793	2,918
Total Collection (Physical and Digital)	**403,243**	**421,039**	**505,179**	**501,792**

Collection Loans	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Total Loans of Physical Items	**2,289,237**	**2,278,423**	**2,288,699**	**2,263,388**
Banyule	835,381	805,193	797,012	789,737
Whittlesea	776,644	782,571	805,348	801,445
Nillumbik	677,212	690,659	686,339	672,206
Total Loans of Digital Items	**404,309**	**543,542**	**600,815**	**812,635**
eBooks	149,394	173,672	205,554	232,897
eAudio	183,311	224,859	268,546	317,819
eMags	71,604	145,011	126,715	155,349
eNewspapers	31,591	37,625	53,764	106,570
Total Loans (Physical and Digital)	**2,693,546**	**2,821,965**	**2,889,514**	**3,076,023**

Turnover	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Turnover all Items	**6.7**	**6.7**	**5.7**	**6.1**
Physical Items	6.7	6.3	6.6	6.0
Banyule	7.5	7.2	7.5	6.2
Whittlesea	5.1	4.9	5.2	5.0
Nillumbik	8.4	7.8	8.1	7.7
Digital Items	6.7	8.9	3.8	6.4

Collection Purchases	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
New Physical Items	**93,189**	**76,833**	**70,794**	**80,173**
Banyule	37,284	24,728	22,154	29,998
Whittlesea	27,271	32,035	32,230	31,236
Nillumbik	28,634	20,070	16,410	18,939
New Digital Items	**6,908**	**6,985**	**41,071**	**26,858**
Total New Items (Physical and Digital)	**100,097**	**83,818**	**111,865**	**107,031**

Library Use and Access

Library Visitation

Location	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	% Change
Diamond Valley	67,068	72,200	72,477	72,828	0.48%
Eltham	195,911	238,621	247,840	258,658	4.36%
Ivanhoe	295,509	328,625	342,138	341,436	-0.21%
Kirrip Hub	0	0	38,882	48,578	24.94%
Lalor	168,923	151,309	178,546	182,854	2.41%
Mernda	0	27,859	58,737	73,760	25.58%
Mill Park	173,133	192,262	187,042	195,472	4.51%
murnong	0	0	0	37,232	NA
Rosanna*	73,629	34,361	32,907	107,100	225.46%
Thomastown	102,484	115,052	101,938	100,911	-1.01%
Watsonia	133,888	157,715	150,289	133,267	-11.33%
Whittlesea	42,852	47,542	53,678	57,436	7.00%
Mobile Library	23,976	30,023	29,124	31,655	8.69%
Total Library Visits	**1,277,373**	**1,395,569**	**1,493,598**	**1,641,187**	**9.88%**

* Note the new Rosanna Library opened in January 2026, replacing the Rosanna Library Pop-up.
* Note Galada and Hurstbridge Hubs do not have a door counter

Library Usage by Location

Location	Members	Loans*	Reservations	Public Access Internet Sessions	Wi-Fi connections
Diamond Valley	13,825	94,983	24,262	5,369	5,235
Eltham	38,481	269,313	64,101	12,117	28,439
Ivanhoe	40,162	249,035	70,378	20,713	42,040
Lalor	26,035	75,920	11,984	23,087	10,644
Mernda	10,162	83,259	24,705	3,488	5,370
Mill Park	45,145	238,617	44,519	18,429	28,345
murnong	1,036	8,135	1,843	681	1,227
Rosanna	17,711	99,504	29,160	4,018	9,730
Thomastown	14,542	51,537	11,723	10,230	5,864
Watsonia	19,974	139,090	39,050	8,764	7,912
Whittlesea	6,193	26,100	6,684	2,989	2,852
Mobile Library	8,380	66,523	8,148	141	0
Outreach Vehicle	1,205	7,743	1,168	0*	0*
Online	7,761	825,783*	—	0*	0*
Bellfield Hub	102	2,092	989	0*	0*
Galada Hub	515	11,348	3,172	0*	0*
Kirrip Hub	208	6,512	1,590	0*	271
Hurstbridge Hub	51	7,894	5,562	0*	0*

* Physical loans

* YPRL does not provide internet/Wi-Fi services to these locations

* Figure shows both online and automatic renewals

Learning and Participation

Storytime Sessions

Location	Sessions	Attendance
Diamond Valley	167	8,210
Eltham	369	18,613
Ivanhoe	229	15,200
Lalor	258	6,353
Mernda	55	1,601
Mill Park	332	16,986
murnong	37	1,131
Rosanna	157	10,015
Thomastown	204	4,165
Watsonia	154	8,980
Whittlesea	129	2,437
Online	0	0
Mobile Library & Outreach Service Points	35	636
Total	**2,126**	**94,327**

All Events

Location	Events 2023/24	Events 2024/25	Events 2025/26	Participants 2023/24	Participants 2024/25	Participants 2025/26
Banyule	1,698	1,953	1,584	43,887	45,882	48,694
Nillumbik	1,031	1,370	1,527	34,307	37,454	43,321
Whittlesea	2,175	3,056	3,101	48,264	59,435	55,661
Mobile Library	42	36	69	800	694	1,159
Online	16	13	2	146	152	18
Total	**4,962**	**6,428**	**6,283**	**127,404**	**143,617**	**148,853**

Digital Access and Engagement

Social Media Followers

Platform	2024/25	2025/26	Growth
eNewsletter	68,491	110,200	60.90%
Facebook	8,047	8,284	2.95%
Instagram	5,006	5,593	11.73%
LinkedIn	1,161	1,343	15.68%

Digital Interactions

Platform	2024/25	2025/26	Growth
Website Hits	2,590,077	2,664,153	2.86%
Online Catalogue	514,224	535,179	4.08%
YPRL App	519,405	583,185	12.28%

Staff

Staff Type	Number of Staff	% of Workforce
Full Time	40	21%
Part Time	125	65%
Casual	27	14%
Total	**192**	**100%**


A Library
Erin E. Robinson

Disclosures

Information Privacy Act

The *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* is designed to protect the private information of individuals. The Corporation has a Privacy Policy available on the library website. No complaints were received during 2025–2026.

Freedom of Information

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* provides people with the opportunity to obtain information held by state and local government departments and authorities. The Act gives people the right to request documents relating to their personal affairs. YPRL did not receive any requests during 2025–2026.

Public Interest Disclosures

In accordance with the provisions of s. 58 of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012*, the Corporation has a procedure for dealing with disclosures made under the Act. The Executive Manager Corporate Services is the Corporation's Protected Disclosure Coordinator. YPRL has not received any disclosures directly nor has it received any referrals from the Ombudsman during 2025–2026

Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service

Annual Financial Report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

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Certification of Financial Statements

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

Luciano Lauronce

Luciano Lauronce
Principal Accounting Officer
Dated: 09-09-2026
South Morang

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of the Yarra Plenty Regional Library (YPRL) for the year ended 30 June 2026 and the financial position of YPRL as at that date.

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

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

Cr Rick Garotti

Rick Garotti
Councillor
Dated: 09-09-2026
South Morang

Cr Martin Taylor

Martin Taylor
Councillor
Dated: 09-09-2026
South Morang

Nicole Rudden

Nicole Rudden
Chief Executive Officer
Dated: 09-09-2026
South Morang

Independent Auditor's Report

Victorian Auditor-General's Office

To the Board members of Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service

Opinion	I have audited the financial report of Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service (the library) which comprises the: • balance sheet as at 30 June 2026 • comprehensive income statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • statement of cash flows for the year then ended • statement of capital works for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policies • certification of financial statements. In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the library as at 30 June 2026 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.
Basis for Opinion	I have conducted my audit in accordance with the *Audit Act 1994* which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. My independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975.* My staff and I are independent of the library in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including the Independence Standards)* (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. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.
Board members' responsibilities for the financial report	The Board members of the library are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1989*, the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 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. In preparing the financial report, the Board members are responsible for assessing the library'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.

Level 31 / 35 Collins Street, Melbourne Vic 3000
T 03 8601 7000 enquiries@audit.vic.gov.au www.audit.vic.gov.au

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report	As required by the *Audit Act 1994,* my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report. As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also: • identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. • obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the library's internal control • evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board members • conclude on the appropriateness of the Board members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the library'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 library to cease to continue as a going concern. • evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. I communicate with the Board members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



MELBOURNE
16 September 2026

Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Comprehensive Income Statement
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 $	2025 $
Income/Revenue			
Contributions - monetary	3.1	16,478,530	15,515,499
Grants - Operating	3.2	2,865,527	2,911,177
Grants - Capital	3.2	132,500	178,806
User fees and charges	3.3	291,150	287,632
Interest income		387,089	369,523
Other income	3.4	244,400	279,497
Total income / revenue		**20,399,196**	**19,542,134**
Expenses			
Employee costs	4.1	13,050,469	12,255,575
Materials and services	4.2	4,593,963	4,541,053
Depreciation	6.1	1,669,230	1,593,746
Depreciation – right of use assets		82,597	82,596
Utility charges		379,922	332,554
Finance costs - leases		7,366	8,769
Net loss on disposal/write-off of assets		-	350,305
Total expenses		**19,783,547**	**19,164,598**
Surplus for the year		**615,649**	**377,536**
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive Result		**615,649**	**377,536**

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

Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service
2025/2026 Financial Report

Balance Sheet
As at 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 $	2025 $
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	1,365,201	312,701
Trade & other receivables	5.1	551,059	191,311
Other financial assets	5.1	5,000,000	6,500,000
Other assets		36,975	25,261
Total current assets		**6,953,235**	**7,029,273**
Non-current assets			
Bookstock, plant and equipment	6.1	5,188,173	4,738,960
Right-of-use assets	5.6	330,386	412,983
Total non-current assets		**5,518,559**	**5,151,943**
Total assets		**12,471,794**	**12,181,216**
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5.2	1,175,722	1,191,928
Contract and other liabilities	5.2	-	132,500
Lease liabilities	5.6	90,304	86,016
Provisions	5.3	2,064,676	2,184,025
Total current liabilities		**3,330,702**	**3,594,469**
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	5.3	135,405	106,405
Lease liabilities	5.6	297,979	388,283
Total non-current liabilities		**433,384**	**494,688**
Total liabilities		**3,764,086**	**4,089,157**
Net assets		**8,707,708**	**8,092,059**
Equity			
Accumulated Surplus		6,779,410	6,325,073
Reserves		1,928,298	1,766,986
Total Equity		**8,707,708**	**8,092,059**

The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

2026	Total	Accumulated Surplus	Other Reserves
	$	$	$
Balance at beginning of the financial year	8,092,059	6,325,073	1,766,986
Surplus for the year	615,649	615,649	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	(161,312)	161,312
Balance at end of the financial year	**8,707,708**	**6,779,410**	**1,928,298**

2025	Total	Accumulated Surplus	Other Reserves
	$	$	$
Balance at beginning of the financial year	7,714,523	6,834,301	880,222
Surplus for the year	377,536	377,536	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	(886,764)	886,764
Balance at end of the financial year	**8,092,059**	**6,325,073**	**1,766,986**

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 2026

	Note	2026 Inflows/ (Outflows) $	2025 Inflows/ (Outflows) $
Cash flows from operating activities			
Contributions - monetary		16,117,900	15,515,499
Grants - operating		2,865,527	2,911,177
Grants - capital		-	311,306
User fees and charges		291,150	287,632
Interest received		406,783	288,845
Other receipts		225,588	276,737
Employee costs		(13,003,117)	(12,240,089)
Materials and services		(3,836,093)	(3,419,657)
Net GST payment		(911,510)	(921,027)
Other payments		(391,903)	(323,747)
Net cash provided by operating activities	**9.1**	**1,764,325**	**2,686,676**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for bookstock, plant and equipment		(2,118,443)	(2,414,676)
Payment for investments		-	(1,000,000)
Proceeds from sale of investments		1,500,000	-
Net cash used in investing activities		**(618,443)**	**(3,414,676)**
Cash flows from financing activities			
Interest paid – lease liability		(7,366)	(8,769)
Repayment of lease liabilities		(86,016)	(81,881)
Net cash used in financial activities		**(93,382)**	**(90,650)**
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		1,052,500	(818,650)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		312,701	1,131,351
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		**1,365,201**	**312,701**

The above cash flow statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Capital Works

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 $	2025 $
Bookstock			
Bookstock	6.1	1,533,138	1,495,370
Total bookstock		**1,533,138**	**1,495,370**
Plant and equipment			
Plant and equipment	6.1	585,305	519,348
Total plant and equipment		**585,305**	**519,348**
Total capital works expenditure		**2,118,443**	**2,014,718**
Represented by:			
New		280,898	18,885
Upgrade		120,654	381,985
Renewal		1,716,891	1,613,848
Total capital works expenditure		**2,118,443**	**2,014,718**

The above statement of capital works should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Note 1 OVERVIEW

Introduction

The Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service (YPRL) was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 11 January 1996 and is a body corporate.

The YPRL's main office is located at Unit 6, 1 Danaher Drive, South Morang, VIC 3752.

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*.

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

Accounting policy information

Basis of Accounting

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

The accrual basis of accounting has been used in the preparation of these financial statements, except for the cash flow information, 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.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The financial statements are in Australian dollars. Minor discrepancies in tables between totals and the sum of components are due to rounding to the nearest dollar.

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.

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

- the fair value of bookstock, and plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.1)
- the determination of depreciation for bookstock, and plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.1)
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.3)

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

- the determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether an arrangement is within the scope of *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* or *AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (refer to Note 3)
- the determination, in accordance with *AASB 16 Leases* of the lease term, the estimation of the discount rate when not implicit in the lease and whether an arrangement is in substance short-term or low value (refer to Note 5.6)
- other areas requiring judgements

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

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

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

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Note 2 Analysis of our results

2.1 Performance against budget

The performance against budget compares YPRL's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* requires explanation of any material variances. YPRL has adopted a materiality threshold of more than $30,000 where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.
These notes are prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989 (as per the transitional provisions of the Local Government Act 2020),* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

2.1.1 Income / Revenue and expenditure

	Budget 2025/2026 $	Actual 2025/2026 $	Budget Variance Favourable/ (Unfavourable) $	Reference
Income				
Contributions - Operating	15,859,060	16,381,730	522,670	1
Contributions – Capital	98,600	98,600	-	
Grants - Operating	2,840,027	2,865,527	25,500	
Grants - Capital	-	132,500	132,500	2
User fees and charges	258,385	291,150	32,765	3
Interest income	281,248	387,089	105,841	4
Other income	90,098	244,400	154,302	5
Total income / revenue	**19,425,618**	**20,399,196**	**973,578**	
Expenses				
Employee costs	12,689,352	13,050,469	(361,117)	6
Materials and services	4,400,255	4,593,963	(193,708)	7
Depreciation	1,757,415	1,669,230	88,185	8
Depreciation – right of use assets	82,597	82,597	-	
Utilities charges	391,845	379,922	11,923	
Finance costs - leases	7,354	7,366	(12)	
Total expenses	**19,328,818**	**19,783,547**	**(454,729)**	
Surplus for the year	**96,800**	**615,649**	**518,849**	

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

(i) Explanation of material variations

(1) The additional year-end operating contributions are the result of YPRL service expansions at Banyule City Council (upgraded Rosanna Library) and City of Whittlesea (new murnong Mini Library). These additional contributions were offset by the associated employee costs, material & services, and utility expenses.
(2) YPRL was awarded a capital grant under the State Government's Living Libraries Infrastructure Program to support the Watsonia Library Community Room and Study Room upgrade project (refer to Capital Works note 2).
(3) Photocopy fee income exceeded budget expectations, contributing positively to overall revenue.
(4) Additional interest income as interest rate levels continued to favour YPRL investments.
(5) The favourable variance is mainly explained by the Art Invigilator Service Agreement with Banyule City Council and Workcover reimbursements. These additional funds were offset by the associated employee costs.
(6) The unfavourable variance reflects the associated costs to support the expansion of services (refer to note 1) and fulfil non-recurrent commitments (refer to note 5).
(7) The year-end unfavourable variance reflects the associated costs to support the expansion of services (refer to note 1) and the decision made in the preceding financial year to expense all purchases related to audiobooks and audiovisuals collection (Capital Works note 1).
(8) The favourable variance is attributable to the expensing of physical collections of audiobooks and audiovisual materials, which were previously capitalised in accordance with prior accounting treatment (refer to note 7 and Capital Works note 1).

2.1.2 Capital Works

	Budget 2025/2026 $	Actual 2025/2026 $	Budget Variance Favourable/ (Unfavourable) $	Reference
Bookstock	1,651,785	1,533,138	118,647	1
Plant and equipment	480,000	585,305	(105,305)	2
Total capital works expenditure	**2,131,785**	**2,118,443**	**13,342**	
Represented by:				
New	260,000	280,898	(20,898)	
Upgrade	-	120,654	(120,654)	2
Renewal	1,871,785	1,716,891	154,894	1
Total capital works expenditure	**2,131,785**	**2,118,443**	**13,342**	

(i) **Explanation of material variations**

(1) The favourable variance is attributable to the expensing of physical collections of audiobooks and audiovisual materials, which were previously capitalised in accordance with prior accounting treatment.
(2) The unfavourable year-end variance is attributable to the Watsonia Library Community Room and Study Room upgrade project which was partially funded through a capital grant from the State Government's Living Libraries Infrastructure Program.

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Note 2.2 Analysis of YPRL results by program

YPRL delivers its functions and activities through the following programs.

Administration and management
Administration and management provide efficient, effective, and proactive support services across the library service to enable the delivery of the library service vision and mission. The provision of these services includes finance services, digital information and technology, organisational development, procurement, strategy, and program delivery.

Collections
YPRL operates a regional library collection to take advantage of efficiencies in collection management, additional diversity of offering through enhanced collection size, and resource management due to enhanced buying power and economies of scale.

Branches
YPRL operates eleven branches and the mobile library service across the three-member Councils. Branches are responsible for core service delivery including customer service and patron interactions, delivery of local programs, physical management, and local curation of collections.

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

2026	Income	Expenses	Surplus/(Deficit)	Grants (incl. in income)	Total assets
	$	$	$	$	$
Administration and Management	20,050,807	8,162,354	11,888,453	2,940,788	7,038,897
Collections	57,239	3,203,718	(3,146,479)	57,239	2,926,909
Branches	291,150	8,417,475	(8,126,325)	-	2,505,988
	20,399,196	**19,783,547**	**615,649**	**2,998,027**	**12,471,794**

2025	Income	Expenses	Surplus/(Deficit)	Grants (incl. in income)	Total assets
	$	$	$	$	$
Administration and Management	19,197,263	8,394,095	10,803,168	3,032,744	7,141,095
Collections	57,239	2,893,960	(2,836,721)	57,239	2,803,994
Branches	287,632	7,876,543	(7,588,911)	-	2,236,127
	19,542,134	**19,164,598**	**377,536**	**3,089,983**	**12,181,216**

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Note 3 Funding for the delivery of our services

3.1 Contributions - monetary

	2026	2025
	$	$
Member Council's contributions	16,478,530	15,515,499
Total Contributions - monetary	**16,478,530**	**15,515,499**

The following Member Council contributions were received during the year.

Nillumbik Shire Council	3,216,805	3,197,205
Banyule City Council	6,599,410	6,046,726
City of Whittlesea	6,662,315	6,271,568
Total contributions of Member Councils	**16,478,530**	**15,515,499**

Monetary contributions are recognised as revenue when YPRL obtains control over the contributed asset.

Aggregate contributions of Member Councils
The percentage aggregate contributions of Member Councils making up the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service is as follows:

	2026	2025
	%	%
Nillumbik Shire Council	21.23	21.33
Banyule City Council	40.59	40.62
City of Whittlesea	38.18	38.05
Total aggregate contribution of Member Councils	**100.00**	**100.00**

3.2 Grants
Grants were received in respect of the following:

	2026	2025
Summary of Grants	$	$
State Government grants	2,972,527	3,018,833
Other grants	25,500	71,150
Total grants received	**2,998,027**	**3,089,983**

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

(a) Operating Grants

	2026	2025
	$	$
Recurrent Grants		
Recurrent - State Government		
Regional Library Service grant (i)	2,782,788	2,782,788
Premiers Reading grant	57,239	57,239
Total recurrent operating grants	**2,840,027**	**2,840,027**

(i) The Regional Library Service State Government grant was apportioned on the following basis:		
Shire of Nillumbik	465,684	465,684
City of Banyule	880,866	880,866
City of Whittlesea	1,436,238	1,436,238
Total Regional Library Service State Government grant	**2,782,788**	**2,782,788**

Non-recurrent Grants		
Non-recurrent – Other grants		
Banyule Age Friendly grant	1,500	-
Libraries After Dark grant	6,000	-
Whittlesea - Community Cohesion Program grant	9,000	-
Banyule - Community Cohesion Program grant	9,000	-
Middle Years Holiday Programs grant	-	55,000
Citizen Science Corners grant	-	650
Aged Care Reform Information Hub grant	-	6,000
Medicare 40th Anniversary grant	-	2,000
School Student Broadband Initiative (SSBI) grant	-	7,500
Total non-recurrent operating grants	**25,500**	**71,150**
Total operating grants	**2,865,527**	**2,911,177**

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

(b) Capital Grants

Non-recurrent – State Government	2026	2025
	$	$
Living Library Infrastructure grant	132,500	178,806
Total non-recurrent capital grants	**132,500**	**178,806**
Total capital grants	**132,500**	**178,806**

(c) Recognition of grant income

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

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

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

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

	2026	2025
	$	$
Income recognised under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities		
General purpose	2,865,527	2,911,177
Other specific purpose grants	132,500	178,806
Total Income Recognised under AASB 1058	**2,998,027**	**3,089,983**

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

Capital		
Balance at start of year	132,500	-
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	-	132,500
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(132,500)	-
Balance at year end	-	**132,500**

Unspent grants are determined and disclosed on a cash basis.

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

3.3 User fees and charges

	2026	2025
	$	$
Community room venue hire	115,745	128,093
Photocopy fees	154,553	139,185
Other fees and charges	20,852	20,354
Total other revenue	**291,150**	**287,632**

User fees and charges are recognised as revenue at a point in time, or over time, when (or as) the performance obligation is satisfied. Recognition is based on the underlying contractual terms.

3.4 Other revenue

Sale of library services	84,656	171,145
Workcover reimbursements	83,094	56,616
Other revenue	76,650	51,736
Total other revenue	**244,400**	**279,497**

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

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Note 4 The cost of delivering services

4.1 (a) Employee costs

	2026	2025
	$	$
Salaries	10,466,661	9,774,444
Superannuation	1,363,421	1,213,249
Workcover	77,902	128,956
Annual leave/Long service leave	1,142,485	1,138,926
Total Employee Costs	**13,050,469**	**12,255,575**

4.1 (b) Superannuation contributions

Contributions by YPRL to the following superannuation plans are detailed below:

Scheme	Type of scheme		
Vision Super	Defined benefit	44,666	60,688
Vision Super (Employer) %	Accumulation	539,198	501,782
Australian Super (Employer) %	Accumulation	120,598	112,056
REST Super (Employer) %	Accumulation	82,676	95,467
Uni Super (Employer) %	Accumulation	75,808	64,664
Hostplus (Employer) %	Accumulation	71,852	54,859
VIC Super (Employer) %	Accumulation	67,298	35,693
Catholic Super (Employer) %	Accumulation	34,787	31,262
CARE Super (Employer) %	Accumulation	33,991	31,258
Aware Super (Employer) %	Accumulation	27,549	30,482
Q Super (Employer) %	Accumulation	25,931	23,316
Australian Ethical Sup (Employer) %	Accumulation	16,650	19,025
SKR Superannuation Fund (Employer) %	Accumulation	15,681	16,582
Hesta (Employer) %	Accumulation	15,096	15,820
Smart Future Trust (Employer) %	Accumulation	7,007	13,605
Other funds	Accumulation	184,633	106,690
Total employer contributions		**1,363,421**	**1,213,249**

Defined benefit fund:

Employer contributions payable at the reporting date (Vision Super)	-	-

Accumulation funds:

Employer contributions payable at the reporting date	34,877	29,542

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

4.2 Materials and services

	2026 $	2025 $
Audit Fees		
- Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements	20,600	19,600
- Auditors' remuneration - Internal Audit	34,356	16,500
Bank charges	20,318	19,368
Legal services	85,991	-
Building maintenance costs	83,091	112,001
Cleaning costs	533,584	580,754
Collection content & processing costs	1,488,269	1,383,303
Consultancy costs	82,525	132,959
Courier and postage costs	161,419	143,443
Equipment and motor vehicle maintenance costs	473,744	578,190
Initiatives costs	105,785	124,753
Insurances	73,962	66,735
IT service, system communication, and license costs	776,214	714,758
Other material and service costs	71,722	91,757
Staff training and OHS	273,022	191,738
Printing stationary & external communications	153,235	158,424
Program costs	156,126	206,770
Total material and services	**4,593,963**	**4,541,053**

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

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Note 5 Investing in and financing our operations

5.1 Financial assets

	2026	2025
	$	$
(a) Cash and cash equivalent assets		
Cash at bank	865,201	312,701
Term deposits	500,000	-
Total cash and cash equivalent assets	**1,365,201**	**312,701**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of 90 days or less.

(b) Other financial assets		
Term deposits - current	5,000,000	6,500,000
Total other financial assets	**5,000,000**	**6,500,000**
Total cash and cash equivalent assets and other financial assets	**6,365,201**	**6,812,701**

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

Other financial assets include term deposits and those with original maturity dates over 90 days to 365 days are classified as current.

(c) Trade and other receivables

Non-statutory receivable

	2026	2025
	$	$
Community organisations and financial organisations	551,059	191,311
Provision for doubtful debts	-	-
Total trade and other receivables	**551,059**	**191,311**

Short term receivables are carried at invoice amount. An allowance for expected credit losses is recognised based on past experience and other objective evidence of expected losses. Long term receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

(d) Ageing of receivables

The ageing of collectable trade and other receivables per provision matrix:

Current (not yet due)	551,059	190,660
Past due by up to 30 days	-	651
Total trade and other receivables	**551,059**	**191,311**

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

5.2 Payables, trust deposits, and contract and other liabilities

(a) Trade and other payables

Current	**2026**	**2025**
	$	**$**
Non-statutory payables		
Payables and accruals	919,618	1,012,959
Trust deposits	1,064	927
Statutory payables		
Net GST	255,040	178,042
Total trade and other payables	**1,175,722**	**1,191,928**

(b) Contract and other liabilities

Current		
Grants received in advance - capital	-	132,500
Total contract and other liabilities	**-**	**132,500**

5.3 Provisions

2026	**Annual Leave**	**Long Service Leave**	**Total**
	$	**$**	**$**
Balance at beginning of financial year	849,942	1,440,488	2,290,430
Additional provisions	889,178	162,958	1,052,136
Amounts used	(926,018)	(216,467)	(1,142,485)
Balance at the end of the financial year	**813,102**	**1,386,979**	**2,200,081**

2025	**Annual Leave**	**Long Service Leave**	**Total**
	$	**$**	**$**
Balance at beginning of financial year	859,399	1,426,081	2,285,480
Additional provisions	877,060	266,816	1,143,876
Amounts used	(886,517)	(252,409)	(1,138,926)
Balance at the end of the financial year	**849,942**	**1,440,488**	**2,290,430**

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

	2026	2025
	$	$
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months		
Annual leave	650,482	679,954
Long service leave	277,396	288,098
	927,878	**968,052**
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
Annual leave	162,620	169,988
Long service leave	974,178	1,045,985
	1,136,798	**1,215,973**
Total current employee provisions	**2,064,676**	**2,184,025**
Non-current		
Long service leave	135,405	106,405
Total non-current employee provisions	**135,405**	**106,405**
Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:		
Current	2,064,676	2,184,025
Non-current	135,405	106,405
Total aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions	**2,200,081**	**2,290,430**

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

Annual leave

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

- nominal value if YPRL expects to wholly settle the liability within 12 months

- present value if YPRL does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

Long service leave

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

Key assumptions:

– discount rate (4.736%) as per Department of Treasury and Finance Victoria 30/06/2026

– inflation rate (4.150%) as per Department of Treasury and Finance Victoria 30/06/2026

Notes to the Financial Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

5.4 Financing Facilities

YPRL does not have any credit standby arrangements, unused loan, or credit card facilities.

5.5 Commitments

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

	2026	2025
	$	$
Cleaning Contract Expenditure	1,588,501	1,748,970
	1,588,501	**1,748,970**

The periods expected to elapse from the reporting date to the expected date of payments are as follows:

Not later than one year	782,513	568,655
Greater than one year but not later than five years	805,988	1,180,315
	1,588,501	**1,748,970**

5.6 Leases

At inception of a contract, YPRL assesses 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 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, YPRL 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, YPRL uses an appropriate incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate.

Notes to the Financial Report

for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

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 YPRL is reasonably certain to exercise, lease payments in an optional renewal period if YPRL is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option, and penalties for early termination of a lease unless YPRL 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	**Buildings**	**Total**
	$	**$**
Balance at 1 July 2025	412,983	412,983
Additions	-	-
Depreciation charge	82,597	82,597
Balance at 30 June 2026	**330,386**	**330,386**

Lease Liabilities	**2026**	**2025**
	$	**$**
Maturity analysis – undiscounted cash flows		
Less than one year	96,170	93,369
One to five years	305,907	402,077
Total undiscounted lease liabilities at 30 June:	**402,077**	**495,446**

Lease liabilities included in Balance Sheet 30 June:

Current	90,304	86,016
Non-current	297,979	388,283
Total lease liabilities	**388,283**	**474,299**

Short-term and low value leases

YPRL has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases which have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets (individual assets worth less than $10,000), including ICT equipment. YPRL recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Expense relating to:		
Leases of low value assets	230,731	239,927
Total short-term and low value leases	**230,731**	**239,927**

Notes to the Financial Report

for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Non-cancellable lease commitments – Short-term and low-value leases

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

Payable:	2026	2025
	$	$
Within one year	220,216	168,452
Later than one year but not later than five years	329,011	295,188
Total non-cancellable lease commitments – short-term and low-value leases	**549,227**	**463,640**

Notes to the Financial Report

for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Note 6 Assets we manage

6.1 Bookstock, and plant and equipment

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of asset between the beginning and the end of the financial year.

2025/2026	Bookstock	Plant & Equip.	Total
	$	$	$
At valuation 1 July 2025	6,785,909	3,701,952	10,487,861
Accumulated depreciation 1 July 2025	(3,981,915)	(1,766,986)	(5,748,901)
	2,803,994	**1,934,966**	**4,738,960**
Movements in carrying value			
Acquisition of assets at cost	1,533,138	585,305	2,118,443
Cost value of assets disposed/written-off	(1,267,932)	-	(1,267,932)
	265,206	**585,305**	**850,511**
Movements in accumulated depreciation			
Depreciation expense	(1,410,223)	(259,007)	(1,669,230)
Accumulated depreciation of assets disposed/written-off	1,267,932	-	1,267,932
	(142,291)	**(259,007)**	**(401,298)**
At valuation 30 June 2026	7,051,115	4,287,257	11,338,372
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2026	(4,124,206)	(2,025,993)	(6,150,199)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2026	**2,926,909**	**2,261,264**	**5,188,173**

2024/2025	Bookstock	Plant & Equip.	Total
	$	$	$
At valuation 1 July 2024	7,451,745	4,561,105	12,012,850
Accumulated depreciation 1 July 2024	(4,455,001)	(2,889,557)	(7,344,558)
	2,996,744	**1,671,548**	**4,668,292**
Movements in carrying value			
Acquisition of assets at cost	1,495,370	519,348	2,014,718
Cost value of assets disposed/written-off	(2,161,205)	(176,716)	(2,337,921)
	(665,835)	**342,632**	**(323,203)**
Movements in accumulated depreciation			
Depreciation expense	(1,357,182)	(236,564)	(1,593,746)
Accumulated depreciation of assets disposed/written-off	1,830,267	157,350	1,987,617
	473,085	**(79,214)**	**393,871**
At valuation 30 June 2025	6,785,909	3,701,952	10,487,861
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2025	(3,981,915)	(1,766,986)	(5,748,901)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2025	**2,803,994**	**1,934,966**	**4,738,960**

Notes to the Financial Report

for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

6.2 Recognition and measurement of bookstock, and plant and equipment

Acquisition

YPRL initially measures its bookstock, and plant and equipment assets at cost. The cost of an acquired asset is the fair value of the consideration that YPRL has provided 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.

Where assets are constructed by YPRL, cost includes all materials used in construction, direct labour, borrowing costs incurred during construction, and an appropriate share of directly attributable variable and fixed overheads.

In accordance with YPRL's policy, the threshold limits detailed in Note 6.3 have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year.

6.3 Depreciation

Collection assets and plant and equipment having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to YPRL in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of useful lives within each major asset classes are 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 useful life for each asset.

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

	Depreciation Periods	Threshold Limits
Plant & equipment	3 to 30 years	$1,000
Bookstock collection	5 years	$ -
Leasehold improvements	5 to 20 years	$ -
Art works	None	$ -

Repairs and maintenance

Routine maintenance, repair costs, and minor renewal costs are expensed as incurred. Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

6.4 Impairment of Assets

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

Notes to the Financial Report

for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Note 7 People and relationships

7.1 YPRL and key management remuneration

(a) Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel (KMP) are those people with the authority and responsibility for planning, directing, and controlling the activities of YPRL. The Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Managers are deemed KMP.

Details of persons holding the position of key management personnel, at any time during the year are:

Board Members	**2026**	**2025**
	No.	**No.**
Alison Champion (Banyule City Council)	1	1
Rick Garotti (Banyule City Council)	1	1
Christine Stow (City of Whittlesea)	1	1
Martin John Taylor (City of Whittlesea)	1	1
Grant Brooker (Nillumbik Shire Council)	1	1
Peter Perkins (Nillumbik Shire Council)	1	1
Stevan Kozmevski (City of Whittlesea)	-	1
Lydia Wilson (City of Whittlesea)	-	1
Agata Chmielewski (City of Whittlesea)	-	1
Karen Egan (Nillumbik Shire Council)	-	1
Total Board Members	**6**	**10**
Council Delegates		
Corrienne Nichols – Resigned June 2026	1	1
Blaga Naumoski – Appointed May 2026	1	-
Joseph Tabacco	1	1
Anthony Traill	1	1
Agata Chmielewski	1	1
Total Council Delegates	**5**	**4**
Executive Management Personnel		
Chief Executive Officer – Nicole Rudden (Appointed November 2025)	1	-
Executive Manager - Public Participation - Robyn Ellard	1	1
Executive Manager – Corporate Services – Luciano Lauronce	1	1
Executive Manager – Technology & Assets – Cherry Byford-Sibbing	1	-
Interim Chief Executive Officer – Clemence Gillings (July-November 2025)	1	-
Chief Executive Officer – Jane Cowell (Resigned October 2025)	1	1
Executive Manager – Technology & Assets – Sajeeva Tennekoon (Resigned May 2026)	1	1
Executive Manager – Corporate Services – Kate Karrasch	-	1
Total Executive Management Personnel	**7**	**5**
Total Key Management Personnel	**18**	**19**

Notes to the Financial Report

for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

(b) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

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

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

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

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

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

Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2026	2025
	$	$
Short-term employee benefits	912,198	862,268
Other long-term employee benefits	15,748	18,404
Post-employment benefits	93,763	87,884
Total	**1,021,709**	**968,556**

The numbers of key management personnel whose total remuneration from the YPRL, fall within the following bands:

	2026	2025
	No.	No.
NIL	11	14
$80,000 – $89,999	1	-
$90,000 – $99,999	1	-
$120,000 – $129,999	1	-
$150,000 - $159,999	1	1
$180,000 – $189,999	2	2
$190,000 - $199,999	1	1
$230,000 – $239,999	-	1
	18	**19**

(c) Remuneration of other senior staff

Other senior staff are officers of YPRL, other than Key Management Personnel, whose total remuneration exceeds $170,000 and who report directly to a member of the KMP.

At YPRL, there were no other senior staff who met the above criteria for the financial year 2025/2026.

Notes to the Financial Report

for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

(d) Transactions with related parties

During the period YPRL entered into the following transactions (Excl GST) with related parties.

	2026	2025
Expenditure	**$**	**$**
Branch utilities (Ivanhoe, Rosanna, Watsonia) paid to Banyule City Council	124,275	102,281
Eltham Electricity paid to Nillumbik Shire Council	71,019	54,591
Rosanna Pop-Up Lease and Rates expenses paid to Banyule City Council	28,924	61,356
LSL Transfer paid to Banyule City Council	24,491	-
Recruitment Consultancy Charges paid to Nillumbik Shire Council	22,577	-
Building Permit/Rates/Waste Management paid to Banyule City Council	7,200	
Fuel, MV Repairs, Training & Other paid to City of Whittlesea	2,483	22,451
Room hires paid to City of Whittlesea	1,000	-
Fire detector maintenance paid to City of Whittlesea	1,000	
Diamond Valley Outdoor Area fit out paid to Nillumbik Shire Council	-	75,000
LSL Transfer paid to City of Whittlesea	-	7,039
Vehicle Running Cost & Other paid to Banyule City Council	-	3,975
Contribution for Probity Services for Cleaning Tender paid to Banyule City Council	-	2,559
Room hires paid to Nillumbik Shire Council	-	206
Total Related Party Expenditure	**282,969**	**329,458**
Revenue		
Council Library Contribution received from City of Whittlesea	6,662,315	6,271,568
Council Library Contribution received from Banyule City Council	6,599,410	6,046,726
Council Library Contribution received from Nillumbik Shire Council	3,216,805	3,197,205
Ivanhoe cleaning cost reimbursement received from Banyule City Council	75,973	118,963
Art Invigilator reimbursement received from Banyule City Council	63,237	-
Lalor Toy Library contribution received from City of Whittlesea	5,413	5,413
Other monies received from Banyule City Council	4,281	4,233
Other monies received from City of Whittlesea	2,239	1,316
Banyule Age Friendly Grant received from Banyule City Council	1,500	-
Other monies received from Nillumbik Shire Council	235	200
Middle Years Grant	-	55,000
Lalor Community Room contribution received from City of Whittlesea	-	3,198
Total Related Party Revenue	**16,631,408**	**15,703,822**

(e) Outstanding balances with related parties

	2026	2025
	$	**$**
Monies owed to Banyule City Council	38,471	62,402
Monies owed by Banyule City Council	170,097	20,387
Monies owed to Nillumbik Shire Council	11,568	7,500
Monies owed to City of Whittlesea	-	8,177
Monies owed by City of Whittlesea	248,179	153

(f) Loans to/from related parties

There are no outstanding loans to/from related parties.

(g) Commitments to/from related parties

There are no outstanding commitments to/from related parties.

Notes to the Financial Report

for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Note 8 Managing uncertainties

8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities

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

(a) Contingent assets

Contingent assets are possible assets that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of YPRL.

As at 30 June 2026, YPRL is not aware of any contingent assets.

(b) Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:

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

Superannuation

YPRL has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme (refer to note 9.2 Superannuation). As a result of the volatility in financial markets the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists.

Liability Mutual Insurance

YPRL is a participant of the MAV Liability Mutual Insurance (LMI) Scheme. The LMI scheme provides public liability and professional indemnity insurance cover. The LMI scheme states that each participant will remain liable to make further contributions to the scheme in respect of any insurance year in which it was a participant to the extent of its participant's share of any shortfall in the provision set aside in respect of that insurance year, and such liability will continue whether or not the participant remains a participant in future insurance years.

8.2 Australian Accounting Standards issued but not yet effective

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2026 reporting period. YPRL assesses the impact of these new standards.

The Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) has issued *AASB 18 Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements*. When applicable AASB 18 supersedes *AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements*. AASB 18 aims to improve how entities communicate in their financial statements, with a focus on information about financial performance in the statement of profit or loss. It is expected to result in presentation and disclosure changes, primarily to YPRL's Comprehensive Income Statement. AASB 18 is expected to first apply to YPRL for the 2028-29 financial year.

Notes to the Financial Report

for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

8.3 Financial instruments

(a) Objectives and policies

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

(b) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of YPRL's financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. YPRL'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.

(c) 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. YPRL 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. YPRL 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 (as per the transitional provisions of the Local Government Act 2020)*.

There has been no significant change in YPRL'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 an impact on YPRL's year end result.

(d) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause YPRL to make a financial loss. YPRL has exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in the balance sheet.

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

(e) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of our operational liquidity requirements or we will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction when required, we 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, YPRL:

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

With the exception of borrowings, all financial liabilities are expected to be settled within normal terms of trade.

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

Notes to the Financial Report

for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

(f) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

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

– A parallel shift of -0.25% to -0.75% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 4.35%.

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

8.4 Fair value hierarchy

YPRL's financial assets and liabilities are not valued in accordance with the fair value hierarchy.

YPRL financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

YPRL measures certain assets and liabilities at fair value where required or permitted by Australian Accounting Standards. *AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement*, aims to improve consistency and reduce complexity by providing a definition of fair value and a single source of fair value measurement and disclosure requirements for use across Australian Accounting Standards.
YPRL has considered the amendments to *AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement* that apply for the 2025-26 financial year as a result of *AASB 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities*. For assets, where the YPRL adopts a current replacement cost approach to determine fair value, YPRL now considers the inclusion of site preparation costs, disruption costs and costs to restore another entity's assets in the underlying valuation.
The *AASB 13* amendments apply prospectively, comparative figures have not been restated.
The AASB 13 amendments have not resulted in any material impacts to YPRL's financial statements.

8.5 Events occurring after balance date

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

Notes to the Financial Report

for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Note 9 Other matters

9.1 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus

	2026	2025
	$	$
Surplus for the year	615,649	377,536
Depreciation	1,751,827	1,676,342
Net loss on disposal/write-off of assets	-	350,305
Finance costs - leases	7,366	8,769
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(359,748)	(83,437)
(Increase)/decrease in other assets	(11,714)	135,231
Increase/(decrease) in contract and other liabilities	(132,500)	132,500
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(16,206)	84,480
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(90,349)	4,950
Net cash provided by operating activities	**1,764,325**	**2,686,676**

9.2 Superannuation

YPRL 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 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 2026, this was 12.0% as required under Superannuation Guarantee (SG) legislation (2025: 11.5%)).

Defined Benefit

YPRL 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 YPRL 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.

For 30 June 2026 the Vested Benefits Index (VBI) for the defined benefits fund is 116.9% and in a good financial position, and therefore it is expected that there will be no change to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

In the unlikely event that the Fund Actuary determines there is a shortfall, the Fund's participating employers would be required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall. It is anticipated any shortfall in subsequent years would be immaterial to the Library.

Notes to the Financial Report

for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Superannuation contributions

Contributions by YPRL (excluding any unfunded liability payments) to the above superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2026 are detailed below:

Scheme	Type of Scheme	Rate	2026	2025
			$	$
Vision Super	Defined Benefit	2026 12.0% 2025 11.5%	44,666	60,688
Super funds	Accumulation Fund	2026 12.0% 2025 11.5%	1,318,755	1,152,561

There were $34,877 contributions outstanding, and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2026.

The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2027 is $45,500.

Notes to the Financial Report

for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Note 10 Change in accounting policy

There have been no changes to accounting policies in the 2025-26 year.

Community Feedback on our Library Service



'I love everything about my library and am extremely grateful for all the work they do. When I arrived here from overseas and knew nobody, the library was a safe place for me to connect and meet friendly people, some of whom I became close friends with. I couldn't imagine a world without libraries.'

'You get a warm fuzzy feeling stepping into a YPRL library.'

'It's the fact that libraries provide a guaranteed neutral space for people to go when the world seems overwhelming. It's like a home away from home but full of helpers and people who understand.'

'I've been visiting YPRL since I was a teenager. I'm now a 35 year old parent and still love visiting my local library with my daughter. We always feel safe and welcomed and never leave without a bundle of new books to read.'

'I would like to sincerely thank you for putting movies on the extreme hot days recently. This extra event has made a real difference to the community.'

'I always enter the library with happy anticipation for a pleasant time and enjoy the feeling accompanying selecting a new book or collecting a hold.'

'I can be there alone, and yet still feel connected. As a member for 55 years, I love the changes and direction my libraries are taking: seed saving, children's and adult activities, gardening, computers, and a 'relaxed' feel making it a place to while away an hour or two!'

'I love borrowing books and I hope to keep that tradition going with my son.'

'In the absence of family, YPRL was like an old friend when my daughters were little ... I firmly believe our frequent visits helped develop their strong literacy skills.'

'I was lonely until I went to the library.'

'As a self-employed business owner, I find the Ivanhoe library an outstanding place to work and stay focused amidst other people doing the same.'


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Balance like a penguin
Sneak like a leopard
Build like a beaver
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Yarra Plenty Regional Library
Bag 65 Bundoora VIC 3083
(03) 9408 7888
ypmail@yprl.vic.gov.au
yprl.vic.gov.au

6.3 YPRL Board and Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Dates - 2027 (DECISION)

Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Nicole Rudden, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:	Nil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is for the Board Members' information and decision. The proposed YPRL Board meeting schedule for 2027 is presented for review and approval. Early approval of the 2027 meeting dates ensures timely booking of venues and issuance of calendar invites to Board Members and Council administration teams.

Under the terms of the Regional Library Agreement, the YPRL Board must meet at least quarterly, with all meetings rotated between the Cities of Banyule and Whittlesea and Shire of Nillumbik. The meetings can be held in person or online at a location within the hosting Council area, usually at a YPRL library venue or an appropriate council owned meeting room.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board resolves to RECEIVE and APPROVE the proposed YPRL Board meeting dates for 2027.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

The proposed dates for the 2027 YPRL Board meeting calendar are listed in the table below.

All Ordinary Board meetings are open to the public in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* and will be rotated between the City of Banyule, the City of Whittlesea and the Shire of Nillumbik in either the YPRL branches or Member Council buildings.

The YPRL Audit and Risk Committee meetings are also noted and will be scheduled to commence at 4.00pm on the same day as the relevant Board meeting at the same location. These dates follow the current schedule as agreed by the Audit and Risk Committee members.

Meeting Date	Hosting LGA	Meetings
Thursday 28 January	N/A – Induction Meeting	Board only
Thursday 25 February	Banyule	Board and Audit & Risk Committee
Thursday 29 April	Whittlesea	Board and Audit & Risk Committee
Thursday 24 June	Nillumbik	Board only
Thursday 26 August	Banyule	Board and Audit & Risk Committee
Thursday 28 October	Whittlesea	Board only
Thursday 9 December	Nillumbik	Board and Audit & Risk Committee

The following timetable highlights the key areas of discussion for 2027. It is presented to assist the Board in their forward planning and as an opportunity to include any other items of interest to the Board.

January*	Election of YPRL Board Chair and Deputy Chair Audit Committee Appointments CEO Employment Matters Subcommittee Appointments
February	Draft Budget 2027/2028 and Draft Strategic Resource Plan 2027/2028 (Confidential Item)
April	Budget and Strategic Resource Plan 2027/2028 approved for public display and consultation.
June	Budget and Strategic Resource Plan 2027/2028 formally adopted. Procurement Policy adopted.
August	Draft Annual Report approved. Draft Audited EOFY Financial Statements approved.
October	Board and Audit and Risk Committee meeting dates for 2028. Annual Report formally adopted.
December	CEO Annual Performance Review (Confidential)

CONSULTATION

YPRL Senior Leadership Team

CRITICAL DATES

22 October 2026 – to allow for timely booking of venues and calendar invites issued to Board Members.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

STRATEGIC RISKS

SR 04: Governance - Failure to comply with statutory obligations, policies or governance frameworks
SR 09: Organisational Service Delivery - Risk of failing to meet evolving community needs or Member Council expectations

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 1989, Sections 83 (a), 86, 89 and 91
YPRL Regional Library Agreement 1993 Part 4

LINKS TO LIBRARY PLAN

Priority 4: Organisational Resilience

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Under section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 officers providing advice to the Library must disclose any interests, including type of interest.

The Responsible Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with the relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

END OF AGENDA ITEM

6.4 Quarterly Finance Report - September 2026 (NOTING)

Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Luciano Lauronce, Executive Manager Corporate Services
Attachments:	1. Balance Sheet - September 2026 [**6.4.1** - 1 page] 2. Statement of Cash Flows - September 2026 [**6.4.2** - 1 page]

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The September 2026 Quarterly Financial Report presents YPRL's operating result and capital expenditure financial performance against budget.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board resolves to RECEIVE and NOTE the Quarterly Finance Report September 2026.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

The 30 September 2026 Quarterly Finance Report comprises a review of the current performance against year-to-date budget, full year forecast, and other key financial information.

Operating Result

As of 30 September 2026, YPRL has achieved a $966k underlying operating surplus. This result compares favourably to the year-to-date (YTD) budget by $162k. Furthermore, the year-end underlying result forecast compares favourably to the annual budget by $12k. This outcome reflects careful and proactive budget management decisions.

September 2026 Financial Quarterly Report

Operating Result

	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	YTD Variance	Annual Budget	Annual Forecast	Forecast Variance	Note
	$	$	$	$	$	$	
Income							
Grants - Operating	1,402,594	1,391,394	11,200	2,840,027	2,851,227	11,200	
Contributions - Operating	4,461,208	4,461,207	1	17,844,830	17,844,830	-	
User fees and charges	88,033	73,155	14,878	292,630	292,630	-	
Interest income	101,856	89,688	12,168	318,748	330,916	12,168	
Other revenue	43,723	26,634	17,089	177,453	194,542	17,089	
Total Income	**6,097,413**	**6,042,078**	**55,336**	**21,473,688**	**21,514,145**	**40,457**	
Expenses							
Employee costs	(3,329,761)	(3,373,403)	43,642	(14,473,421)	(14,490,510)	(17,089)	
Material and services	(1,301,077)	(1,343,917)	42,840	(4,777,997)	(4,789,197)	(11,200)	
Depreciation/Amortisation expense	(448,549)	(448,549)	-	(1,794,195)	(1,794,195)	-	
Utility charges	(50,089)	(70,370)	20,281	(422,208)	(422,208)	-	
Finance costs - leases	(1,609)	(1,467)	(142)	(5,867)	(5,867)	-	
Total Expenses	**(5,131,085)**	**(5,237,706)**	**106,621**	**(21,473,688)**	**(21,501,977)**	**(28,289)**	
Accounting Surplus (Deficit)	**966,327**	**804,372**	**161,957**	**-**	**12,168**	**12,168**	
Underlying Surplus (Deficit)	**966,327**	**804,372**	**161,957**	**-**	**12,168**	**12,168**	

Capital Expenditure

As 30 September 2026, overall capital expenditure totals $553k. The year-end forecast is expected to be on budget.

September 2026 Financial Quarterly Report

Capital Expenditure

	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	YTD Variance	Annual Budget	Annual Forecast	Forecast Variance	Note
	$	$	$	$	$	$	
Capital Expenditure							
Bookstock	551,654	558,343	6,689	1,573,452	1,573,452	-	
Plant and Equipment	-	-	-	138,146	138,146	-	
Total Capital Expenditure	551,654	558,343	6,689	1,711,598	1,711,598	-	

Investment performance

YPRL continues to maximise the allocation of funds in “at call” and “term” deposits and achieve the best investment result in the current macroeconomic conditions. The YTD investment performance for the current financial year was:

- Interest income (accrual basis): $102k
- Average investment return: 4.76% pa (per annum)
- Average 3-month Bank Bill Swap Rate (BBSW) midpoint average: 4.56%

- RBA's cash rate: 4.60% pa
- Weighted average investment duration: 106 days
- Counterparty: Commonwealth Bank Australia

As of 30 September 2026, the investment asset allocation comprises:

At call deposits

- Allocation: $1.55k
- Interest rate: RBA Cash Rate + 20bps

Term deposits

- Allocation: $5.500m
- Average interest rate: 5.02%
- Average 3-month Bank Bill Swap Rate (BBSW) midpoint average: 4.56%
- RBA's cash rate: 4.60% pa
- Average maturity: 179 days
- Counterparty: Commonwealth Bank Australia

Financial Position

YPRL, as of 30 September 2026, continues to remain financially sound and maintain a strong liquidity position with a working capital ratio, which assesses YPRL's ability to current commitments, of 2.67 (1.3, YPRL's target).

CONSULTATION

Consultation was held with the Executive Leadership team and the Finance team during the preparation of this report.

CRITICAL DATES

N/A.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All financial implications are included within the body of this report.

STRATEGIC RISKS

SR 02: Finance Governance - Failure to ensure financial sustainability

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 1989, Section 138 (1) requires a Regional Library Corporation to prepare and present a statement comparing budgeted revenue and expenditure for the financial year with the actual revenue and expenditure at least quarterly.

LINKS TO LIBRARY PLAN

Priority 4: Organisational Resilience

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Under section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 officers providing advice to the Library must disclose any interests, including type of interest.

The Responsible Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with the relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

END OF AGENDA ITEM

September 2026 Financial Quarterly Report

Balance Sheet

	June 2026 $	Sep 2026 $	YTD Variance $
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,365,201	2,046,845	681,644
Trade & Other Receivables	551,059	79,850	(471,209)
Other financial assets	5,000,000	5,000,000	-
Other Assets	36,975	23,981	(12,994)
Total Current Assets	**6,953,235**	**7,150,675**	**197,440**
Non-Current Assets			
Bookstock, Plant & Equipment	5,188,173	5,352,279	164,106
Right of use Assets	330,386	269,386	(61,000)
Total Non-Current Assets	**5,518,559**	**5,621,664**	**103,105**
Total Assets	**12,471,794**	**12,772,340**	**300,546**
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	1,175,722	540,588	(635,135)
Current Lease Liabilities	90,304	90,304	-
Employee Provisions – Current	2,064,676	2,047,935	(16,741)
Total Current Liabilities	**3,330,702**	**2,678,826**	**(651,876)**
Non Current Liabilities			
Employee Provisions – Non Current	135,405	143,873	8,468
Non Current Lease Liabilities	297,979	275,606	(22,373)
Total Non-Current Liabilities	**433,384**	**419,479**	**(13,905)**
Total Liabilities	**3,764,086**	**3,098,305**	**(665,782)**
Net Assets	**8,707,708**	**9,674,035**	**966,327**
Equity			
Accumulated Surplus	6,779,410	7,745,737	966,327
Reserves	1,928,298	1,928,298	-
Total Equity	**8,707,708**	**9,674,035**	**966,327**

September 2026 Financial Quarterly Report

Statement of Cash Flows

	Sep 2025 Inflows/ (Outflows) $	Sep 2026 Inflows/ (Outflows) $
Cash flows from operating activities		
Contributions - Operating	3,964,765	4,821,837
Contributions - Capital	96,800	-
Grants - Operating	2,800,288	1,402,594
User fees and charges	72,065	88,033
Interest income	44,706	41,840
Other income	48,525	112,462
Payments to employees	(3,239,326)	(3,329,761)
Materials & Services and other payments	(1,445,582)	(1,879,725)
Net cash provided by operating activities	**2,342,241**	**1,257,280**
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments for library books, plant and equipment	(426,732)	(551,654)
Investments (payments)/redemptions	(1,000,000)	-
Net cash used in investing activities	**(1,426,732)**	**(551,654)**
Cash flows from financing activities		
Interest paid – lease liability	(1,987)	(1,609)
Repayment of lease liabilities	(21,310)	(22,373)
Net cash used in financial activities	**(23,298)**	**(23,982)**
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	892,212	681,643
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	312,701	1,365,201
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	**1,204,913**	**2,046,845**

6.5 CEO Report (NOTING)

Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Nicole Rudden, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:	1. Dashboard Q 1 2026-2027 [**6.5.1** - 3 pages]

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to update the Board on each of the four priority areas of the YPRL Library Plan 2025 – 2029 and the activities undertaken across the region during the reporting period.

The report also provides a quarterly dashboard summary and is for noting.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board resolves to RECEIVE and NOTE the CEO Report

REPORT

BACKGROUND

YPRL Library Plan 2025 - 2029

Literacy and Learning for Life

Winter Reading Campaign

YPRL's expanded Winter Reading Campaign delivered strong results, successfully engaging lapsed and aspirational readers while encouraging sustainable reading habits.

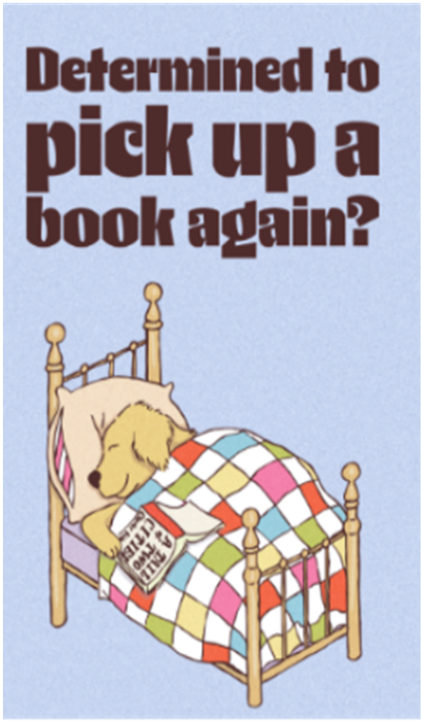
Running from June to August 2026, the campaign featured three key initiatives: the Winter Reading Challenge, a personalised Book Matching Service and a Book Group Participation Drive.

Feedback from more than 100 participants indicated increased reading confidence, stronger engagement with library collections and improved reading habits. One participant reflected, *"Picking up a book seemed to have been a thing of the past, but the reading challenge made me want to read again. I started with only 15 minutes a day but soon it was more, finally finishing a book and starting another."* This feedback demonstrates the program's success in rekindling reading habits and encouraging sustained engagement with literacy and learning.

The campaign's refreshed branding and illustrations, created by YPRL staff member Carly Candiloro, generated strong community interest and staff enthusiasm, contributing to significantly higher participation. Participant

feedback highlighted a return to regular reading, increased library use, exploration of new genres and the establishment of lasting reading habits.

The campaign's success demonstrates the impact of targeted reader development initiatives in supporting literacy, wellbeing and long-term engagement with library services.







Blunderbore Exclusive Launch Event

Diamond Valley Library partnered with QBD Books and Penguin Random House to host an exclusive launch event celebrating the release of *Blunderbore*, the new graphic novel by award-winning author Sofie Laguna and acclaimed illustrator Marc McBride. The event attracted 36 attendees, providing local families with a unique opportunity to meet the creators behind this highly anticipated Australian publication.

Participants enjoyed an engaging afternoon of storytelling, creativity and imagination, including an author and illustrator Q&A and a hands-on illustration workshop led by Marc McBride. Young people were encouraged to develop their own creative ideas and explore visual storytelling techniques while interacting directly with the creators. As the only library service hosting official launch events for *Blunderbore*, YPRL was able to offer an exclusive literary experience that promoted reading engagement, creativity and a love of books amongst children and families.



Country Tells the Story



Country Tells the Story is an interactive, self-guided exhibition inspired by the AIATSIS Map of Indigenous Australia. During the reporting period, the exhibition was featured across Diamond Valley, Rosanna, Whittlesea, Ivanhoe and Eltham Libraries, engaging more than 80 visitors through cultural learning and exploration.

Positioned amongst the collections, the exhibition invited children and families to explore the diversity of First Nations cultures and languages across Australia. Visitors interacted with the AIATSIS map, engaged with books from YPRL's Deadly Collection and participated in hands-on activities exploring the meaning and significance of Wurundjeri Country. While designed primarily for children, the exhibition attracted strong interest from adults, creating valuable intergenerational learning opportunities. The travelling nature of the display has enabled YPRL to extend access to First Nations stories, knowledge and literature across multiple communities while supporting increased awareness and engagement with Indigenous collections.

Perimenopause, Menopause & Nutrition

Eltham Library hosted author and health advocate Sarah Gray for an informative community event exploring perimenopause, menopause and nutrition. The session offered attendees practical information, evidence-based strategies and valuable insights into women's health and wellbeing, while creating opportunities for learning and discussion.

Sarah's engaging presentation encouraged discussion and learning, with attendees benefiting from an extended question-and-answer session following the event. The program also supported local business through the participation of Eltham Bookshop, which sold copies of Sarah's book *It's Not You, It's Perimenopause*.

Blak & Bright Festival Partnerships

YPRL was honoured to partner with the Blak & Bright Literary Festival, supporting the celebration of First Nations voices, storytelling and contemporary literature through events delivered at Watsonia Library and Lalor Library.

At Watsonia Library, more than 40 attendees participated in *Living Archive*, a thought-provoking panel discussion examining literature, memory and the stories people carry within them. The conversation featured prominent First Nations writers Claire G. Coleman, Tony Birch and J.M. Field, with audiences actively participating through questions and discussion. The event also generated increased borrowing and visibility of First Nations literature through curated library displays.







Left to right: Claire G. Coleman, J M Field, Nicole Rudden, Tony Birch, James Parr

Book Launch: Dear Humans, We Stole Your Crayon by Anna McGregor



Eltham Library hosted the launch of *Dear Humans, We Stole Your Crayon*, the latest picture book by CBCA-recognised author Anna McGregor. The event attracted strong family participation and featured an author reading, creative activities and refreshments, creating an engaging and welcoming experience for attendees.

By bringing families together in a library setting, the event reinforced the importance of early years literacy, promoted community engagement and showcased the library as a vibrant destination for cultural and literary experiences.

Introduction to Media Digitisation



Mill Park Library has relaunched its highly valued Media Digitisation Program, supported by new equipment that will enable community members to preserve and convert personal media collections into digital formats. Through a series of workshops and induction sessions, participants will learn to scan and restore photographs, digitise VHS tapes, photo slides, film negatives and cassette recordings.

A demonstration session was delivered during Family History Month, providing attendees with an introduction to the technology and its capabilities. Demand for the service has been strong, reflecting growing community interest in preserving family histories and personal archives. Photo and video editing workshops will help participants develop the skills needed to manage and enhance their newly digitised content.

Hurstbridge Storytimes



The Hurstbridge Community Hub Storytime program continues to strengthen early literacy and create opportunities for families to learn and connect. Over the past 18 months, weekly attendance has grown from approximately three babies and their families to an average of more than 40 children, parents and carers, establishing Storytime as a valued community gathering.

YPRL Library Plan 2025 - 2029

Connection and Wellbeing

September School Holiday Program

YPRL's September School Holiday Program delivered 61 events across the region, attracting 1,809 attendances at library branches, the Mobile Library, Kirrip Community Centre and Galada Community Centre.

The program brought children, young people and families together through a diverse mix of creative, wellbeing, literacy and STEM activities, highlighting the ongoing value of accessible, high-quality library programs that foster community connection and participation.

Programs supporting wellbeing and social connection included:

- Kids Yoga at Diamond Valley Library, where 17 children and eight adults took part in a spring-themed session focused on movement and mindfulness.
- Footy: Stuff, Stitch and Kick at murnong Library, combining sustainability, creativity and active family participation.
- Repair Workshop for Teens at Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub, delivered with TACAS (Textile Art Community Art Space), helping young people build practical skills and social connections.
- Immersive Worlds at Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub, delivered with Banyule Youth Services, bringing young people together through role-playing games, collaborative challenges and peer-led activities.



Mindfulness Workshop at Rosanna Library

Experience Virtual Reality at Mill Park Library





Kids Yoga at Diamond Valley Library

World Postcard Day

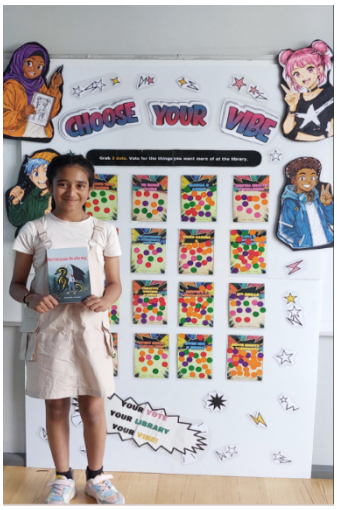
YPRL celebrated World Postcard Day through a series of community partnerships with Beyond Blue, Australia Post, Estia Health and Postcards to the Front. Participants were invited to create and exchange postcards featuring messages of kindness, connection and community support.

The initiative provided a simple and creative way for people of different ages and backgrounds to connect with others. Participants valued the opportunity to express themselves creatively, share positive messages and build connections within and beyond their local community. Feedback highlighted the meaningful impact of these simple acts of connection, particularly for people experiencing social isolation.

World Postcard Day partnerships extended the initiative beyond the library and created opportunities for intergenerational connection and encouraged conversations about wellbeing, belonging and the importance of staying connected.

YouthFest

YPRL's participation in YouthFest provided a valuable opportunity to connect directly with young people and strengthen their involvement in library services. More than 160 young people engaged with YPRL through a range of interactive activities designed to encourage creativity, self-expression, consultation and community participation. The popular *Choose Your Own Vibe* activity invited participants to share their interests, preferences and ideas for future programs, creating a meaningful platform for youth voice and feedback. Insights gathered through this activity will directly inform future youth programming, events and service planning, ensuring offerings are responsive to the interests and needs of local young people. YouthFest also increased awareness of YPRL's services, resources and opportunities for engagement, helping to build stronger connections with current and potential young library users.



Walking Thomastown

YPRL participated in *Walking Thomastown*, a community event designed to encourage local exploration, connection and active participation within the Thomastown town centre. The Library's presence attracted more than 350 visitors, with over 150 badges created through hands-on activities. The event provided a valuable opportunity to promote reading, creativity and library membership, while strengthening YPRL's visibility and engagement with families and community members in the area.





Tai Chi for Health

As part of Seniors Month and YPRL's commitment to promoting health and wellbeing through the Australian Public Libraries Alliance (APLA) and Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) Health and Wellbeing initiative, YPRL delivered two Tai Chi for Health sessions in early October. Led by a volunteer Tai Chi instructor and practitioner, the sessions introduced participants to the benefits of Tai Chi, a gentle, low-impact form of exercise that combines slow, flowing movements, controlled breathing and mindfulness.

The program was highly valued by older community members, with participants praising the practical techniques learned to improve balance, flexibility and overall wellbeing, as well as the physical and mental health benefits gained. Strong demand saw both sessions book out well in advance, highlighting the role libraries can play in supporting healthy, active and connected communities through accessible wellbeing programs.

Services Australia Information Session

As part of YPRL's commitment to supporting informed and connected communities, Robbie Proudfoot from Services Australia delivered an information session on the Age Pension application process, covering eligibility, claims and available support. Participants were highly engaged and valued the opportunity to better understand government services and gain confidence in accessing important information. The session demonstrated the role of libraries as trusted community hubs that connect people with reliable information, services and support.

Collage Workshop

A Collage Workshop held at murnong Library brought together participants of all ages in a relaxed and welcoming environment for creativity and conversation. Families and individuals explored sustainable art practices through collage while sharing ideas and building social connections. Feedback highlighted the accessibility of the activity and the opportunity it provided for intergenerational participation.





Baby Sensory Workshop

Whittlesea Library hosted a Baby Sensory Workshop, supporting parents and carers to learn practical and affordable developmental activities they could replicate at home. The session also introduced participants to other early years library services, strengthening pathways into ongoing literacy and family engagement programs.



Media Coverage Report | 1 July to 30 September 2026

During the July to September 2026 reporting period, Yarra Plenty Regional Library secured **42 media and promotional placements** across print, digital, broadcast and council-owned channels.

Key Highlights

Thomastown Library Upgrades

The completion of the Thomastown Library upgrade generated coverage across multiple media channels, highlighting improved accessibility, modern facilities, energy-efficient upgrades and enhanced customer experience.

murnong Library Success

Star Weekly Northern featured the story "Thousands Flock to New Library", highlighting strong visitation to the murnong Library. The article demonstrated the success of the facility in meeting community demand and supporting lifelong learning and social connection.

Family Violence Response Partnership

One of the quarter's most significant strategic stories was the partnership between Nillumbik Shire Council and YPRL to strengthen community responses to family violence. The initiative received coverage in both Mirage News and VicNews as well as Council news.

30 Years of Partnership with Murrindindi Shire

The celebration of YPRL's 30-year partnership with Murrindindi Shire Council generated coverage across Inside Local Government, Mirage News and VicNews.

Literacy and Reading Promotion

Reading and literacy initiatives remained a strong theme throughout the period. Coverage included:

- Winter Read promotion in Star Weekly Northern.
- Book Week celebrations through the feature article "Book Characters Come Alive".
- Numerous children's and family literacy programs promoted through council newsletters and community publications.

Sustainability and Environmental Programming

YPRL's sustainability programming achieved broad exposure through council newsletters across Banyule, Nillumbik and Whittlesea. Coverage included Plastic Free July activities, reusable nappy workshops, Seeds of Science programs, sustainable living workshops and Electrification 101 events, demonstrating the library's role in community education and environmental stewardship.

Arts, Culture and Community Learning

Arts and cultural programming featured prominently throughout the quarter, including:

- Artist in Residence promotion.
- Author events and community cultural programs.
- Local history programming and heritage activities.

Local History Leadership

A significant media opportunity was secured through a **30-minute interview on Inner FM** featuring YPRL Local History Librarian Liz Pidgeon. The interview explored local history, heritage collections, family history research and the broader role of YPRL's services.

Additional local history promotion was achieved through:

- Local History Month coverage.
- Events promoted through council publications.
- Heritage-focused programming featured in several community publications.

Major Council Publications

YPRL received prominent exposure through several flagship council publications during September:

Banyule Banner (September/October 2026) featured a dedicated "What's on at your local library" section promoting school holiday programs, author events, mobile library services and Local History Month activities. The feature provided extensive exposure to Banyule residents and positioned YPRL as a leading provider of cultural and educational experiences.

Nillumbik News Spring 2026 included extensive references to library services, children's programs, sustainability initiatives and community learning opportunities. The publication reinforced the role of YPRL libraries as community hubs supporting residents at every age and stage of life.

Local Scoop September 2026 highlighted Thomastown Library as a major community infrastructure project, showcasing the completed upgrades and their benefits for local residents.

Coverage by Publication

Publication / Channel	Placements
Star Weekly Northern	10
VicNews	3
Mirage News	3
City of Whittlesea Children & Families eNews	3
Banyule eNews	3
Nillumbik Environment & Sustainability eNews	3
Nillumbik eNews	2
Banyule Greenwrap eNews	2
Nillumbik Arts eNews	2
City of Whittlesea Living Green eNews	2
City of Whittlesea News	1
Local Scoop (City of Whittlesea)	1
Banyule Banner	1

Publication / Channel	Placements
Nillumbik News	1
Nillumbik Disability Inclusion eNews	1
Watsonia Trader Directory	1
Inside Local Government	1
Nillumbik Seniors Festival Program	1
Inner FM	1
Total Placements	**42**

Social media

Across YPRL's social media channels, Facebook continued to provide the greatest audience reach and engagement, reaching **64,526 accounts** and recording **10,308 engagements** during the quarter. Facebook also generated 612 link clicks, indicating audience action beyond engagement with social content.

Instagram demonstrated the strongest audience growth, accounting for 305 of the 511 new followers and subscribers gained across YPRL's social channels. Instagram recorded **2,710 engagements** and 73 link clicks during the reporting period.

LinkedIn continued to provide a smaller but engaged professional audience, recording **990 engagements** and 98 clicks, while YouTube remained a developing channel.

Across the reporting period, YPRL's four social media channels recorded a combined platform reach/unique audience of **88,810, 14,018 engagements and 511 new followers and subscribers**. The YPRL website recorded a further **536,460** visits during the quarter.

Cross-Platform Performance Summary

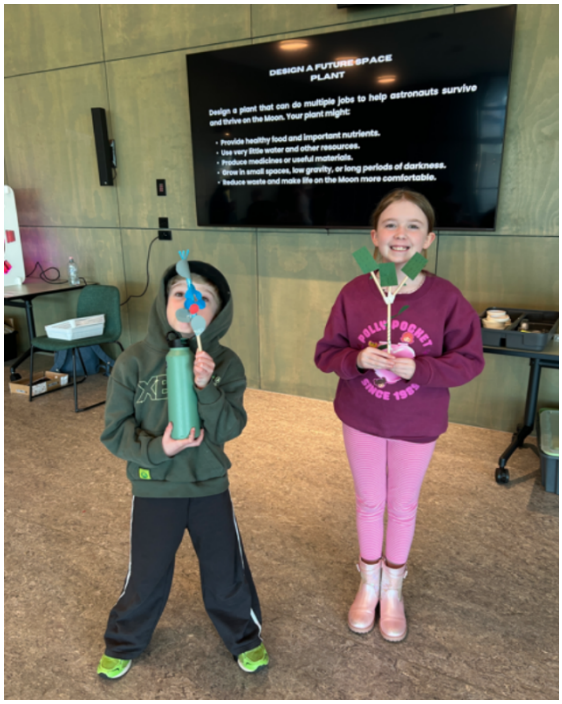
Platform	Reach / Unique Audience	Engagement	Clicks	New Followers	Total Followers*
Facebook	64,526	10,308	612	158	8,461
Instagram	21,016	2,710	73	305	5,805
LinkedIn	3,110	990	98	47	1,390
YouTube	158	10	N/A	1	133
Total	**88,810**	**14,018**	**—**	**511**	**15,789**

YPRL Library Plan 2025 - 2029

Digital Access and Innovation

Astro Garden: Design a Plant for Space

Delivered across Eltham, Rosanna and murnong libraries, and in partnership with the ARC Centre of Excellence in Plants for Space and La Trobe University, Astro Garden engaged 86 children and families in future-focused STEAM learning. Participants explored sustainability, space science and innovation while designing plants for future space environments.



Keeping Kids Safe Online

As part of YPRL's commitment to digital literacy and online safety, guest presenter Tom Mason delivered a practical workshop for parents focused on helping children navigate the digital world safely. The session explored common online challenges and provided strategies, tools and resources to support safe and responsible technology use at home. Participants were highly engaged and reported greater confidence in guiding their children's online activities and understanding the opportunities and risks of digital environments. The workshop reinforced YPRL's role in building digital capability and supporting families in an increasingly connected world.

Canva Workshop

Diamond Valley Library hosted a two-hour Canva workshop facilitated by Ready Tech Go, providing community members with an opportunity to build practical digital skills and confidence. Participants of varying ages and abilities attended, creating Canva accounts on their own devices and learning the platform's key functions. By the end of the session, participants had independently created an invitation or business flyer, demonstrating the practical application of their newly acquired digital skills. The workshop supported YPRL's Digital Access and

Innovation priority by enabling community members to develop confidence and capability in using digital technology for personal and business purposes.

Encouraging STEM Engagement and Future Skills

A number of programs focused on introducing emerging technologies and fostering curiosity through hands-on learning experiences.

Highlights included:

- **LEGO® SPIKE Prime Robotics** at Watsonia, delivered in partnership with Robogals, engaging 21 participants in coding and robotics challenges.
- **Sphero Robot Coding** at Eltham, where children developed coding, problem-solving and logical thinking skills.
- **Lego Creations** at Whittlesea, combining engineering thinking, creativity and collaborative learning.
- **Mad About Science** at Whittlesea (picture below), which generated high levels of engagement through interactive science demonstrations and inquiry-based learning.



YPRL Library Plan 2025 - 2029

Organisational Resilience

Partnerships Delivering Community Outcomes

YPRL continued to strengthen its impact through strategic partnerships that expanded expertise, increased community reach and enhanced service delivery.

Partnerships with La Trobe University, Services Australia and Australia Post provided practical and meaningful benefits for the community. Through La Trobe University, YPRL delivered programs that connected community members with academic expertise and lifelong learning opportunities, supporting knowledge sharing and community engagement. Collaboration with Services Australia enabled residents to access trusted information and support in navigating essential government services, helping to build confidence and digital capability. Similarly, Australia Post partnerships supported community access to important services and information, reinforcing libraries as trusted and accessible community hubs.

These partnerships, alongside collaborations with organisations including Banyule Youth Services, Beyond Blue and Blak & Bright Literary Festival, enabled YPRL to deliver high-quality programs across literacy, wellbeing, cultural engagement, digital inclusion and lifelong learning.

These collaborations enabled YPRL to deliver high-quality programs across literacy, wellbeing, STEAM, cultural engagement and lifelong learning.



Sustainability and Community Capability Building



YPRL's sustainability-focused programs supported practical skill development, creativity and community resilience while encouraging participants to embrace repair, reuse and environmental awareness.

The Badge Weaving Workshops invited participants to transform recycled textiles into wearable artworks, demonstrating creative approaches to repurposing materials while building craft and design skills. The workshops highlighted how small sustainability actions can reduce waste and encourage more mindful consumption.

Similarly, the Repair Workshop for Teens equipped young people with practical repair skills and the confidence to extend the life of everyday items rather than replace them. By promoting a culture of repair and reuse, the program supported sustainable behaviours while helping participants develop valuable life skills and greater self-sufficiency.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate YPRL's commitment to sustainability, community capability building and partnerships that deliver tangible outcomes for local communities, while strengthening organisational resilience through innovative and responsive service delivery.

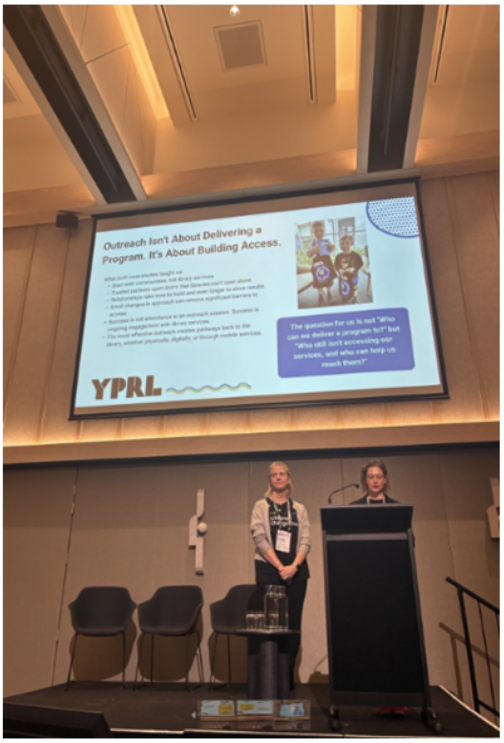
Public Libraries Victoria Conference

Staff from across YPRL attended the Public Libraries Victoria (PLV) Conference, the peak conference for Victoria's public library sector, which is held every three years. The conference brings together library professionals from across the state to explore emerging trends, innovative service models and sector-wide opportunities and challenges.

In addition to attending, YPRL staff contributed to the sector conversation by presenting at the conference, sharing examples of innovative programs, partnerships and service delivery approaches with library professionals from across Victoria. This showcased YPRL's leadership within the sector while creating opportunities to exchange ideas and learn from peers.

Participation enabled staff to gain insights into emerging trends, best practice and innovative service models, while strengthening professional networks across the public library sector. Learnings from conference sessions and presentations have been shared across teams and will help inform future planning, continuous improvement initiatives and service innovation.

By both attending and presenting at the PLV Conference, YPRL strengthened organisational capability, reinforced its reputation as a sector leader and invested in the ongoing development of staff, supporting the organisation's long-term resilience and capacity to respond to evolving community needs.





Family Violence Response Training

YPRL has partnered with Nillumbik Shire Council to deliver Family Violence Response and Referral Education (FVREE) training to key staff, including Branch Managers, Team Leaders, Programs staff, Contact Officers, People & Culture and the Senior Leadership Team. The training responds to increasing family violence disclosures across community-facing services and will strengthen staff capability to respond safely, appropriately and within professional boundaries when community members seek support. This initiative reinforces YPRL's commitment to staff preparedness, risk management and providing safe, supportive community spaces. Knowledge gained through the training will be shared more broadly across the organisation, with further training opportunities to be explored.

Neurodiversity Forum – Whittlesea Community Futures Forum

YPRL staff attended the Neurodiversity Forum hosted by the Whittlesea Community Futures Forum, providing valuable professional development and strengthening organisational capability in inclusive service design and accessibility.

The forum brought together researchers, accessibility specialists and lived-experience advocates to share current thinking and practical approaches to supporting neurodivergent individuals in community, education and workplace settings. Presenters included Dr Clare Kermond from La Trobe University, Teresa Dowding and Cat Snedden from RMIT University and strategic human-centred designer Jen Guha.

Key themes included universal design, equitable access, accessibility and the importance of embedding neurodiverse perspectives into organisational planning and service delivery. Staff gained insights into emerging best practice and innovative approaches that can help inform future library programs, spaces and customer experiences.

Attendance at the forum supports YPRL's ongoing commitment to building staff knowledge, strengthening inclusive practice and ensuring the organisation remains responsive to the diverse needs of the communities it serves.

CONSULTATION

YPRL Senior Leaders and People Leaders

CRITICAL DATES

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

STRATEGIC RISKS

SR 09: Organisational Service Delivery - Risk of failing to meet evolving community needs or Member Council expectations

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

N/A

LINKS TO LIBRARY PLAN

Priority 1: Literacy and Learning for Life
Priority 2: Connection and Wellbeing
Priority 3: Digital Access and Innovation
Priority 4: Organisational Resilience

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Under section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 officers providing advice to the Library must disclose any interests, including type of interest.

The Responsible Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with the relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

END OF AGENDA ITEM

OUR BUSINESS

2025/2026 Q1: 1 Jul-Sep 30

MEMBERSHIP 1

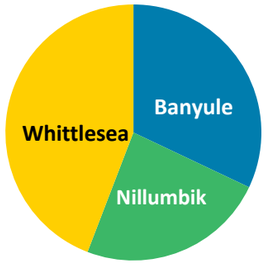
Total Members:

Banyule:	85,679
Nillumbik:	63,656
Whittlesea:	118,109

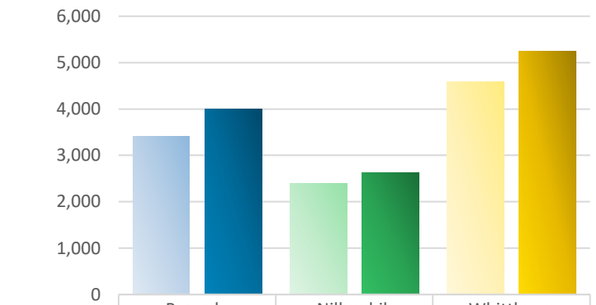
Active Members (Q1): 64,374

New Members: 11,886

Total Members



New Members Totals



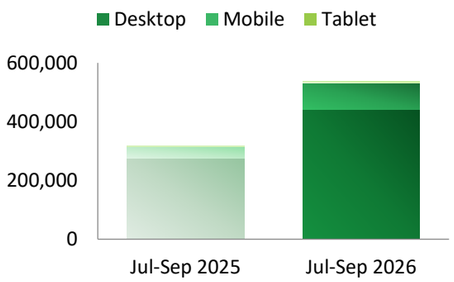
	Banyule	Nillumbik	Whittlesea
Jul-Sep 2025	3,413	2,402	4,579
Jul-Sep 2026	4,007	2,629	5,250

USAGE

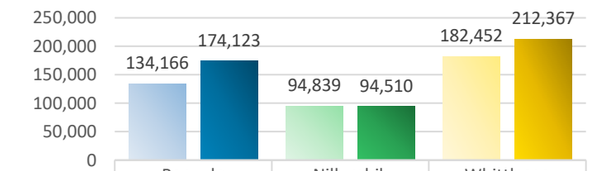
App Hits:	188,174
Catalogue Hits:	129,311
Website Hits:	536,460
Wi-Fi Total Sessions:	51,160
Banyule:	21,636
Nillumbik:	9,978
Whittlesea:	19,546

Branch Visits: 481,000

Website Hits



Branch Visitation



	Banyule	Nillumbik	Whittlesea
Jul-Sep 2025	134,166	94,839	182,452
Jul-Sep 2026	174,123	94,510	212,367

EVENTS

Events:	1,949	29.32% increase
Attendees:	45,589	20.44% increase

Community Engagement

481,000 Library Visits **17% increase** year-on-year

Total members **267,444** **20% increase** year-on-year

1,949 events with **45,589 attendees**

School Holiday Program (September): attracted **1,554 attendees**

1,025 people attended **Digital Access & Innovation** events

- Wifi Total Sessions - **20% increase**
- YPRL App Hits - **34% increase**

Year-on-year

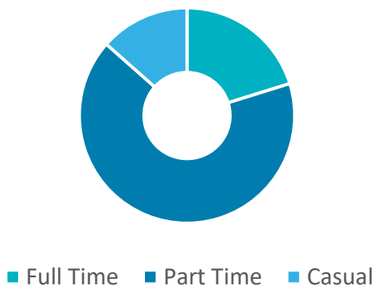
OUR PEOPLE & FINANCE

2025/2026 Q1: 1 Jul-Sep 30

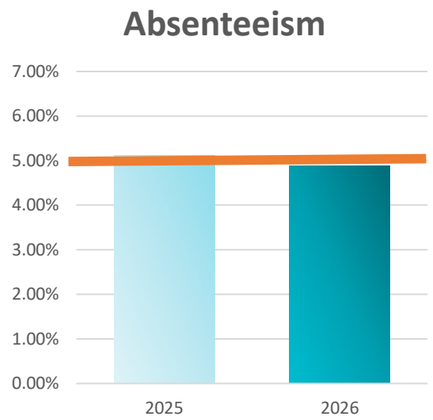
STAFF

Staff Total	193
Full Time	39
Part Time	128
Casual	26
Volunteer Total	85

FTE Budget: 120.32 **FTE Actual: 114.74**



Staff Turnover: 2.59% (previously 1.6%)
Absenteeism: 4.89% (previously 5.12%)
KPI: Under 5%



	2025	2026
Training Hours Delivered	658.00	997.25
Average per Employee	3.62	5.17

FINANCES

Quarterly Financial Report

Working Capital Ratio
2.67
Minimum level 1.3

Capital Expenditure
Under budget: $7k

Forecast Underlying Result Year End 2026/27:
On Budget
Favourable to budget: $162k

$$$ Accounts Payable
Decreased $635k

Accounts Receivable
Decreased $471k

Cash Balance
$7.05 million
(in line with YTD result and capital expenditure)

PROJECTS

●	Heidelberg West Library - Official opening 29 October 2026
●	Watsonia Library Community Room & Study Room Upgrade. Activated and awaiting date from the Minister for official opening
●	West Wollert Library. Remains on schedule with expected opening date of late January 2027

●	On Time, On Budget
●	Delayed
●	Under Evaluation

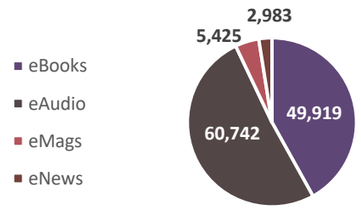
OUR ASSETS

2025/2026 Q1: 1 Jul-Sep 30

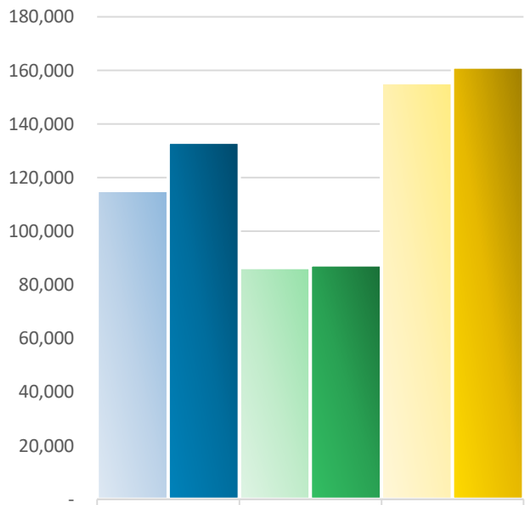
COLLECTION

Total Physical and Digital Collection:	500,961
Total Physical Items:	381,892
Total Digital Items:	119,069
Total Digital Platforms:	22
Recently Purchased Stock:	33,659

Digital Collection

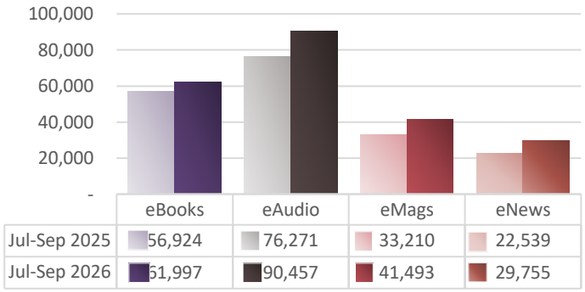


Total Physical Items



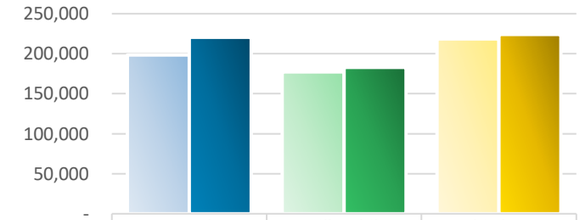
	Banyule	Nillumbik	Whittlesea
Jul-Sep 2025	15,199	86,456	155,407
Jul-Sep 2026	33,212	87,438	161,242

Digital Loans



	eBooks	eAudio	eMags	eNews
Jul-Sep 2025	56,924	76,271	33,210	22,539
Jul-Sep 2026	61,997	90,457	41,493	29,755

Physical Loans



	Banyule	Nillumbik	Whittlesea
Jul-Sep 2025	198,437	177,278	218,517
Jul-Sep 2026	220,539	182,920	224,074

LOANS

Total Digital Loans:	223,702	(18.39% increase)
Total Physical Loans:	627,533	(5.6% increase)
Total Loans:	851,235	(8.69% increase)

Winter Reading





Over **1000** people participated in the annual Winter Reading campaign.
11,233% growth on previous year.

Book Matching service recommended to over **100 people**



"I usually only borrow books for my kids, but now I've made a habit (my daughter reminds me) to borrow a book for myself as well."



- Natalie, Mill Park

Book Group drive received over **180** EOIs



13+ NEW Book Groups were formed.

FOOTNOTES

1. Children's Campaign continues to drive membership numbers as they begin their independent reading journey.
2. YPRL designed and ran its own campaign for engaging adult readers to read separate to the Statewide campaign running over the same period.

7 Consideration of Action on Petitions and Joint Letters

None

8 General Business

Correspondence from the Minister for Local Government | Premier's Reading Challenge Funding 2026-2027

The Hon Tim Richardson MP

Minister for Local Government
Minister for Consumer Affairs
Minister for Renters

Level 1, 2 Treasury Place
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002
Telephone +613 8663 1006

Cr Rick Garotti
Chair
Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service
rick.garotti@banyule.vic.gov.au

BMIN- 260700517

Dear Cr Garotti

I am pleased to inform you that funding of $57,239 has been allocated to Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service as part of the 2026-2027 Premiers' Reading Challenge Book Fund.

The Premiers' Reading Challenge Book Fund is an annual program that provides public libraries with assistance to purchase materials to support participation in the annual Premiers' Reading Challenge. Since its inception, more than 4.75 million children and young people have turned the pages of more than 66 million books.

In addition to the funding support provided through the Premiers' Reading Challenge Book Fund, the Victorian Government supports public libraries through both the Public Libraries Funding Program and the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program.

The Department of Government Services will shortly provide Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service's Chief Executive Officer with a funding agreement for signing.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Colin Morrison, Director, Sector Engagement and Program Delivery, at the Department of Government Services on plfp@dgs.vic.gov.au.

Thank you for your ongoing support of public library services in Victoria.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Tim Richardson MP
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Consumer Affairs
Minister for Renters

13 October 2026

cc: Ms Nicole Rudden, CEO

Your details will be dealt with in accordance with the Public Records Act 1973 and the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. Should you have any queries or wish to gain access to your personal information held by this department please contact our Privacy Officer at the above address.

9 Reports from Delegates Appointed by the Board to Other Bodies

10 Urgent Business

11 Confidential Meeting

Meeting closed to the public as per 89(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*

12 Meeting Closure