

ACTION PLAN 2025-2026



GLENELG LIBRARIES RESPECTFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE TRADITIONAL LANDS AND WATERS OF THE GUNDITJMARA PEOPLE, BUNGANDITJ PEOPLE, JARDWADJALI PEOPLE AND THEIR RESPECTIVE CULTURAL HERITAGES. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO AUSTRALIA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE AND IDENTITY. WE RESPECTFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITY LIVING THROUGHOUT THE GLENELG SHIRE AND THE CONTRIBUTION THEY MAKE TO GLENELG SHIRE'S PROSPERITY AND WELLBEING.



OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

OUR VISION

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

Our collection is our core service, but a modern library is so much more than books and DVDs. We have ebooks and eaudio, children's activities, programs for young people and adults, workspaces, relaxing spaces, community spaces, computers, printers and free wifi. Get connected at your library.

OUR COMMITMENT

At Glenelg Libraries we are committed to providing user-friendly accessible library services that connect library users to information and resources, technology and online services, one another, the community and Glenelg Shire's cultural and Aboriginal heritage.

We care about our community and strive to ensure that every person's library experience – in our libraries, online or at community events – is the best it can be

OUR PRIORITIES

Through consultation with library users, stakeholders and the community, Glenelg Libraries has identified four strategic priorities for the next five years.



PRIORITY PROJECTS

- Seek funding/partnerships for the redevelopment of the Heywood and Casterton Libraries.
- Upgrade of the Library Website.
- Develop and implement a community engagement plan for Library services.
- Expand the range and reach of programming across the Shire.

WELCOMING AND VIBRANT PLACES AND SPACES

KEY OBJECTIVES

Over the next 5 years we will:

- 1.1. Plan and re-develop engaging, culturally inclusive and contemporary library branches across the Shire.
- 1.2. Upgrade the library website to make it more appealing, functional and user-friendly.
- 1.3. Explore opportunities to enhance community access to library services through expanded use of the Library Outreach van, outreach and express library service models.
- 1.4. Explore and implement revisions to library opening hours across the Shire to optimise community access to library services.



Action

Continuous improvement of all library branches, by changing displays and moving zones to ensure contemporary, vibrant and welcoming spaces, including furniture

Undertake Community Engagement for Heywood Library Revitalisation Project

Explore opportunities for expanding study spaces and temporary work/meeting areas within our branches

Continue to seek opportunities to include culturally inclusive First Nations materials within our collection and spaces

Utilise the Outreach van at smaller local community attended events in the Shire – curated collection onboard

Activate outdoor and green spaces at Portland Library

Undertake community engagement regarding opening hours at Casterton Library

Investigate options for upgrading self service machine

Work towards unified experience in all library branches, ie: posters, feedback, branding

LITERACY AND LIFELONG LEARNING

KEY OBJECTIVES

Over the next 5 years we will:

- 2.1. Expand the range and reach of library programming across the Shire to increase community engagement to benchmark levels.
- 2.2. Focus library programming on:
 - early years' and childhood literacy
 - lifelong learning and lifestyle programs
 - digital inclusion
 - social connections and community health and wellbeing.
- 2.3. Develop and implement a community engagement plan which uses a variety of media and communication channels to increase awareness and understanding of available library services.
- 2.4. Undertake deliberative engagement with library users and partners in the identification, planning, design, development, promotion, delivery, location and evaluation of library programs.



Action

Facilitate regular early literacy programs and outreach sessions across the Shire

Facilitate reading, creative and learning activities and programs for children and young people across the Shire, including regular school holiday programs

Continuation of Libraries After Dark program in Portland - including weekly activities promoting art, health, lifestyle and connection

Update of Collection Management Plan to ensure we maintain a current inclusive collection that represents our community

Develop Community Engagement Plan outlining media and communication strategies to increase awareness and understanding of available library services

Facilitate regular programs and events for adults including author and events, creative programs, bookchat, information sessions, workshops, health and lifestyle programs across the Shire

Coordinate Seniors Month events and programs across the Shire

Develop and implement a Library of Things

Implementation of the Vichealth Local Government Program projects developing connections for young people, building active communities and promoting creative activities at a local level

ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE SERVICES

KEY OBJECTIVES

Over the next 5 years we will:

- 3.1. Continue to provide access to computers, portable devices, wifi, printing, copying and scanning equipment which enable people across the Shire to connect to online information, resources, applications and services.
- 3.2. Continue to provide technology support and skill development opportunities at the library to reduce the impact of digital isolation.
- 3.3 Continue to expand the quality, range and ease of access to ebooks, eaudiobooks and other digital resources



| |
|--|
| Action |
| Hold digital literacy short workshops across the Shire – topics may include using apps, library resources, social media, Borrowbox, email, Canva, Kanopy, Facetime, online safety, sharing, saving and storing files and photos |
| Continue to seek out new technologies/digital programs available and keep technology up to date for users |
| Continue to provide access to computers, portable devices, wifi and printing/photocopying across our branches |
| Continue to provide digital assistance for community members |
| Strengthen partnerships with government and other organisations with online platforms to explore providing digital assistance and information workshops for the community |
| Continue to expand digital collections and offer platforms E-books, digital resources and streaming services for patrons |

NETWORK OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS

KEY OBJECTIVES

Over the next 5 years we will:

- 4.1. Engage, consult and collaborate with community partners to align, where relevant, service delivery in relation to community wellbeing, family and children services, youth development, aged and disability services, and arts and culture.
- 4.2. Strengthen our connections with local education providers (from kindergartens to the U3A) and welfare organisations.
- 4.3. Strengthen connections with local community groups across the Shire.
- 4.4. Strengthen relationships with Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation, Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation and Dhauwurd Wurrung Elderly and Community Health Service (DWECH) to improve opportunities for cultural inclusion within the Library services.



Action

Hold tours of our branches and present to local community groups to share information on resources and explore opportunities for new partnerships and networks

Continue to strengthen connections and partnerships with local community organisations across the Shire for outreach early literacy storytimes and programs (ie: United Way Glenelg, Playgroups, Kindergartens, DWECH & Windamara)

Continue to partner with community organisations and other GSC work units to support initiatives that support First Nations culture

Continue to partner with Justice of the Peace to provide weekly services in Portland, consider expansion to Heywood and/or Casterton

Strengthen connections with other local community organisations across the Shire for outreach literacy, learning and creative programs (ie: schools, U3A, community craft groups, aged care, Portland Arts Centre, Julia Street Creative Space, Neighbourhood House)

Continue collaboration between Child and Youth/Vichealth Project Officer, Council's Youth department, Hands Up Casterton and Casterton Community centre to deliver a suite of programming for young people across our branches

Continue collaboration between Child and Youth/Vichealth Project Officer, Libraries After Dark, Portland Arts Centre and Saturday Arts with local community members, community organisations and local businesses to deliver contemporary and relevant programs and events for adults and families across our branches

Explore opportunities for partnership with government and employment organisation to provide local employment information and skills workshops

Develop a Library welcome pack for new residents and visiting community members