



CROW
BABY

He Milroy

Annual Report 2023–2024

OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



STATE LIBRARY

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Acknowledgement of Country

State Library of Western Australia kadij Wadjak
Noongar boodjar-ak wer kendjil Marawar boodjar
kalyakool moondang-ak kaaradjiny.

Ngalak kadij ngala bibool kadadjiny-dandjoo
kangowiny Indigenous yoongar dirdong Australian
boodjar, ngannilak.

Ngalak boola moort noondak-marar yoongi ken baam-
ak kadadjiny nyidiyang-ak kaaratjiny. Ngalak kadij
Birdiya, koora wer yeyi, ngiyan Noongar kadadjiny
moort yanginy.

The State Library of Western Australia acknowledges the
Whadjuk Noongar people on whose land we are located.

We acknowledge the traditional lands of all the Western
Australian Aboriginal communities, their cultural
practices and knowledge and kinship systems.

We recognise that our collections hold traditional
cultural knowledge belonging to Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander communities around the country.

We support communities to protect the integrity of
this information, gathered from their ancestors in the
colonial period.

We pay our respects to Elders, past and present, who
have handed down these systems of practice to each
new generation for millennia.

72nd Annual Report of the Board

Location

State Library of Western Australia
Perth Cultural Centre, Western Australia

Postal Address

25 Francis Street
Perth, Western Australia 6000

Contact

+618 9427 3111
info@slwa.wa.gov.au
slwa.wa.gov.au

Accessibility

This report is available in alternative formats on request.

Cultural warning

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this document may contain images of deceased persons.

Front cover: Young visitors explore an exhibition featuring artwork from Helen Milroy's book *Crow Baby*, published by Fremantle Press.

Previous page: *Mowanjum Dancers, Western Australia*, c. 1975 | BA863/126

Next page: *Coogee Jetty from the ocean*, 2021, by Kerry Faulkner, recently acquired | BA3370/30



Contents

Statement of Compliance	6	HIGHLIGHTS: INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM POLICY	28
Our Year in Numbers 2023–2024	7	Intellectual Freedom and the Freedom to Read	28
OVERVIEW	8	HIGHLIGHTS: GRANTS	29
Chairman's Report	8	Better Beginnings Family Literacy Community Grants Program	29
From the CEO and State Librarian	10	Public Library Grants	30
Our Vision	12	HIGHLIGHTS: COLLABORATION	31
Our Values	13	Partnership with The Underground Collaborative	31
2023–2024 Organisational Structure	14	HIGHLIGHTS: PEOPLE AND CULTURE	32
HIGHLIGHTS: EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS	17	Professional Development Planning	32
Liquid Gold: A Taste of WA Brewing History	17	AGENCY PERFORMANCE	33
Laurel Nannup: What Road Are You Going To Take?	18	Collecting, Conserving and Preserving	33
Sheiks, Fakes and Cameleers	19	Reading, Learning and Digital Inclusion	49
Perth Festival Writers Weekend	20	Championing Western Australian Public Libraries	59
Talented Storytellers Celebrated	21	People and Culture	70
HIGHLIGHTS: COLLECTIONS	23	SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND EMERGING TRENDS	73
Digitisation of At-Risk Audio Visual Collections Project	23	GOVERNANCE	75
Significant Acquisition: The Ruth Ireland Collection	24	DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE	82
Significant Acquisition: The Arthur Anderson Collection	25	FINANCIALS AND PERFORMANCE	91
Research Collaborations	26	FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	96
HIGHLIGHTS: RECONCILIATION AND TRUTH-TELLING	27	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	116
Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan	27	APPENDIX	120



Visitor browsing on Level 3 of the State Library building, 2024 | Image: Miles Noel

Statement of Compliance

Hon. David Templeman MLA
Minister for Culture and the Arts

In accordance with Section 61 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, and in fulfillment of obligations imposed on the Board by the *Library Board of Western Australia Act 1951*, we hereby submit for your information and presentation to Parliament the 72nd Annual Report of the Library Board of Western Australia for the period ended 30 June 2024.

The Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* and *Treasurer's Instructions 903*.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render the particulars included in the report misleading or inaccurate.

Hon. John Day
Chairman
Library Board of Western Australia
5 September 2024

Jenny Archibald
Vice Chairman
Library Board of Western Australia
5 September 2024

Our Year in Numbers 2023-2024

198k

people attended
programs and events



76k

members of the State Library



312,000

photographs, documents and
publications available online



709,000
photographs

78,000

Better Beginnings reading
packs provided to families
with babies and children



Support for

232
public libraries



2.1 million

social media engagements



675,000

State Library website visits



> 500,000

downloads of books, audiobooks
and other online materials



102,000

enquiries answered



524k

in-person visits to the
State Library building

22,600

maps



19,000

hours of oral histories

27,000

films



14,000

music and sound recordings

Chairman's Report

From every perspective, 2023–2024 has been a transformational year for the State Library of Western Australia with the *Strategic Plan 2023–2027* providing fresh directions and aspirations for the living collection of our State's stories. We are pleased to have delivered on our commitments and this annual report will guide you through our key achievements for the year.

We are thrilled to have yet another increase in visitation, with over 500,000 visits to the State Library building during the year, including for exhibitions, events and taking part in literary engagement experiences. This represents a 24% increase from last year's figures and indicates that we are connecting with the community and they are supportive of our new direction. We look forward to exploring future options for our spaces to enhance the public experience and allow our visitors to enjoy more of our unique collections.

Of course, the successes achieved by the State Library in 2023–2024 extend far beyond visitation to the State Library building. Online visits increased by 15% on the previous year to make a total of over one million visits in person and online during the year. We are proud that our online presence enables access to our collections for all Western Australians, regardless of location. Some key milestones have been reached across a number of strategic initiatives during the year, including projects which are an investment for future generations, such as the Digitisation of At-Risk Audio Visual Collections Project.

The Digitisation of At-Risk Audio Visual Collections Project is in its second year and we are extremely grateful to the State Government for its support through the Office of Digital Government's Digital Capability

Fund – a four year investment totalling \$5.385 million. The project's year one achievements are now realising tangible benefits, with progress towards providing online public access to audio and audio visual heritage material, which would otherwise have been lost forever if not preserved through this project. The outcomes are a legacy for future generations who will be able to delve into our online film and sound archive to explore rich material that vividly tells the story of Western Australia's history.

A major highlight during the year were our exhibitions, including *Laurel Nannup: What Road Are You Going To Take?*; *Liquid Gold: A Taste of WA Brewing History*; and *Sheiks, Fakes and Cameleers*. These exhibitions examined Western Australian experiences from pre-colonial times through to the current day. The buzz of excited crowds at opening events was a clear example that the State Library is offering vibrant, high quality cultural experiences that attract new audiences, many of whom may not have engaged with our collections before.

During 2023–2024, a significant issue for all libraries, big and small, was that of intellectual freedom. Across the democratic world, there has been an increase in calls for libraries to ban books and programs that represent diversity and inclusivity from public and school libraries. Freedom of access to information and freedom of expression are cornerstones of democratic society and core professional values for librarians. Banning books and programs in libraries undermines the principles of free speech, intellectual freedom, stifles the exchange of ideas and limits access to knowledge and diverse perspectives. To uphold this position, during the year the Library Board endorsed a new Intellectual Freedom Policy which states that the State Library is committed to the principles of equitable access, freedom of expression,

freedom from censorship, privacy and Aboriginal self-determination.

The *WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026* continues to achieve strong outcomes for communities across our State. Every year, I am amazed at the diverse array of offerings that public libraries have created to engage, educate and inspire their local communities. As Chairman of the Library Board, I am always pleased to see investment in public libraries given their community benefit. I was delighted to represent the Library Board at the opening of the new and innovative Shire of Dardanup Library, a great example of the difference services and facilities make when designed for a growing community.

I was pleased to announce the appointment of Margaret Allen PSM FALIA as a Fellow of the Library Board in July 2023. Margaret led the State Library as CEO and State Librarian for seventeen years and over the course of her career she made a significant and invaluable contribution to the library profession in Western Australia, nationally and internationally.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Minister for Culture and the Arts, the Hon. David Templeman and to Lanie Chopping, Director General, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries for their steadfast support of our new strategic direction, and to my fellow Board members for their contribution during this exciting period of growth and transformation.

Of course, transformation like we have seen over the last year seldom happens by chance. My thanks to CEO and State Librarian Catherine Clark and her staff for their hard work over the year. They have leveraged unique, in-house expertise to deliver high-quality cultural

experiences that share the many treasures in the State Library of Western Australia's collections.

As always, I encourage you to engage with your State Library – it is a gateway to knowledge, cultural enrichment, stories of our past and ideas for the future.

Hon. John Day

Chairman

Library Board of Western Australia

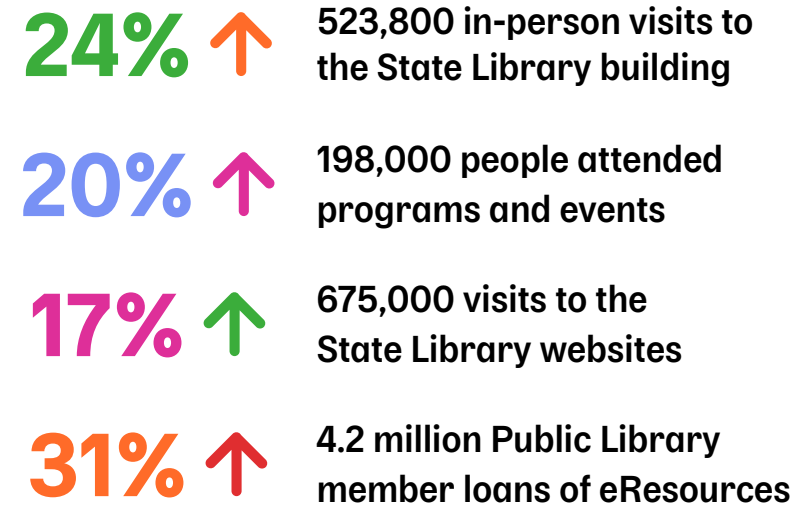


From the CEO and State Librarian

The Annual Report of the Library Board of Western Australia provides a welcome opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the State Library over the last twelve months as we complete the first full year of our *Strategic Plan 2023-2027*. Our vision of treasuring stories, inspiring possibilities and strengthening communities has been brought to life in many ways throughout the year and I am pleased to be able to highlight many successes and opportunities against this vision.

With the significant increase in physical and online visitation to the State Library during the year to reach more than one million visits, we are demonstrating our important role as one of the State's most valued cultural institutions. These achievements have been built through proactive and deliberate strategies including an increased focus on exhibitions, events and programming, enabling connection with new audiences and bringing a renewed vibrancy to our spaces. For online visitation, a recent refresh of the State Library's online media viewer to facilitate discovery and viewing of digitised collection items is an innovative response that demonstrates our longstanding commitment to making our collection freely available, regardless of location. We continue to seek opportunities to refine and develop physical and online spaces for contemporary and future-focused library services as places to meet, learn and grow.

Children and families remain a key focus and the Better Beginnings Family Literacy Program saw over 70,000 reading packs distributed during the year to families with newborn babies, two-year-olds and kindergarten aged children. As Better Beginnings approaches its 20th anniversary, we were pleased to be able to share a new initiative in



the Kimberley and Pilbara regions with the gifting of a Supercharged Storytime Suitcase to all libraries. It also delights me to see young visitors to the State Library building enjoying our programming for families. This annual report's front cover features children excitedly exploring an exhibition that featured stunning illustrations from Helen Milroy's new picture book, *Crow Baby* (Fremantle Press). Research continues to demonstrate the importance of literacy in achieving positive life outcomes and we are committed to fostering a joy of reading in all Western Australians from an early age.

Libraries are in a strong position to address issues such as the cost of living, digital inclusion and loneliness and I have been privileged to visit public libraries in many regions of Western Australia during the year including in the Pilbara, Goldfields and Wheatbelt regions as well as in metropolitan Perth. These visits are inspiring for learning about the strengths, needs and expectations of local communities and the dedicated local government staff who serve them. Libraries are vibrant hubs offering innovative services that are specifically tailored to local community needs and we were pleased to be able to support public libraries through procurement and delivery of collections; as well as grant funding for encouraging promising practice, technology and digital inclusion.

Beyond our partnerships with local government, we benefit from our partnerships with other aligned organisations including the National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) collaboration. This group brings together the knowledge and expertise of the ten member libraries from across Australia and New Zealand to be a driving force for innovation and professional development. The State Library was proud to host the NSLA Board in July 2023, the first time the CEOs from all NSLA member

libraries have visited Western Australia since 2017. The meeting was also an opportunity to showcase some of our unique collections and services to this influential group. This year marked the 50th anniversary of NSLA and the Chairman of the Library Board of Western Australia joined me at an event in Adelaide with NSLA Board Chairs and CEOs from Australia and New Zealand to mark the occasion and acknowledge this longstanding partnership which has delivered many significant outcomes for our communities.

I extend my gratitude to the Library Board, led by the Hon. John Day. The Board's guidance and support are invaluable and strengthen the State Library's impact across all that we do.

I would also like to thank our colleagues at the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, led by Director General Lanie Chopping, for their commitment to working in partnership to achieve our goals.

Thank you to the State Government for the continued support and to the Hon. David Templeman MLA, Minister for Culture and the Arts, for his enthusiasm and support for the current and future roles that libraries play in our communities.

I am fortunate to work with passionate and dedicated staff and volunteers who use their skills and expertise to innovate, develop and improve the delivery of services to the community on a daily basis. My personal thanks to all of them for their contributions over the last twelve months.

Catherine Clark

CEO and State Librarian

State Library of Western Australia

Our Vision

The State Library of Western Australia is a valued cultural institution, recognised for the outstanding services it provides to the people of Western Australia.

Stories from the past, the present and those yet to unfold, are treasured by the State Library as a vibrant record of our shared history. We strive for our collections to represent the richness and diversity of the Western Australian community and to empower all Western Australians to understand our past, discover new ideas and to shape the future.

Our Strategic Approach

Our work for 2023–2027 is guided by four priority areas:

01	Reflect the rich diversity of our community in how we collect, preserve and share our unique Western Australian stories.
02	Deliver services that are responsive to the needs of the community and offer opportunities for growth, connection and empowerment.
03	Champion the essential role of local public libraries in our communities in supporting innovation and providing a sense of belonging.
04	Realise our potential through fostering a dynamic staff culture and an efficient and sustainable operating environment.

Our Values

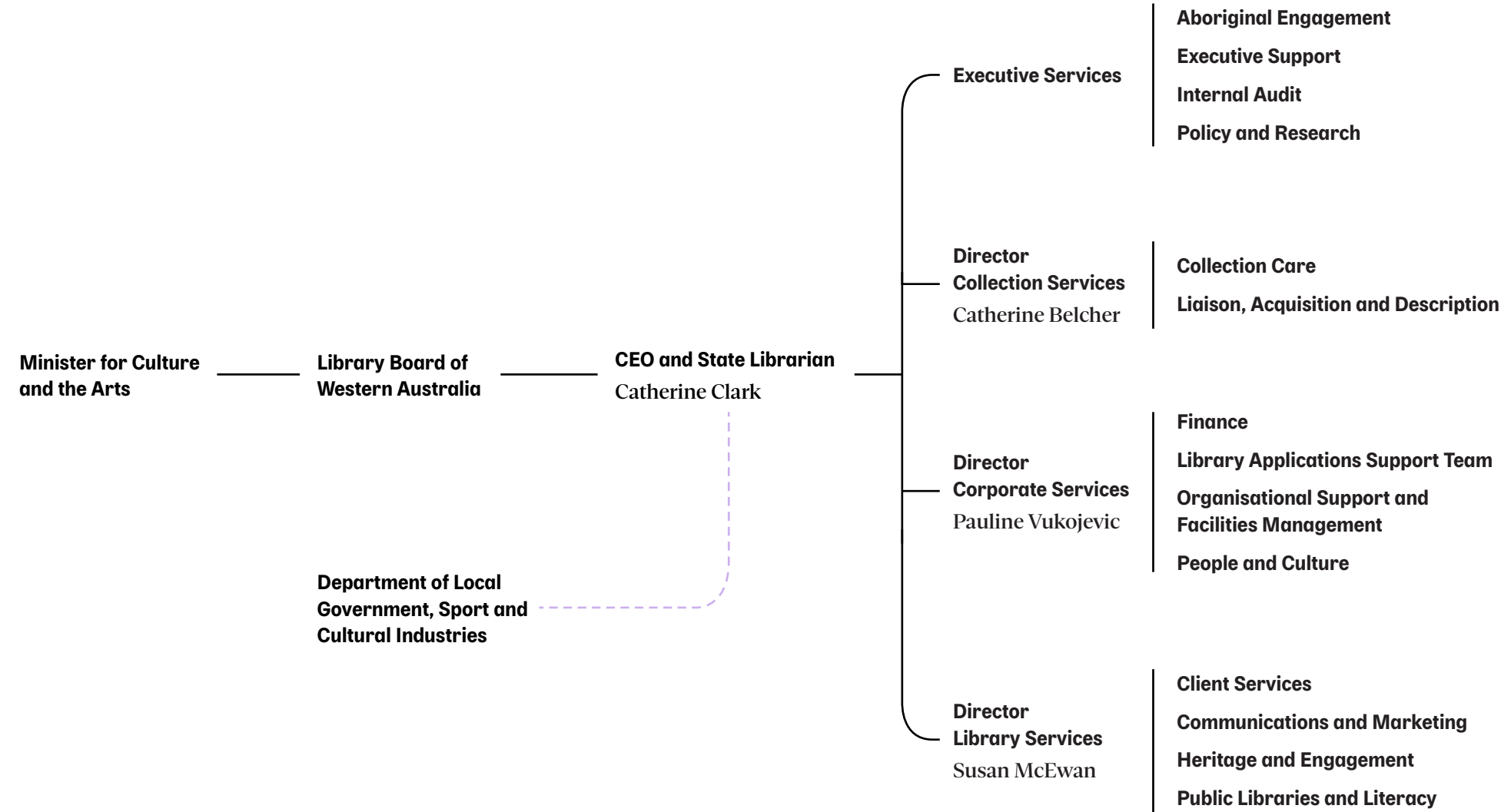
We achieve our priorities by being community-focused, responsive, respectful, accountable and innovative.

Community-focused	We will provide high quality services based on community need.
Responsive	We will make informed, timely decisions and communicate them clearly.
Respectful	We will value others and respect their differences.
Accountable	We will hold ourselves to account for the work we do.
Innovative	We will strive for excellence by being open to new ideas and embracing opportunities for improvement.

Visiting the State Library, 2024 | Image: Miles Noel



2023-2024 Organisational Structure



Executive Management at 30 June 2024

Catherine Clark, CEO and State Librarian

Executive Services manages Aboriginal engagement, internal audit, strategic governance and support services to the Library Board and the CEO and State Librarian. This includes policy advice and research support on issues and trends relevant to the State Library and Library Board. The Executive Services area is responsible for providing advice to the Minister for Culture and the Arts.

Catherine Belcher, Director Collection Services

Collection Services leads the development and management of physical and digital collections and associated data, through collection activities and systems encompassing acquisition, processing, storage, preservation, digitisation, distribution and access. The Directorate manages the acquisition of materials for 232 public libraries across the State and the Indian Ocean Territories. Rural and remote local governments are further supported with the selection and management of materials for their public libraries.

Pauline Vukojevic, Director Corporate Services

Corporate Services is responsible for financial management, budget planning, human resource services, risk management and the administration of library applications and systems. Some information and communication technology services and human resources services, building maintenance services, payroll and financial processing are provided in collaboration with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

Susan McEwan, Director Library Services

Library Services provides community services that inspire creativity, curiosity and support literacy and learning at every stage of life. The Directorate is responsible for the interpretation of Western Australian collections and supporting community engagement with collections. It links clients, whether online or visiting the building, with specialist information and research services and educational programs based on the State Library's extensive and rich collections. The Better Beginnings Family Literacy Program supports early literacy development across the State. Library Services also provides Western Australian public libraries with advice, training and professional development. The Directorate also provides communications and marketing support for the State Library.



State Library Executive Management, June 2024

L-R: Pauline Vukojevic, Director Corporate Services; Susan McEwan, Director Library Services; Catherine Clark, CEO and State Librarian; Catherine Belcher, Director Collection Services

Highlights



Liquid Gold: A Taste of WA Brewing History

February – June 2024

Liquid Gold: A Taste of WA Brewing History explored Western Australia's rough and tumble relationship with beer, highlighting the people who have made it and the fascinating objects and stories they have left behind. From pre-colonial fermentation and early homebrews to the mighty Swan Brewery taking on the world, the exhibition charted entrepreneurialism, activism, bitter rivalries and social change.

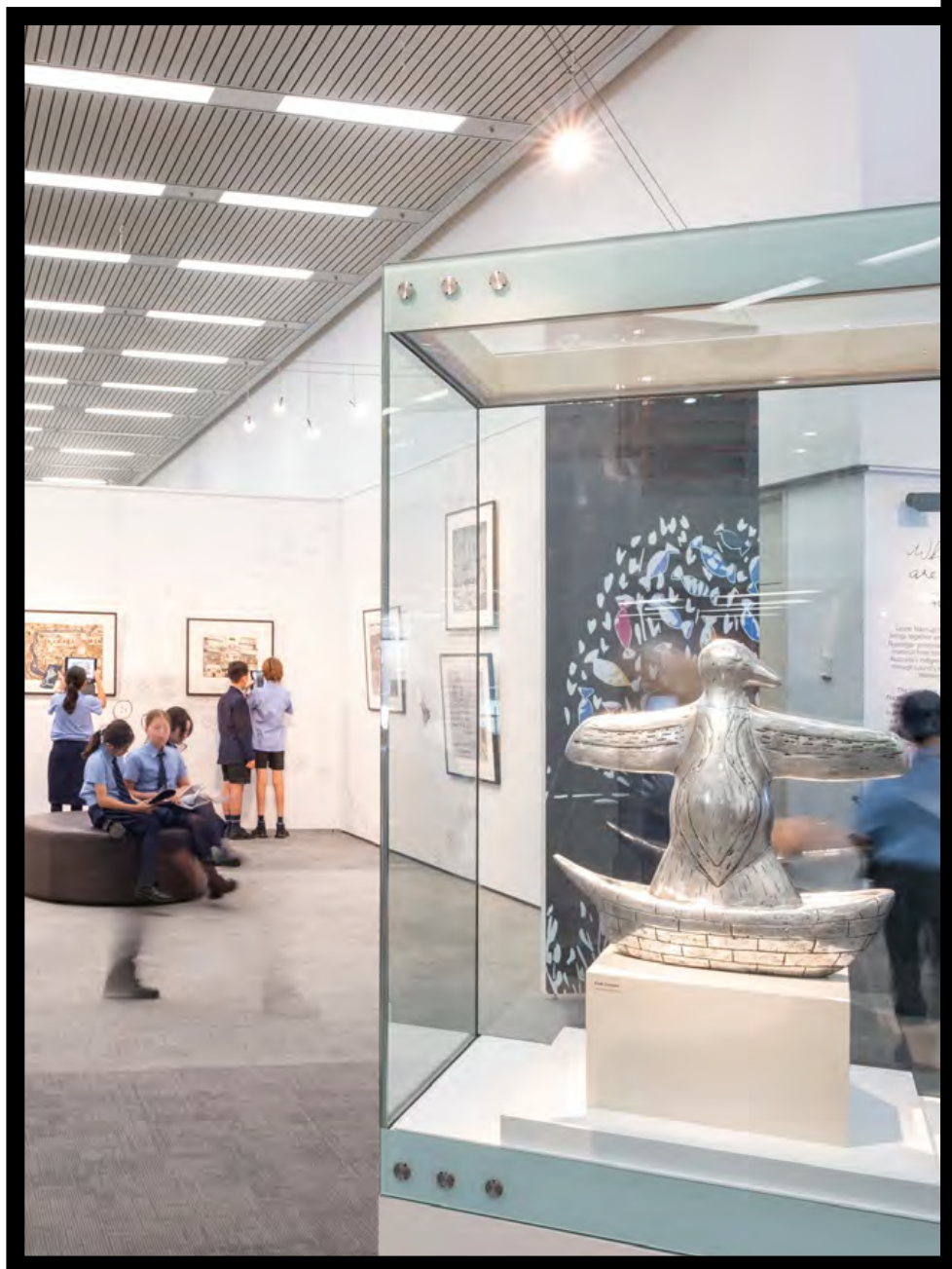
Treasures from the State Library's collections – including what is likely the State's earliest written beer recipe – revealed how brewing helped shape Western Australia's economic and cultural identity. They also highlighted the relationship between social politics and breweries, such as the temperance movement, civil rights activism and land rights protests at the old Swan Brewery.

The project included the recording of oral histories, documenting the emergence and evolution of Western Australian craft brewing from the 1980s to today. Featuring trailblazers and innovators, these interviews chart significant social change while reflecting newfound diversity within the brewing industry.

As part of the development of this exhibition, the State Library partnered with Otherside Brewing Co. to brew a limited-edition heritage beer. Inspired by some of the earliest ales and brewing histories in the State Library's collections, Otherside Brewing Co. created Gilded Ale, a contemporary interpretation of recipes from as early as 1913. The brew was launched along with the exhibition at a free opening event which featured a lively panel conversation in the State Library Discovery Lounge.



Previous page and this page: Exploring the *Liquid Gold* exhibition, 2024 | Image: Cam Campbell



School children explore the *Laurel Nannup: What Road Are You Going To Take?* exhibition October 2023

Laurel Nannup: What Road Are You Going To Take?

July 2023–October 2023

Laurel Nannup: What Road Are You Going to Take? was a deeply personal exhibition. This exhibition provided a platform for renowned Noongar artist, Laurel Nannup, to share her experiences through her exquisite woodcuts and etchings. Curated by Laurel's son, Brett Nannup, the exhibition showcased Nannup's powerful printmaking works alongside significant items from the State Library's heritage collection.

Viewers gained a deeper understanding of the impact on the Stolen Generations from the perspective of a resilient survivor through her 'child eyes' witnessing the challenges of her early life.

The inclusion of archival materials from the State Library's collection created a bridge between Nannup's personal experience and the wider historical context of the Stolen Generations. This directly supports the State Library's commitment to delivering services that are responsive to the needs of the community and providing spaces for reflection. By fostering understanding of a shared past, the exhibition contributed to growth, connection and empowerment.

This exhibition exemplified the State Library's dedication to amplifying diverse voices and fostering a deeper understanding of Western Australia's history. It not only celebrated a remarkable artistic talent but also served as a catalyst for important conversations about cultural identity, resilience, and the ongoing impact of the Stolen Generations, highlighting the critical importance for Aboriginal people to tell their own stories and shape their own narratives.

Sheiks, Fakes and Cameleers

March–October 2024

Sheiks, Fakes and Cameleers explored the often mistold story of Western Australia's cameleers through an exhibition, live panel conversation and film screening.

The exhibition was sparked by the serendipitous rediscovery of a sheaf of letters, written in Farsi by bookshop owner Hasan Musa Khan, that offered a meticulous account of the lives and times of these so-called camel men. It also offered an insight into the early days of Islam in Western Australia, including the building of the Perth Mosque, a project spearheaded by the camel men.

The *Sheiks, Fakes and Cameleers* live panel event and film screening brought more than 400 people to the State Library, including attendees from the Balochi, Afghani and Sikh communities who are connected to the cameleers. It provided an opportunity for these communities to redefine the sometimes simplified story of their ancestors. The exhibition also provided a valuable opportunity to share and redefine these fascinating collection items with the community.



Sheiks, Fakes and Cameleers exhibition launch and panel conversation, 2024

L-R: Rita Alfred-Saggat, Creative Programs Officer, State Library; Tarun Preet Singh, Sikh Association of WA; Maxwell Jackson, Associate Lecturer, Curtin University; Marleigh Zada, Associate Lecturer, Curtin University; Hanifa Deen, writer and social commentator; Professor Samina Yasmeen AM, Director UWA Centre for Muslim States and Societies; Catherine Clark, CEO and State Librarian



Author Gemma Nisbet at the *Perth Festival Writers Weekend*
February 2024 | Image: Ryan Gibson

Perth Festival Writers Weekend

In February 2024, the State Library partnered with Perth Festival and Writing WA to present Perth Festival's annual Writers Weekend. This year's Writers Weekend tested a new model where Writing WA, a key partner and tenant of the State Library building, produced and organised the Festival.

The State Library provided the venue and offered event and logistic support to Writing WA. The three-day event was a significant success with 3,500 members of the public attending workshops, talks and panel conversation of leading authors and thinkers including Shankari Chandran, Christos Tsiolkas, Holden Sheppard and Anthony De Ceglie, then Editor-in-Chief of West Australian Newspapers.

This successful partnership delivered on many of the State Library's strategic goals – it championed the role of Western Australian authors and storytellers, shared significant stories with our clients and strengthened both the writing and reading communities. It also significantly increased the State Library's visitation over the weekend and introduced a new audience to our services and collections.

Talented Storytellers Celebrated

Western Australian Premier's Book Awards and Writers Hall of Fame

In June, the State Library lit up to celebrate the 2024 Western Australian Premier's Book Awards and biennial Writers Hall of Fame announcement. The awards showcase the breadth and talent of Western Australia's writing sector and support creative excellence.

From mystery and history to canines and tales from the frontline, it was a bumper year for entries. The shortlisted titles represented uniquely Western Australian stories, as well as ideas and perspectives which enrich our knowledge of the wider world.

The major winner was children's author and illustrator Kylie Howarth, recipient of the \$60,000 Western Australian Writer's Fellowship. Howarth's craft is defined by her commitment to inclusivity and ability to connect with young readers.

The ceremony is a key date in the State's literary calendar, acknowledging the accomplishments of writers, illustrators, editors and publishers. The winners are selected by an independent judging panel.



2024 Western Australian Premier's Book Awards and Hall of Fame Ceremony | Images: SoCo Studios

L-R top: Kylie Howarth, Michael Thomas, Dianne Wolfer

L-R bottom: Marly and Linda Wells, Stephen Daisley

Premier's Book Award Winners

- ▣ **Premier's Prize for an Emerging Writer (\$15,000)**
The Map of William by Michael Thomas, published by Fremantle Press
- ▣ **Premier's Prize for Children's Book of the Year (\$15,000)**
Scout and the Rescue Dogs by Dianne Wolfer, published by Walker Books Australia
- ▣ **Daisy Utemorrhah Award for Unpublished Indigenous Junior and Young Adult Fiction**
Sponsored by Magabala Books (\$15,000 and a publishing contract)
Dusty Tracks by Marly and Linda Wells
- ▣ **Premier's Prize for Book of the Year, sponsored by Writing WA (\$15,000)**
A Better Place by Stephen Daisley, published by Text Publishing
- ▣ **Western Australian Writer's Fellowship (\$60,000)**
Kylie Howarth

Western Australian Writers Hall of Fame

At the event, novelist Gail Jones and poet John Kinsella were inducted into the Western Australian Writers Hall of Fame. Each member is highly respected within the industry and broadly recognised for their distinctive work and contribution to Western Australian literature.

Gail Jones is a celebrated novelist and academic from Western Australia. She is the author of ten critically acclaimed novels, including *One Another* (Text Publishing, 2024). Gail's work has been translated into several languages and she has received numerous literary awards. She is Emeritus Professor at Western Sydney University.

John Kinsella is a prolific poet who is strongly influenced by the Western Australian landscape. He also works as a novelist, essayist and editor and teaches at Curtin University. His life's work has been compiled in a new three-volume collection by UWA Publishing, spanning more than 40 years of writing.



Western Australian Writers Hall of Fame inductees
Above: Gail Jones (credit: Heike Steinweg) and
left: John Kinsella

Digitisation of At-Risk Audio Visual Collections Project

Progress continues on the State Library's \$5.385M at-risk audio visual digitisation project funded by the Office of Digital Government from 2022 to 2026. The project transforms significant audio and audio-visual collections held on fragile, obsolete formats such as audio cassettes, video tapes and film reels, to a publicly accessible, online digital archive. Through digitisation, the project will reveal the sights and sounds of Western Australia, with thousands of items depicting people, places and events spanning more than 100 years of the State's history.



Still from a personal film from Lou Rulyancich | B19804167

During the last year the project has:

- Analysed approximately 40,000 audio visual collection records to identify and select material for large-scale digitisation, prioritising high risk formats with a strong alignment to strategic collection goals.
- Commenced review of material digitised in the first year to update catalogue records and enhance metadata for improved discoverability via the State Library's online catalogue.
- Worked with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Digital and Technology Services team to migrate the State Library's digital heritage material to a new cloud-based storage solution.
- Released a significant refresh of the State Library's online media viewer, PURL (Persistent URL), that enables digitised material available on the catalogue to be discovered and viewed in a user-friendly interface.

The project has been the catalyst for digital transformation, not only of the State Library's collections, but in creating new ways of working to improve public access and service delivery, both in the building and online. The project's outcomes and solutions are user-centred, sustainable and committed to creating a digital heritage legacy for future generations of Western Australians.

Significant Acquisition: The Ruth Ireland Collection

During the year the State Library acquired a collection of 880 posters and fliers advertising music festivals, gigs, theatre and film in Western Australian venues, mostly in Perth, between 1996 and 2023. This era is widely recognised as a significant moment in Western Australian music history with local bands lauded on the national and global stage.

The donor, Ruth Ireland, acquired the posters from venues, or from stores such as the iconic 78 Records in Perth. Ruth's chronological listing matches posters with events, and notes performers, venues and dates of performances. Her notes are interspersed with personal commentary and recollections about her experiences and her passion for live music and performance.

This extensive collection has significant social value, speaking to the music scene in Perth and tracing performances of many Western Australian artists in a range of local venues that supported live music, many of which no longer exist.

The gigs of well-known musicians such as Kim Salmon, John Butler Trio, Tim Rogers, The Kill Devil Hills and The Floors are represented in this collection. More contemporary materials reflect the impact of COVID-19 on live performances where many shows were cancelled.



The collection complements and builds on the State Library's existing collections of music posters from the 1960s. It provides a rich visual record of Perth's entertainment scene in the contemporary era and is a glimpse into Perth's recent social and cultural history.

– Dr Kate Gregory, Battye Historian, State Library



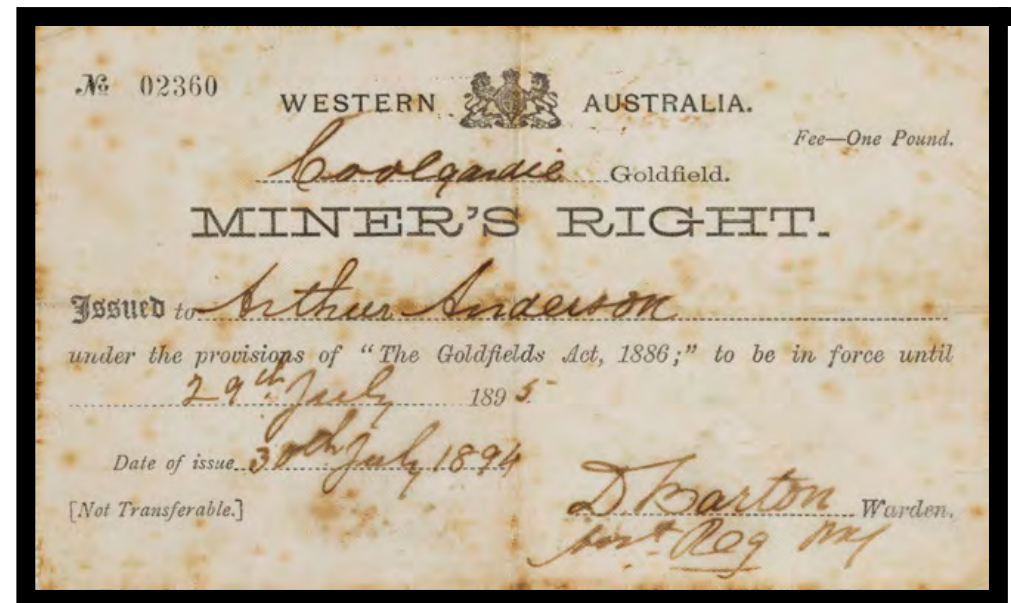
The Stems music poster, c. 2006 from the Ruth Ireland collection, recently acquired

Significant Acquisition: The Arthur Anderson Collection

Arthur Anderson (1857–1895) migrated from Scotland arriving in Western Australia in 1887 onboard the sailing frigate *Paramatta*. He was employed as a surveyor by the West Australia Land Company to survey from Beverley to Albany for the Great Southern Railway that opened in 1889. In 1894, he was appointed as a draughtsman in Coolgardie. He was also the first manager of Hampton Lands and Railway Syndicate. Anderson died of typhoid in Coolgardie in 1895 at the peak of the typhoid epidemic, and his widow returned to Aberdeen with their son and a few of Arthur's personal effects.

This significant collection reflects Anderson's life in Western Australia and his contribution to a crucial moment in the development of the Colony of Western Australia with the expansion of the railway and development of the Eastern Goldfields. Anderson's original surveyor's field book for the Hampton Lands and Railway Syndicate describes terrain, geographical features, trees and plants, condition of the soil, quartz deposits (normally associated with gold), lakes and water sources and notes 'well-beaten pad and cart tracks' encountered along the way as he charted a route through the Eastern Goldfields.

The Arthur Anderson collection includes a hand-drawn map of a proposed road through the Goldfields, a hand-drawn plan showing the position of a new find called Billy Billy and relative positions of other finds between Coolgardie and Billy Billy in 1894. It also includes a Coolgardie Miner's Right issued to Arthur Anderson in July 1894, just after the proclamation of the Coolgardie goldfields in April 1894. This collection represents a significant contribution to the record of the Eastern Goldfields gold rushes of the early 1890s.



Coolgardie miners right certificate issued to Arthur Anderson, 30 July 1894, recently acquired

Research Collaborations

The State Library is part of a national and global network of libraries. In 2023–2024, collaboration continued with local and national partners to progress initiatives that offer long-term benefits to libraries and communities. By working together, these partnerships harnessed diverse perspectives and achieved greater impact and innovation than could be accomplished alone.

Research milestones

Over the past year, significant milestones we achieved for two major Australian Research Council-funded projects: Collecting the West and Nyingarn.

The Collecting the West project, led by The University of Western Australia and Deakin University, with the State Library, Western Australian Museum, Art Gallery of Western Australia and the British Museum as partners, culminated in a report based on extensive research into State Library collections that reflect Aboriginal history, language, and culture. It traces the history of how this material was collected, identifying key themes and issues. The report acknowledges the colonial framework in which these collections were assembled and emphasises the importance of incorporating Aboriginal-led perspectives and responses to these collections as a current and future priority for the State Library.

Nyingarn (Echidna in Noongar language) is a collaboration between the State Library, the State Library of New South Wales, the National Library of Australia, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and the Barr Smith Library (University of Adelaide).

This project delivered a web platform to make manuscript sources of Australian Indigenous languages available as searchable and reusable text documents with cultural permissions to support language revitalisation. Community workshops are now being delivered to build awareness and foster language revitalisation. The State Library has a rich collection of archival material that relates to Aboriginal languages and will work with Aboriginal communities to facilitate awareness and access.

Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan

A cornerstone of the State Library's *Strategic Plan 2023–2027* is our responsibility toward reconciliation with Aboriginal people and communities. Our commitment to that goal continues with the conditional endorsement of the State Library's first *Reconciliation Action Plan* (Reflect RAP). This is intended to transform our good intentions into positive actions and outcomes.

The Reflect RAP is an opportunity to identify current State Library services and activities that support and empower Aboriginal people in Western Australia. Development of the Reflect RAP has been led by the State Library's Manager Aboriginal Engagement and a RAP Working Group formed to ensure commitment and input from all areas of the State Library. The Working Group contributed for more than six months, including consultation with Reconciliation Australia to ensure that the services and activities identified in the Reflect RAP are aimed at truth telling and empowerment. This closely aligns with several aims of the State Library's *Strategic Plan 2023–2027*:

- Partner with Aboriginal people and communities to ensure that their distinctive voices, knowledge and perspectives are respected and celebrated in our collections.
- Support truth-telling and healing that celebrates Aboriginal culture and knowledge.
- Build the cultural responsiveness of all staff and volunteers to ensure our services are culturally safe and highly valued by Aboriginal communities.

The development of the Reflect RAP has been an opportunity to reflect on activities that are already embedded in the State Library, like the Storylines Online Archive, a portal for access to State Library collections related to Aboriginal people; and the application of the First Nations Collection Description Guidelines which were developed as a collaborative program across Australia's State and National Libraries.

Working with Reconciliation Australia's RAP framework has also meant that the State Library has benefitted from this broader network in identifying opportunities for the next 12 to 18 months. Our commitment over this period includes actions under the themes of relationships, respect, opportunities and governance. This includes a wide range of actions such as identifying opportunities for Aboriginal employment and volunteering within our organisation; designing and installing an Acknowledgement of Country in Noongar and English for the State Library's main foyer and conducting a review of cultural learning needs within our organisation.

The State Library's collections and services hold important information that can enable Aboriginal empowerment and we are pleased to be making a strong commitment to ensuring this opportunity is realised.

Intellectual Freedom and the Freedom to Read

In recent years, across the democratic world, there has been an increase in calls to ban books and programs such as drag story times from libraries. These challenges threaten the principle that libraries are places that support free and open access to ideas and knowledge.

Freedom of access to information and freedom of expression are cornerstones of democratic society and core professional values for librarians.

In November 2023, the Library Board approved an Intellectual Freedom Policy, reinforcing the State Library's commitment to this principle as the foundation of a strong and inclusive democracy, as well as for individual learning and development. This policy underscores the responsibility of libraries to oppose any infringement on intellectual freedom, including the right to access, hold and express opinions without exception or restriction within the law.

State and public library collections reflect many views and perspectives. Libraries do not seek to promote or discourage particular viewpoints and do not censor material, although they abide by Federal and State government decisions on banned and restricted materials.

The State Library supports the right of all Western Australians to access information within the law regardless of age, gender, race, religion, disability, cultural identity, sexuality, language, socioeconomic status, political allegiance or social viewpoint.

The State Library is committed to the principles of equitable access, freedom of expression, freedom from censorship, privacy and Aboriginal self determination.



Access to information is essential for empowering individuals to form their own opinions and make informed decisions. Libraries play a crucial and irreplaceable role in upholding this fundamental right.

– Hon. John Day, Chairman, Library Board of Western Australia

Better Beginnings Family Literacy Community Grants Program

The State Library's Better Beginnings program is a Western Australian family literacy initiative that connects families with books through free reading packs. Our goal is to inspire a love of reading and learning for all Western Australian children.

In March 2021, the State Government made an election commitment to support the equitable delivery of the Better Beginnings program across Western Australia. This commitment included the creation of a new grants program for Western Australian community groups and public

libraries that help promote literacy in 0 to 5 year olds. Any organisation with programs and ideas encouraging families to 'Read, Talk, Sing, Write and Play with their child every day' is eligible to apply.

During the year, 15 public libraries and community organisations across Western Australia received a total of \$200,000 to implement community-led literacy initiatives.

The Town of Port Hedland received a grant to develop an outdoor story time program, featuring local Aboriginal presenters sharing stories by Aboriginal authors and illustrators. *Under the Yarning Tree* was developed for Aboriginal families to engage with the library as a safe place and families from all cultural backgrounds are welcome. Over the year, the program attracted over 400 attendees and has now become ongoing, with continued funding from the Town of Port Hedland.



Young readers enjoyed outdoor story time sessions through the *Under the Yarning Tree* program developed by the Town of Port Hedland in 2023 | Image supplied

Public Library Grants

The State Library is encouraging innovation and community engagement through grants that support public library initiatives across various tiers of local governments. A range of projects were funded, including:

- ▣ **Broome Library:** Continued the *Little Bubba Yarns First Nations Story Time* program.
- ▣ **Canning Libraries:** Installed Screenbeam technology.
- ▣ **Collie Library:** Celebrated its 50th anniversary.
- ▣ **Karratha Library:** Established a Youth Study and Collaboration Zone.
- ▣ **Harvey Library:** Created a Curious Minds MakerSpace.
- ▣ **Augusta-Margaret River Library:** Delivered emerging technologies.
- ▣ **Murray Library:** Provided STEM activities.
- ▣ **Kalgoorlie Library:** Offered six tablets and a docking hublet.
- ▣ **Eaton Library:** Created a children's space.
- ▣ **Dalwallinu Library:** Created a new teen space.
- ▣ **Beverley Library:** Introduced innovative STEM programs.
- ▣ **Narembeen Library:** Launched several book clubs.
- ▣ **Lancelin Library:** Installed new furniture.



Through these grants, Western Australians have access to technology and modern library services that are tailored to local community needs.

– Hon. John Day, Chairman, Library Board of Western Australia



Youth Zone, Karratha Library, 2024 | Image supplied

Partnership with The Underground Collaborative

In April 2024, the State Library signed a new agreement with The Underground Collaborative to continue support for Ground+Co, the employment café located on the ground floor of the State Library.

The Underground Collaborative provides employment to educate and empower women and young people experiencing, or at-risk of, homelessness. Ground+Co offers an opportunity for young people to build employment skills and gain confidence to transition to employment and stable housing opportunities beyond Ground+Co.



The State Library is proud to support this initiative that breaks the cycle of homelessness through education, empowerment and employment.

- Catherine Clark, CEO and State Librarian



L-R: Marius van der Merwe, Chairperson The Underground Collaborative; Catherine Clark, CEO and State Librarian; Katie Liew, Founder and CEO, The Underground Collaborative



Professional Development Planning

January 2024 saw the launch of the new Professional Development Planning (PDP) process for all State Library staff.

Professional Development Planning provides an opportunity for our managers and employees to discuss expectations, give and receive feedback, plan for the year ahead and the longer term.

The new PDP process runs in a 12-month cycle with quarterly check in. The regular scheduling ensures clarity of individual staff contributions to the State Library's strategic directions.

The PDP process deepens alignment of State Library priorities and values with work practices and offers staff clarity regarding options for career development. Further, the process provides opportunity for managers and employees to celebrate work outcomes, share feedback, plan ahead and discuss short and longer-term development goals.

These discussions draw out insight on current and future workforce trends and enable reflection about our organisational culture and public sector values. This is one of the State Library's strategic workforce initiatives to grow the State Library's impact in service delivery to all Western Australians.

State Library staff members in the Discovery Lounge, 2024 | Image: Aaron Brown

Collecting, Conserving and Preserving



State Library conservator treating a town planning map in the Conservation Laboratory, 2024

Collecting

Collection Strategy

In 2023–2024, collecting continued to be informed by the State Library’s *Collection Strategy*’s intentions, priorities and key principles for the acquisition and development of physical and digital collections. The strategy aims to respond to the needs and expectations of the Western Australian community, both now and in the future to ensure the collections reflect the rich and diverse history of the State.

Collection development of the heritage and general collections is based on the following five principles:

- ▣ Everyone’s story is important
- ▣ Collecting is proactive and responsive
- ▣ Collecting practices are ethical and responsible
- ▣ Collections are open and accessible
- ▣ Western Australian stories are preserved

Priorities for collecting include addressing gaps and omissions identified in stakeholder consultation, analysis of existing collections and observing the State Library’s legislative responsibilities. Importantly, the State Library continues to work proactively with Aboriginal people and communities to ensure the diversity of their creative works, histories and perspectives are reflected in the collections.

Acquisitions made during 2023–2024 reflect contemporary life in Aboriginal communities, regional and remote Western Australia, the Western Australian music scene, the LGBTQIA+ community, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities and Western Australians with disabilities. The State Library is committed to empowering people to

speak for themselves when sharing their own stories, which has resulted in the commissioning of several series of oral history.

Collection Interpretation Strategy 2022–2025

The *Collection Interpretation Strategy* provides a framework to guide interpretation of the State Library’s heritage collections and works in conjunction with the *Collection Strategy*. The aim is to engage with all Western Australians, foster a sense of belonging and strengthen and sustain the relationship between the community and the State Library.

Interpretation supports and strengthens the significance of the collections, brings to life stories held within the collections and creates opportunities for public engagement. The strategy is being implemented through public programs, exhibitions and other events.

Acquisition Highlights

The following significant items were added to the State Library’s collections during the year.

▣ Noreen Jones Papers

A collection of research materials which supported the development of books by Noreen Jones: *Number 2 Home* (2002) and *North to Matsume* (2007). It includes photographs and documents gathered by contributions from Japanese and Australian families, providing an important record of Japanese migration in Western Australia. Jones’ works served to correct common misconceptions about Japanese men and women arriving in Western Australia in the 1880s.

■ Sketch in the town of Perth, Western Australia, circa 1839

This work by Charles Dirk Wittenoom was published in the book, *The Colony of Western Australia: a manual for emigrants* by Nathaniel Ogle (1839). It is an etching with hand-colouring added, and depicts a view of Perth, in the first years of the establishment of the Swan River Colony.



Sketch in the town of Perth, Western Australia, c.1839, by Charles Dirk Wittenoom, recently acquired | ART0245

■ Historic photography

An eclectic selection of 18 Western Australian photographs, ranging in date from 1874 to the 1930s. One image shows Dr Violet Eville, a pioneer woman doctor of the Goldfields, in her graduation gown. Dr Eville graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor Surgery

from University Melbourne in 1928, and later practiced with husband Dr Morris O'Connell Gorman in Kalgoorlie between c. 1932–1948. Others feature early goldmining scenes at Coolgardie and Dunnville; Niagara, Western Australia Geological Survey Camp; the loading train at Pit Head; blind musical students at Cuballing; Australian soldiers holding hands and Western Australian-born film star Enid Bennett and her sisters.

■ Photographs depicting Mirning people at Eucla, Western Australia, 1913

Six photographs of Aboriginal people from the Eucla region, cropped and pasted onto a loose album page. The photographer is unknown, and possibly a visitor to the Eucla, where in 1912, Daisy Bates camped with the Mirning people.

■ The Legend of Moondyne Joe

A collection of original artwork, accompanied by drafts and archives relating to the development of the text and artwork for the 2002 publication of the children's book, *The Legend of Moondyne Joe*, from award-winning Western Australian author, Mark Greenwood and illustrator, Frané Lessac.

■ The Hole Story

A collection of original artwork and draft material from the Kelly Canby picture book, *The Hole Story*. The book won the 2018 Western Australian Premier's Book Award for Writing for Children and in 2019 was listed as a Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Notable Picture Book of the Year.

Original artwork from *The Hole Story*
by Kelly Canby, recently acquired



■ Deanne Bloomfield Collection

A collection of 8 hand drawn, original music posters from the early 1970s, from artist and creator, Deanne Bloomfield. This small selection of music posters from her own personal collection spanning the late 1960s to early 1970s, include posters for live appearances by some of the best Australian bands of the era, with overseas artists also represented. Photographs included with this collection depict Deanne's residence and design studio with many of her posters visible in the background, adorning the walls.

■ Ian Bell Collection

A collection of music posters from the personal collection of Ian Bell, a curator and collector of popular music memorabilia. The posters advertise performances by Western Australian performers outside of the State, demonstrating the broad reach of Western Australian music. The collection traces the careers of long-standing, notable musicians including Kim Salmon, Dave Faulkner and James Baker.

■ Shaun Tan artworks

Shaun Tan's artwork, *They Came By Water*, oil on canvas, 1997, was inspired by E. Phillips Fox's painting, *Landing of Captain Cook at Botany Bay, 1770* and was first illustrated for the cover of children's picture book *The Rabbits*. A selection of preliminary drawings for publications, *The Rabbits* and *The Arrival*, were donated by Shaun Tan under the Commonwealth Cultural Gifts Program. These original works, from the beginning of the artist's career, were important to him both professionally and personally, cementing his decision to explore picture book narrative as an innovative art form and to challenge publishing conventions.

■ Dr Peter Williams Collection

The Dr Peter Williams collection continued to grow in 2023–2024, with the addition of the aforementioned artwork by Shaun Tan, Kelly Canby and Frané Lessac. Other notable acquisitions for this collection through generous donation or purchase included:

- Book cover artwork from *Hope is the Thing*, by Erica Wagner.
- Artwork from *Rodney*, by Kelly Canby.
- Drawings from *The Kingdoms and Empires series*, by Kelly Canby.

■ Oral History Collection

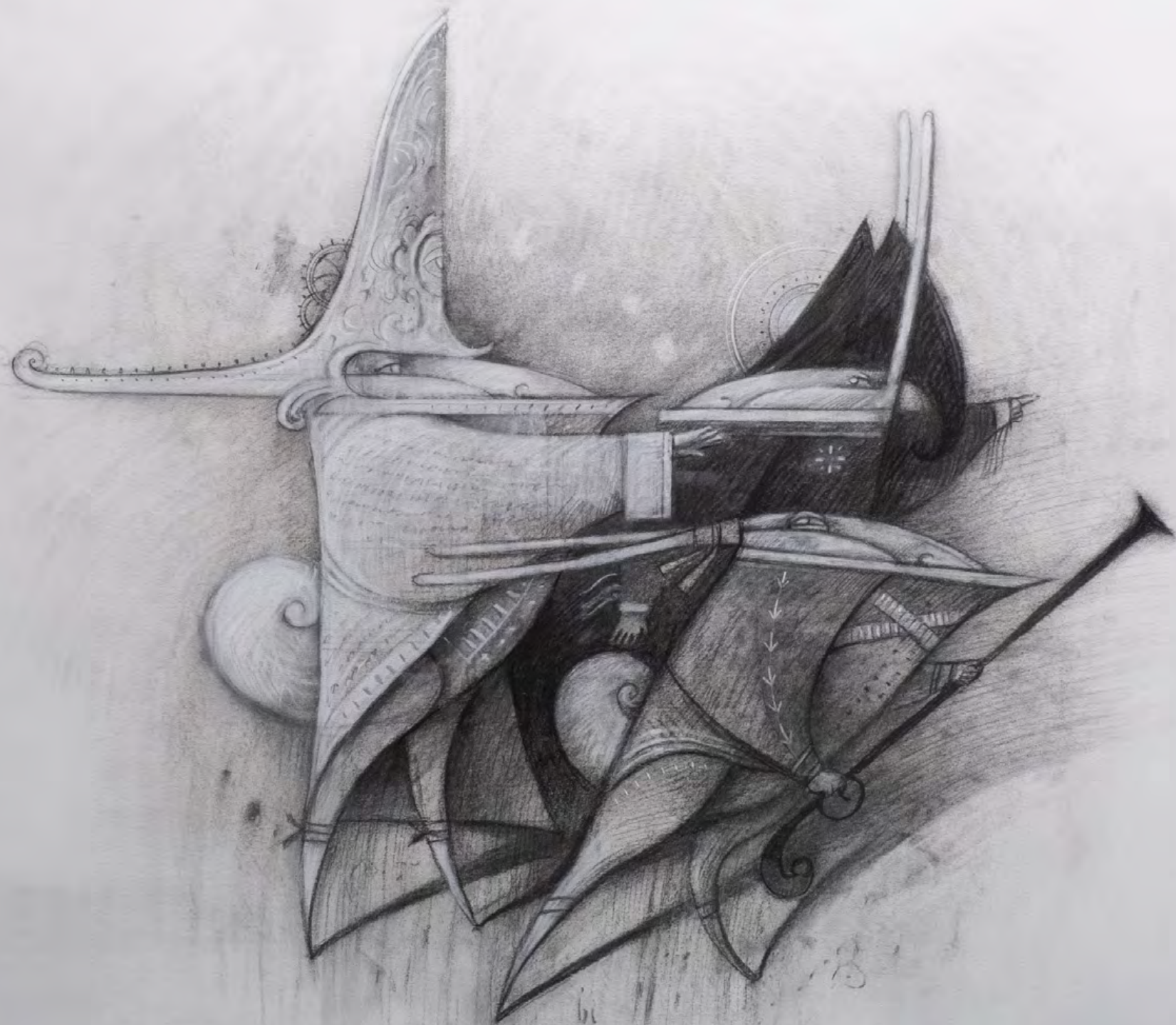
– Liquid Gold: A Taste of WA Brewing History

A series of 10 video interviews commissioned and presented as part of the *Liquid Gold* exhibition, documenting the evolution of Western Australian craft brewing from the 1980s to today. The interviews, conducted by *Crafty Pint* writer and beer blogger Guy Southern, explore craft brewing in Western Australia through its pioneers and the stories of contemporary brewers.

– Pullin' the Pots series

A series of 17 interviews documenting the crayfish industry out of Port Denison during the late 1950s and early 1960s. The series features stories of fishers who ventured out to sea as well as those of fisher-partners who stayed ashore. The interviews were gathered by Trish Parker as part of the development of the Packout Room Museum of Fishing and the Sea which opened in Port Denison in 2021.

Image next page: *The Rabbits* (after E. Phillips Fox), charcoal and pastel on paper
1997 by Shaun Tan, recently acquired | PWC/316



– **Interview with Ben Taylor Cuiermara**

Uncle Ben, from Yued country, talks to Irma Woods in both Noongar language and in English of his connection to Country, the struggles and triumphs of his people and ways to move forward. Uncle Ben discusses his family connections, his work as an activist and racism in Australia, past and present.

– **Interview with Bohdan Warchomij**

Bohdan Warchomij is a Western Australian photographer and a Ukrainian refugee, who arrived in Australia in 1949. The interview traces his experience, from arriving and staying in a tent on a property in Osborne Park to starting school with no English and later earning first-class honours in English at the University of Western Australia. He describes his time in New York learning photography and establishing himself as a noted local photographer, documenting Ukraine's Orange Revolution (*Portrait of a Revolution*, 2006) and the immediate aftermath of the downing of MH17 near Hrabovo in 2014.

– **Stories from the Western Australian Women's Hall of Fame – Professor Cheryl Praeger**

Professor Praeger is a mathematician known for her work in group theory, algebraic graph theory and combinatorial designs. She was Western Australia's Scientist of the Year in 2009, the first woman to be awarded the Australian Academy of Science Thomas Ranken Lyle Medal in 2013 and in 2019 became the first pure mathematician to win a Prime Minister's Prize for Science. She became Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at the University of Western Australia upon her retirement in 2017. Professor Praeger was inducted into the Western Australian Women's Hall of

Fame in 2015. She reflects on her early family and school life, her progression to tertiary education, her career highlights and her many achievements in the field of mathematics.

■ **Film Collection**

– ***Yorgas kaala katitje – Women Knowing Fire***

This short film, with accompanying podcast and images, explores the fire knowledge of Aboriginal women. Increasingly, Aboriginal women and men are creating better land management by sharing their knowledge, including through the Bushfire Centre of Excellence in Mandurah, Perth and the Kimberley Land Council's Nyul Nyul female ranger program based in Beagle Bay on the Dampier Peninsula. The film features Nyungar Elder Irene Stainton AO; Traditional Custodians Barbara Hostalek, Marlene Warrell and Gladys Yarran; Wetlands Centre Elder in Residence Marie Taylor; Nyungar Maaman Neville Collard; and Professor Susan Broomhall, Director of the Gender and Women's History Research Centre at Australian Catholic University.

– ***Yannow Boonark***

Featuring Nyungar Elder Marie Taylor, this short film explores the rich knowledge held by the Whadjuk women of the Nyungar nation about the trees of southwestern Australia. The film covers information about how the French expeditions concentrated on the scientific names, seeing with European eyes and Western experience and disregarded the local names, knowledge of the social, spiritual, cultural and ecosystems of local flora and fauna.

■ Pictorial Collection

– **Voice to Parliament referendum**

A selection of photographs purchased from photographer Philip Gostelow, depicting images from events, rallies and marches held by the Yes and No campaigns, with both Federal and State politicians, activists, volunteers and members of the public. The collection demonstrates the depth and breadth of participation by a diverse collection of Western Australians in a historic event of national significance.

– **Photographs documenting the Western Australian popular music scene of the late 2010s and early 2020s**

These photographs by Tashi Hall include notable and successful artists Tame Impala, Abbe May, The Waifs, Carla Geneve and Jack Davies, as well as emerging acts who contributed to the local music scene.



*Troye Sivan performing at HBF Stadium, Perth, 13 August 2016,
by Tashi Hall, recently acquired | BA3611/90*

Conserving and Preserving

Preserving and Managing Collections

Preservation and management of physical and digital collections relies on expert care, specialised storage and sustainable digital preservation efforts. The State Library's commitment to preservation involves conserving physical artefacts, digitisation to facilitate broader access and long-term preservation of digital materials.

Collection Conservation

During 2023–2024, State Library conservators and technicians treated over 1,400 items from the Western Australian heritage collections. Work undertaken included rehousing material into new or purpose-built archival storage solutions and stabilising items prior to digitisation or handling. A selection of items required more extensive repair and restoration.

■ James Anfuso Collection

Conservation staff surveyed this recently acquired collection of original music posters and promotion materials and identified a small number of items with minor tears or distorted edges. Preservation treatments included placing the items between damp sheets of Gore-tex that allowed the items to be humidified, so their fibres could be flattened and dried under sheets of glass to hold their form.

■ Unbound portfolio of pencil sketches attributed to Elizabeth Irwin, c.1841

Containing some of the State's earliest illustrations of buildings in the Upper Swan region, and one of Arthur's Head in Fremantle, the artworks were hinge mounted onto window mats for safer handling and storage.

■ *Palmerston Weekly Journal*, issues 1 to 10, 1860–1861

The *Palmerston* was a frigate used to transport convicts to Western Australia and the ship's weekly journal includes stories, anecdotes, reminiscences and verse. Conservation staff removed black buckram tape from the journal to reveal the original 19th century leather binding. The binding was consolidated and journal pages were repaired using an exceptionally fine Japanese tissue paper.

■ Photograph album depicting the first British atomic bomb test

The album contains 46 images depicting the first British atomic bomb test in the Montebello Islands on 3 October 1952. The album underwent a photographic print treatment, which included repairing tears with finely graded Japanese tissue paper and a conservation grade adhesive.

■ Lucia Serventy's sketchbook

The c.1930s sketchbook contains various species of pressed dried seaweed which had become brittle over time. A conservation-grade adhesive was used to consolidate the seaweed specimens which will ensure their ongoing preservation and availability for research.

Two men with a sign warning of nuclear radiation, Montebello Islands,
Western Australia, 1956 | BA2757/530-532



Collection Digitisation

The State Library continues to digitise various heritage material types to improve access and preserve physical collections, including fragile, unique or high value items. Digitisation efforts over the last year were largely in support of the State Library's public engagement program which saw hundreds of items made accessible through research and interpretation in exhibitions and other events. Several large-scale interpretive decals using digitised photographs, diaries, letters, news articles and more were featured on the State Library building's ground floor windows to share historical events and personal stories to those visiting the State Library or spending time in the Perth Cultural Centre.

Hand winding film at the State Library, 2024 | Image: Miles Noel





Examining a record in the State Library's sound digitisation studio

Digitisation of 2D Materials

The State Library's preservation lab operates advanced equipment dedicated to digitising photographs, manuscripts, posters, bound volumes and other 2D materials to the highest preservation standards. Materials are selected for digitisation based on a range of factors, including significance and user demand. This year the State Library digitised 27,350 pages or items, including:

- Scrapbook of Mary Annette Bleechmore, granddaughter of Mary Johnston (nee Clifton)

A Scrapbook of Original Australind Settlers containing cuttings, literary writings, sketches, pressed botanicals, c.1830–1850.

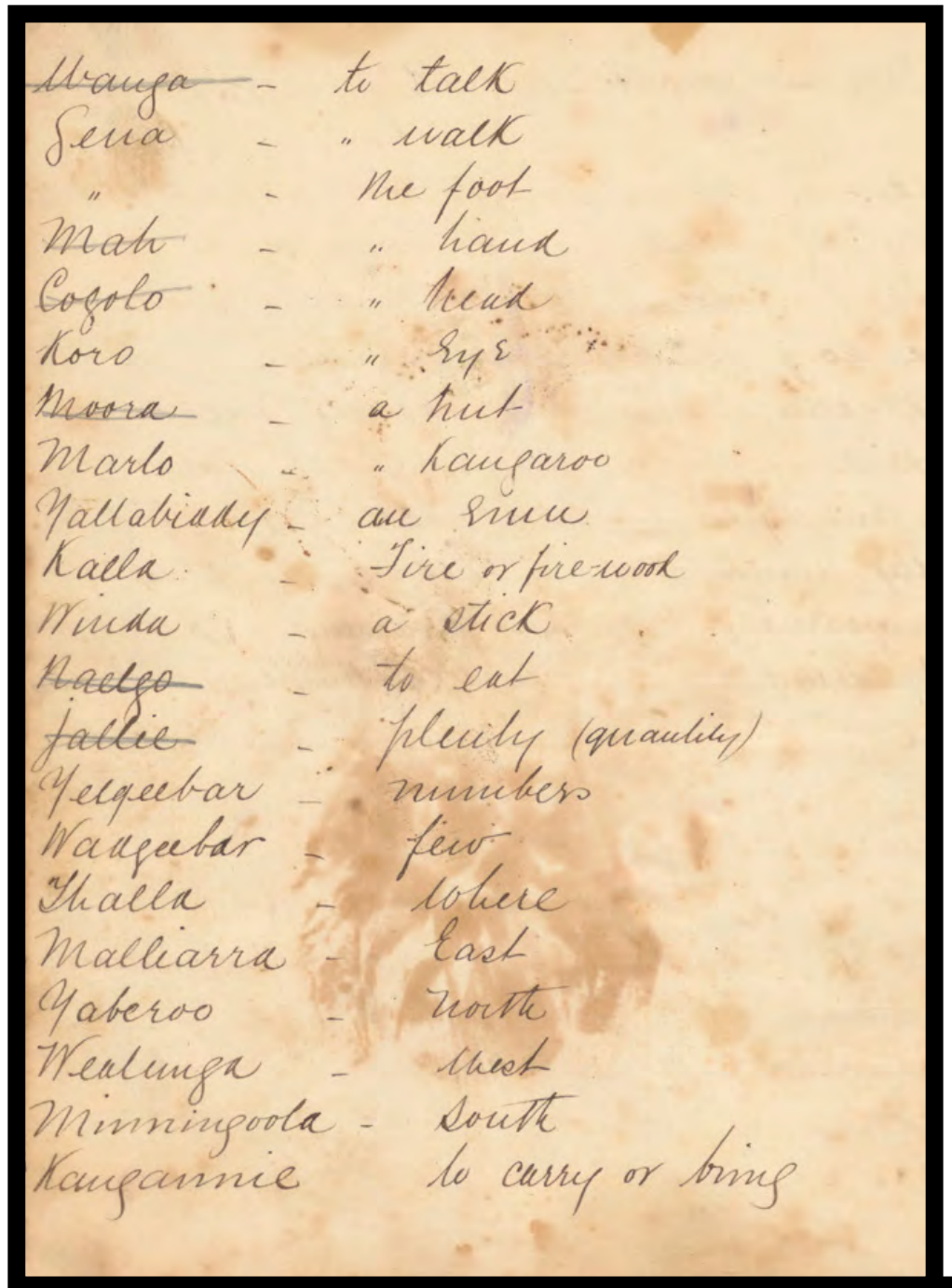
- Austin Platt's preparatory pencil studies of five Western Australian schools

Over his lifetime, Platt created a historic record of school buildings of the 1930s and 1940s, including Hale School, Methodist Ladies College, Perth Modern School and Wesley College.

- Manuscripts from the Butcher Family papers

Expedition diary by E.W. Norton Butcher, notebook and dictionary of words in languages from the Ngarla and Birdungu people from the Moore River to the Gascoyne River.

A dictionary titled *Language of the Pedung West Australia*, c.1877
by E.W. Norton Butcher | ACC 10836A/9



Digital Preservation

During 2023–2024, the State Library replaced its end-of-life digital storage systems and migrated over 350TB of preservation data to a new solution. The solution was developed in conjunction with Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Digital and Technology Services team and provides growth for the increasing number of digitised and born digital collections acquired or created by the State Library.

An additional 450TB of digitised film, video, and audio has been produced by the At-Risk Audio Visual Collections Project, demonstrating the growth of digital collections and the requirement for scalable storage solutions.

The recent acquisition of prominent scientist Barbara York Main’s private archive included more than 200 3.5” floppy disks. Most of the disks were created in the early 1990s using a Macintosh SuperDrive, which required specialist tools and techniques to recover the data. This year, the State Library commenced assessment and processing of thousands of digital files from this collection for long term preservation and access.

Supporting Exhibitions

The State Library’s exhibition program was supported by the Collection Care team with activities including retrieval, conservation, digitisation, mounting material for display, condition reporting of incoming loans and monitoring of display environments.

A highlight included a site visit to the Museum of Pubs in Gidgegannup to assess the condition of material borrowed by the State Library for display in *Liquid Gold: A Taste of WA Brewing History*.

There was one external exhibition loan request supported during the year:

- Manuscript by botanical illustrator and author Emily Pelloe (1877–1941); Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery – *Wildflower Season*, 8 September to 9 December 2023.

Sharing the Collections

Media and Social Media Engagement

The State Library's social media continues to be an integral tool for sharing the State Library's collection. Our online community has grown to over 71,000 followers across Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. Over the last year, our posts have reached more than 16 million people, with engagement numbers surpassing 2 million.

These social media channels serve as a valuable resource for those interested in delving deeper into our State's rich history through our collection material. Oral histories, photographs, ephemera and videos have all been common sources of inspiration and allowed members of the public to not only learn, but to share their own stories.

Notably, some of the most popular posts feature the oral histories of Aboriginal people. These posts have given us the opportunity to amplify Aboriginal voices by sharing their stories in their own words. This has also provided a platform for family members to contribute and add their own memories and photographs.

Oral histories from the multicultural communities have also resonated with our online audience. These stories, shared by individuals who migrated to Western Australia or were born here within culturally and linguistically diverse families, highlight the cultural diversity of our State. Many commenters have added their own similar anecdotes, fostering a sense of community and shared experience.

In addition, the State Library was able to showcase its programming through traditional media. Our recent exhibitions *Liquid Gold: A Taste of WA Brewing History* and *Sheiks, Fakes and Cameleers* both received significant attention, garnering interest from outlets such as *The West*

Australian, ABC Radio Perth, Radio National, RTRFM and Curtin Radio.

The State Library sends out a regular eNewsletter highlighting collections, services, exhibitions and events. The subscriber base has grown to more than 52,000 people.

Miss Western Australia Quest ceremony held at the Merlin Hotel, Perth, 1984 | 389679PD



ROCK ROVER NYE



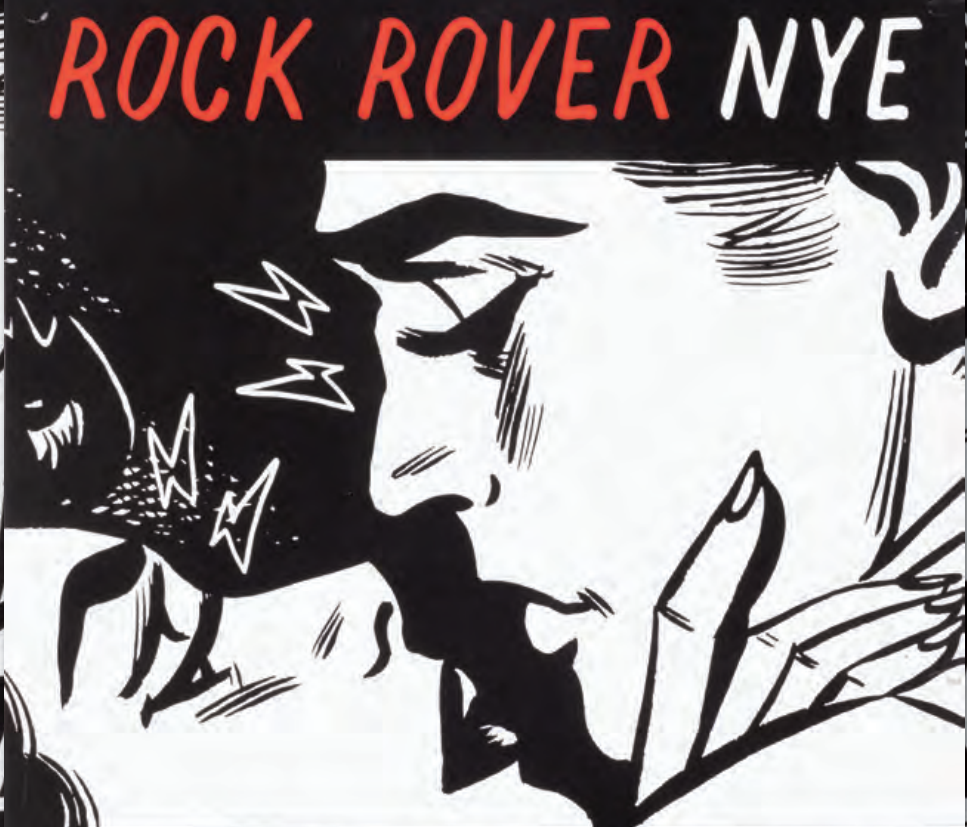
SPACEY JANE

PLUS ALMOND SOY, FOAM,
OOSTERBANGER, FRAEYA,
CON ART, POOL BOY... TIGHT!

CNR WILLIAM AND PARRY STREETS, FREMANTLE
TIX \$30 THROUGH WWW.COOLPERTHNIGHTS.COM

CON ART, POOL BOY... TIGHT!

CNR WILLIAM AND PARRY STREETS, FREMANTLE
TIX \$30 THROUGH WWW.COOLPERTHNIGHTS.COM



SPACEY JANE

PLUS ALMOND SOY, FOAM,
OOSTERBANGER, FRAEYA,
CON ART, POOL BOY... TIGHT!

CNR WILLIAM AND PARRY STREETS, FREMANTLE
TIX \$30 THROUGH WWW.COOLPERTHNIGHTS.COM

CNR WILLIAM AND PARRY STREETS, FREMANTLE
TIX \$30 THROUGH WWW.COOLPERTHNIGHTS.COM



SPACEY JANE

PLUS ALMOND SOY, FOAM,
OOSTERBANGER, FRAEYA,
CON ART, POOL BOY... TIGHT!

CNR WILLIAM AND PARRY STREETS, FREMANTLE
TIX \$30 THROUGH WWW.COOLPERTHNIGHTS.COM

PLUS ALMOND SOY, FOAM,
OOSTERBANGER, FRAEYA,
CON ART, POOL BOY... TIGHT!

CNR WILLIAM AND PARRY STREETS, FREMANTLE
TIX \$30 THROUGH WWW.COOLPERTHNIGHTS.COM

CNR WILLIAM AND PARRY STREETS, FREMANTLE
TIX \$30 THROUGH WWW.COOLPERTHNIGHTS.COM

Reading, Learning and Digital Inclusion



Reading, Learning and Digital Inclusion

Better Beginnings Family Literacy Program

Since 2004, the State Library has delivered the award-winning Better Beginnings Family Literacy Program with its important messages of reading stories, playing, talking and singing to children from birth.

Election commitment funding in 2021 helped expand the Better Beginnings program in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions, strengthening community relationships. Several new initiatives were introduced, including gifting all libraries in these regions a Supercharged Storytime Suitcase for their programs, along with online training for staff.

Better Beginnings is funded by the State Library, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australian local governments and Rio Tinto. The program is delivered in partnership with local governments through public libraries, Child and Adolescent Community Health, WA Country Health Service and the Department of Education.

24,498

reading packs distributed
for families with a newborn baby

21,620

Sing With Me! packs distributed
for families with a 2 year old

29,951

reading packs distributed
for families with a kindergarten aged child

2,018

Little Fulla Yarns packs distributed in the
Kimberley and Pilbara regions

Over 200

public library staff and other professionals
attended training to support early literacy
development in Western Australian families

Bookish Play – The Deadly Way

Better Beginnings Grants in Focus

In response to declining 2021 Australian Early Development Census results for children in Broome, and a State Government commitment to improve literacy in the Pilbara and Kimberley, the Broome Public Library launched an innovative program: *Bookish Play–The Deadly Way*.

For almost two years, this program has nurtured a love for books and literacy among the youngest community members while committing to Reconciliation through dedicated First Nations Storytime. The initiative, supported by State Library staff and funded through two Better Beginnings Grants, celebrates the storytelling traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The program is based on:

- ▣ **Storytelling Sessions:** Led by Mystique Dia, a respected Nyul Nyul teacher, and other Aboriginal presenters, featuring Aboriginal stories, songs and activities.
- ▣ **Community Engagement:** Collaborations with local schools, child-care groups, Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service, speech therapists and Auslan interpreters.
- ▣ **Cultural Celebration:** Recognising the talents of Aboriginal storytellers, artists and writers.

The program was recognised with a 2023 Kullarri NAIDOC Award – Certificate of Excellence.



Mystique Dia leads *Bookish Play – The Deadly Way* at Broome Library, 2023 | Image supplied



A young visitor to the State Library building, 2024



Story Time, Rhyme Time and Play Time

The Story Place is the State Library's learning and activity space for children, families and carers. It aims to build early literacy skills by encouraging families to share stories and to learn and play with their children every day.

During the year, The Story Place welcomed 7,644 visitors who enjoyed singing songs, sharing stories, craft sessions, early literacy activities and Learning English Through Story Time sessions.

Collaborations with the Perth Cultural Centre saw The Story Place taken over by mermaids and teddy bears during the January 2024 school holidays. Better Beginnings literacy bags were given to families who attended these events to encourage reading at home.

Better Beginnings reading packs inspire a love of reading in Western Australian children | Image: Miles Noel

Family History

Assisting family history researchers remains a valued service at the State Library. Online resources such as Ancestry.com's Library Edition, Find My Past, and Trove continue to be extremely useful and popular among our research community. These resources are accessible at the State Library or at public libraries throughout the State.

Over the year, there were 983,171 searches on Ancestry.com's Library Edition by members of the State Library and public libraries, an 11% decrease from the previous year. This drop is likely due to the contractual end of free, remote access to Ancestry.com.

FamilyHistoryWA volunteers at the State Library responded to 1,553 enquiries this year. Additionally, State Library staff conducted four well-attended family history talks, covering topics such as starting family history research, useful tips and common pitfalls, preserving original family archives and resources available at the State Library and other locations for finding original materials.

Accessing State Library collections, 2024





Education Program

The Education team works with teachers, teacher librarians and library officers across the education sector to engage school age students in workshops and exhibitions. Education Officers support students and teachers to develop critical literacy skills and research strategies to reveal the unique Western Australian stories preserved in the collections.

In the exhibitions *Laurel Nannup: What Road are you Going to Take?* and *Sheiks, Fakes and Cameleers*, students developed broad cultural understandings facilitated with curriculum linked trails and associated city walking trails. The success of the supporting resources surpassed expectations and print runs in each case were exhausted before the close of the exhibitions.

The State Library's education program continues to reach regional communities through online workshops and events. An online workshop with award winning author Dianne Wolfer was attended by school students throughout the State. An opportunity to engage with the Australian Children's Laureate, Gabrielle Wang, and hosting well attended conferences with the Western Australian School Library Association and the Australian Literacy Council were memorable highlights for the year.

A new Migration Stories Walking Trail: Western Australian Cameleers saw students exploring Northbridge to find important landmarks, such as the Perth Mosque, 2024

Storylines Online Archive and Aboriginal History

Over the past 11 years the Storylines Online Archive has become a critical resource for Aboriginal communities. This secure platform provides a responsive and culturally sensitive approach to accessing the State Library's collections. Aboriginal people can explore the archive while ensuring sensitive, secret or sacred materials are appropriately restricted or removed. Importantly, Storylines facilitates the inclusion of Aboriginal knowledge and terminology, enriching the State Library's overall collection.

The archive has been instrumental in reshaping the State Library's approach to Aboriginal collection materials. Learnings from Storylines have informed updated guidelines for describing First Nations collections, ensuring greater accuracy and respect.

This year, the Storylines team prioritised community participation. Through targeted engagement, the archive has grown to encompass over 15,000 items and identify over 7,000 individuals portrayed within these collections. Notably, the Neville Green and Alan Sloan collections have been valuable additions.

Training sessions for Aboriginal educators, University of Western Australia students and regional communities further expanded access and understanding. The Storylines team delivered these sessions in Narrogin, Katanning, Kojonup, Gnowangerup and Albany.

Storylines is available at storylines.slwa.wa.gov.au

Young boy at Cosmo Newbery Mission, Western Australia, c. 1965,
Ron Williams Collection | BA2750/334 | Storylines NR-0011054





Building Digital Literacy

The State Library helps bridge the digital divide and supports community members to build their digital literacy skills so they can access online government information and services and build proficiency and confidence using digital tools. The most common digital tasks clients needed help with were navigating computer or device functions, accessing government websites such as Services Australia and finding information on the internet.

Board at the Library

The State Library building now offers a fun and cosy space to relax and enjoy board games, card games and puzzles. Informed by visitor feedback, the State Library's game selection includes chess, mahjong, Scrabble, Monopoly, Catan, Cluedo, jigsaw puzzles and large print playing cards. A collection of game related books and user guides complement the space, which was supported by a partnership with The Chess Association of Western Australia.

Volunteer supporting the new Board at the Library space in the State Library building, 2024

Client Feedback

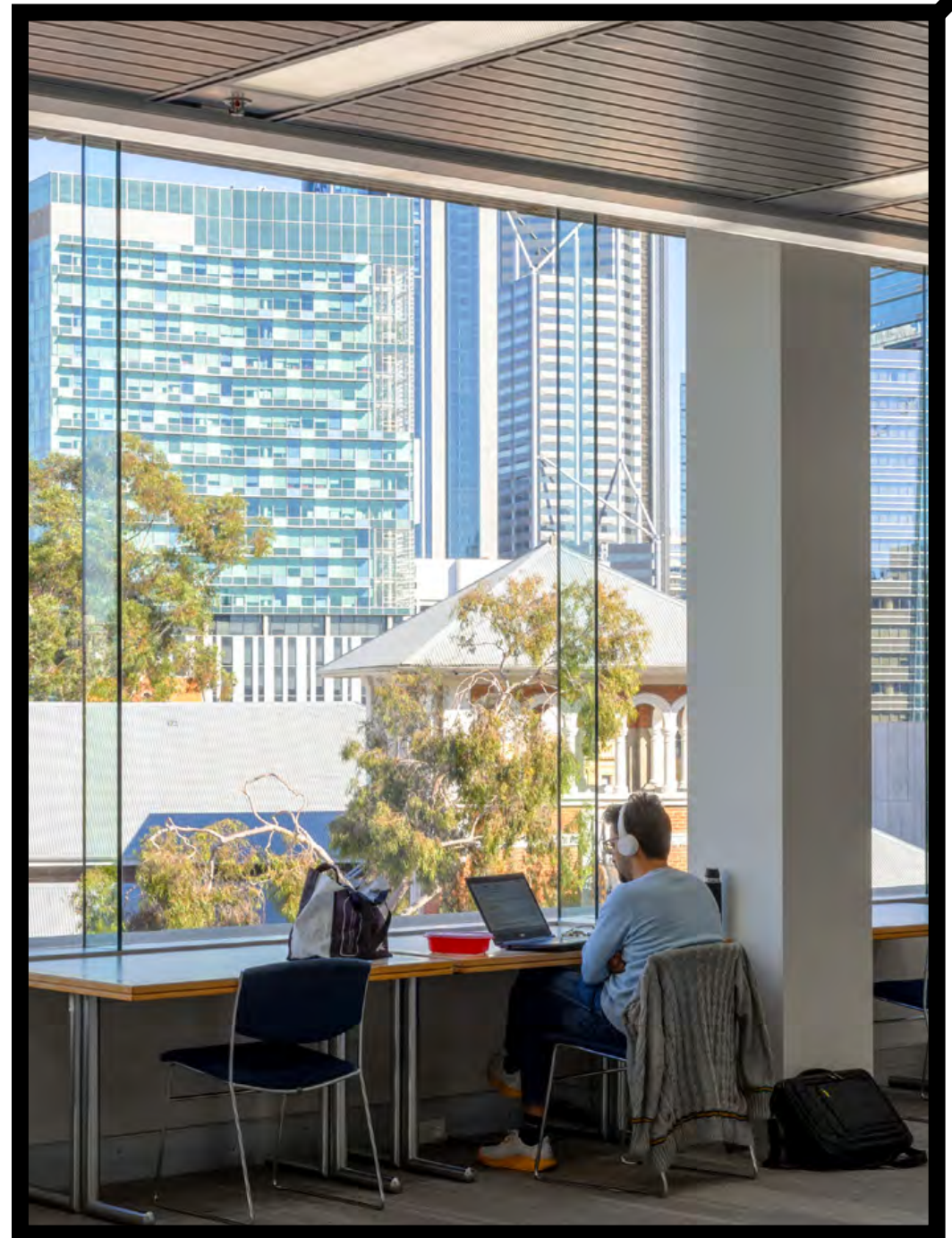
The State Library conducted two client surveys during the year to learn how clients interact with and value its collections, resources and facilities. With 875 responses, participation rose by 52% from last year.

Overall satisfaction with the State Library's services, collections and facilities remained very high at 92%. Satisfaction with staff assistance was 91%, a 4% drop from last year. Satisfaction with the library catalogue and website slightly increased to 81% and 83%, respectively. This year, 38% of respondents used physical or digital collection materials, a 10% increase from last year, with most finding the materials useful, especially for school exam preparation and languages other than English.

Clients visited the State Library for various reasons, mainly for research, family history, browsing, reading or borrowing materials. This last activity saw a 6% increase from the previous year. Most respondents were aged 25 to 34 (19%), followed by those aged 65 to 74 (15%). Almost 5% identified as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Additionally, the State Library encourages ongoing feedback through various channels, including through printed and online forms, email, letters and in person. In 2023-2024, 329 submissions of feedback were received, a 7.5% decrease from the previous year.

Public space for study, research and recreation,
2024 | Image: Aaron Brown





Championing Western Australian Public Libraries



Youth Zone study space, Karratha Library, 2024 | Image supplied

Championing Western Australian Public Libraries

The State Library works in partnership with local governments for the provision of free public library services across Western Australia's vast geographic expanse. The State Library provides collection materials, grant funding, services and professional development for public library staff. A critical role is in consortia purchasing of print and electronic content that is distributed and accessible to public library members throughout the State.

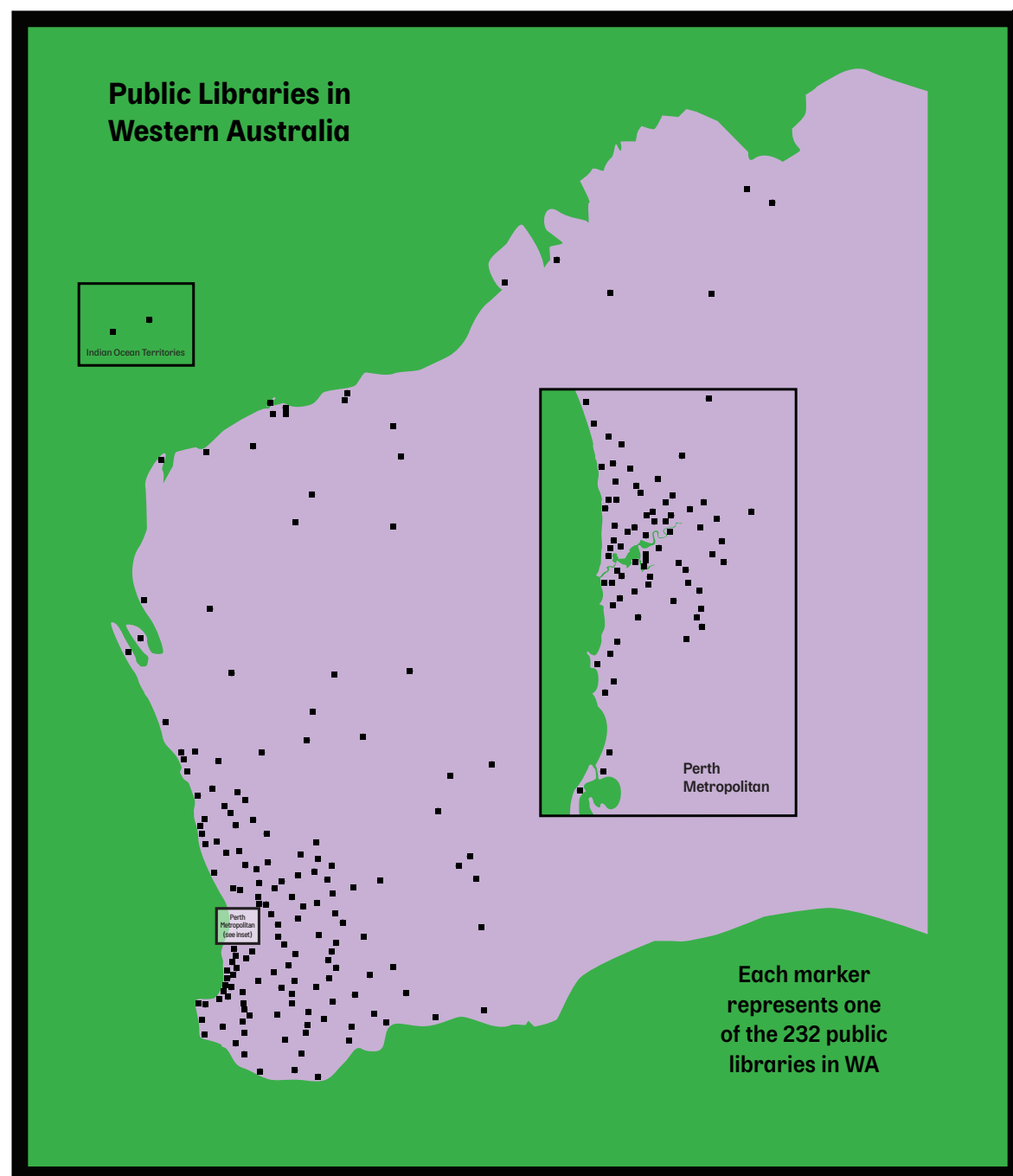
This year, 232 public libraries across Western Australia and the Indian Ocean Territories welcomed more than 12.6 million visitors who sought access to library services onsite, online or elsewhere in their community. There were more than 600,000 active members of local public libraries, borrowing 11 million physical items and 4 million online items.

Public libraries welcome people of all ages, educational attainment, economic circumstances, cultures and beliefs. They offer a safe place and are trusted by the community. Library services are tailored to the needs of individual communities and address the challenges of digital and social inclusion.

Western Australian public libraries provide:

- ▣ Free access to books, audiobooks, DVDs, eresources (like ebooks and eaudiobooks) and other content for education, enterprise and recreation.
- ▣ Free access to computers, Wi-Fi and printing facilities as well as friendly and knowledgeable staff who can provide assistance.
- ▣ A place for people to come together, connect with one another and with what is happening in their community.
- ▣ Opportunities for people of all ages and interests to pursue formal and informal study and lifelong learning.
- ▣ Comfortable public spaces where people can study, work, read and relax.
- ▣ Foster community health and wellbeing through opportunities to connect and engage.
- ▣ Support for the local economy by enabling job seekers, entrepreneurs and micro businesses to access information, Wi-Fi services and meeting rooms.

Public Libraries in Western Australia





Readers at the Fremantle Library, 2023 | Image supplied

Western Australian Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026

A range of stakeholders have worked together to progress the *WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026*.

Achievements include:

- ▣ Pillar 1: Libraries strengthening communities.
 - Conducted a full-day workshop for over sixty public library staff on community co-design of library services.
 - Consulted the community on electronic resources to inform future service provision.
- ▣ Pillar 2: Digitally inclusive libraries.
 - Onboarded three regional Local Governments to the State Library's management system.
 - Partnered with the WA Council of Social Services to address barriers to digital inclusion in regional public libraries.
- ▣ Pillar 3: Public libraries valued as an essential community asset.
 - Started realigning statistical reporting from public libraries to better reflect community impact outcomes.

In May 2024, the Public Libraries Working Group approved the second-year implementation plan for the Strategy, which includes a review of public library governance and funding allocations to support the delivery of contemporary public library services.

Trends in Public Library Usage

The State Library coordinates the collection of statistical data from all Western Australian public libraries. Data for 2023–2024 will not be available until late 2024.

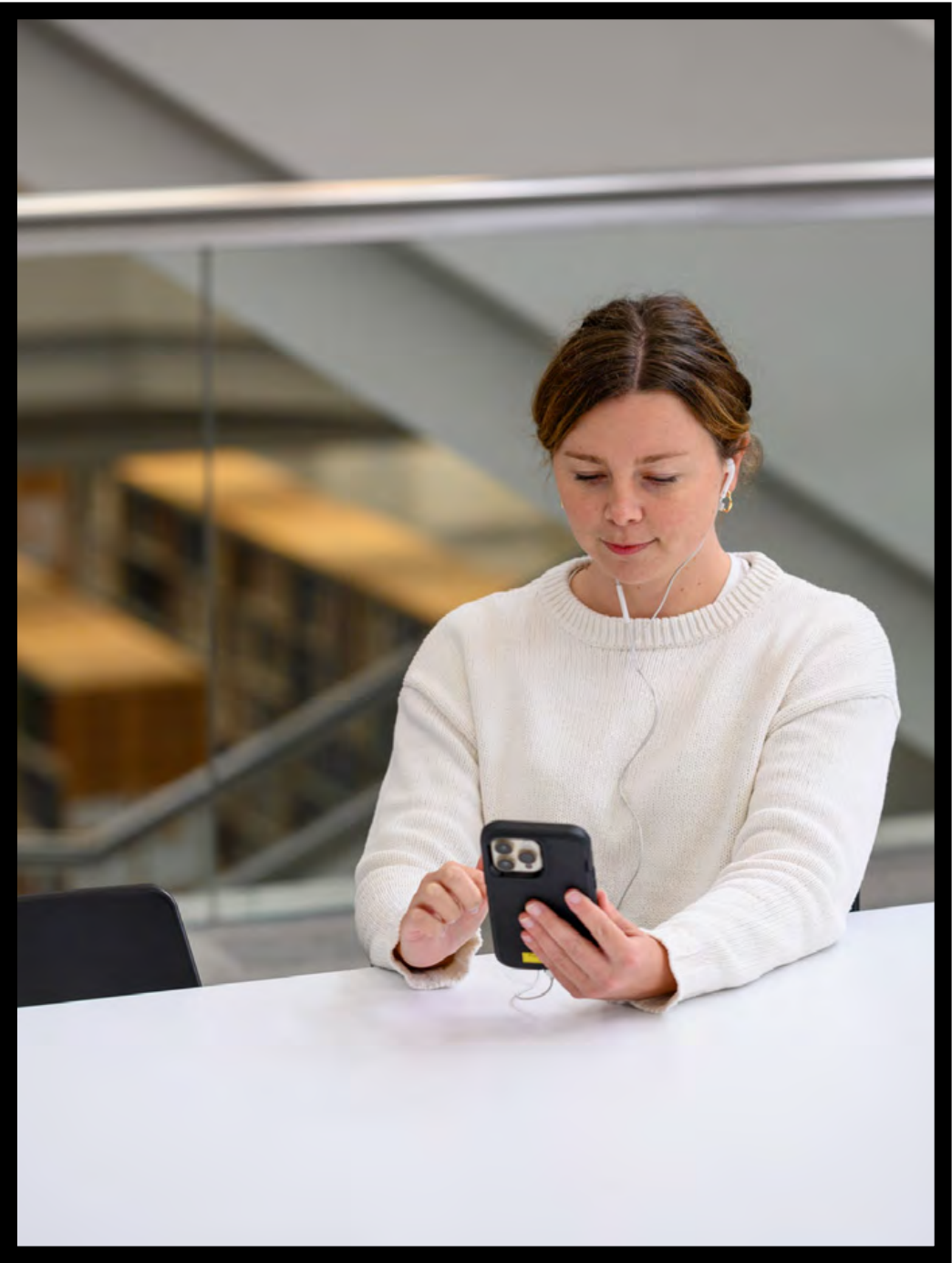
Library usage is changing. Loans of online resources like ebooks and eaudiobooks continue to increase, while physical item loans have decreased. More people are visiting libraries both in person and online. Many prefer accessing online resources from home or mobile devices rather than visiting in person.

Besides borrowing materials, many clients use libraries for attending programs and events, studying and accessing the internet. There has been a significant increase in the number of public programs offered by libraries and a corresponding increase in attendance at these events.

	2021-2022	2022-2023
Loans of physical items	10,934,026	10,963,177
Loans of online resources	3,394,262	3,847,828
Visitors in person and online	11,656,197	12,608,876
Enquiries	1,741,093	1,830,747
Members	637,207	602,743
Number of library programs offered to clients	60,321	51,130
Number of clients attending programs	558,342	676,006

Public library statistics are reported nationally via National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA).

Public library members have access to over 1.6 million
eresource titles, 2024 | Image: Miles Noel



Public Library Online Resources

The State Library and Western Australian public library staff collaborate to negotiate Statewide consortia licence arrangements, providing online resources to all local public library members.

In the past financial year, there were 4.2 million eresource loans, a 27% increase compared to 2022-2023. Nearly 1.7 million titles were available in various formats including books, audiobooks, magazines, newspapers, comics, film, television and music. The top three formats were audiobooks (39% of loans), books (38%), and magazines/newspapers (21%).

Eresource loans	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	Variance
Total online loans	2.6 million	3.2 million	4.2 million	↑
Ebook loans	1.28 million	1.43 million	1.58 million	↑
Eaudiobook loans	1.23 million	1.44 million	1.65 million	↑

During the year, the State Library gathered community feedback on the use and engagement with public library eresources. The information was used to inform short and long-term recommendations for future content, formats and platforms to better meet the community’s evolving needs.

LOTE4Kids was introduced in February 2024 and offers over 3,000 online picture books in more than 65 languages. Since its launch in 70 local governments in Western Australia, library members have engaged with nearly 5,000 stories and activities in 60 languages, between February and June 2024.

Downloads of eresources have soared 27% in the last year, 2024 | Image: Aaron Brown



Professional Development for Public Library Staff

The State Library provides professional development for public library staff via an online learning platform. During 2023–2024, 14 online courses were available for library officers with 141 local government staff completing courses during this period. An online help desk handled 2,080 enquiries from local public library staff during the year.

The State Library also hosted online training sessions addressing topics of interest to local public libraries including Funding Allocations, Getting Started with Libby, Multilingual Engagement, Building Bridges with Words, LOTE4Kids and Library Board Awards information. Eleven sessions were attended online by 370 public library staff.

In addition, a number of in person workshops were delivered for public library staff in support of outcomes under the *WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022–2026*. In March 2024, a representative group of public library and State Library staff participated in a workshop to review and improve the data collected from public libraries. This work will continue to ensure the capture of both quantitative data and demonstrated outcomes that public libraries deliver for their communities.

In May 2024, 30 public library staff attended a workshop on measuring the community impact of library programs, collections and services. The workshop was led by Sarah Janali, a consultant who has created outcome measurement frameworks for community development and library services in Western Australia. The event was supported by Local Government Professionals Australia (WA).

Another workshop in this series brought together over 60 public library

staff to learn about community co-design of library services. Led by the President of the Australian Library and Information Association and CEO of Yarra Plenty Regional Library Corporation, Jane Cowell, this workshop focused on the importance of involving community in the development of services and programs. The State Library supported public library staff from across the State to attend these workshops by providing travel grants.



A State Library staff member in the stacks,
2024 | Image: Miles Noel

Collaboration and Partnerships

ABC Radio

On 4 June 2024, the State Library hosted a live ABC broadcast to celebrate ABC Radio's 100th anniversary, featuring content from the 1924 launch and live music from the Perth Symphony Orchestra. The event included a display of the State Library's collection material about the early days of ABC broadcasts in Perth.

Australian Web Archive

The Australian Web Archive, established in 1996 by the National Library of Australia, collects Australian online publications and web culture, with contributions from all state libraries. Libraries collaborate on specific topics to ensure comprehensive representation, such as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. Content is searchable via Trove trove.nla.gov.au

AWESOME Arts

The State Library worked with long-term partners Awesome Arts to provide venues for the Awesome Festival 2023. Alongside Awesome activities presented throughout the building, the State Library had two exhibitions included in the Festival: *Laurel Nannup: What Road Are You Going to Take?* which included a self-directed trail for school-aged children, and *Imagine This!* displaying a selection of original children's book illustrations from the State Library's collection.

Nadia Mitsopoulos spoke with Catherine Clark during a live broadcast when the State Library hosted ABC Radio's centenary celebrations in June | Image: Cam Campbell



Digitisation Centre of Western Australia

The State Library is a founding partner of the Digitisation Centre of Western Australia which is co-located at the University of Western Australia and the State Library building. In 2023–2024, the Digitisation Centre of Western Australia used the State Library’s audio digitisation studio for 977 hours to process collections from its partners and clients. This included the digitisation of a range of formats such as cassettes, vinyl records and reel to reel audiotape.

Friends of Battye Inc.

During the year, the Friends of Battye Library Inc. (through the Maud Sholl Bequest) generously funded \$35,000 for researcher-in-residence opportunities to research the newly digitised audio and audio-visual collections of the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History. Friends of Battye Library also organised a vibrant program of events that showcased State Library collections throughout the year.

National eDeposit (NED)

In 2023–2024, the State Library continued its commitment to the national collaborative service for collecting, preserving and accessing Australian online publications. Collection Services staff are members of the NED Steering Group and NED Operations Group, contributing to the NED strategic and operational plans, including an in-person meeting of all NED member libraries in Canberra in March 2024. The NED system continues to evolve to support digital collecting of Australian publications with improvements to the management of serial publications and the addition of the capability to collect ephemeral material in



A reader in the State Library building, 2024 | Image: Miles Noel

progress. The State Library regularly contacts Western Australian publishers, including self-publishers, to request NED and print deposit using quarterly lists generated from the National Library of Australia’s prepublication data service.



The State Library is home to the *Perth Comic Arts Festival*, 2023

Perth Comic Arts Festival

Each month, members of the Perth comics art scene met with aspiring comic book creators and professionals to talk about current projects. This presents an opportunity to share skills and knowledge and strengthens the already vibrant local comic-making community. This program is presented in partnership with the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

Propel Youth Arts WA

The *Sketchbook Project* was a travelling exhibition that featured the work of young people aged 12 to 25 from across Western Australia. It invited young people to share their personal stories, thoughts, artistry and passions by filling in a small sketchbook.

VisAbility

The State Library administers funding for VisAbility to provide library services for people who are blind, vision impaired or who have a print disability, making books and other print materials accessible to individuals in their preferred format, such as talking books, braille or large print. VisAbility also has a large digital audiobook library for people with a print disability that is available directly from VisAbility or via any Western Australian local public library. VisAbility provides their library services directly to more than 3,400 people with a print disability across the State. In 2023–2024, the VisAbility Library loaned more than 42,000 items to their members via postal and download services.

Shared Responsibilities with Other Agencies

The State Library engages in cross agency initiatives as follows:

Delivery of public library services

Western Australian local governments and Indian Ocean Territories

Delivery of the Better Beginnings family literacy program

Local governments, Child and Adolescent Community Health, WA Country Health Service, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the Department of Education

Shared library management system

Department of Health and some local government public libraries

Co-located information services

State Records Office and Aboriginal History WA for access to published materials and private archives from the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History and Government records from the State Records Office. Access and research services for Aboriginal historical records are also available.

Digital literacy and family history programs

Department of Justice, various other State and Commonwealth Government agencies.

Digital Inclusion Blueprint

Office of Digital Government and a range of State Government agencies and local government

Information and reference services

Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Department of Treasury, Department of Finance and the Public Sector Commission

Internal audit

Art Gallery of Western Australia and the Western Australian Museum

Provision of office space

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Aboriginal History WA and the State Records Office of Western Australia

Support for the Adult Migrant English Program

North Metropolitan TAFE



RESPECT

Welcome to the State Library of Western Australia, where everyone is treated with respect.

- Anti-social or aggressive behaviours are not tolerated
- You must be sober
- Keep your belongings with you
- Wear shoes and appropriate clothing
- Cooperate with staff and security officers
- Do not access objectionable or restricted material online

The State Library reserves the right to remove any person from the building and exclude them if they fail to follow this code of conduct.

RESPECT

Welcome to the State Library of Western Australia, where everyone is treated with respect.

- Anti-social or aggressive behaviours are not tolerated
- You must be sober
- Keep your belongings with you
- Wear shoes and appropriate clothing
- Cooperate with staff and security officers
- Do not access objectionable or restricted material online

The State Library reserves the right to remove any person from the building and exclude them if they fail to follow this code of conduct.

People and Culture

People and Culture

The State Library’s *Strategic Plan 2023–2027* encourages staff to be community focused, responsive, respectful, accountable and innovative by fostering a dynamic staff culture and an efficient and sustainable operating environment.

The State Library is building the cultural responsiveness of all staff by utilising our website and social media channels to support and showcase the talent and diversity of our existing staff and to recruit new staff.

The State Library continues to ensure that recruitment processes are inclusive. During 2023–2024, a review of selection and appointment processes was undertaken with a focus on ensuring that applications are encouraged from diverse groups.

Workforce Diversity

People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds work at a variety of levels throughout the State Library.

	Youth (under 25)	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Cultural and linguistically diverse people	People with disability
Aspirational target	5.8%	3.7%	15.5%	5%
Number of staff as at 30 June 2024	2	3	31	10
% representation	1.3%	1.9%	20%	6.5%
Gap to meet target	4.5%	1.8%	Target achieved	Target achieved

Induction and Training

The State Library has a comprehensive induction program for new staff which includes a combination of face-to-face and online training. Staff complete training modules on the Code of Conduct, Accountable and Ethical Decision Making, WA Public Sector Induction, Emergency Response Procedures, Disability Awareness and Financial Management Awareness.

Learning and Development

The State Library remains committed to staff development and provided a range of training and professional development opportunities during the year including:

- Neurodiversity and Autism Awareness Workshop facilitated by Spectrum Space.
- Significance Assessment in Heritage Collections with Stephen Anstey.
- Vicarious Trauma training workshops facilitated by ASeTTS.
- Library and Archive Copyright Training facilitated by the Australian Libraries and Archives Copyright Coalition.
- Galleries, Libraries Archives and Museums Copyright training facilitated by Australian Copyright Council.

Training Opportunities for Community Members

The State Library is committed to providing opportunities for people to gain skills and work experience. In 2023–2024, the State Library hosted one trainee from the Solid Futures Aboriginal Trainee Program, one Curtin University student who completed a summer internship, three TAFE students who completed practicums and one Year 10 student on a work placement.

Volunteers

Volunteers generously donated 4,936 hours of their time to the Western Australia community. The volunteer replacement cost is estimated to be \$141,574, based on the volunteering benefits calculator methodology used by Volunteering WA.

In 2023–2024, volunteers assisted with:

- helping families engage with a love of literacy and learning in The Story Place
- rehousing and listings of private archives
- transcriptions and indexing of oral histories and podcasts
- assessment and sorting of the Swan Valley Nyungah Collection
- surveying the condition of Western Australian music compact discs
- reviewing records of collections and rehousing items
- staffing the Family History Centre in the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History.

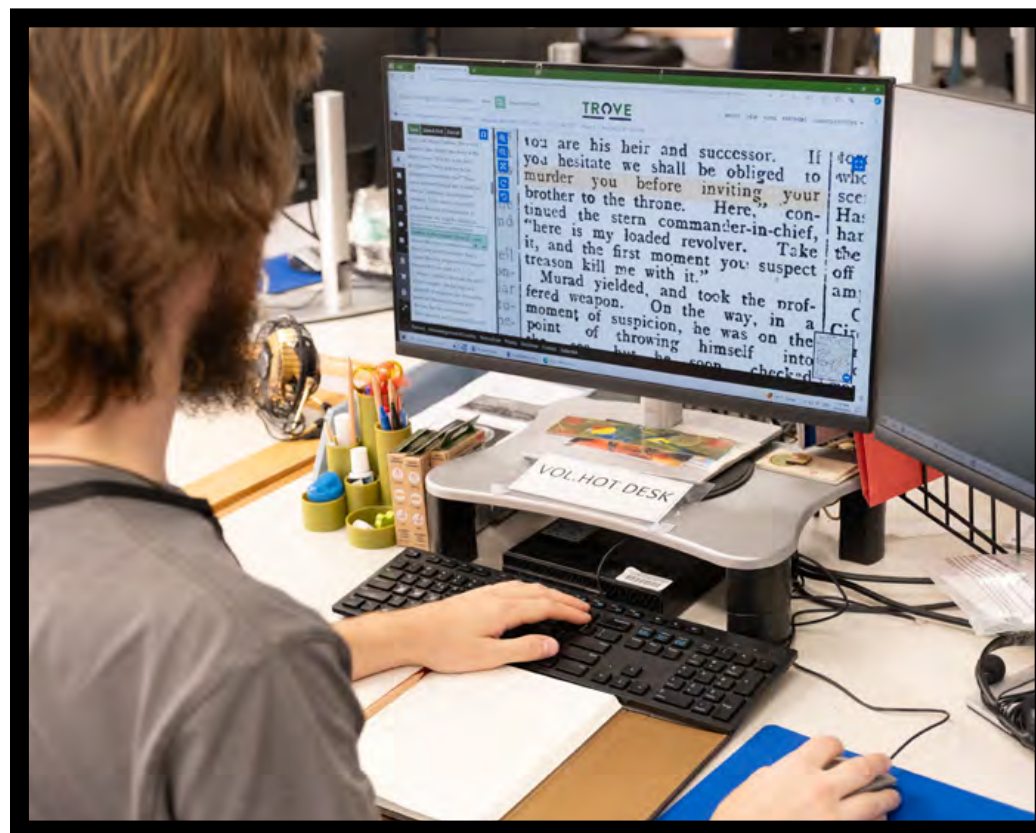
A number of volunteers assist with online volunteering, both in the State Library and remotely, such as text correcting old Western Australian newspapers and researching image locations from the catalogue, with remote volunteering an option that will continue to be developed.

Unfortunately, this year the State Library farewelled two of our volunteer family. Ron Knox, sadly passed away in September 2023. Ron started volunteering at the State Library in 2008 and contributed significantly to the union archive papers, text correcting old newspapers on Trove and helped with the English conversation groups. He will be missed by those who knew and worked with him.

Pam Fraser began volunteering at the State Library in 1986, working with the oral history collections. She also recorded and identified photographs in Preservation Services and identified soldiers in the Adopt a Soldier project. Pam helped with numerous projects in Client Services and was a valued member of English conversation groups. Pam passed away in January 2024 and will be fondly remembered by State Library staff and volunteers.

The Library Board and State Library thanks all our volunteers for their support and contribution.

Volunteers at work, 2024



A Digital Library

The State Library's mission is to treasure stories, inspire possibilities and strengthen communities and the way this is achieved is changing dramatically. The Library requires significant government investment to deliver its legislated mandate to collect and preserve Western Australia's documentary heritage in a digital world. The growing volume of digital information deposited with, or collected by the Library requires scalable digital infrastructure that can support increasingly complex technical and user needs for the preservation of, and access to, digital collections.

The Library is taking a strategic approach to the suite of systems needed for managing and accessing its collections and related digital information including a fit-for-purpose Library Management System and Digital Preservation System. It will also explore opportunities for the introduction of new cognitive technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), guided by the State Government's AI Policy and Assurance Framework as it strives to continually grow its capabilities and services in the collection and preservation of Western Australia's digital cultural memory.

Digital Inclusion

As society moves towards more online engagement, it is important to ensure that no Western Australians are left behind and that people across this vast State have the access, affordability and skills to participate in the online delivery of services and information. In implementing actions from the State Government's *Digital Inclusion*

Blueprint for WA, the State Library works with local public libraries to help bridge the digital divide, providing equitable access to technology, programs and workshops on how to use digital devices and accessing online services.

State Library Building

The State Library continues to identify opportunities for enhancement to internal spaces in the State Library building to best meet the expectations of our community and open up more spaces for public use. Learning from other State Libraries which have undergone significant refurbishments and in preparation for the opening of the new ECU City Campus, spaces will be refined and developed in line with the requirements of contemporary and future-focused library services.

Censorship and Intellectual Freedom

Increasingly, libraries are being challenged about the information they make available and the programs they offer to communities. The State Library's collection is intended to broadly record and reflect the historical and contemporary views and perspectives of all Western Australians. The State Library does not promote or discourage particular viewpoints and generally does not censor material, except where State and Federal law restricts access to materials. These principles are the foundation of libraries and are reflected in the broad coverage of titles available in libraries across Western Australia. Libraries will continue to resist censorship and support and defend intellectual freedom.

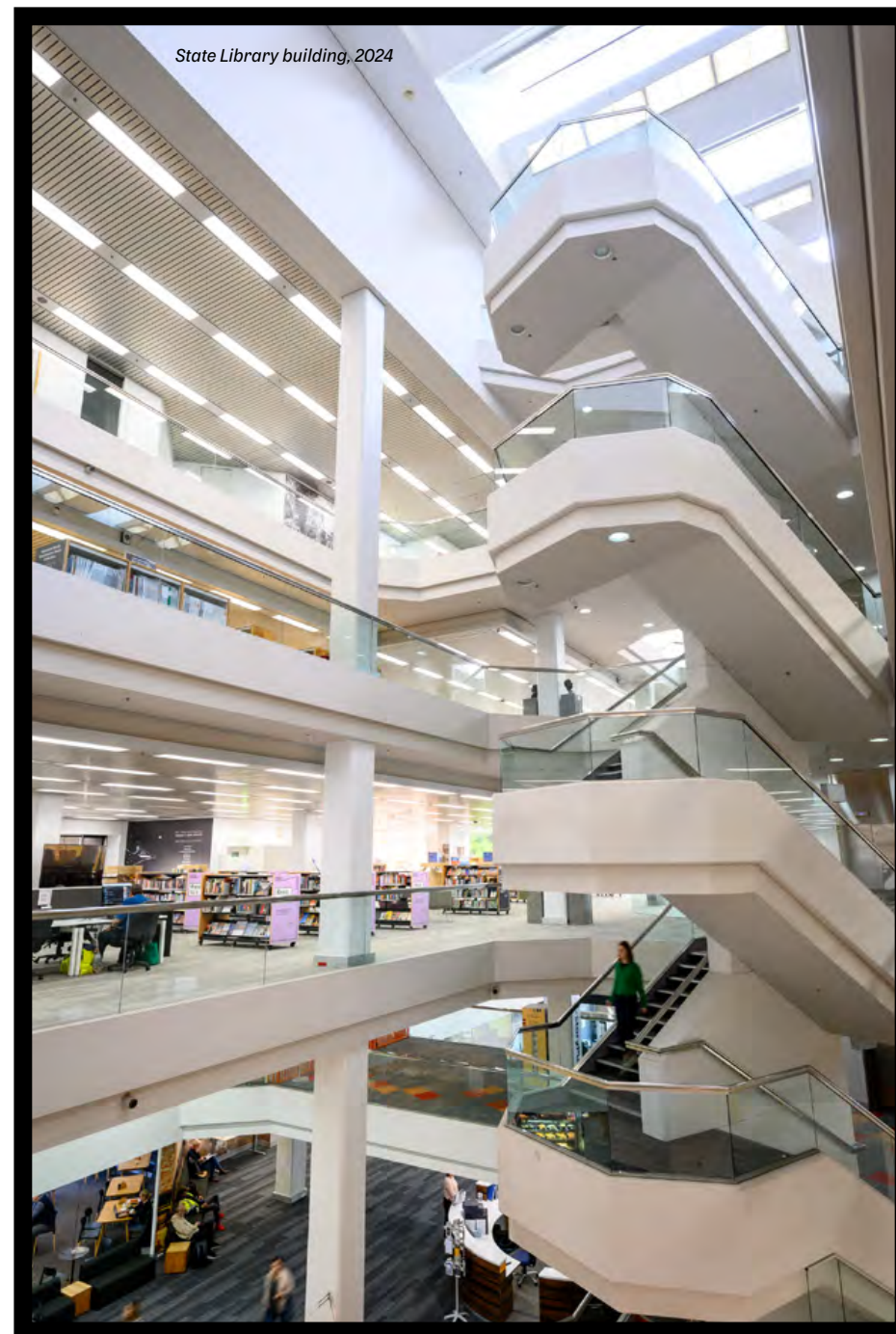
Climate Change and Sustainability

The State Library is actively working to identify and reduce emissions and waste, while developing a Sustainability Strategy to manage library resources and services with a focus on environmental sustainability. The State Library building is included in the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' Climate Change Adaptation Modelling Project (CCAM Project) being implemented as part of the broader State Government's Climate Risk Capability Initiative (CRCI). This project aims to identify and assess climate change risks and identify actions to address any impacts.

At a broader level, libraries play a crucial role in climate empowerment by fostering media literate communities capable of making evidence-based decisions through access to reliable data and educational resources. By providing access to information and promoting critical thinking, libraries enable individuals to engage effectively with climate issues.

Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity has become a significant issue for libraries globally, as highlighted by the cyber attack on the British Library in October 2023. The attack compromised digital services and access to collections, highlighting vulnerabilities in their cybersecurity infrastructure. The State Library has reviewed the outcomes of the British Library attack and applied lessons learnt in planning and preparedness. Risk mitigation strategies have included the removal of the Library Management System data to a secure cloud-based environment and the transfer of valuable data assets from a standalone server environment. Continued vigilance and risk mitigation and management will be required to ensure safety of data and services.



State Library building, 2024

GOVERNANCE

The State Library is responsible to the Library Board of Western Australia through the CEO and State Librarian who is the Executive Officer of the Board. The State Library is a portfolio agency within the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

Enabling Legislation

The Library Board of Western Australia is constituted under the authority of the *Library Board of Western Australia Act 1951*, listed as a Statutory Authority in Schedule 1 of the *Financial Management Act 2006* and is subject to the provisions of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.

Responsible Minister

The Hon. David Templeman MLA, Minister for Culture and the Arts, is responsible for the Library Board of Western Australia, which has oversight of the management of the State Library of Western Australia.

Library Board of Western Australia

The *Library Board of Western Australia Act 1951* states that the Board shall consist of 13 members. Eleven are appointed by the Governor for four years and are eligible for renomination at the end of their term of appointment. Two Board members are Ex Officio with representatives from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and the Department of Education.

Jodie Holbrook was appointed in July 2023. Matthew Gilfellon and Wayne Scheggia were reappointed for a further term in February and March 2024 respectively. Colleen Hayward resigned from the Board in January 2024 and Paul Nielsen's term expired in January 2024.

The Board met on six occasions and carried out its responsibilities in line with relevant legislation, the Library Board Charter and Code of Conduct.

Library Board of Western Australia, July 2024

L-R: Councillor Jenny Archibald (Vice Chairman), Jodie Holbrook, Anna Moulton, Jen McGrath (proxy for Lanie Chopping), Hon. John Day (Chairman), Catherine Clark (Executive Officer), Constance Wiebrands, Matthew Gilfellon

Absent: Michelle Brennand, Lanie Chopping, Dene Cranwell, Wayne Scheggia, Sandy Anghie



Library Board Members

Position title	Member name	Term of appointment	Period of membership in 2023-2024	Type of remuneration	Base Salary/ Sitting Fees	Gross / actual remuneration for financial year*
Chairman	Hon. John Day	Appointed in 2019 Term ends 2027	01/07/2023-30/06/2024	Yearly	\$37,353pa	\$36,374
Vice Chairman	Councillor Jenny Archibald	Appointed in 2018 Term ends 2026	01/07/2023-30/06/2024	Per meeting	\$537 half day \$309 half day for Committee meeting	\$7,928
Member	Michelle Brennand	Appointed in 2021 Term ends 2025	01/07/2023-30/06/2024	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Lanie Chopping	Appointed in 2021 Ex Officio	01/07/2023-30/06/2024	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Dene Cranwell	Appointed in 2023 Ex Officio	01/07/2023-30/06/2024	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Matthew Gilfellon	Appointed in 2020 Term ends 2028	01/07/2023-30/06/2024	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Colleen Hayward AM	Appointed in 2021 Resigned 2024	01/07/2023-31/01/2024	Per meeting	\$537 half day \$309 half day for Committee meeting	\$3,531
Member	Jodie Holbrook	Appointed in 2023 Term ends 2027	11/07/2023-30/06/2024	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Anna Moulton	Appointed in 2021 Term ends 2025	01/07/2023-30/06/2024	Per meeting	\$537 half day	\$0
Member	Paul Nielsen	Appointed in 2020 Term ends 2024	01/07/2023-28/01/2024	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Wayne Scheggia	Appointed in 2020 Term ends 2028	01/07/2023-28/01/2023 17/03/2024-30/06/2024	Per meeting	\$537 half day \$309 half day for Committee meeting	\$2,766
Member	Constance Wiebrands	Appointed in 2021 Term ends 2025	01/07/2023-30/06/2024	N/A	N/A	N/A
Member	Sandy Anghie	Appointed in 2022 Term ends 2026	01/07/2023-30/06/2024	Per meeting	\$537 half day \$309 half day for Committee meeting	\$0

*Does not include superannuation

Board Committees

The Library Board has three committees to assist in the performance of its functions. Membership of Committees at 30 June 2024:

Committee	Purpose	Chair	Member Name	Executive Officer	Observers
Finance Met four times during the year	Assists in the effective discharge of the Board's statutory financial responsibilities and provides strategic advice on key performance measures and financial matters	Constance Wiebrands	Jenny Archibald (to February 2024), Dene Cranwell and John Day (from February 2024)	CEO and State Librarian	Director Corporate Services CFO
Audit and Risk Met four times during the year	Oversees the audit and risk management functions of the State Library	Matthew Gilfellon	Wayne Scheggia, John Day (to February 2024), Jenny Archibald (from February 2024) and Reny Varkey (external)	CEO and State Librarian	Office of the Auditor General Director Corporate Services Internal Auditor
Policy and Legislation Met twice during the year	Advises on matters effecting Board legislation and Library policy	Michelle Brennand	Paul Nielsen (to January 2024), Colleen Hayward (to January 2024), Sandy Anghie (from February 2024) and Jodie Holbrook (from February 2024)	CEO and State Librarian	Manager Policy and Research

Administered Legislation

Legal Deposit Act 2012

Legal Deposit Regulations 2013

Administered by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Library Board of Western Australia Act 1951

Library Board (Conduct of Proceedings) Regulations 1955

Library Board (Registered Public Libraries) Regulations 1985

Library Board (State Library) Regulations 1956

Other Key Legislation Impacting on the Agency

Auditor General Act 2006

Disability Services Act 1993

Equal Opportunity Act 1984

Emergency Management Act 2005

Financial Management Act 2006

Freedom of Information Act 1992

Industrial Relations Act 1979

Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993

Procurement Act 2020

Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003

Public Sector Management Act 1994

Salaries and Allowances Act 1975

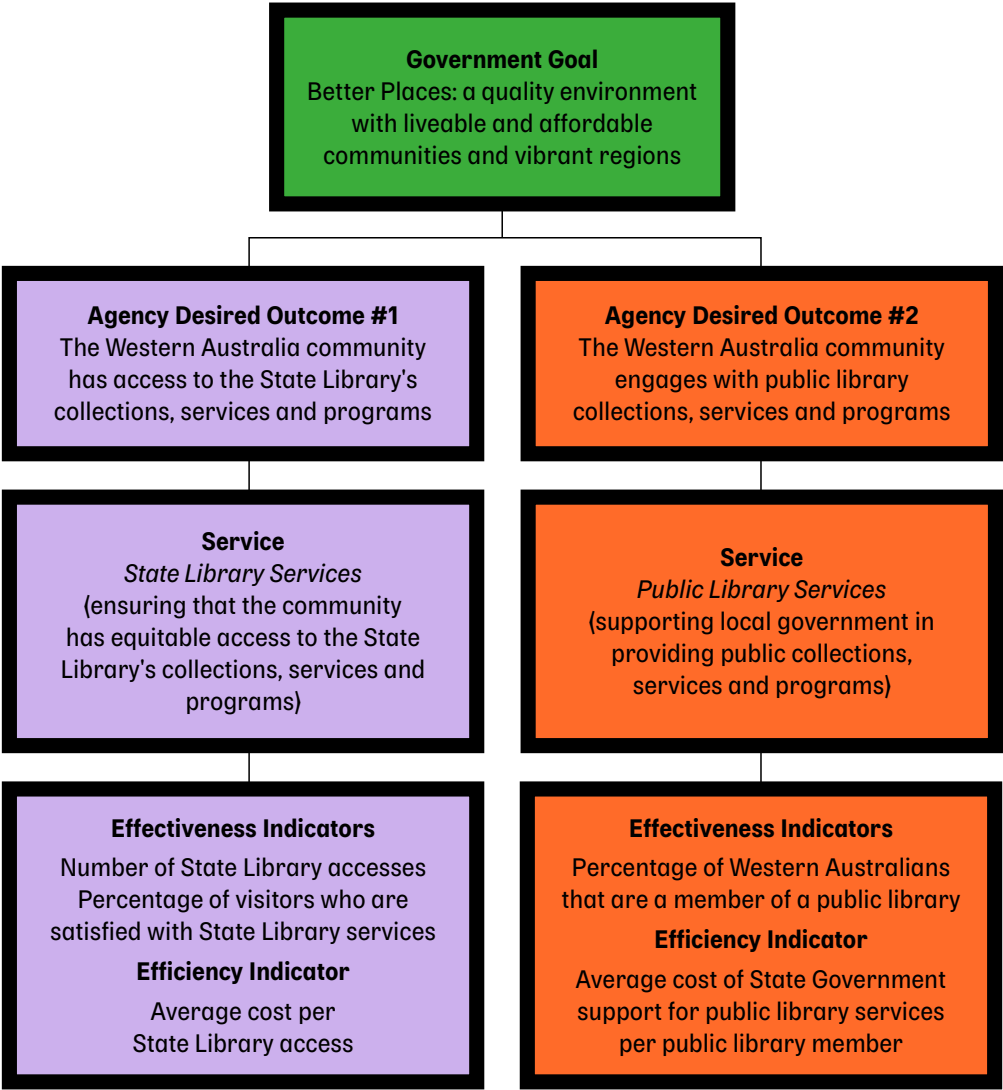
State Records Act 2000

State Superannuation Act 2000

Work Health and Safety Act 2020

Workers Compensation of Injury Management Act 1981

Performance Management Framework



Changes to Outcome-based Management Framework

The State Library’s outcome-based management framework was not changed for 2023-2024.

Risk Management

The Library Board has oversight of risk management through its Audit and Risk Committee, which regularly reviews the Strategic Risk Register.

The Operational Risk Register, which includes Work Healthy and Safety Risks, is reviewed regularly by all Directorates who develop and implement treatment action plans as required. The Operational Risk Register is reviewed regularly at Risk Management Committee and Executive Risk Management Committee meetings.

Audit

In line with the *Financial Management Act 2006* and *Treasurer's Instruction 1201*, the Library Board maintains an effective internal audit function to enhance governance, integrity and risk management. The internal audit officer's role is defined in the audit charter, approved by the Audit and Risk Committee and the Board. To comply with *Treasurer's Instruction 1201(3)*, the Audit and Risk Committee is chaired by an independent and qualified person who is not an employee of the State Library of Western Australia.

The State Library's Internal Auditor, in collaboration with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' Internal Audit function, has completed various planned and ad hoc audit assignments. These audits, reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee, included those from the approved risk-based strategic audit plan, as well as audits initiated by Executive Management.

Significant and practical recommendations were made in several areas, including:

- staff recruitment, selection and appointment (ensuring compliance with the Public Sector Commissioner's Instructions)
- effective management of the digitisation of the State Library's collections
- internal controls for accounts payable (ensuring compliance with *Treasurer's Instruction 304*).

Management accepted all recommendations and most have been implemented.

Members of the State Library's Executive Management regularly reviewed its internal controls by comparing them with findings from the Office of the Auditor General and the Crime and Corruption Commission's reports on other Western Australian Government agencies. This helps inform and improve the State Library's internal controls.

Integrity Strategy

The Integrity Leadership Group (ILG) continues to lead and oversee the Integrity Strategy at the State Library. Key achievements for the group in 2023–2024:

- In April 2024, the ILG conducted a survey of staff and volunteers to gather data on the effectiveness of the State Library’s Integrity Governance Framework. The results will be used to shape training and development opportunities for staff and volunteers.
- The ILG Communications Plan was updated based on feedback from the Public Sector Commission 2023 Census, leading to regular integrity awareness sessions at staff meetings. These sessions covered topics such as record keeping, the Public Sector Commission’s new Ethical Foundations, the Code of Conduct, conflict of interest declarations, social media usage, Professional Development Plans, financial integrity and the new Reporting Misconduct Procedure.
- The integrity portal on the staff intranet was updated to provide a single source of policies, procedures and resources for reporting integrity matters.
- The Integrity Governance Framework, the Fraud and Corruption Control Plan, the Integrity Breach Detection Activities Table and the Managing Conflicts of Interest Procedure and Declaration Form were reviewed and updated.
- Integrity risks were included in the Operational Risk Register and monitored throughout the year.
- The bi-annual integrity report noted 1 conflict of interest, 17 offers of gifts and hospitality (12 accepted, 5 refused) and 1 declaration of secondary employment.

Ministerial Directions

No Ministerial directives were received during the financial year.

Other Financial Disclosures

Pricing Policies of Services Provided

Fees are collected for a variety of services including printing, copying and scanning and venue hire. All fees and charges are reviewed annually using approved methodologies and adjusted according to Department of Treasury advice. Information about fees and charges for services, venue and equipment hire and copying of collection items is available on the State Library’s website.

Capital Works

Capital expenditure in 2023-2024 totalled \$0.796 million against a total revised budget of \$1.225 million. Capital funds were predominantly spent on acquiring general reference and heritage materials.

Employment and Industrial Relations

Staff Profile

The full-time equivalent (FTE) staffing as at 30 June 2024 was 130.1 compared to 134.2 for the previous financial year. The table below shows the total number of staff (headcount) by employment status.

	Women			Men			Other			Total		
Headcount	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Permanent Full-time	60	62	62	32	31	29	1	0	1	93	93	92
Permanent, Part-Time	31	34	33	8	9	8	0	1	0	39	44	41
Fixed Term, Full-time	8	6	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	9	7	6
Fixed Term, Part-Time	5	3	2	3	0	3	0	0	0	8	3	5
Casual	4	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	5	4	2
Other	1	1	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	4
Total Headcount	109	109	107	46	42	42	1	1	1	156	152	150

Staff Development

The State Library remains committed to staff development and provided a range of training and professional development opportunities during the year including:

- ▣ Significance Assessment in Heritage Collections with Stephen Anstey
- ▣ Neurodiversity and Autism Awareness Workshop facilitated by Spectrum Space
- ▣ Vicarious Trauma training workshops facilitated by ASeTTS
- ▣ Library and Archive Copyright Training facilitated by the Australian Libraries and Archives Copyright Coalition
- ▣ Galleries, Libraries Archives and Museums Copyright training facilitated by Australian Copyright Council.

Workers Compensation

The State Library is committed to supporting workers injured at work in line with medical advice, actively managing claims, implementing early intervention practices and facilitating return to work programs. During 2023–2024 the total lost time to injury was 99 days.

Work Health, Safety and Injury Management

The State Library operates under the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' Work Health and Safety Policy and the State Library's Management Commitment Statement.

Members of the State Library's Executive Management are committed to ensuring that all employees, clients, volunteers and contractors are safe from injuries and risks to health while they are at work or visiting the State Library building; accepting that employee and client health and safety is primarily a responsibility of management. Specific policies, work practices and procedures compliant with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* have been developed to address hazards and hazardous work processes in the workplace.

The State Library is progressing with the development of a Work Health and Safety Manual and Policy to assist in the promotion and support of the health, safety and wellbeing of workers and visitors to the State Library.

Measures	Results, targets and commentary for 2023-2024				
	Results 2021-2022	Results 2022-2023	Results 2023-20234	Targets	Comments towards targets
Number of fatalities	0	0	0	0	Target achieved
Lost time injury and/or disease incidence rate	1.5	0.76*	0	0 or 10% reduction in incidence rate	Target achieved
Lost time injury and/or disease severity rate	0	100%*	0%	0 or 10% reduction in severity rate	Target achieved
Percentage of injured workers returned to work within 13 weeks	100%	50%*	100%	Greater than or equal to 80% return to work within 13 weeks	Target achieved
Percentage of injured workers returned to work within 26 weeks	100%	50%*	100%	Greater than or equal to 80% return to work within 26 weeks	Target achieved
Percentage of managers trained in work health and safety injury management responsibilities, including refresher training within three years	N/A	100%	94%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Target achieved

*Figures updated to reflect a claim lodged in 2022-2023 which subsequently incurred lost time in 2023-2024.

Other Legal Requirements

Unauthorised Use of Credit Cards

State Library staff hold corporate credit cards where their functions warrant usage of this facility. Cardholders are reminded of their obligations under the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries’ Purchasing Card Policy.

The Department recouped a total of \$93.28 after two employees used their purchase cards for private purposes. All money has been repaid. These matters were referred to the Chief Finance Officer and the accountable authority in line with policy. Matters were not referred for disciplinary action as the personal use amounts were quickly notified and settled in full, and the nature of the expenditure was immaterial and characteristic of an honest mistake.

Advertising, Market Research, Polling and Direct Mail

In accordance with Section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907*, the State Library incurred the following expenditure in media and recruitment advertising. Total expenditure for 2023-2024 was \$6,141.

Expenditure	Organisation	Amount (\$)	Total (\$)
Advertising	ALIA	\$2,140	\$4,426
	Seek	\$1,270	
	Initiative Media	\$1,016	
Market Research	-	-	-
Polling	-	-	-
Direct Mail	-	-	-
Media Advertising	Various	\$1,715	\$1,715
Grand Total			\$6,141

Compliance with Public Sector Standards and Ethical Codes

The State Library worked in partnership with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to ensure that legislative and public sector compliance was achieved.

State Library staff are provided access to the human resources policies, procedures and guidelines that govern their employment. The State Library promoted accountable and ethical business practice by:

- ▣ providing induction programs for all new staff
- ▣ providing ethical and accountable decision-making training to management
- ▣ including sessions at all staff meetings on the agency's Code of Conduct and other related topics such as how to report a suspected breach of the Code
- ▣ providing all staff training on the Public Sector Commission's new Ethical Foundations.

In 2023–2024, the State Library recorded:

- ▣ zero breaches of the Public Sector Standards in Human Resource Management
- ▣ zero breaches of the Library's Code of Conduct
- ▣ one formal grievance
- ▣ zero Public Interest Disclosures.

Record Keeping Plan

The State Library has a Record Keeping Plan in accordance with section 19 of the *State Records Act 2000*. The State Library's Record Keeping Plan was registered by the State Records Office in 2022–2023. The Record Keeping Plan is reviewed every five years, or when there is a significant change in functions. Compliance with the following requirements is outlined below.

1. The efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation's record keeping systems is evaluated not less than once every five years.
During 2023–2024, the State Library reviewed processes to improve efficiency and effectiveness. This included targeting a reduction in the creation of new physical files. This streamlined process ensures key vital records exist in digital form on Content Manager, the electronic document and records management system.
2. The organisation conducts a record keeping training program.
Staff are made aware of their recordkeeping responsibilities and are supported to use Content Manager through one-on-one training and online user-led training. Staff can also access refresher training through quick guides available online.
3. The efficiency and effectiveness of the record keeping training program is reviewed from time to time.
Record keeping training is regularly reviewed to ensure training and education resources remain current and effective. Adjustments to the program are made to enhance compliance in keeping records and uphold a strong record keeping culture across the organisation.
The State Library continues to update and develop procedures, systems and tools to assist staff to meet their recordkeeping responsibilities as per the 2022–2023 Record Keeping Plan.

4. The organisation's induction program addresses employee roles and responsibilities in regard to their compliance with the organisation's record keeping plan.

All new staff complete mandatory Records Awareness training, which provides an understanding of basic record keeping principles as part of their induction program. This ensures that all staff understand their role and responsibilities in upholding the State Library's Record Keeping Plan, in relation to both electronic and hard copy records.

Workforce Inclusivity and Diversity

The State Library requires a diverse workforce that reflects and understands the people it serves. By remaining an attractive employer for all diversity and inclusion groups, we can better access the broad range of skills and capabilities available in the community.

During the year, the State Library encouraged staff to share their diversity status through participation in the Public Sector Commission Census 2023. Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) level data results tell us that a majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff shared their diversity information (93%), while a much lower percentage of staff from other diversity groups felt comfortable to share: culturally and linguistically diverse 32%, disability 44%, diverse sexual orientation 11%, diverse gender identities 2%. This information, along with any other Library specific data collected in the future, will inform initiatives that assist in building a more diverse and inclusive workplace.

During 2023-2024, the State Library further integrated the Public Sector Commission's *Workforce Diversification and Inclusion Strategy 2020-2025* into its practices. Actions from the *Disability Access and*

Inclusion Plan 2024-2028 were implemented, focusing on recruiting for diversity. In collaboration with DLGSC, the State Library is updating recruitment and selection processes to seek endorsement as a Disability Confident Recruiter through the Australian Disability Network under the DLGSC umbrella.

Beyond recruitment processes, the State Library also aims to create an inclusive workplace for staff and volunteers with disabilities. During the year there were high attendance rates and positive feedback for staff training on autism awareness and neurodiversity in the workplace. The aim of the training was to foster a more supportive and accommodating workplace that respects different needs and contributions, which ultimately enhances overall productivity.

The State Library also took steps to increase the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by improving attraction and recruitment practices. This included involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in reviewing and designing recruitment documentation to more effectively attract this group to targeted opportunities. These efforts will be further developed in 2024-2025.

Payments made to Board Members

In accordance with *Premier's Circular 2023/02*, certain Board members are eligible for remuneration. Eligible members received total remuneration of \$50,599 in 2023-2024. The Library Board was listed on the on the register of Government Boards and Committees published by the Department of Premier and Cabinet for 2023-2024.

Insurance

Insurance premiums were paid to indemnify any director against a liability incurred under Sections 13 and 14 of the *Statutory Corporations (Liability of Directors) Act 1996*. The amount paid for Directors and Officers liability insurance for the period 11 November 2023 to 11 November 2024 was \$7,177.

National Redress Scheme

The National Redress Scheme is a Commonwealth Government program focused on providing redress to victims of child sexual abuse. The State Library facilitates access to records in its collections to assist redress processes in accordance with the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018*. In 2023– 2024, the State Library responded to 418 requests for information from the National Redress Scheme, 32% less than the previous year. This result is expected, given that it was the fifth year of a ten year scheme.

Government Policy Requirements

Priority Start Policy

No contracts subject to this policy were awarded during the year.

Procurement Reform

The table below provides information on the contract activity undertaken by the State Library during the financial year.

Contracts Awarded:

Value	Number
\$0–\$4,999	0
\$5,000–\$49,999	1
\$50,000–\$249,999	4
\$250,000–\$4,999,999	1
\$5 million +	0
Total	6

In 2023–2024 a total of 541 purchase orders were issued against 339 suppliers.

Purchase Orders issued:

Value	Number
\$0–\$4,999	337
\$5,000–\$49,999	166
\$50,000–\$249,999	33
\$250,000–\$4,999,999	5
\$5 million +	0
Total	541

In 2023–2024, the State Library successfully moved forward with planning for future procurement activities. By continually reviewing and enhancing procurement functions, the State Library maintains a high standard of operational excellence while upholding its commitment to responsible procurement practices. The State Library remains dedicated to further advancement and improvement of its procurement operations.

Access and Inclusion

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan Outcomes

At the State Library, everyone should have equitable access to enjoy our collections, services and events with as few barriers as possible. Libraries are one of the most critical but undervalued forms of social infrastructure in our society and libraries can be a safe place where everyone is welcome and social bonds can be formed.

The State Library launched a new *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2024-2028* in January 2024 to ensure equitable access to collections, services and events. This plan identifies key access and inclusion outcomes the State Library will work towards over the next five years and was informed by:

- ▣ a review of the outcomes of the *DAIP 2019-2023*
- ▣ findings from a physical disability access audit and a neuroaccessibility audit of public spaces of the State Library building
- ▣ external consultation with library visitors and other stakeholders
- ▣ consultation with staff.

The main areas of focus for this DAIP are to:

- ▣ collect and share materials that reflect the perspectives and stories of people with disability
- ▣ remove barriers to employment at the State Library for people with disability
- ▣ improve access to all-gender accessible toilets on all floors.

During the year, the State Library allocated over \$60,000 in grants through the Better Beginnings family literacy program to make community and public library programs more inclusive. This funding helped train staff in Key Word Sign Language, Auslan and sensory storytelling, enabling children with disabilities to participate in activities like Baby Rhyme Time and Story Time at their local public library.

In 2023-2024, the State Library also offered various disability-related training sessions for staff and volunteers, including autism and neurodiversity awareness, deaf awareness, creating easy-read documents and general disability awareness. This training aimed to create a more supportive workplace that respects different needs and contributions, as well as foster an inclusive environment for State Library visitors with disabilities.

Multicultural Plan Outcomes

In November 2023, the State Library co-hosted the Western Australian Multicultural Policy Framework Interagency Network Meeting with the Office of Multicultural Interests. This included a tour of the State Library to demonstrate how the State Library is implementing actions from the *Multicultural Plan 2023-2027* to improve access, service delivery and opportunities at the State Library for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Attendees were shown a snapshot of the extensive multicultural resources available at the State Library and through the public library network that can support implementation of their multicultural plans. An example of a key achievement against each policy priority area is outlined below.

Policy Priority 1 – Harmonious and Inclusive communities

Sheiks, Fakes and Cameleers explored the often mistold story of Western Australia's cameleers through an exhibition, live panel conversation and film screening. The launch event brought more than 400 people to the State Library, with many attendees being from the Balochi, Afghani and Sikh communities with connections to stories featured in the exhibition. It provided an opportunity to acknowledge the sometimes simplified and mistold story of their ancestors. The exhibition has also provided a valuable opportunity to share and redefine these fascinating collection items with the community.

Policy Priority 2 – Culturally responsive policies, programs and services

LOTE4Kids was introduced in February 2024 and offers over 3,000 picture books in more than 65 languages, with new books and languages added each month. It supports libraries and schools in expanding their World Language picture book collections, engaging culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) families, and aiding language learning for children. Since its launch in 70 local governments in Western Australia, library members have engaged with nearly 5,000 stories and activities in 60 languages, between February and June 2024.

Policy Priority 3 – Economic, social, cultural, civic and political participation

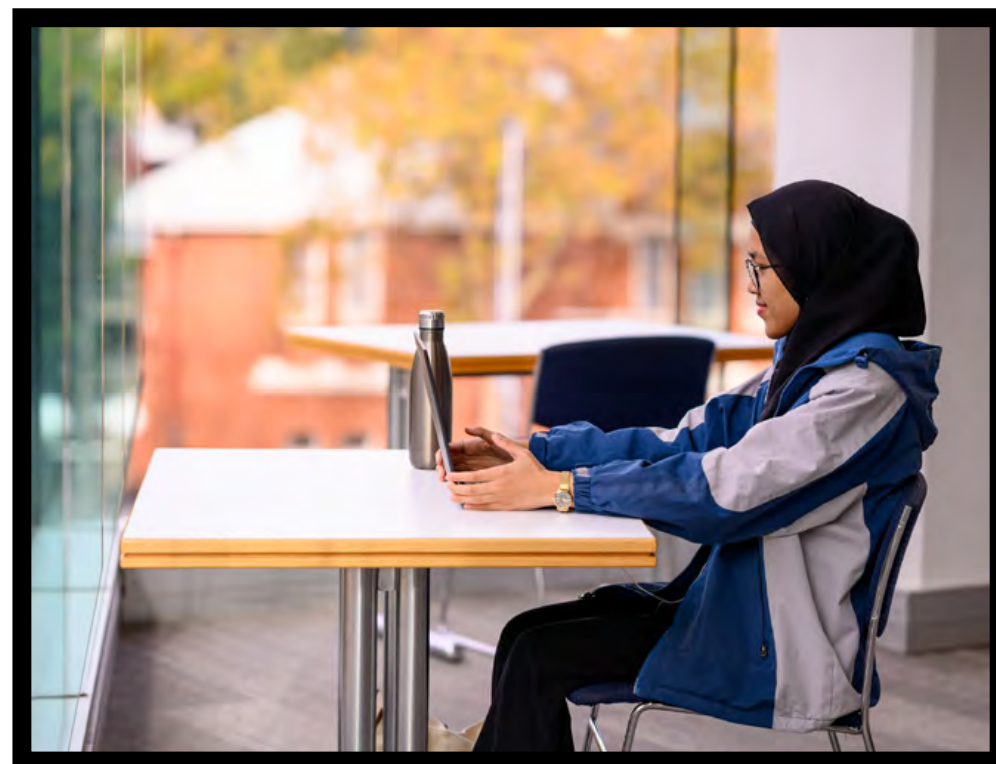
During 2023–2024, the State Library had a Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors (ASeTTS). ASeTTS provides holistic services for refugee survivors of torture and trauma to help them rebuild their lives and settle into Western Australian life. This mutually beneficial partnership has seen the State Library provide venues for ASeTTS community group

meetings and quarterly library tours that link ASeTTS members with library resources, information services and assistance to develop digital literacy skills.

Substantive Equality

The State Library is committed to the elimination of systemic discrimination from all its policies, practices and services. As one of the State's most visited cultural institutions, clients come from diverse backgrounds, and strategies are in place to ensure that anyone can understand and access the State Library's services.

State Library visitor, 2024 | Image: Miles Noel



Financials and Performance

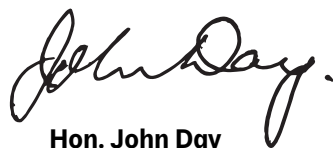


The accompanying financial statements of the Library Board of Western Australia have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the reporting period ended 30 June 2024 and the financial position as at 30 June 2024.

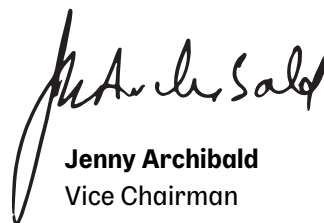
At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included within the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



Ahmed Abumarzouq
Chief Finance Officer
5 September 2024



Hon. John Day
Chairman
Library Board of
Western Australia
5 September 2024



Jenny Archibald
Vice Chairman
Library Board of
Western Australia
5 September 2024



Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

2024

The Library Board of Western Australia

To the Parliament of Western Australia

Report on the audit of the financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of The Library Board of Western Australia (Board) which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- notes comprising a summary of material accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, the financial statements are:

- based on proper accounts and present fairly, in all material respects, the operating results and cash flows of The Library Board of Western Australia for the year ended 30 June 2024 and the financial position as at the end of that period
- in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (applicable to Tier 2 Entities), the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of the Board for the financial statements

The Board is responsible for:

- keeping proper accounts
- preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (applicable to Tier 2 Entities), the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions
- such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Page 1 of 5

7th Floor Albert Facey House 469 Wellington Street Perth MAIL TO: Perth BC PO Box 8489 Perth WA 6849 TEL: 08 6557 7500

In preparing the financial statements, the Board is responsible for:

- assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern
- disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern
- using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Western Australian Government has made policy or funding decisions affecting the continued existence of the Board.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements. The objectives of my audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are 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 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 the financial statements. 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.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website. This description forms part of my auditor's report and can be found at https://www.augasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf

Report on the audit of controls

Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the design and implementation of controls exercised by The Library Board of Western Australia. The controls exercised by The Library Board of Western Australia are those policies and procedures established to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with the State's financial reporting framework (the overall control objectives).

In my opinion, in all material respects, the controls exercised by The Library Board of Western Australia are sufficiently adequate to provide reasonable assurance that the controls within the system were suitably designed to achieve the overall control objectives identified as at 30 June 2024, and the controls were implemented as designed as at 30 June 2024.

The Board's responsibilities

The Board is responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining controls to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities are in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006*, the Treasurer's Instructions and other relevant written law.

Page 2 of 5

Auditor General's responsibilities

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the suitability of the design of the controls to achieve the overall control objectives and the implementation of the controls as designed. I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3150 Assurance Engagements on Controls issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements and plan and perform my procedures to obtain reasonable assurance about whether, in all material respects, the controls are suitably designed to achieve the overall control objectives and were implemented as designed.

An assurance engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the suitability of the controls design to achieve the overall control objectives and the implementation of those controls. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including an assessment of the risks that controls are not suitably designed or implemented as designed. My procedures included testing the implementation of those controls that I consider necessary to achieve the overall control objectives.

I believe that the evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Limitations of controls

Because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure, it is possible that, even if the controls are suitably designed and implemented as designed, once in operation, the overall control objectives may not be achieved so that fraud, error or non-compliance with laws and regulations may occur and not be detected. Any projection of the outcome of the evaluation of the suitability of the design of controls to future periods is subject to the risk that the controls may become unsuitable because of changes in conditions.

Report on the audit of the key performance indicators

Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the key performance indicators of The Library Board of Western Australia for the year ended 30 June 2024 reported in accordance with *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions (legislative requirements). The key performance indicators are the Under Treasurer-approved key effectiveness indicators and key efficiency indicators that provide performance information about achieving outcomes and delivering services.

In my opinion, in all material respects, the key performance indicators report of The Library Board of Western Australia for the year ended 30 June 2024 are in accordance with the legislative requirements, and are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the Board's performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2024.

The Board's responsibilities for the key performance indicators

The Board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the key performance indicators in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions and for such internal controls as the Board determines necessary to enable the preparation of key performance indicators that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the key performance indicators, the Board is responsible for identifying key performance indicators that are relevant and appropriate, having regard to their purpose in accordance with Treasurer's Instruction 904 Key Performance Indicators.

Auditor General's responsibilities

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the key performance indicators. The objectives of my engagement are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the key performance indicators are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the entity's performance and whether the key performance indicators are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3000 Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements.

An assurance engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the key performance indicators. It also involves evaluating the relevance and appropriateness of the key performance indicators against the criteria and guidance in Treasurer's Instruction 904 for measuring the extent of outcome achievement and the efficiency of service delivery. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the key performance indicators. In making these risk assessments, I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the engagement in order to design procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.

I believe that the evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

My independence and quality management relating to the report on financial statements, controls and key performance indicators

I have complied with the independence requirements of the *Auditor General Act 2006* and the relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements. In accordance with ASQM 1 Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements, the Office of the Auditor General maintains a comprehensive system of quality management including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Other information

The Board is responsible for the other information. The other information is the information in the entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024, but not the financial statements, key performance indicators and my auditor's report.

My opinions on the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators do not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and key performance indicators or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I did not receive the other information prior to the date of this auditor's report. When I do receive it, I will read it and if I conclude that there is a material misstatement in this information, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and request them to correct the misstated information. If the misstated information is not corrected, I may need to retract this auditor's report and re-issue an amended report.

Matters relating to the electronic publication of the audited financial statements and key performance indicators

This auditor's report relates to the financial statements and key performance indicators of The Library Board of Western Australia for the year ended 30 June 2024 included in the annual report on the Board's website. The Board's management is responsible for the integrity of the Board's website. This audit does not provide assurance on the integrity of the Board's website. The auditor's report refers only to the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators described above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the annual report. If users of the financial statements and key performance indicators are concerned with the inherent risks arising from publication on a website, they are advised to contact the entity to confirm the information contained in the website version.



Carly Meagher
Acting Senior Director Financial Audit
Delegate of the Auditor General for Western Australia
Perth, Western Australia
5 September 2024

THE LIBRARY BOARD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Statement of Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	2.1(a)	14,130	14,223
Supplies and services	2.3	5,818	5,345
Depreciation and amortisation expense	4.1, 4.2	1,285	1,285
Accommodation expenses	2.3	2,815	2,806
Grants and subsidies	2.2	8,543	9,066
Other expenses	2.3	260	87
Total cost of services		32,851	32,812
Income			
User charges and fees	3.2	266	244
Commonwealth grants	3.3	215	218
Interest revenue	3.4	64	40
Bequest contributions	3.5	-	2
Impairment losses reversed	4.1.1	417	639
Other revenue	3.6	701	794
Total income		1,663	1,937
Total income other than income from State Government		1,663	1,937
NET COST OF SERVICES		31,188	30,875
Income from State Government	3.1		
Service appropriation		29,020	29,171
Resources received		920	1,057
Royalties for Regions Fund		258	196
Total income from State Government		30,198	30,424
DEFICIT FOR THE PERIOD		(990)	(451)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit or loss			
Changes in asset revaluation reserve	8.7	1,959	2,391
Total other comprehensive income		1,959	2,391
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		969	1,940

The Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

THE LIBRARY BOARD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6.2	941	594
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	6.2	679	1,160
Receivables	5.1	231	431
Amounts receivable for services	5.2	1,225	1,225
Other current assets	5.3	1,038	793
Total Current Assets		4,114	4,203
Non-Current Assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	6.2	1,458	1,765
Amounts receivable for services	5.2	32,802	33,008
Receivables	5.1	380	-
Property, plant and equipment	4.1	777	717
Right-of-use assets	4.2	37,680	37,860
Library collections	4.1	104,274	102,168
Total Non-Current Assets		177,371	175,518
TOTAL ASSETS		181,485	179,721
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	5.4	1,452	877
Lease liabilities	6.1	20	26
Employee related provisions	2.1(b)	2,718	2,388
Other current liabilities	5.5	18	18
Total Current Liabilities		4,208	3,309
Non-Current Liabilities			
Employee related provisions	2.1(b)	304	408
Total Non-Current Liabilities		304	408
TOTAL LIABILITIES		4,512	3,717
NET ASSETS		176,973	176,004
EQUITY			
Contributed equity	8.7	58,707	58,707
Reserves		73,039	71,080
Accumulated surplus		45,227	46,217
TOTAL EQUITY		176,973	176,004

The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

THE LIBRARY BOARD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Statement of Changes in Equity
For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	Contributed equity \$'000	Reserves \$'000	Accumulated surplus \$'000	Total equity \$'000
Balance at 1 July 2022		57,305	68,689	46,668	172,662
Deficit		-	-	(451)	(451)
Other comprehensive income		-	2,391	-	2,391
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	2,391	(451)	1,940
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Other contribution by owners					
Capital contributions	8.7	1,402	-	-	1,402
Total transactions with owners in their capacity as owners		1,402	-	-	1,402
Balance at 30 June 2023		58,707	71,080	46,217	176,004
Balance at 1 July 2023		58,707	71,080	46,217	176,004
Deficit		-	-	(990)	(990)
Other comprehensive income		-	1,959	-	1,959
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	1,959	(990)	969
Balance at 30 June 2024		58,707	73,039	45,227	176,973

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

THE LIBRARY BOARD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriation		27,750	27,620
Holding account drawdowns		1,225	1,225
Capital appropriation		-	1,402
Royalties for Regions Fund		258	196
Net cash provided by the State Government		29,233	30,443
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(13,962)	(13,975)
Supplies and services		(5,333)	(5,363)
Accommodation		(1,953)	(2,300)
Grants and subsidies		(8,769)	(9,366)
GST payments on purchases		(1,423)	(1,541)
Other payments		(60)	(74)
Receipts			
User charges and fees		266	253
Commonwealth grants and contributions		215	218
Interest received		60	32
GST receipts on sales		80	77
GST receipts from taxation authority		1,432	1,448
Other receipts		956	585
Net cash used in operating activities		(28,491)	(30,006)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Purchase of non-current physical assets		(796)	(1,255)
Net cash used in investing activities		(796)	(1,255)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Principal elements of lease payments		(7)	(7)
Payment to accrued salaries account		(73)	-
Net cash used in financing activities		(80)	(7)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		3,519	4,344
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(134)	(825)
Adjustment for the reclassification of accrued salaries account		(307)	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	6.2	3,078	3,519

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

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

1 Basis of preparation

The Library Board of Western Australia (herein after referred to as 'the Library Board') is a WA Government entity and is controlled by the State of Western Australia, which is the ultimate parent. The Library Board is a not-for-profit entity (as profit is not its principal objective).

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities have been included in the 'Overview' which does not form part of these financial statements.

These annual financial statements were authorised for issue by the Accountable Authority of the Library Board on 5 September 2024.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements constitute general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statement of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board as applied by Treasurer's instructions. Several of these are modified by Treasurer's instructions to vary application, disclosure, format and wording.

The Financial Management Act 2006 (the Act) and Treasurer's instructions are legislative provisions governing the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statement of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board. Where modification is required and has had a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and the resulting financial effect are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars applying the accrual basis of accounting and using the historical cost convention. Certain balances will apply a different measurement basis (such as the fair value basis). Where this is the case the different measurement basis is disclosed in the associated note. All values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000).

Judgements and estimates

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about financial information being presented. The significant judgements and estimates made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by those judgements and/or estimates are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical evidence and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Significant judgements and estimates have been made to meet the requirements of standards AASB 13, AASB 15 and AASB 16.

AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement:

Key judgements include determining the valuation technique that maximises the use of relevant observable inputs and minimises the use of unobservable inputs when identical asset or liability is not observable.

The valuation of the Library Collection is subject to a high level of estimation uncertainty, this uncertainty arises from the fact that the Library Collection comprises many items and the valuation process therefore depends on sampling which gives rise to the risks inherent in sampling.

AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers:

Key judgements include determining the timing of revenue from contracts with customers in terms of timing of satisfaction of performance obligations and determining the transaction price and the amounts allocated to performance obligations.

Estimation uncertainty include determining the transaction prices (estimating variable consideration, adjusting the consideration for the time value of money and measuring non-cash considerations), allocating the transaction price, including estimating stand-alone selling prices and allocating discounts and variable consideration.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

1 Basis of preparation (continued)

AASB 16 Leases:

Key judgements to be made for AASB 16 include identifying leases within contracts, determination of whether there is reasonable certainty around exercising extension and termination options, identifying whether payments are variable or fixed in substance and determining the stand-alone selling prices for lease and non-lease components.

Estimation uncertainty that may arise is the estimation of the lease term, determination of the appropriate discount rate to discount the lease payments and assessing whether the right-of-use asset needs to be impaired.

AASB 116 Property, Plant and Equipment:

Key judgments to value the Library collection include determining the carrying amounts, the depreciation charges and impairment losses to be recognised. Estimation uncertainty that may arise is the estimation of the Library Collection whole value and total value within each category. This uncertainty arises from the fact that the valuation process depends on sampling due to the number of items.

Accounting for Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except that the:

- a) amount of GST incurred by the Agency as a purchaser that is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is recognised as part of an asset's cost of acquisition or as part of an item of expense; and
- b) receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

Cash flows are included in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis. However, the GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows.

Contributed equity

Interpretation 1038 *Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities* requires transfers in the nature of equity contributions, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, as designated as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior, to transfer) be recognised as equity contributions. Capital appropriations have been designated as contributions by owners by TI 955 *Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities* and have been credited directly to Contributed equity.

Comparative information

Except when an Australian Accounting Standard permits or requires otherwise, comparative information is presented in respect of the previous period for all amounts reported in the financial statements. AASB 1060 provides relief from presenting comparatives for:

- Property, plant and equipment reconciliations; and
- Right-of-use asset reconciliations.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

2 Use of our funding

Expenses incurred in the delivery of services

This section provides additional information about how the Library Board's funding is applied and the accounting policies that are relevant for an understanding of the items recognised in the financial statements. The primary expenses incurred by the Library Board in achieving its objectives and the relevant notes are:

	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Employee benefits expenses	2.1(a)	14,130	14,223
Employee related provisions	2.1(b)	3,022	2,796
Grants and subsidies	2.2	8,543	9,066
Other expenditure	2.3	8,893	8,238

2.1(a) Employee benefits expenses

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Employee benefits	12,739	12,869
Superannuation - defined contributions plans	1,391	1,354
Total employee benefits expense	14,130	14,223

Employee benefits include wages, salaries and social contributions, accrued and paid leave entitlements and paid sick leave; and non-monetary benefits (such as medical care, housing, cars and free or subsidised goods or services) for employees.

Superannuation is the amount recognised in profit or loss of the Statement of Comprehensive Income and comprises employer contributions paid to the GSS (concurrent contributions), the WSS, other GESB schemes, or other superannuation funds.

2.1(b) Employee related provisions

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current		
<i>Employee benefits provisions</i>		
Annual leave	963	900
Long service leave	1,370	1,259
Provision for Purchased Leave	(5)	(5)
	2,328	2,154
<i>Other provisions</i>		
Employment on-costs	390	234
Total current employee related provisions	2,718	2,388
Non-Current		
<i>Employee benefits provisions</i>		
Long service leave	263	363
<i>Other provisions</i>		
Employment on-costs	41	45
Total non-current employee related provisions	304	408
Total employee related provisions	3,022	2,796

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of annual leave and long service leave for services rendered up to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

Annual leave liabilities are classified as current as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

The provision for annual leave is calculated at the present value of expected payments to be made in relation to services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

2.1(b) Employee related provisions (continued)

Long service leave liabilities Unconditional long service leave provisions are classified as current liabilities as the Library Board does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

Pre-conditional and conditional long service leave provisions are classified as non-current liabilities because the Library Board has an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability until the employee has completed the requisite years of service.

The provision for long service leave is calculated at present value as the Library Board does not expect to wholly settle the amounts within 12 months. The present value is measured taking into account the present value of expected future payments to be made in relation to services provided by employees up to the reporting date. These payments are estimated using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement and discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

Employment on-costs involve the settlement of annual and long service leave liabilities which gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs including workers' compensation insurance. The provision is the present value of expected future payments.

Employment on-costs, including workers' compensation insurance premiums, are not employee benefits and are recognised separately as liabilities and expenses when the employment to which they relate has occurred. Employment on-costs are included as part of 'Other expenses, note 2.3 (apart from the unwinding of the discount (finance cost))' and are not included as part of the Agency's 'employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in 'Employment on-costs provision'.

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Employment on-cost provision		
Carrying amount at start of period	279	259
Additional/(reversals of) provisions recognised	152	20
Carrying amount at end of period	431	279

Key sources of estimation uncertainty – long service leave

Key estimates and assumptions concerning the future are based on historical experience and various other factors that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Several estimates and assumptions are used in calculating the Library Board's long service leave provision. These include:

- Expected future salary rates;
- Discount rates;
- Employee retention rates; and
- Expected future payments.

Changes in these estimations and assumptions may impact on the carrying amount of the long service leave provision. Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of long service leave liabilities is recognised as employee benefits expense.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

2.2 Grants and subsidies

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Recurrent		
Public library materials (Local Governments)	7,988	8,394
Regional subsidies	370	487
Visibility Inc (formerly the Association for the Blind)	185	185
Total grants and subsidies	8,543	9,066

Transactions in which the Library Board provides goods, services, assets (or extinguishes a liability) or labour to another party without receiving approximately equal value in return are categorised as 'Grant or subsidy expenses'. These payments or transfers are recognised at fair value at the time of the transaction and are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are paid. They include transactions such as: grants, subsidies, personal benefit payments made in cash to individuals, other transfer payments made to public sector agencies, local government, non-government schools, and community groups.

2.3 Other expenditure

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Supplies and services		
Communications	73	45
Consultants and contractors	266	249
Consumables	1,023	1,163
Corporate membership fees	237	180
Repairs & maintenance - software	31	357
Travel	77	89
Insurance premiums	91	81
Online Information access fees	1,781	974
Freight and cartage	237	389
Storage and removal	100	62
Professional services	490	221
Printing	98	66
Licences	507	309
Digitisation services	382	714
Other	425	446
Total supplies and services expenses	5,818	5,345

Accommodation expenses

Repairs and maintenance - building	1,027	1,089
Cleaning	355	351
Security services	669	660
Utilities	730	682
Other	34	24
Total accommodation expenses	2,815	2,806

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

2.3 Other expenditure (continued)

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Other operating expenses		
Bad and doubtful debts ^(a)	11	12
Workers' compensation insurance	(173)	(108)
Prizes paid	111	110
Audit fees ^(b)	44	58
Refund of prior receipts	263	-
Other	4	15
Total other operating expenses	260	87
Total other expenditure	8,893	8,238

a) See also Note 8.9 'Supplementary financial information'.

b) See also Note 8.6 'Remuneration of auditor'.

Supplies and services are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred. The carrying amounts of any materials held for distribution are expensed when the materials are distributed.

Accommodation expenses are recognised as expenses as incurred.

Other operating expenses generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations.

Building maintenance and equipment repairs and maintenance costs are recognised as expenses as incurred, except where they relate to the replacement of a component of an asset. In that case, the costs are capitalised and depreciated.

Employee on-cost includes workers' compensation insurance and other employment on-costs. The on-costs liability associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liabilities is included at Note 2.1(b) Employee related provisions. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

3 Our funding sources

How we obtain our funding

This section provides additional information about how the Library Board obtains its funding and the relevant accounting policy notes that govern the recognition and measurement of this funding. The primary income received by the Library Board and the relevant notes are:

	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Income from State Government	3.1	30,198	30,424
User charges and fees	3.2	266	244
Commonwealth grants	3.3	215	218
Interest revenue	3.4	64	40
Bequest contributions	3.5	-	2
Other income	3.6	701	794

3.1 Income from State Government

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Appropriation received for the period:		
Service appropriation	29,020	29,171
Total Service Appropriation	29,020	29,171

Services received free of charge from other Public Sector Entities during the period:

Services received free of charge	920	1,057
Total resources received	920	1,057

Royalties for Regions Fund:

Regional Community Services Account	258	196
Total Royalties for Regions Fund	258	196

Total income from State Government	30,198	30,424
---	---------------	---------------

Service appropriations are recognised as income at the fair value of consideration received in the period in which the Library Board gains control of the appropriated funds. The Library Board gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited in the bank account or credited to the holding account held at Treasury.

Resources received from other public sector entities is recognised as income equivalent to the fair value of the assets, or the fair value of those services that can be reliably determined and which would have been purchased if not donated.

Regional Community Services Account is a sub-fund within the over-arching 'Royalties for Regions Fund'. The recurrent funds are committed to projects and programs in WA regional areas and are recognised as income when the Library Board receives the funds. The Library Board has assessed Royalties for Regions agreements and concludes that they are not within the scope of AASB 15 as they do not meet the 'sufficiently specific' criterion.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024

Summary of consolidated account appropriations

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 Budget \$'000	2024 Additional Funding*	Revised Budget \$'000	2024 Actual \$'000	2024 Variance \$'000
Delivery of Services					
Item 74 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	28,743	-	28,743	28,743	-
Amount Authorised by Other Statutes - <i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	277	-	277	277	-
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	29,020	-	29,020	29,020	-
Grand total	29,020	-	29,020	29,020	-

* Additional funding includes supplementary funding and new funding authorised under section 27 of the Act and amendments to standing appropriations.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

3.2 User charges and fees

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
User fees	82	70
Service charges	184	174
Total user charges and fees	266	244

Revenue is recognised at the transaction price when the Library Board transfers control of the services to customers.

Revenue is recognised at a point-in-time for user fees as these mainly relate to interlibrary loans, photocopying fees and sales of photographs. The Library Board typically satisfies its performance obligations for these user fees and charges when services have been provided and payments are received.

3.3 Commonwealth grants

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Department of Territories - Indian Ocean Territories Grant	215	218
Total Commonwealth grants	215	218

The Library Board and the Commonwealth Government have a Service Delivery Agreement for the provision of library services to the Indian Ocean Territories (Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands). The Commonwealth Government contributes to the Library Board the costs associated with these services, as detailed below.

Opening balance of funds	10	8
Contributions received	215	218
Cost of providing received	(220)	(216)
Balance on hand	5	10

Grants are recognised as income when the grants are received.

3.4 Interest revenue

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Interest	64	40
Total interest revenue	64	40

Interest revenue is recognised as the interest accrues.

3.5 Bequest contributions

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Other	-	2
Total bequest contributions	-	2

Bequests income is recognised at fair value when the Library Board obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Contributions of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined, and the services would be purchased if not donated. An assessment of the performance obligation is undertaken for funds received and then assessed for recognition over time or at a point in time as or when the Library Board satisfies obligations under the transfer.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

3.6 Other income

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Recoup of prior year expense	(66)	42
Recoup of internal audit services provided	257	88
Subsidies	400	456
Recoup of costs	42	41
Other	68	167
Total other income	701	794

Subsidies are recognised as revenue in the reporting period in which they are received. The Library Board receives subsidies from Rio Tinto and Local Governments. Rio Tinto funding is received to support the delivery of online, community and Aboriginal engagement outcomes. Local Government Authorities pay an annual subsidy to supplement the production and delivery costs of Better Beginnings packs.

Other income is recognised in the accounting period in which the relevant performance obligations have been satisfied.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

4 Key assets

This section includes information regarding the key assets the Library Board utilises to gain economic benefits or provide service potential. The section sets out both the key accounting policies and financial information about the performance of these assets:

	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Property, plant, equipment & library collections	4.1	105,051	102,885
Right-of-use assets	4.2	37,680	37,860
Total key assets		142,731	140,745

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

4.1 Property, plant, equipment & library collections

	Buildings and leasehold improvements at cost \$'000	Furniture & equip, Office equip & Motor vehicles at cost \$'000	State Library collections (non WA) at cost \$'000	WA Heritage collections at fair value \$'000	Works of art at fair value \$'000	Total \$'000
1 July 2023						
Gross carrying amount	4,281	4,307	25,522	95,371	5,138	134,619
Accumulated depreciation	(4,281)	(3,590)	(23,863)	-	-	(31,734)
Carrying amount at start of period	-	717	1,659	95,371	5,138	102,885
Additions	-	272	206	306	105	889
Revaluation increments/(decrements)	-	-	-	1,985	(26)	1,959
Depreciation	-	(212)	(470)	-	-	(682)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2024	-	777	1,395	97,662	5,217	105,051
Gross carrying amount	4,281	4,579	25,728	97,662	5,217	137,467
Accumulated depreciation	(4,281)	(3,802)	(24,333)	-	-	(32,416)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024

4.1 Property, plant, equipment & library collections (continued)

Property, plant and equipment

Initial recognition

Items of property, plant and equipment, costing \$5,000 or more are measured initially at cost. Where an asset is acquired for no cost or significantly less than fair value, the cost is valued at its fair value at the date of acquisition. Items of property, plant and equipment costing less than \$5,000 are immediately expensed directly to the statement of comprehensive income (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

The cost of a leasehold improvement is capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the remaining term of the lease or the estimated useful life of the leasehold improvement.

Subsequent measurement

All items of property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Library Collections

Capitalisation/expensing of assets

Three classes of Library Collections held by the Library Board have been identified for financial accounting purposes - State Library Collections, Heritage Collections and Works of Art. All items added to the State Library Collections are capitalised at cost. Heritage Collections include monographs, newspapers, microfilm, cartographic items, pictorial and film collections, printed music, sound recordings and oral history which may be acquired by purchase or donation. Private archives, ephemera and serials collections are not recognised as assets of the Library Board unless their values can be reliably estimated.

Revaluation of Library Collections

In accordance with AASB 116 (Para 34), the frequency of revaluation depends upon the changes in fair values of the items of property, plant and equipment being revalued. Library Collections items do not experience significant and volatile changes in fair value; hence it may be necessary to revalue the collections only every three to five years. Items of the Library Collections worth less than State Library's approved high value which is \$5,000 will be revalued at the end of five years using sampling techniques as per the Library's approved Valuations of Collections Guidelines.

Valuation is based on a five-year cycle, a full valuation is conducted every five years except for Rare Books (individually valued items - IVI items), Private Archives (IVI items) and Works of Art which are valued annually. In the intervening years the value of the total collections is adjusted for new additions, donations, purchases, any disposals, written off items and/or impairments.

An independent valuation of the Library Board Heritage Collections and Works of Art is performed every 5 years. 2023-2024 was an interim year and the Library engaged experienced valuers to carry out a desktop valuation.

The net fair value of Western Australian Heritage Collections and Works of Art increased in 2023-2024 by \$1.959 million. Although there were no tangible market variations, there were small population increases across most collections due to a combination of new acquisitions and ongoing review of our data which impacts the counting of collections according to format.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024

4.1.1 Depreciation and impairment

	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Depreciation			
Plant, equipment and vehicles	4.1	215	198
Library collections (State Library)	4.1	471	492
Total depreciation for the period		686	690
Impairment			
Right-of-use concessionary lease at cost -building - Reversed ^(a)	4.2	(417)	(639)
Total impairment losses for the period		(417)	(639)

- a) The building asset is classified as a right-of-use concessionary lease (building) asset at cost. Subsequent measurement of the right-of-use asset under AASB 16.33 requires right-of-use assets to be assessed for impairment and to account for any impairment loss identified. The building recoverable amount was determined as at 1 July 2023 by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuations and Property Analytics). The replacement cost of the building was determined to be higher than the carrying amount. According to AASB 136.117 a reversal of impairment losses of \$417,477 was recognised.

Useful lives

All property, plant and equipment having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their estimated useful lives in a manner that reflects the consumption of their future economic benefits.

Depreciation is generally calculated on a straight-line basis, at rates that allocate the asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life. Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for current and prior years are included in the table below:

Asset	Useful life:
Leasehold Improvements	10 years
Furniture and fittings	3 to 10 years
Office equipment	3 to 15 years
Motor vehicles	3 to 10 years

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period, and adjustments should be made where appropriate.

Heritage Collections and Works of Art controlled by the Library Board are anticipated to have very long and indeterminate useful lives. Their service potential has not, in any material sense, been consumed during the reporting period. As such, no amount for depreciation has been recognised in respect of these assets.

The State Library Collections are depreciated by expensing the value of the tenth oldest year's acquisitions.

Impairment

Non-financial assets, including items of plant and equipment, are tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset may be impaired. Where there is an indication of impairment, the recoverable amount is estimated. Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to the recoverable amount and an impairment loss is recognised.

Where an asset measured at cost is written down to its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised through profit or loss.

Where a previously revalued asset is written down to its recoverable amount, the loss is recognised as a revaluation decrement through other comprehensive income to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for the class of asset.

As the Library Board is a not-for-profit agency, the recoverable amount of regularly revalued specialised assets is anticipated to be materially the same as fair value.

If there is an indication that there has been a reversal in impairment, the carrying amount shall be increased to

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024

4.2 Right-of-use assets

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Right-of-use assets		
Concessionary leases - cost	37,661	37,835
Motor vehicles - cost	19	25
Right-of-use assets total	37,680	37,860

There were no additions to right-of-use assets during the 2024 financial year (2023: \$Nil).

Initial recognition

At the commencement date of the lease, the Library Board recognises right-of-use assets and a corresponding lease liability for most leases. The right-of-use assets are measured at cost including the following:

- the amount of the initial measurement of lease liability;
- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received;
- any initial direct costs; and
- restoration costs, including dismantling and removing the underlying asset.

The Library Board has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases (with a lease term of 12 months or less) and low value leases (with an underlying value of \$5,000 or less). Lease payments associated with these leases are expensed over a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Subsequent measurement

The cost model is applied for subsequent measurement of right-of-use assets, requiring the asset to be carried at cost less any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses and adjusted for any re-measurement of lease liability. The Library Board engages the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Landgate) to establish the recoverable value of the building.

Depreciation and impairment of right-of-use assets

Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful lives of the underlying assets.

If ownership of the leased asset transfers to the Library Board at the end of the lease term or the cost reflects the exercise of a purchase option, depreciation is calculated using the estimated useful life of the asset.

Right-of-use assets are tested for impairment when an indication of impairment is identified. The policy in connection with testing for impairment is outlined in note 4.1.

The following amounts relating to leases have been recognised in the statement of comprehensive income:

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Depreciation expenses of right-of-use assets:		
Concessionary leases - buildings	592	587
Motor vehicles	7	8
Total right-of-use asset depreciation	599	595
Lease interest expense	1	2

The total cash outflow for leases in 2024 was \$6,579 (2023: \$7,457).

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024

4.2 Right-of-use assets (continued)

The Library Board's leasing activities and how these are accounted for:

The Library Board has a lease for a single motor vehicle which is used by the State Library of Western Australia as a pool vehicle.

The Library Board also has a lease for the Alexander Library Building (ALB). The building lease is classified as a concessionary lease (peppercorn) as the arrangement contains significantly below market terms and conditions principally to enable the Library Board to further its objectives (yearly rental of one peppercorn is payable if and when demanded). The lease is for an initial 50 year period with an extension option for a further 50 years. The ALB is a specific purpose building. Government has not indicated any appetite or intention to relocate state library services to a new or alternate specific purpose location. Therefore, at present, there is no reason why the Library Board would not exercise the extension option. Accordingly, the remaining lease term as at 1 July 2023 is 64.5 years.

The corresponding lease liability in relation to the motor vehicle right-of-use asset has been disclosed in note 6.1. There is no corresponding lease liability for the Alexander Library Building as the value of the peppercorn payment is not defined and therefore a liability cannot be reliably measured.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

5 Other assets and liabilities

This section sets out those assets and liabilities that arose from the Library Board's controlled operations and includes other assets utilised for economic benefits and liabilities incurred during normal operations:

	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Receivables	5.1	611	431
Amounts receivable for services	5.2	34,027	34,233
Other current assets	5.3	1,038	793
Payables	5.4	1,452	877
Other current liabilities	5.5	18	18

5.1 Receivables

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current		
Trade receivables	45	210
Allowance for impairment of trade receivables	(13)	(13)
Interest receivable	16	12
GST receivable	183	222
Total current receivables	231	431
Non-current		
Accrued salaries suspense account ^(a)	380	-
Total non-current receivables	380	-
Total receivables at end of period	611	431

- a) Funds held in the suspense account for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a reporting period that occurs every 11th year. This account is classified as non-current for 10 out of 11 years.

Trade receivables are initially recognised at their transaction price less any allowances for expected credit losses (i.e., impairment). The carrying amount of net trade receivables is equivalent to fair value as it is due for settlement within 30 days.

Accrued salaries suspense account consists of amounts paid annually, from Library Board appropriations for salaries expense, into a Treasury suspense account to meet the additional cash outflow for employee salary payments in reporting periods with 27 pay days instead of the normal 26. No interest is received on this account.

The account has been reclassified from 'Cash and cash equivalents' to 'Receivables' as it is considered that funds in the account are not cash but a right to receive the cash in future.

5.2 Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current	1,225	1,225
Non-current	32,802	33,008
Balance at end of period	34,027	34,233

Amounts receivable for services represent the non-cash component of service appropriations. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement or payment of leave liability.

Amounts receivable for services are financial assets at amortised cost, and are not considered impaired (i.e., there is no expected credit loss of the Holding Account).

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

5.3 Other current assets

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current		
Prepayments	1,038	793
Balance at end of period	1,038	793

Other non-financial assets include prepayments which represent payments in advance of receipt of goods or services or that part of expenditure made in one accounting period covering a term extending beyond that period.

5.4 Payables

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current		
Trade payables	640	64
Other payables	174	169
Accrued expenses	346	358
Accrued salaries	292	286
Total payables at end of period	1,452	877

Payables are recognised at the amounts payable when the Library Board becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value as settlement is generally within 20 days.

Accrued salaries represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the reporting period. Accrued salaries are settled within a fortnight after the reporting period. The Library Board considers the carrying number of accrued salaries to be equivalent to its fair value.

5.5 Other current liabilities

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current		
Unclaimed monies	18	18
Total current	18	18
Balance at end of period	18	18

Other financial liabilities are recognised initially at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred, and are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

6 Financing

This section sets out the material balances and disclosures associated with the financing and cashflows of the Library Board.

	Notes
Lease liabilities	6.1
Cash and cash equivalents	6.2
Reconciliation of cash	6.2.1
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	6.2.2

6.1 Lease liabilities

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Lease liabilities		
Current	20	26
Total lease liabilities	20	26

There is no lease liability for the right-of-use concessionary lease – building (note 4.2). The lease terms state that yearly rental of one peppercorn is payable if and when demanded. As the lease agreement does not assign a value to the peppercorn, a lease liability cannot be reliably measured.

At the commencement date of the lease, the Library Board recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of the lease payments to be paid over the lease term. The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease. If that rate cannot be readily determined, the Library Board uses the incremental borrowing rate provided by Western Australian Treasury Corporation.

Lease payments included by the Library Board as part of the present value calculation of lease liability include:

- Fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments), less any lease incentives receivable;
- Variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- The exercise price of purchase options (where these are reasonably certain to be exercised);
- Payments for penalties for terminating a lease, where the lease term reflects the Library Board exercising an option to terminate the lease, and
- Periods covered by extension or termination options are only included in the lease term by the Library Board if the lease is reasonably certain to be extended (or not terminated).

The interest on the lease liability is recognised in profit or loss over the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability for each period. Lease liabilities do not include any future changes in variable lease payments (that depend on an index or rate) until they take effect, in which case the lease liability is reassessed and adjusted against the right-of-use asset.

Variable lease payments, not included in the measurement of lease liability, that are dependent on sales, an index or a rate are recognised by the Library Board in profit or loss in the period in which the condition that triggers those payments occurs.

This section should be read in conjunction with note 4.2.

Subsequent measurement

Lease liabilities are measured by increasing the carrying amount to reflect interest on the lease liabilities; reducing the carrying amount to reflect the lease payments made; and remeasuring the carrying amount at amortised cost, subject to adjustments to reflect any reassessment or lease modifications.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

6.2 Cash and cash equivalents**6.2.1 Reconciliation of cash**

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	941	594
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2,137	2,925
Balance at end of period	3,078	3,519

6.2.2 Restricted cash and cash equivalents reconciliation

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current		
Royalties for Regions Fund ^(a)	84	29
Leah Jane Cohen Bequest ^(b)	110	53
Kay Poustie Scholarship	77	70
Heritage Film Digitisation Fundraising Appeal	2	2
Mining & Energy WA	13	13
Rio Tinto 2024-26	225	-
Other funds with restricted application ^(c)	168	993
Total current	679	1,160
Non-current		
Accrued salaries suspense account ^(d)	-	307
Leah Jane Cohen Bequest ^(b)	1,458	1,458
Total non-current	1,458	1,765
Balance at end of period	2,137	2,925

a) Unspent funds are committed to projects and programs in WA regional areas.

b) Principal to be held in perpetuity in accordance with conditions of bequest.

c) Other funds with restricted application comprise Sholl bequest, Indian Oceans Territories, Rio Tinto in-kind support, Ideas Box, collection projects and general-purpose donation funds.

d) See Note 5.1 'Receivables'.

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalent asset comprise cash on hand and short-term deposits with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash, and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

6.2.2 Restricted cash and cash equivalents reconciliation (continued)

	Royalties for Regions Fund	Leah Jane Cohen Bequest	Kay Poustie Scholarship	Heritage Film Digitisation Fundraising Appeal	Mining & Energy WA	Rio Tinto 2024-26	Other Funds With Restricted Application	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance at 1 July 2023	29	1,511	70	2	13	0	993	2,618
Restricted cash inflows	258	57	7	-	-	260	242	824
Restricted cash outflows	(203)	-	-	-	-	(35)	(1,067)	(1,305)
Closing balance at 30 June 2024	84	1,568	77	2	13	225	168	2,137
	Royalties for Regions Fund	Leah Jane Cohen Bequest	Kay Poustie Scholarship	Heritage Film Digitisation Fundraising Appeal	Mining & Energy WA	Rio Tinto 2024-26	Other Funds With Restricted Application	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance at 1 July 2022	85	1,485	68	2	15	-	1,032	2,687
Restricted cash inflows	196	31	2	-	-	-	535	764
Restricted cash outflows	(252)	(5)	-	-	(2)	-	(574)	(833)
Closing balance at 30 June 2023	29	1,511	70	2	13	-	993	2,618

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

7 Financial instruments and contingencies

This note sets out the key risk management policies and measurement techniques of the Library Board.

	Notes
Financial instruments	7.1
Contingent assets & liabilities	7.2
Contingent assets	7.2.1
Contingent liabilities	7.2.2

7.1 Financial instruments

The carrying amounts of each of the following categories of financial assets and financial liabilities at the end of the reporting period are:

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	941	594
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2,137	2,925
Financial assets at amortised cost ^(a)	34,638	34,664
Total financial assets	37,716	38,183
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	1,470	895
Total financial liability	1,470	895

a) The amount of financial assets at amortised cost excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

7.2 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are disclosed and, if quantifiable, are measured at best estimate.

Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

7.2.1 Contingent assets

The Library Board is not aware of any contingent assets existing as at 30 June 2024 or 30 June 2023.

7.2.2 Contingent liabilities

The Library Board is not aware of any contingent liabilities existing as at 30 June 2024 or 30 June 2023, other than as described below.

Contaminated sites

Under the Contaminated Sites Act 2003, the Library Board is required to report known and suspected contaminated sites to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER). In accordance with the Act, DWER classifies these sites on the basis of the risk to human health, the environment and environmental values. Where sites are classified as contaminated – remediation required or possibly contaminated – investigation required, the Library Board may have a liability in respect of investigation or remediation expenses.

The Library Board did not report any contaminated sites to DWER during the reporting period.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

8 Other disclosures

This section includes additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or other pronouncements, for the understanding of this financial report.

	Notes
Events occurring after the end of the reporting period	8.1
Key management personnel	8.2
Related party transactions	8.3
Related bodies	8.4
Affiliated bodies	8.5
Remuneration of auditors	8.6
Equity	8.7
Services provided free of charge	8.8
Supplementary financial information	8.9

8.1 Events occurring after the end of the reporting period

There were no events occurring after the end of the reporting period that warrant disclosure.

8.2 Key management personnel

The Library Board has determined key management personnel to include cabinet ministers, board members and senior officers. The Library Board does not incur expenditures to compensate Ministers and those disclosures may be found in the *Annual Report on State Finances*.

The total fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for members of the accountable authority of the Library Board for the reporting period are presented within the following bands:

Compensation band of members of the accountable authority

	2024	2023
Compensation band (\$)		
0 – 10,000	13	13
30,001 – 40,000	1	-
	\$'000	\$'000
Short-term employee benefits	51	-
Post-employment benefits	6	-
Total compensation of members of the accountable authority	57	-

The total fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for senior officers of the Library Board for the reporting period are presented within the following bands:

Compensation band of senior officers

	2024	2023
Compensation band (\$)		
50,001 – 100,000	2	-
150,001 – 200,000	2	3
300,001 – 350,000	1	1
	\$'000	\$'000
Short-term employee benefits	734	769
Post-employment benefits	95	88
Other long-term benefits	55	54
Total compensation of senior officers	884	911

Total compensation includes the superannuation expense incurred by the Library Board in respect of senior officers.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

8.3 Related party disclosures

The Library Board is a wholly owned and controlled public sector entity of the State of Western Australia.

Related parties of the Library Board include:

- all cabinet ministers and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities;
- all senior officers and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities;
- other agencies and statutory authorities, including related bodies, that are included in the whole of government consolidated financial statements (i.e., wholly owned public sector entities);
- associates and joint ventures, of a wholly owned public sector entity; and
- the Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB).

All related party transactions have been entered into on an arm's length basis. The Library does not have any Key Management Personnel who are member of the Pension Scheme.

Related party transactions

Outside of normal citizen type transactions with the Agency, there were no other related party transactions that involved key management personnel and/or their close family members and/or their controlled (or jointly controlled) entities.

8.4 Related bodies

The Library Board does not have any related bodies.

8.5 Affiliated bodies

The Library Board does not have any affiliated bodies.

8.6 Remuneration of auditors

Remuneration paid or payable to the Auditor General in respect of the audit for the current financial year is as follows:

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Auditing the accounts, controls, financial statements and key performance indicators	40	37
	40	37

8.7 Equity

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Contributed equity		
Balance at start of period	58,707	57,305
<i>Contribution by owners</i>		
Capital contribution	-	1,402
Total contribution by owners	-	1,402
Balance at end of period	58,707	58,707

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

8.7 Equity (continued)

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Reserves		
Asset revaluation surplus		
<i>Collections</i>		
Balance at the start of period	71,080	68,689
Net revaluation increments/(decrements):		
Collections	1,959	2,391
Balance at end of period	73,039	71,080
Total Reserves	73,039	71,080
Accumulated surplus		
Balance at start of period	46,217	46,668
Result for the period	(990)	(451)
Balance at end of period	45,227	46,217
Total equity at end of period	176,973	176,004

8.8 Services provided free of charge

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<u>State Records Office</u>		
Employee costs	88	95
Accommodation costs	135	135
Supplies & services	6	6
	229	236
<u>Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries ^(a)</u>		
Accommodation costs	31	30
Supplies & services	2	2
	33	32

- a) The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries occupied 172 m² of space within the Alexander Library Building from 28 August 2017 and an additional 215 m² of space from 12 April 2018.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024

8.9 Supplementary financial information

a) Write-offs

During the financial year, \$10,537 (2023: \$22,010) was written off the Library Board's receivables ledger under the authority of:

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
The accountable authority	11	22
	<u>11</u>	<u>22</u>

b) Losses through theft, defaults and other causes

There were no losses of public moneys through theft, default or other causes during the financial year.

c) Gifts of public property

There were no gifts of public property during the financial year.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024

9 Explanatory statement

This section explains variations in the financial performance of the Library Board.

Explanatory statement for controlled operations

Notes
9.1

9.1 Explanatory statement for controlled operations

This explanatory section explains variations in the financial performance of the Library Board undertaking transactions under its own control, as represented by the primary financial statements.

All variances between annual estimates (original budget) and actual result for 2024, and between the actual results for 2024 and 2023 are shown below. Narratives are provided for key major variances, which vary more than 10% from their comparative and that the variance is more than 1% of the:

1. Estimate and actual results for the current year
 - Total Cost of Services of the estimate for the Statement of comprehensive income and Statement of cash flows (i.e. 1% of \$32.493 Million), and
 - Total Assets of the estimate for the Statement of financial position (i.e. 1% of \$176.708 Million).
2. Actual results for the current year and the prior year actual:
 - Total Cost of Services for the previous year for the Statements of comprehensive income and Statement of cash flows (i.e. 1% of \$32.812 Million); and
 - Total Assets for the previous year for the Statement of financial position (i.e. 1% of \$179.721 Million).

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

9.1.1 Statement of comprehensive income variances

	Variance Notes	Estimate 2024 \$'000	Actual 2024 \$'000	Actual 2023 \$'000	Variance between actual and estimate \$'000	Variance between actual results for 2024 and 2023 \$'000
Statement of Comprehensive Income (Controlled Operations)						
Expenses						
Employee benefits expense		14,055	14,130	14,223	75	(93)
Supplies and services		5,673	5,818	5,345	145	473
Depreciation and amortisation expense		1,270	1,285	1,285	15	-
Accommodation expenses	1	2,470	2,815	2,806	345	9
Grants and subsidies		8,897	8,543	9,066	(354)	(523)
Other expenses		128	260	87	132	173
Total cost of services		32,493	32,851	32,812	358	39
Income						
User charges and fees		284	266	244	(18)	22
Commonwealth grants and contributions		224	215	218	(9)	(3)
Interest revenue		32	64	40	32	24
Bequest contributions		-	-	2	-	(2)
Impairment losses reversed		-	417	639	417	(222)
Other revenue		454	701	794	247	(93)
Total income		994	1,663	1,937	669	(274)
Total income other than income from State Government		994	1,663	1,937	669	(274)
NET COST OF SERVICES		31,499	31,188	30,875	(311)	313
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT						
Service appropriation		29,020	29,020	29,171	-	(151)
Services received free of charge		830	920	1,057	90	(137)
Royalties for Regions Fund		250	258	196	8	62
Total income from State Government		30,100	30,198	30,424	98	(226)
DEFICIT FOR THE PERIOD		(1,399)	(990)	(451)	409	(539)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME						
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit or loss						
Changes in asset revaluation reserve	A	-	1,959	2,391	1,959	(432)
Total other comprehensive income		-	1,959	2,391	1,959	(432)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		(1,399)	969	1,940	2,368	(971)

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

9.1.1 Statement of comprehensive income variances (continued)

Major estimate and actual (2024) variance narratives

- Accommodation expenses exceeded estimates by \$0.345 million largely due to the increase in utilities expense and security contract annual increase not included in the formulation of the 2023-24 estimates.

Major actual (2024) and comparative (2023) variance narratives

- The library collection value increased by \$2.391million in 2022-23, and by \$1.959million in 2023-24, resulting in a variance of \$0.432million.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

9.1.2 Statement of financial position variances

	Variance Notes	Estimate 2024 \$'000	Actual 2024 \$'000	Actual 2023 \$'000	Variance between actual and estimate \$'000	Variance between actual results for 2024 and 2023 \$'000
Statement of Financial Position (Controlled Operations)						
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents		1,266	941	594	(325)	347
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		1,229	679	1,160	(550)	(481)
Receivables		257	231	431	(26)	(200)
Amounts receivable for services		1,225	1,225	1,225	-	-
Other current assets		393	1,038	793	645	245
Total Current Assets		4,370	4,114	4,203	(256)	(89)
Non-Current Assets						
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		1,725	1,458	1,765	(267)	(307)
Amounts receivable for services		32,727	32,802	33,008	75	(206)
Receivables		-	380	-	380	380
Property, plant and equipment		446	777	717	331	60
Right-of-use assets		37,425	37,680	37,860	255	(180)
Library collections		100,015	104,274	102,168	4,259	2,106
Total Non-Current Assets		172,338	177,371	175,518	5,033	1,853
TOTAL ASSETS		176,708	181,485	179,721	4,777	1,764
LIABILITIES						
Current Liabilities						
Payables		1,553	1,452	877	(101)	575
Lease liabilities		-	20	26	20	(6)
Employee related provisions		2,328	2,718	2,388	390	330
Other current liabilities		65	18	18	(47)	-
Total Current Liabilities		3,946	4,208	3,309	262	899
Non-Current Liabilities						
Employee related provisions		281	304	408	23	(104)
Total Non-Current Liabilities		281	304	408	23	(104)
TOTAL LIABILITIES		4,227	4,512	3,717	285	795
NET ASSETS		172,481	176,973	176,004	4,492	969
EQUITY						
Contributed equity		58,607	58,707	58,707	100	-
Reserves		68,605	73,039	71,080	4,434	1,959
Accumulated surplus		45,269	45,227	46,217	(42)	(990)
TOTAL EQUITY		172,481	176,973	176,004	4,492	969

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

9.1.2 Statement of financial position variances (continued)

Major estimate and actual (2024) variance narratives

Nil

Major actual (2024) and comparative (2023) variance narratives

Nil

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

9.1.3 Statement of cash flows variances

	Variance Notes	Estimate 2024 \$'000	Actual 2024 \$'000	Actual 2023 \$'000	Variance between estimate and actual \$'000	Variance between actual results for 2024 and 2023 \$'000
Statement of Cash Flows (Controlled Operations)						
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT						
Service appropriation		27,750	27,750	27,620	-	130
Holding account drawdowns		1,225	1,225	1,225	-	-
Capital appropriation / Contributed equity	2, B	1,680	-	1,402	(1,680)	(1,402)
Royalties for Regions Fund		250	258	196	8	62
Net cash provided by State Government		30,905	29,233	30,443	(1,672)	(1,210)
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES						
Payments						
Employee benefits		(14,055)	(13,962)	(13,975)	93	13
Supplies and services	3	(5,926)	(5,333)	(5,363)	593	30
Accommodation	C	(1,730)	(1,953)	(2,300)	(223)	347
Grants and subsidies		(8,897)	(8,769)	(9,366)	128	597
GST payments on purchases		(1,704)	(1,423)	(1,541)	281	118
Other payments		-	(60)	(74)	(60)	14
Receipts						
User charges and fees		284	266	253	(18)	13
Commonwealth grants and contributions		224	215	218	(9)	(3)
Interest received		32	60	32	28	28
GST receipts on sales		96	80	77	(16)	3
GST receipts from taxation authority		1,550	1,432	1,448	(118)	(16)
Other receipts	4, D	454	956	585	502	371
Net cash used in operating activities		(29,672)	(28,491)	(30,006)	1,181	1,515
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	5, E	(1,357)	(796)	(1,255)	561	459
Net cash (used in) investing activities		(1,357)	(796)	(1,255)	561	459
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES						
Principal elements of lease payments		-	(7)	(7)	(7)	-
Payment to accrued salaries account		-	(73)	-	(73)	(73)
Net cash used in financing activities		-	(80)	(7)	(80)	(73)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(124)	(134)	(825)	(10)	691
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		4,344	3,519	4,344	(825)	(825)
Adjustment for the reclassification of accrued salaries account		-	(307)	-	(307)	(307)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		4,220	3,078	3,519	(1,142)	(441)

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

9.1.3 Statement of cash flows variances (continued)

Major estimate and actual (2024) variance narratives

- Capital appropriation / Contributed equity that was included in the estimate was not received in 2024 and continue spending from capital received in 2023.
- Supplies and services lower by \$0.593million due to underspending on the digitisation project.
- The increase by \$0.502million mainly due to signing a new agreement with Rio Tinto which was not included in the estimate.
- Actual 2024 lower than estimate by \$0.561million due to delay in acquiring the digitisation equipment for the digitisation project.

Major actual (2024) and comparative (2023) variance narratives

- Capital appropriation / Contributed equity was not received in 2024 and continue spending from capital received in 2023.
- Accommodation is lower in 2024 by \$0.347million due to higher than usual expenses in 2023.
- The increase by \$0.371million mainly due to signing a new agreement with Rio Tinto which was not included in the estimate.
- Actual 2024 lower than 2023 by \$0.459million due to delay in acquiring the digitisation equipment for the digitisation project.



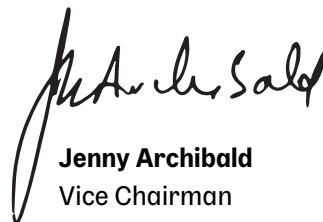
Artwork for the 2002 publication of the children's book, *The Legend of Moondyne Joe*, by author Mark Greenwood and illustrator Frané Lessac was acquired during the year

Key Performance Indicators

We hereby certify that the key performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Library Board of Western Australia's performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Library Board of Western Australia for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.



Hon. John Day
Chairman
Library Board of
Western Australia
5 September 2024



Jenny Archibald
Vice Chairman
Library Board of
Western Australia
5 September 2024

Government Goal: *Better Places: A quality environment with liveable and affordable communities and vibrant regions*

Outcome 1: The Western Australian community has access to the State Library’s collections, services and programs.

Key Effectiveness Indicator: Number of State Library accesses.

Description: The State Library provides a wide range of information and services to the community directly from the State Library Building and online through its website and with community partners through various programs. This indicator measures the extent to which the community utilises the State Library’s collections, services and programs in person and online.

2023-2024 target	2023-2024 actual	Outcome against target	2022-2023 actual
6,110,415	5,953,076	-3%	6,097,974

Commentary: The State Library experienced a 25% increase in the number of people entering the building and a 43% increase in the number of visitors to exhibition spaces. The number of accesses to collections, services and programs is 3% below the target. This decrease can be mainly attributed to the removal of remote access to the Ancestry Library Edition by the vendor. The remote access licence was available during COVID-19 but is no longer available under the vendor’s business model.

Key Effectiveness Indicator: Percentage of visitors who are satisfied with State Library services.

Description: This measures the extent to which the Library’s collections, services and programs meet the needs of the community.

2023-2024 target	2023-2024 actual	Outcome against target	2022-2023 actual
95%	91.77%	-3%	95.24%

Commentary: The Client Survey is used to gauge levels of client satisfaction with the State Library’s services, facilities and collections. The survey was conducted in October/November 2023 and March 2024. For the first time, the survey was also available to people visiting the State Library online resulting in an increase in responses to 875 (651 last year). Overall client satisfaction remained high at 92%. Reliable Wi-Fi, adequate and reliable access to public computers and issues with the State Library’s catalogue were identified as areas for improvement.

Key Efficiency Measure Average: Cost per State Library access.

Description: Total cost of services attributed to State Library Services divided by the number of accesses.

2023-2024 target	2023-2024 actual	Outcome against target	2022-2023 actual
\$2.43	\$2.63	8%	\$2.44

Commentary: The average cost of an engagement is above target due to less than expected State Library accesses (3% below target) and greater than expected State Library costs attributed to accesses (6% above target, mainly attributed to timing of payments).

The 2022-2023 actual reported has been revised based on net cost of service. The 2022-2023 actual was reported last year as \$2.59 based on total cost of service.

Outcome 2: The Western Australian community engages with public library collections, services and programs.

Key Effectiveness Indicator: Percentage of Western Australians that are a member of a public library.

Description: The State Library works in partnership with local governments to support community engagement with public library collections, services and programs. This measures the extent to which the community engages with the Western Australian public library network.

2023-2024 target	2023-2024 actual	Outcome against target	2022-2023 actual
23%	21.54%	-1%	23.9%

Commentary: There was a slight decrease in the percentage of Western Australians who are members of a public library compared to the previous year. The number of active members reported by public libraries declined from 2021-2022 to 2022-2023 (637,207 and 602,743 respectively). The decrease in the indicator could also be attributed to the increase in the States population from 2.78 million (June 2022) to 2.88 million (June 2023).

This is a lagging measure as actual results for public library members are unavailable before the 90-day deadline for agency annual reports to be tabled in Parliament. Therefore, this indicator is calculated from averaging the previous two years active library members.

Key Efficiency Measure: Average cost of State Government support for public library services per public library member.

Description: Total cost of services attributed to Public Library Services divided by the number of library members. This cost does not include local government costs for providing public library services to their communities.

2023-2024 target	2023-2024 actual	Outcome against target	2022-2023 actual
\$25.92	\$25.01	-4%	\$24.05

Commentary: The average cost of State Government support for public library services per public library member was 4% below target. This variance can be attributed to the decrease in public library members reported and less than expected State Library costs attributed to public library support (7% below target, mainly attributed to timing of payments).

This is a lagging measure as actual results for public library members are unavailable before the 90-day deadline for agency annual reports to be tabled in Parliament. Therefore, this indicator is calculated from averaging the previous two years active library members.

The 2022-2023 actual reported has been revised based on net cost of service. The 2022-2023 actual was reported last year as \$25.34 based on total cost of service.

Appendix



Appendix – Events and Exhibitions 2023–2024

100 Years of ABC Broadcasting – Exhibition and Live broadcast at SLWA

Aboriginal Family History Sessions

America's Cup 40th Anniversary Display

Annual PEN Lecture A conversation with Behrouz Boochani

Australian Legacies of Slavery Conference

Awesome Festival – In partnership

Backyard Book Fair – Presented in partnership with Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators

Boorloo Heritage Festival events and walking trail in partnership with the City of Perth

Children's Laureate – Gabriel Wang in conversation

A Common Thread – Fashion, textiles and photography exhibition in partnership with North Metropolitan TAFE

Crow Baby – Exhibition

Designing on Country – Exhibition

Gallup VR Experience – Reconciliation Week

Game Changers: Trailblazing Stories from Women in Soccer – Installation, exhibition and panel discussion

Imagine This – Exhibition

Julia Baird with Will Yeoman in partnership with Boffins Books and Writing WA

Laurel Nannup: What Road You Going to Take? – Exhibition and launch event

Library Board Awards

Lion is that You? – Exhibition

Liquid Gold: A Taste of WA Brewing History – Exhibition, panel discussion and launch event

NAIDOC Week Storytelling Residency with Ron Bradfield

Perth Comic Arts Festival

Perth Festival Writers Weekend – Presented in partnership with Perth Festival and Writing WA

Perth Photography Orloff Awards – Opening event and exhibition

Premier's Book Awards

Propel Sketchbook Project – Exhibition in partnership with Propel Youth Arts WA

Sheiks, Fakes and Cameleers – Exhibition, panel discussion and launch event

Snap Shot – WA Music Month Photography Display – In partnership with WA Music Industry Association

Sydney Writers Festival: Live and Local – Live Streaming event

Changing Conceptions of the Indian Ocean with Chet van Duzer – Lecture and Master Class

The Write Club book launch – in partnership with City of Melville and Caralee Community School

Voices: Referendum Panel Discussion I and II

WA Reflections: Russian Spy

WA Reflections: The Rules of Mahjong

WA Reflections: The Tale of Mr Kimberley

WA Reflections: Sound Twitcher

WA Reflections: Connies



Thysanostadia oppositifolia

Order : Gigartiniinae.
Family : Rhodophyllidaceae.
Subfamily : Solieriaceae.



Areschougia sedoides