



Yarra Plenty Regional Library

is supporting the United Nations

Sustainable Development Goals

2022-2023



<p>1 NO POVERTY</p>		<p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	
<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>
<p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	<p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>
<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	<p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>
<p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>	<p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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Literacy is vital to breaking the cycle of poverty. By providing access to free resources and learning opportunities our libraries contribute to the development of literacy skills for those who are less advantaged or vulnerable and promote equal access to resources and information.

Responding to cost-of-living concerns

YPRL remains committed to listening to our local community and responding to identified needs, and one of these growing concerns is the cost-of-living crisis. YPRL staff have delivered events designed to address these concerns, such as sessions on basic car maintenance, saving at the supermarket and clothes mending. Staff have also encouraged the use of collections and library services as a cost-saving measure, such as free Wi-Fi. These events aim to support and advise the community amid the cost-of-living crisis, and are driven by community feedback.

Digital Library

Our Digital Library has a wealth of free digital resources that our community can access from home. With resources like Storybox and Kanopy, families can access educational and accessible resources to help build literacy skills at home, completely free of charge.



Public libraries strive to provide the public with information, education, and activities to help them stay healthy, promote personal development and ensure well-being for our local communities through our services and programming.

Gambling harm minimisation

Our Libraries After Dark programming is delivered across three branches providing alternative entertainment options for evening to those most at risk to the harms of gambling. Libraries After Dark also promotes inclusivity and social connection, combatting loneliness in the local community.

Sensitive Santa

For the last 10 years YPRRL has hosted Sensitive Santa sessions for families with neurodiverse children so that they can meet Santa and celebrate Christmas in a safe setting. Demand for these sessions grows every year, with more than 80 EOIs from families in 2023.

Pride on display

Every year, YPRRL celebrates Pride Month. Pride Month 2023 saw branches host events such as a Pride Weaving Workshop, a Pride Family Fun Afternoon and a Pride Community Collaborative Art Project. With events held across all branches, these events help to promote acceptance and inclusion in the community.



Public libraries aim to serve as educational spaces, providing free access to educational resources and study spaces and promoting life-long learning. By enabling the development of digital literacy skills, libraries give people the tools they need to enable learning both in our libraries and at home.

Big Summer Read

Public Libraries Victoria's Big Summer Read program, delivered in libraries across Victoria, aims to encourage reading over the school holidays. YPRL delivers several family-friendly events across all branches to support Big Summer Read and promote continued reading over summer.

Digital Library

Our Digital Library provides access to quality reading and listening educational resources in 50+ languages. Our extensive range of eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, and online learning and language learning platforms provide opportunities for library users to learn, engage, and thrive.

Australian Muslim Writers Festival

Lalor Library was a satellite venue for the Australian Muslim Writers Festival, in partnership with the Right Pen Collective. The Festival invited Australian Muslims and people from all backgrounds to explore identity and amplify the voice of Muslim writers in Australian publishing through a series of workshops.



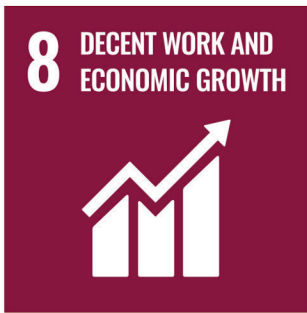
Libraries across Australia aim to support gender equality by providing safe spaces and equal opportunities for women and girls, supporting the IFLA-UNESCO Manifesto by promoting 'equal and free access to library funds and services'.

Twilight Community Craft Markets

Watsonia Library and Mill Park Library hosted Twilight Community Craft Markets in November 2022. With a diverse array of stalls held by talented crafters, these events encouraged community engagement with local small businesses and artists. Many of the businesses showcased are proudly owned and operated by women, and the Country Women's Association lent their support to the markets.

Women's Health Week

In September 2023, YPRL celebrated Women's Health Week. Whittlesea Library hosted an event with a women's health practitioner teaching members how food and mental health relate to general wellbeing, and Lalor Library hosted information sessions in English and Arabic with Breast Screen Victoria promoting breast cancer awareness and informing attendees how to book a breast screen appointment.



By providing access to networking and volunteer opportunities, and services and programs involving resume building and job seeking, libraries support people seeking employment and volunteer opportunities and career development.

Creative networking

In partnership with the Nillumbik Economic Development and Tourism Team, Diamond Valley Library hosted the Creative Industries Networking Event: Good Art, Good Business. The event was a platform for local creatives to learn about opportunities within the library and wider community, as well as highlighting how the Nillumbik Creative Industries Team encourages creative entrepreneurship.

Recognising our volunteers

The ongoing support of our volunteers enables us to deliver a range of programs across the region. Playing a vital role in some of our most popular programs, our volunteers provide invaluable support for both our staff and community.

Advocating for community employment opportunities

Through our partnership with Jobs Victoria Advocates, YPRL provides regular pop-up sessions in our libraries, providing jobseekers region-wide with information and advice regarding local employment opportunities, as well as sharing tips and advice about getting a job.



Libraries strive to build diverse collections, promoting diversity and inclusion in local communities through services, events and conversation.

Introducing a braille collection

YPRL is committed to ensuring that every child can access and engage with our collection. By growing our braille collection, with 34 picture book titles added over the past year, we are ensuring that more families can enjoy reading together.

Expanding in-language collections

In 2023, we surveyed our local Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community to see what they would like to see more of in our collection. The feedback included more bilingual books for children, more bestselling fiction and more adult nonfiction. In response, we added 4,500 eBooks and audiobooks to our collection in 8 different languages.

Enabling dialogue on treaty

Thomastown Library hosted a Treaty Community Forum presented by the First People's Assembly of Victoria in February 2023. The forum was an opportunity to 'hear about the Self Determination Fund and processes for Treaty-making in Victoria and help shape the next steps on the treaty journey. YPRL remains committed to and looks forward to continuing to support Treaty and the First People's Assembly of Victoria.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



Public libraries provide physical and digital collection, services and programs to as many people as possible to create communities and sustainable cities.

Expanding our reach

Our network of Click & Collect Hubs extends our reach, enabling us to better provide access to physical collections to members who might not live close to a branch. Hurstbridge, Donnybrook, Galada, and Bellfield are growing in use, with enthusiastic borrowing across all Hubs. We hold regular Storytimes, with fantastic attendance and engagement from the community.

Library on wheels

For 46 weeks a year, YPRL's Mobile Library is on the road 5 days a week. Stopping at 12 different locations, our Mobile Library is a hugely popular outreach location, welcoming almost 24,000 visitors and signing up over 400 new members through the 2022/23 financial year. Mobile Library users are enthusiastic borrowers, borrowing over 36,000 items in this period. At any one time, 1,400 items from our Mobile Library will be on loan across the community.

Digital transformation

In 2022 and 2023, YPRL launched a new corporate intranet, enhanced staff awareness of cyber security and began delivering our corporate PC and laptop deployment project. By improving the way we work and enhancing collaboration, YPRL has made significant progress towards our Digital Transformation Plan and our Information and Communications Technology strategy.



IFLA identifies climate action as an emerging issue in libraries. While public libraries are of themselves a sustainable consumption model, with multiple users of items in our collection, we still have ways to further reduce our impact.

Sustainable refurbishment

YPRL has prioritised sustainability when refurbishing our branches, such as recently in Eltham. By reupholstering, refinishing and reusing existing furniture, YPRL demonstrates a commitment to sustainable practices.

Book Covering

We continuously look for ways to reduce plastic use within our library. Recently we made the switch to use fully biodegradable plastic covering for our junior books, giving them a longer life and protecting our collection in an environmentally responsible way.

Sustainable practices

With solar panels on the roofs of five of our branches, seed libraries at nine branches, and six eWaste recycling stations, YPRL is encouraging sustainable practices across our branches. We also have a Garden Maker Space, enabling members to learn how to grow things and practice sustainability at home.



The IFLA-UNESCO Manifesto specifies that libraries ‘create conditions for the development of a democratic society and active citizenship’. Through various free and accessible print and digital resources as well as Wi-Fi, and education around source reliability and internet safety, libraries enable users to access information that keeps them informed.

Battling misinformation

Libraries play an important role in the fight against misinformation, by providing dependable resources for digital literacy and teaching how to verify the reliability of sources. YPRL contributes to this by offering free access in branches to *The New York Times*, becoming the first library in Victoria to do so. By providing free and unlimited access to a news source with a reputation for high-quality, ethical and thoughtful journalism, YPRL enables members to access reliable information. Members can also access this resource from home with a renewable 24-hour subscription token.

Justice of the Peace service

Whittlesea Library offers a weekly Justice of the Peace walk-in session where members of the community can have their legal documents witnessed or certified.