



For Learning, For Leisure, For Life



School holiday fun!

Lots of fun was had during the school holidays, with children of all ages attending events and activities at our library branches and outreach holiday program.

Crafty kids in the Swan Hill Library used their imagination to create pet rocks, sand art, Lego constructions, loom band bracelets, and their own 3D flying wooden birds. Children also used STEM engineering skills to build a rollercoaster and a Mars hub! The *Who's Who in the Zoo?* search and find, and library scavenger hunts, kept children busy while the Creation Station encouraged children to use their imaginations.

At the Robinvale Library, children had lots of fun participating in various craft activities, including making pet rocks, seed planting, science fun, storytimes, and playing board games.

'Libby' the Library's Outreach vehicle, visited the Manangatang and Nyah Two-Bays swimming pools, providing lots of *Who's Who in the Zoo?* summer fun and activities for local children. 'Libby' also visited the Lake Boga foreshore where children went on wild safaris in the Catalina Museum and bunker.

The Big Summer Read kept children reading throughout January, with incentives along the way to encourage them to continue reading and complete more entries.

Big Summer Read Prize Draw: Robinvale Library at 4pm on Wednesday 5 February, and Swan Hill Library at 4pm on Friday 7 February.



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February is Library Lover's Month!

Enter the competition for a chance to win a box of chocolates. See pages 6-7

Coming soon

Death of a Smuggler
MC Beaton

Grave Danger
James Grippando

Dead Man's List
Karen Rose

From London With Love
Katie Fforde

Pro Bono
Thomas Perry



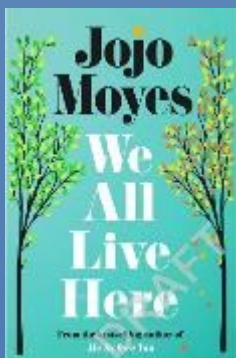
The Girls Who Dared to Love
Diney Costeloe

Three Days in June
Anne Tyler

Death in Berlin
Simon Scarrow

Paranoia
James Patterson

We All Live Here
JoJo Moyes



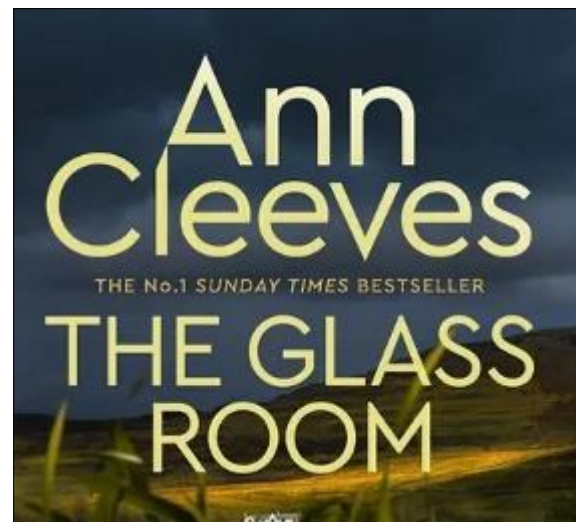
BorrowBox e-audiobook of the month

The Glass Room
Ann Cleeves

The Glass Room is the fifth book in Ann Cleeves' Vera Stanhope series - which is now a major TV detective drama starring Brenda Blethyn as Vera.

DI Vera Stanhope is not one to make friends easily, but her hippy neighbours keep her well-supplied in homebrew and conversation so she has more tolerance for them than most. When one of them goes missing she feels duty-bound to find out what happened. But her path leads her to more than a missing friend...

It's an easy job to track the young woman down to the Writer's House,



a country retreat where aspiring authors gather to workshop and work through their novels. It gets complicated when a body is discovered and Vera's neighbour is found with a knife in her hand.

Featured BorrowBox e-books for January

Listen now.
Your local library in your pocket.

Thousands of eAudiobooks available to borrow from your local library. Join today.

BorrowBox
The Book in Your Ear

Available on the App Store
GET IT ON Google Play
Available on Amazon Kindle

The [BorrowBox](#) campaign title for February is the e-audio book *The Survivors*. Written by international, bestselling author of *The Dry*, Jane Harper, *The Survivors* is a story about a man who survived tragedy, coming to terms with his past.

Kieran Elliott's life changed forever on a single day when a reckless mistake led to devastating consequences.

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

Find out what's happening at the Library



Visit library.swanhill.vic.gov.au
or like us on Facebook or Instagram!



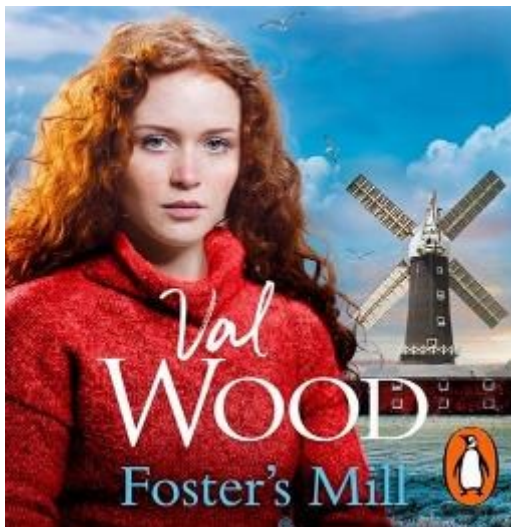
uLibrary e-audio book of the month

Foster's Mill
Val Wood

Elizabeth Foster has lived in Tillington all her life. She knows everything about the local community... Everything except why another family, the Reedbarrows, now live in her ancestral home, Foster's Mill.

When Christopher, a man from 'down south', arrives and begins asking questions about the Mill that no one has dared to ask for generations, secrets begin to surface, and Liz may finally find the answers she's been looking for. And perhaps, at last, Liz and her father will be able to return to their family home.

But Liz soon realises that if the sea



continues to ravage the cliffside, the land which the mill is built on will fall away. If she doesn't take action soon, there may not be a home for her to return to.

FREE digital resources for Library members!



New to LOTE4Kids!

Right to left flipbooks, aligning with the natural reading direction and cultural authenticity for the following languages:

-  Arabic
-  Dari
-  Hebrew
-  Pashto
-  Persian
-  Urdu

hoopla

Instantly borrow eBooks, audiobooks, comics, movies, music, and more, 24/7 with your library card.

hoopladigital.com.au

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play | Available on amazon | Chromecast

Book Chat

Open to people aged 16+, the Book Chat group meets at the Library every second Wednesday of the month, 7pm-8.30pm.

Jigsaw Club

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

Scrabble Club

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

Knitter Knatters

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

The Genies

Family & local history enquiries.

Open Tuesday - Thursday 10am to 3pm.

Toy Library

Borrow toys and educational resources for babies, toddlers and children.

Fridays: 11am to 12pm.

Saturdays: 10am to 11.30am.

First Wednesday of the month, 11am to 12pm.

STORYTIMES JANUARY 2025

Swan Hill Library:

Move and Groove

Wednesday at 10.30
am

Highly interactive
session tailored for a
toddler's social,
emotional & physical
development.

Baby Rhyme Time

Friday at 10.30 am

A fun & interactive
session aimed at
parents & carers with
babies under 18
months.

Saturday Storytime

Saturday at 10.30 am

(Resuming 8 February)

This storytime session
gives children the
opportunity to
socialise and develop
their language skills
whilst having fun!

Aimed at children aged
3-7 and presented by
our wonderful
Storytime Volunteers.

Home Library delivery service

The Home Library service is available to all members who are housebound or in aged care and reside within the Swan Hill city limits.

If you or a family member resides in other towns in the Swan Hill Rural City council area, we may be able to arrange delivery of books to you via the Library's Outreach vehicle.

A range of books, magazines and audio books are delivered to your door by library staff. Do you require large print books? Audio books on CD/MP3? We have a large range of titles including biographies.

Delivery is on the second Tuesday of the month. This is a free service. Please speak to library staff for more information.



LOUD @ THE LIBRARY

Sing . Dance . Perform

FREE ENTRY, PIZZA & SOFT DRINK

28 March 2025 @ 7pm

Performers ages 12 - 25

Audience - all ages
No bookings required

53 Campbell Street Swan Hill

Load @ the Library Registration

swan hill regional library youth inc. SWAN HILL Rural City Council

Book Chat Group for Teenagers

Calling all teen book lovers!

Looking for a place to connect with other teens who love reading?

Join our Youth Book Chat Group!

Dive into exciting books, share your thoughts, and discover new favourites together.

Whether you're into fantasy, mystery, or graphic novels, there's always a good convo waiting for you.

Snacks provided!

..... ● Y/A READERS

BOOK CHAT

Find Your Next Great Read

**FREE
SNACKS**

Swan Hill Library

**Wednesdays from
3.30pm onwards**

**A casual book club for
Secondary School students**

53 Campbell St. Swan Hill

library.swanhill.vic.gov.au



1000 BOOKS BEFORE SCHOOL

Ask Library staff about the '1000 books before school program'.

Children under five years can be registered. You will need to be a Swan Hill Regional Library member.

We will give you a journal for you to record each book you share with your child.

Each time you reach a milestone in the journal, bring it along to the library for a prize. You will receive an extra special reward when you reach the 1000 books milestone!



Celebrating Library Lover's Day on 14 February!



Tell us in 25 words or less why the library is important to you...

Name: _____ PH: _____

Place your entry into the box provided at the Swan Hill Library for a chance to win a box of chocolates!

Entries close 5.30pm, Monday 17 February.

Take a chance on a book!

Choose a blind date to take home and read. (For adults).



Library Lover's drawing competition for kids!



Draw a picture showing why the library is important to you.
(Open to children aged 8 years and younger)

Name: _____ PH: _____

Place your entry into the box provided at the Swan Hill Library
for a chance to win a box of chocolates!

Entries close 5.30pm, Monday 17 February.



BIG Summer Read Prize Draw

If you were one of the awesome readers who registered for the Big Summer Read at the Swan Hill Library or on Libby, the library outreach vehicle and returned a reading log to us prior to Friday, 31 January, you are invited to attend our major prize draw at **4pm on Friday, 7 February 2025**.

Here are some of the fantastic prizes to be won!

- Apple iPad
- Apple AirPods
- Lego packs
- A Family 3-in-1 pass which includes admission to the Pioneer Settlement



- Gaming headphones & desktop
- \$50 Swan Hill gift cards
- \$50 EB Games gift cards
- \$50 Showbiz Cinema gift cards...and lucky door prizes, too!



With thanks to our generous sponsors;



Please note: BIG Summer Read, Read Books competition winners will be drawn and notified separately.

Swan Hill Community

TOY Library

Play · Learn · Party

The Swan Hill Community Toy Library Committee is excited to announce that we are reopening very soon for 2025. Now is a great time to come and visit us as we have made some huge improvements to our Toy Library during 2024 and have continued to purchase some new items for our collection over the summer break. There really is something for everyone! So come and have a look and borrow 1,000s of toys, without the expense!

Swan Hill Community Toy Library is open from Friday January 31.

Our regular opening times are

Friday 11.00am-12.00pm

Saturday 10am-11.30am

First Wednesday of the month 11.00am-12.00pm

New members are welcome at any time.

12 month membership options for families are:

3 Toys Family \$45

6 Toys Family \$50

Toys can be borrowed as frequently as members choose, with a maximum loan period of four weeks.

Do you have a party to plan?
Ask us about our **EVENTS HIRE** options!

swanhilltoylibrary@gmail.com



Find Us



facebook



Instagram



New Toys





Nourishing Little Minds

Is your child a fussy eater? Would you like tips on introducing new foods to your preschooler? Join us for Nourishing Little Minds, a fun, hands-on program where children will explore healthy foods!

This exciting program is brought to you by Swan Hill District Health Community Health and Swan Hill Regional Library.

Each session includes songs, rhymes, and stories, along with food tasting and preparation activities. You'll also receive guidance from an Accredited Practising Dietitian and Library staff, providing practical tips, strategies, and recipes to make mealtimes more enjoyable and help your little one embrace healthy eating.

Session details:

Where: Swan Hill Library

When: **Week 1:** Thursday, 13 March
Week 2: Thursday, 20 March
Week 3: Thursday, 27 March
Week 4: Thursday, 3 April

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Cost: Free!

Limited places available – call 5036 2480 to book your spot for all four sessions today!

Nourishing Little Minds is a Registered Trademark of Nutrition Australia ACT Incorporated.

Stories,
interactive
songs and
rhymes

For ages
3 - 5

A yummy
twist on
Move &
Groove!

Have you checked out Story Box Library yet? Free to library members!

Story Box Library is a website or app created for children to view stories by local authors and illustrators, being read aloud by fantastic, predominantly Australian and New Zealand, storytellers.

Use it as a bedtime tale or a read aloud model – the choice is yours. No matter what the reason for your visit to Story Box Library, it helps get kids excited about reading, inspires their imaginations, and lets them have fun with stories.

Download the StoryBox app!

Explore favourite stories read by amazing storytellers. Ad-free, safe & educational. Create playlists about any topic or theme Download onto family devices for easy access.



How to login using the StoryBox app

1. Select 'Login with Library Access'
2. Select Swan Hill Regional Library
3. Enter your barcode and PIN/password
4. Discover an ever-growing digital library!



How to login using the website:

1. Head to storyboxlibrary.com.au/libraries
1. Select your public library or Local Government Area (LGA) from the dropdown menu.
2. If you see both barcode and PIN/password fields, enter the same details you use to access your library catalogue to log in.
3. If you just see a barcode field, enter your library barcode number, click log in...
4. Then confirm your details on the next page to register your individualised account.
5. Once you've confirmed these details, you can access a world of stories! You'll now be able to create personalised playlists, select your own account preferences, use a 'Remember Me' feature, and access our app once it launches.

When logging in to your individualised account in the future, continue to select your library or LGA from the dropdown menu and enter your barcode and PIN/password.

The StoryBox app is here!

Favourite stories read by our best storytellers

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Create playlists about any topic or explore those already made

Explore an ever-growing digital library

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play



Meet the author 'Faraday' with Robyn Howarth.

Friday 21 February, 2025.

Join author Robyn Howarth,
speaking on her book 'Faraday:
A Community Rediscovered'.

FREE to attend. 2pm - 4pm
Riverside Reception Centre, Barham.
Book signing and sales available.
Books \$25 each.

Robyn's story...

Robyn was the eldest of six female students who, along with their young female teacher, were kidnapped by two men from the tiny Faraday State School in 1972.

10 years old at the time, Robyn tells the story of her life on the farm, the kidnapping and the aftermath in the long road for justice. 'Faraday' is narrated through the lens of childhood trauma, and the effect it had on her family.

Robyn lives in Lake Boga with her husband and two badly behaved cats. She enjoys her role as a Maternal and Child Health Nurse.



Bookings preferred:
Contact the Barham Library,
03 5480 1587



murray river
council

Barham Library News

Move & Groove

Move & Groove has recommenced, with children enjoying some lovely stories read by Joy, our wonderful volunteer, and creating some beautiful crafts.

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

Saturday Storytime

Saturday Storytime will resume at 10.30 am on 8 February with the story 'Hattie Peck' by Emma Levey.

Children will then have fun making their own paper plate chickens!

Cool Chemistry Holiday activity

Children took part in our Cool Chemistry science activity on Thursday 23 January and created Apple-Canos, Exploding Bags, Yeast Balloons, Invisible Ink and Ooblek. This was all possible with the expertise of Emma Searle and her very capable assistant, Tara.

Social Book Chat Group

The Social Book Chat group has been meeting every Tuesday morning at 10.00am and enjoy catching up on what everyone is reading and lots of discussion on current events. Everyone is welcome to join in.

Please note the change in time from 11am to 10am from Tuesday 7 January, due to the changes in operational hours.

Be Connected & Digital Mentoring

We continue to take bookings for digital help with devices through our partnership with Be Connected and the Digital Mentoring program. We welcome all enquiries.

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. iPads are available for use. 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.

School holiday fun at the Library and out in the community!



Swan Hill Regional Library

library.swanhill.vic.gov.au

53 Campbell Street, Swan Hill

Phone: 03 5036 2480 Email: library@swanhill.vic.gov.au

This service is provided by the Swan Hill Rural City Council

