

# BIG SUMMER

# ★ READ

*"Open a book, open your future."*



*For Learning, For Leisure, For Life*



## Welcome to 2026!

Welcome back to the Library in 2026! We hope you enjoyed the Christmas and New Year break.

If you are looking for something for the kids to do during the school holidays, check out the wide range of library activities on the following pages. Highlights at the Swan Hill Library include Minecraft Monday, Lego, Loom Bands, Search & Find, String Art, Build-A-Bot, Aussie Foam Mosaics and more! A special 'Under the Gum Tree' Twilight Tales will be a fun family night, with stories, songs, craft and pizza!

Keep an eye on the Swan Hill Regional Library Facebook page and website for full details of the holiday program for both Robinvale and Swan Hill libraries and the Library Outreach vehicle.

Most activities are free but places are limited, so make sure to book early.

Check out pages 16 for the school holiday fun happening at the Barham library.

The Big Summer Read for school aged children aged 5 -18 is running now. If your children enjoy reading through the holidays, or need that extra incentive to read, they can join and be in the running for some fabulous prizes!

The 1000 Books Before School program is also ongoing for children aged 0 - 5 years. Please ask staff for more information.

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**Aged 5-18? Have you joined the Big Summer Read?**

**Fantastic prizes are on offer!**

## Coming soon

*After That, The Dark*  
Andrew Klavan

*Appeal*  
Lynda La Plante

*Jigsaw*  
Jonathan Kellerman

*Death of a Groom*  
MC Beaton

*House of Flies*  
Graham Masterton



*Tyler Green Will Never Be Free*  
Nicci French

*The Irregular*  
Gerald Seymour

*The Tinmen*  
Nelson DeMille

*The Winter Brice*  
Katie Flynn

*Woman Down*  
Colleen Hoover



## BorrowBox e-audiobook of the month

*Warranilla : A Nick Vada mystery*  
Jason Summers

Detective Nick Vada returns to his sleepy home town for his sister's wedding but uncovers a murder tied to his past, forcing him to face long-buried secrets.

Nick Vada thought he had left the past behind when he moved to the bustling streets of Sydney. But when his sister's wedding brings him back to the sleepy farming town of Milford, he's forced to confront memories he'd rather forget.

What should have been a joyful family reunion quickly turns sinister when a body is discovered on the homestead of Warranilla, the largest farm in the region. The local police



are out of their depth and Nick finds himself reluctantly drawn into the investigation, compelled by both professional duty and a personal sense of justice.

## Featured BorrowBox e-book for January



**For the month of January simultaneous borrowers can read this title at the same time - perfect for book clubs!**

The [BorrowBox](#) campaign title for January is the e-book *Here One Moment*, by Liane Moriarty.

*Do you believe in fate?*  
On a flight from Hobart to Sydney, a lady walks through the cabin predicting the age and cause of death of the passengers. It's not long before her predictions start coming true. But is she really a psychic? Or a charlatan?

Liane Moriarty is the author of ten internationally bestselling novels. Her books have sold more than 20 million copies worldwide, including four million in Australia and New Zealand and have been translated into forty languages.

Find out what's happening at the Library



Visit [library.swanhill.vic.gov.au](http://library.swanhill.vic.gov.au)

or like us on Facebook or Instagram!



## uLibrary and the Big Summer Read



Learn more by visiting [bookwormsbookclub.com/big-summer-read](http://bookwormsbookclub.com/big-summer-read)

## Hoopla Digital : free for Library members

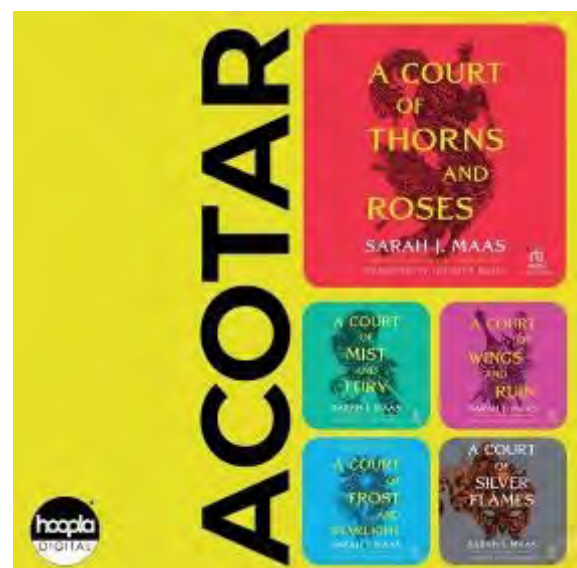


Summer plans? Sorted.

Read local and escape into sun, sand, and stories with this Summer Reading collection of eBooks on Hoopla Digital.

Your next great read is at your fingertips.

<https://www.hoopladigital.com.au/collection/39290>



Young learners can enjoy a wide variety of science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics books and comics from Scholastic on Hoopla Digital!

Check out the STEAM collection:

<https://www.hoopladigital.com.au/collection/159620>

### Book Chat

Open to people aged 16+, the Book Chat group meets at the Library every second Wednesday of the

### Knitter Knatters

Knit, crochet, sew & chat! Every Tuesday morning from 10am-12pm.

### Jigsaw Club

Open to people aged 16+, the Jigsaw Club meets every Thursday

### Scrabble Club

The Scrabble Club meets every Tuesday, from 2pm to 4pm.

### Beginners Mahjong

Open to people aged 16+, the Mahjong Club meets every Thursday from 2pm to 4pm.

### Toy Library

Borrow toys and educational resources .

Re-opening Friday 31 January

Fridays: 11am to 12pm

Saturdays: 10am to 11.30am

First Wednesday of the month, 11am to 12pm

[swanhilltoylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:swanhilltoylibrary@gmail.com)

## Volunteer's Morning Tea & Presentation

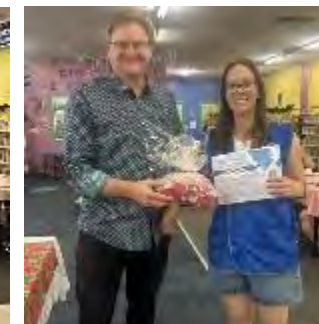


A huge thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who have helped us run our programs at the Swan Hill Library in 2025. The day before International Volunteer Day, we thanked our volunteers with a morning tea and presentation with Bruce Myers, Director of Community and Cultural Services.

Our volunteers generously give up their time to support the library service and programs: re-shelving returned items, covering new books, Saturday & Twilight Storytimes, local history and school holidays activities including card making. Thank you also to the volunteers from the Nyah District Men's Shed and the Swan Hill Woodworker's Club who have helped the library run woodworking activities during the school holidays. In 2025, we also joined with Swan Hill District Health Community Health to run a new Fresh Food Swap program and brought on board new volunteers.

A special thanks to the Swan Hill Genealogical & Historical Society and the Swan Hill Community Toy Library who are based at the library, and work closely with staff in finding historical information for customers and assisting with Roving Storytime and other events throughout the year.

Some of our volunteers have other commitments, including work, and were unable to attend the morning tea, but we give our heartfelt thanks to all.



*Above: Helen, Michelle and Jude are pictured helping Santa at our Christmas Storytime.*

*Without our wonderful storytime volunteers, we wouldn't be able to bring you wonderful events like this.*

## Knitter Knatters Christmas morning tea

The Library's Knitter Knatter group held their Christmas party on 16 December, with morning tea, gifts and lots of Christmas cheer!



### Knitter Knatters

Knit, crochet, sew & chat! Every Tuesday morning from 10am-12pm. Come along and join in the fun!



## Award for 25 years of service

Congratulations to Karen Delmenico who recently received her 25 years of service award at a Swan Hill Rural City Council function. Karen was presented her award by CEO Scott Barber.

Karen joined the team in 2000, shortly after the library relocated to its current Campbell Street home.

Over the years, Karen wore many hats — from selecting and cataloguing new books for our branch libraries, to organising events like our much-loved Biggest Morning Tea. Karen was a familiar face on the Mobile Library, bringing books and joy to our local communities. Karen obtained her HC licence and continued supporting the service as a relief driver.

Karen officially retires in January 2026.



25 years – Karen Delmenico

## Library Team wins Staff recognition award

The Library Team recently won a Swan Hill Rural City Staff Recognition Award in the Community and Liveability category, for outstanding achievement in the workplace.

The award acknowledges the library staff's dedication, quality of service and the many ways the library staff engage with, and support everyone who uses the library service.



Community and Liveability – Library Team



# Are you 65 years or older and concerned about your memory or thinking?

Researchers from UNSW are leading a study exploring how lifestyle changes can improve cognitive function and lower the risk of dementia.

The free lifestyle intervention will run for 12 weeks. Participants will have access to an online educational course about dementia risk factors, and may also receive brain-training activities, consultations with health professionals, and behaviour change support.

## THIS WILL BE SUITABLE FOR PEOPLE WHO:

- ✓ Are 65 years or older
- ✓ Have memory/thinking concerns OR have been diagnosed with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI)
- ✓ Can use a computer, tablet, or smartphone
- ✓ Are willing to complete an online course and phone interviews



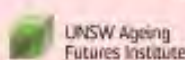
**We are currently recruiting participants, you can access more information via our website or by scanning the QR code.**



<https://www.unsw.edu.au/research/cogcoach-health>

**Email us:** [cogcoach.health@unsw.edu.au](mailto:cogcoach.health@unsw.edu.au)

**Call us:** +61 2 9348 3111





## *Unsubscribe Day:*

*Let's clear up your inbox!*

Join us for Unsubscribe Day! With more websites asking you to “subscribe” to make purchases or get the ‘free’ item, we’re dedicating Safer Internet Day to reducing your spam and junk email.

Free wi-fi for each session with tea, coffee and light snacks provided. Bring your device and let’s reduce those promotional emails!

**Where:** Swan Hill Library, 53 Campbell Street, Swan Hill

**When:** 10-11am and 2-3pm, February 10, 2026

**Age:** All ages welcome

**Cost:** Free

15 places per session, please contact the library on 03 5036 2480.



At your Library

# BIG SUMMER★

## ★ READ

*“Open a book, open your future.”*



FOR AGES 5–18 YEARS

BIG STORIES. BIG FUN. BIG ADVENTURE.

SIGN UP AT YOUR LIBRARY OR REGISTER AT:  
[READBOOKS.COM.AU/BSR](http://READBOOKS.COM.AU/BSR)  
TODAY!

- Read for a chance to win an awesome prize!
- Audio books included
- Every reading log entered wins a prize!
- Beat the summer slide



**BORROWBOX IS ALWAYS OPEN**

**BIG SUMMER READ**

DOWNLOAD THE APP NOW

1. Install the BorrowBox app
2. Check your library settings
3. Activate with your library card number
4. Download free eBooks and eBooks on audio

BorrowBox

## Library team visits new Art Gallery

The Library team recently visited the new Art Gallery of Swan Hill for a morning tea with the gallery staff and back of house tour.

We encourage everyone to visit the new gallery, check out the wonderful new spaces and current exhibitions.

There are a variety of school holiday activities coming up in January with watercolour workshops, sculpting a Murray cod from clay, making Aussie animal masks and more.

For more information, like the Art Gallery of Swan Hill Facebook page or check out their website:

<https://www.swanhillregionalartgallery.com.au/>

**NOW OPEN**

Art Gallery of  
*Swan Hill*

ART LIVES HERE



# What's happening at Swan Hill Library these School Holidays...

Library activities are available 5 - 23 January 2026

To book, contact the library on 5036 2480. Check the Library's Facebook page or newsletter for more details.



## Creation Station - All holidays

10am - 5.30pm **FREE** Suitable for children of all ages

Set up in the children's area of the library for the duration of the school holidays. Children can draw, cut, paste, construct, colour in, complete activity booklets and make all sorts of creations using recycled items including wool, material, coloured paper and more!



## Deadly Aussie Animals Search & Find - All holidays

10am - 5.30pm **FREE** Suitable for children 5+

Search for and find all the 'Deadly Aussie Animals' posters in the library these school holidays. Receive a reward and go into the draw for a chance to win a \$50 Swan Hill Gift Card! The winner will be drawn on Monday, 2 February 2026.

*Proudly sponsored by Swan Hill Inc.*



## Minecraft / VR / Nintendo Switch - Monday, 5, 12 & 19

1pm - 4pm **FREE** Suitable for children 5+

Join us for an action-packed afternoon of gaming fun! Dive into Minecraft, step into new worlds with PlayStation VR, and be among the first to try out our brand-new Nintendo Switch. Just drop in and play. No booking needed!



## Lego - Wednesday, 7, 14 & 21

2pm - 4pm **FREE** Suitable for children 3+

Come along and enjoy the fun with our free Lego @ the Library sessions these school holidays! Complete one of the many challenges or enjoy free-play using your imagination to make a fantastic creation.




## Loom Bands - Wednesday, 7, 14 & 21

2pm - 4pm **FREE** Suitable for children 7+

Have you just discovered loom bands? Or are you already an expert at making all sorts of creative things with them? Come along to our free loom band sessions throughout the school holidays. Loom bands, boards and hooks will be supplied to make a range of fantastic jewellery and craft!



Please note: Children under 12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

 - Youth friendly activities and workshops.

# What's happening at Swan Hill Library these School Holidays...

Library activities are available 5 - 23 January 2026

To book, contact the library on 5036 2480. Check the Library's Facebook page or newsletter for more details.



## Crafternoon - Friday, 9, 16 & 23

2 - 4pm | **FREE** | Suitable for primary school age children & youth

Get creative these school holidays with a fun-filled Crafternoon session! There'll be a range of exciting and engaging activities for children to enjoy, with something for every kind of creative mind. Each project is unique, full of personality and designed to inspire imagination and self-expression. All materials are provided just bring your creativity and let the fun begin!

**No bookings required.**



## Kids Create: Smoothies - Tuesday, 6

10:30 - 11:30am | **FREE** | Suitable for children ages 2 - 5

Join Tara from Swan Hill District Community Health for this healthy, hands-on activity. Children will enjoy listening to a beautiful children's story before making some yummy smoothies!

**Bookings essential.**



## Dream Catchers - Thursday, 8

2pm - 3pm **FREE** Suitable for children 7+

Get crafty with Trista from Bunnings Swan Hill! Dive into a fun, hands-on workshop where you'll design and decorate your very own magical dream catcher. Sparkly, colourful, feathery. Make it as unique as you are!

**Bookings essential.**



## Build-a-Bot: Micro:bit Adventures - a STEM activity - Tuesday 13

2:30 - 4:30pm | **FREE** | Suitable for children 12+

Build it, code it, make it move!

Dive into STEM fun with the 32-in-1 micro:bit Wonder Building Kit.

With endless ways to build and code, tech assistants will be on-hand to help with creating cool gadgets, silly machines, and so much more!

**Limited places. Bookings essential.**



## String Art - Thursday, 15

2pm - 3pm **FREE** Suitable for children 7+

Create a stunning string art star these school holidays with Trista from Bunnings! Kids will build a star by weaving colourful embroidery thread to bring their artwork to life.

**Bookings essential.**

Please note: Children under 12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.



- Youth friendly activities and workshops.

# What's happening at Swan Hill Library these School Holidays...

Library activities are available 5 - 23 January 2026

To book, contact the library on 5036 2480. Check the Library's Facebook page or newsletter for more details.



## **Bird Houses with the Swan Hill Woodworkers – Tuesday, 20**

**10:30 - 11:30am | \$10 | Suitable for children 7+**

Join the Swan Hill Woodworkers Club for an awesome hands-on adventure! Build your very own birdhouse to take home. The perfect hangout for native birds in your backyard. Let's hammer, create, and have fun!

**Cash only. Booking essential.**



## **Potpourri Boxes - Tuesday, 20**

**2 - 3pm | FREE | Suitable for children ages 5+**

Create your own Potpourri Box!

Join us for a hands-on crafting adventure where you'll decorate a special box to fill with your special treasures or some sweet-smelling goodies.

**Bookings essential.**



## **Under the Gum Tree Twilight Tales - Wednesday, 21**

**7pm - 8pm | FREE | Suitable for families**

Join us for a cosy Aussie-bush Storytime adventure!

Slip into your comfiest PJs and get ready for brilliant bush stories, lively action rhymes, and hands-on crafts. Then finish the night with a tasty slice of pizza! A fun evening for the whole family.

**Bookings preferred.**



## **Aussie Foam Mosaics - Thursday, 22**

**2pm - 3pm FREE Suitable for children 7+**

Create a vibrant Aussie Foam Mosaic these school holidays with Trista from Bunnings! Kids will design their very own Australian-themed artwork using colourful Indigenous inspired designs made from foam pieces in the shape of our favourite Aussie animals!

**Bookings essential.**



## **BIG Summer Read - Friday, 1 December 2025 - 31 January 2026**

**FREE For children 5- 18**

Join the BIG Summer Read and read your way through the summer holidays! Receive some awesome incentives and to go into the prize draw for a chance to win a fantastic prize! See our website for more details <http://readbooks.au/bsr> Join us for the prize draw on Friday, 6 February 2026 at 4pm.



Please note: Children under 12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

- Youth friendly activities and workshops.

# 'Libby' Outreach School holiday activities



## Library Outreach Holiday Program

### Manangatang

**Where:** Manangatang Pool

**When:** Thursday 8, January 10am - 12pm

### Lake Boga

**Where:** Lake Boga Foreshore

**When:** Monday 12, January 11am - 1pm

### Nyah West

**Where:** Nyah District Community Pool

**When:** Wednesday 14, January 11am - 1pm

**Keep cool and make a splash these school holidays!**

**Join the Story Walk and Search and Find**

**Pool entry may apply**

**BYO drink bottle and be Sun Smart**



## Robinvale Library closure in January

Due to works on the school grounds, the Robinvale Library is required to close on:

- Wednesday 7 January
- Thursday 8 January
- Wednesday 21 January

We apologise for any inconvenience.



## Robinvale Library school holiday program

Keep an eye on the Swan Hill Regional Library Facebook Page for the upcoming school holiday program at the Robinvale Library.

## Fresh Food Swap at Robinvale Library



If you're able to give up a Saturday morning once a month, between 10am and 12pm and would like to volunteer helping with our new Fresh Food Swap program:

Contact Heiata at the Robinvale Library on 5036 2471 or email [lib-rob@swanhill.vic.gov.au](mailto:lib-rob@swanhill.vic.gov.au)

Please note, all volunteers require a Victorian Working With Children's Check.

### FRESH FOOD SWAP

*'Share what you can, take what you need. Everyone is welcome –even if you don't have anything to swap.'*

**When:** monthly on the following Saturdays

**2026 Dates:** January 17th

**Time:** 10am -12pm

**Location:** Robinvale Library, Robinvale Community and Learning Hub, 88 George Street, Robinvale

#### WHAT YOU CAN BRING:



*All produce brought must be good quality.  
All preserves must be labelled with ingredients.  
Seeds, seedlings and bulbs must be labelled.*



'This initiative is compliant with the 'Food Act 1984' as there is no sale of food occurring.

# 16 Days of Activism Storywalk @ the Robinvale Library

Our StoryWalk at Robinvale Library on 4 December was a wonderful way to mark the 16 Days of Activism. It was wonderful to see local school children and teachers gather together and read 'My Dream for You' by Ash Barty

We were also grateful to hear powerful messages from our local police officer Danielle, who spoke about safety, respect, and supporting one another.

Thank you to local paramedic Emma for reading 'I want to be a super-hero' by Breanna Humes and to our local play group [Robinvale District Health Services, Early Years Programs](#) for joining and providing play equipment for children to enjoy.

Together as a community, we're taking meaningful steps toward positive change.





Mathoura Library

Closed Friday 12 December for building renovations.

Re-opening in January 2026.

During Mathoura's closure for renovations, library services will be available through the mobile library which will be based in Mathoura.

Please contact Murray River Council for more information.

Phone 1300 087 004

A poster designed in a comic book style with various colored panels and speech bubbles. The central white panel contains the event details. A speech bubble in the top right says "IT'S FREE!". A speech bubble in the bottom left says "Book your spot! Barham Library - 03 5480 1587". The Murray River Council logo is in the bottom right.

**School Holiday Fun  
at the Library**

**MAKE YOUR  
OWN COMIC  
BOOK!**

**Tuesday 20 January, 2026**  
10.30am - 11.30am  
at the Barham Library.  
FREE event for ages 5-12.  
Bookings preferred.

Book your spot!  
Barham Library -  
03 5480 1587

murray river  
council

**Social Book Chat Group**

The Social Book Chat group meets every Tuesday morning at 10.00am and enjoys catching up on what everyone is reading and lots of discussion on current events in our lovely cool library in the warm weather. Everyone is welcome to join. Morning tea is provided.

## Barham Library News

### Move & Groove

Move & Groove has once again seen the children enjoy some lovely stories read by Joy our wonderful volunteer and the creation of some beautiful craft.

Move & Groove is on every Thursday morning at 10.30am until 11.30am.

### Saturday Storytime

Please note there will be no Saturday Storytime in January.

Our next Saturday Storytime will be held on 14 February.



### Cryptic Crossword Fun @ Barham Library

The Cryptic Crossword workshops run every Friday afternoon at 1.30pm. Participants are enjoying learning the tricks to easily solve these elusive puzzles whilst enjoying each other's company. Afternoon tea is provided.



murray river  
council

**BARHAM LIBRARY**

### Social Book Chat

Every Tuesday at 10am

Bring along a coffee and the book you're currently reading (instant coffee is also available).

Chat about what's a good read or just listen in.

### Move and Groove

Thursday at 10.30am

Songs, dance, storytime and craft for toddlers and pre-schoolers!

### Saturday Storytime

Second Saturday of the month at 10.30 am (Not held during January)

Storytime and craft in a fun learning environment.

### Cryptic Crosswords

Friday at 1.30pm. iPads are available for use. Afternoon tea supplied.

## Christmas Storytime @ Swan Hill Library



## Christmas Storytime @ Robinvale Library



**Swan Hill Regional Library**

[library.swanhill.vic.gov.au](http://library.swanhill.vic.gov.au)

53 Campbell Street, Swan Hill

Phone: 03 5036 2480 Email: [library@swanhill.vic.gov.au](mailto:library@swanhill.vic.gov.au)

This service is provided by the Swan Hill Rural City Council

