

# LibraryPLUS Project Adelaide & Melbourne Site Tour Workshop Notes

January – March 2016

## Adelaide Metropolitan Library Tour - 2 February 2016

Notes from previous workshop 9/2/2016)

- Walkerville Library (Town of Walkerville)
- St. Peters Library (City of Norwood, Payneham and St. Peters)
- City Library (City of Adelaide)
- Cove Civic Centre – Hallett Cove (City of Marion)

### WALKERVILLE: One site

Address	66 Walkerville Terrace, Walkerville
Builder/Architect/Designer	Sarah Constructions (Builder) JPE (Architect)
Year of Build	2014
Approximate Cost	\$10m (total building)
Approximate Size	Total Building size 1117 sq m
Features	Connected customer service / library / foyer spaces
Notes	

Thoughts, observations and comments made -

- Has a good presence on Main Road
- Library becomes a bit of a hub by being combined with Civic Centre and Town Hall
- Integration with Civic Centre works well - design flows from Council Chamber to Library to Town Hall
- Town Hall allows weddings, christenings etc. but acoustics needed addressing
- Library approximately 400 m<sup>2</sup>
- Maybe too open as noise travels from kids area – larger kids area required for their users
- Security guard is needed after hours, due to openness of Civic Centre and Town Hall, for toilet access
- Publicly available meeting room for hire with audio / video facilities
- Tables with Scrabble and Connect 4 near entrance area – very inviting
- Installing dedicated local history area
- Good level of technology
- Promotions on touch screens can print
- Audio section with small room for listening
- Automated lighting and air conditioning – run off solar
- Good natural light but may be issues with some PC screens
- Are such high spec finishes required?
  
- Advice from Walkerville staff –
  - Not enough meeting rooms and truly quiet spaces (this is important)
  - Suggested we visit Strathalbyn Library
  - AV screen in general area for playing movie events etc. would be good

**ST PETERS:** Three library sites across the Council area with staff rostered over 108 open hours per week

Address	101 Payneham Road St Peters
Builder/Architect/Designer	Phillips/Pilkington Architects and Flightpath Architects
Year of Build	2012
Approximate Cost	\$7.75m – 50% Federal grant
Approximate Size	Unknown
Features	Retrofit of the existing Town Hall with a mezzanine level. Includes a Cultural Heritage centre
Notes	Heritage Architecture Award as well as a Commendation Award in the Public Architecture award category, in the 2013 South Australian Architects Awards

Thoughts, observations and comments made -

- Feedback from community through design process highlighted that people didn't like others walking through collections as thoroughfares. Designed seating breakout areas around periphery of collection
- Community Hub revitalising St Peters
- Civic precinct – a strong presence on a main road
- Flooring along edges of ground floor was timber which was noisy
- Mezzanine floor had coffee/tea making facilities and a range of seating areas and styles and nice views. Interesting the mezzanine area was empty during our visit/tour
- Collection would not fit without the mezzanine
- Challenges in an historic building physically connecting two buildings with large corridor to allow access at separate times
- Meeting rooms as well as EHA and 3D Radio on site as tenants
- Greater integration with Cultural Heritage than most libraries. This service is well resourced
- Quarterly rotation of cultural collection displays
- Quiet space provided in cultural area – again empty during visit
- No Digital Hub but one-on-one training provided
- Separate meeting rooms for community to book with kitchen facilities and additional exterior access with ramp. Despite being vacant during tour, these were mentioned as a success of the renovations
- Visitations have increased by 40% once reopened with capacity to run larger programs
- No Self-Service capability
- Loading zone for library deliveries needs careful consideration
  
- Advice from St Peters staff –
  - The front counter functionality did not work – there is a new counter being installed at the end of February 2016
  - Had some acoustic issues with the design
  - Pram / wheelchair access has been difficult – often the case with historic buildings
  - More space around public computer area would be beneficial
  - Working on two levels has logistical challenges as well as passive surveillance issues

**ADELAIDE:** Multiple sites – staff have a home branch and 2<sup>nd</sup> branch and rotate between

Address	Level 3, Rundle Plaza, Rundle Mall, Adelaide
Builder/Architect/Designer	Hassell – Architect and Internal Design
Year of Build	2014 – 11 month project
Approximate Cost	\$2.2m (fitout) – leased space
Approximate Size	1900sq m
Features	Events space, outdoor reading room, history hub, digital hub, media and innovation lab and gallery space
Notes	Technology focus with two thirds being 'people space' intended for events, functions, seminars, exhibitions and training.

Thoughts, observations and comments made -

- Central Adelaide site upstairs just off Rundle Mall
- People were upset about other Library shutting down but the service had outgrown the leased premises in Grote Street
- Community consultation with existing library customers took place before design/fit out
- Community generated vision which went to the Elected Members. Vision guided everything
- Operational manual for library developed at same time as design/fit out
- Main entrance opens into event space. Flexible digital hub space able to expand event area.
- Flooring was not carpet but it wasn't noisy
- A library is about life-long learning and books are only one of those tools
- Multi-skilled staff rotate between collections and program delivery and interchange between branches
- 50% of borrowings will be digital
- Run satellite digital programs
- Own social media channels – similar to Prospect
- Large staff work room for books collections etc – no chairs
- Design and layout of library areas very flexible with shelving on wheels (but this was expensive) and moveable signage on shelves, and staff know how to make sure its flexible and adaptive
- Facilities in the ceiling for pull down screens for hanging art displays etc
- No café but hot and cold water available for coffee/tea making and washing up. Can bring your own food.
- Some areas separated by tall plants (Mother-in-laws tongue) – very effective
- Outdoor area with tables / chairs, plants and herbs growing and power points available – great feel and great views
- Recycled milk crates used to create chairs and tables
- Sunday Lego Club for kids to build various models which are displayed in cabinets for the week until next session
- Lots of pin board space for information and displays
- 60 volunteers assist with innovation lab and digital hub
- Volunteers have lockers / shower facilities / hot desking
- Good view lines and glimpses through the collection making the area feel more open, inviting and vibrant

Studio 1

- Walls can move to change the space
- Hidden sinks behind sliding walls

## HALLETT COVE – CIVIC CENTRE:

Address	1 Ragamuffin Drive, Hallett Cove
Builder/Architect/Designer	Mossop Construction + Interiors, Hassell Architect
Year of Build	2015 – Build time 18 months
Approximate Cost	\$13.4m (\$3.4m Federal grant) – engaged consultant and an advocate to push – several unsuccessful grant applications.
Approximate Size	2000sq m
Features	Library enterprise hub and community spaces. Designed to reflect the history and culture of the local community and has environmental and natural coastal features.
Notes	

Thoughts, observations and comments made -

- Engaged with the community prior to building –
  - if we build this business facility would you use it?
  - Hallett Cove and Edwardstown Business Associations are strong in running sessions in the Enterprise Centre.
  - Enterprise Centre key driver for federal funding
  - Building design followed 5 guiding principles – Community lounge room feel, Building to reflect coastal environment (and others)
- Doesn't scream City of Marion – in fact the Council logo or the word 'Library' is not found on the outside of the building
- Previous library at Hallett Cove was 17 years as a temporary location
- One central 'customer-service' point - multi trained staff can assist customers for all services
- Open Kitchen with large table and stools, sink, coffee/tea making / microwave and oven – used by chefs and authors etc. for presentations. No real bookings – just gets used
- Large flexible hall space can be one area or divided into four separate sections with total seating for 200 people. Can be opened out for indoor/outdoor functions with power points outside
- Has a sprung floor(part) for dance / yoga / exercise programs
- Inbuilt storage concealed by sliding doors for children's chairs and play equipment
- Toilet facilities have sensor opening and closing doors – no touching
- Locker area can be hired for \$1 (refundable). Each locker has a power point in it for charging phones etc.
- Library section can be locked off during non-opening hours
- Library shelving on wheels for easy movement
- Flooring had a terrazzo look – but fairly quiet. Voices did carry but the Centre was not busing during visit. Children's area was carpeted
- High ceilings – cherry picker needed to change a light bulb. Acoustics work better with lower roof areas
- Open office area for staff but has a 'Quiet' area, and staff have lockers, kitchen facilities and their own toilets
- No security monitoring or even passive surveillance (views) of public area from staff offices
- Visitations have doubled since re-locating to this library but will it hold?
- Room hire facilities have created an income stream

Main concerns:

- Not overly inviting - the area seemed to be too large (more like a barn), but would the population increase grow into it?

- No normal Council services provided – missed opportunity?
- Materials and finishes were a bit cold, uninviting and not engaging (i.e. chairs that you didn't feel you were allowed to move). Other white plastic chairs already dirty.

### **Melbourne Library Tour – 29 February 2016**

- Melton Library & Learning Hub (Melton City Council)
- Braybrook Community Hub (Maribyrnong City Council)
- Library @ the Dock (City of Melbourne)
- Boyd Community Hub (City of Melbourne)
- Melbourne City Library (City of Melbourne)
- Kathleen Syme Library & Community Centre (City of Melbourne)

### **Melton Library and Learning Hub – Western Region development**



Builder/Architect/Designer	ASCO Constructions/FJMT
Year of Build	July 2013
Approximate Cost	\$20 m
Approximate Size	3500 sqm
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service over two levels.</li> <li>• Community partnerships including Maternal and Child Health Services.</li> <li>• Sustainable design and energy efficient</li> <li>• A 5 Star Green Star accreditation from the Green Building Council of Australia</li> <li>• Sustainable building materials and energy efficient design to minimise heating and cooling costs</li> <li>• It uses 52% less electricity</li> <li>• 60% less gas</li> <li>• 82% less water than with standard building practices</li> <li>• Produces 45% less in greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>• Total FTE – 15 ongoing FTE</li> <li>• Training and business incubator helps to up-skill the community and provides opportunities for economic diversification</li> </ul>

Large building with lots of timber – but a great warm and welcoming feel

Original Library facility was 800m2 but the Library/Hub is now 3500m2

Building is environmentally sustainable – 5 star Green Rating

Funding for building –

State Government Grant of \$750,000 + an additional \$500,000  
(\$100,000 from WSUD Fund)

Federal Government - \$4 million (had to apply twice to get funding)

Council – contributed \$15 million over 2 financial years

\*Business excellence accelerator and Incubator - western BACE separate from library.  
\$22m grant received. Bace, Mark Corey [Westernbace.com.au](http://Westernbace.com.au)

Plans to re-develop the outside area (the broader main street) into a shopping/café precinct  
– Pride of Melton Project. Council used the opportunity to set the standard for the upgrade  
of the precinct.

Two-storey building flowed well with flexible meeting rooms (each with kitchenette), sliding  
doors and walls. Multiple training rooms. Spacious computer area.

Three-tier booking rate for rooms – Member, Resident, Commercial

\$6,000 per annum revenue from hot desk

Café started as social enterprise but was not successful and is now Council operated

See-through library shelving for a more open feel and on wheels for easy movement. Also  
each shelf unit had 'display' shelving which was much more inviting to see the collection.  
Carpeted flooring – good for acoustics

\*Library will no longer be mailing notices from 1 April due to increased postage costs. Only  
by email or text.

87 seat Theatre room for hire @ \$300 per day with lectern, drop down screen, video  
conferencing, roaming microphone. Well utilised as unique to the type of facilities available  
for hire in the region.

Council Customer Services included at front counter as well as Civic Centre (different site)

Multiple tenancies (permanent tenants help to cover operating costs as income source) –  
tenant mix is important

Community Services include:

Maternal Child Health, Radio Mixing / Recording Studio, Information and  
Communication, Technology Classrooms

Family History Research Area

Integrated Facility Service Providers include:

Federation University – is this a Prospect opportunity?, Brimbank Melton Community Legal Centre, Volunteer West, New Hope Foundation (migrant and refugee resettlement service providers)

Outdoor area looked good but was receiving zero use on our visit.

### Braybrook Community Hub – 11 months old



Builder/Architect/Designer	Vincent Crisp Architects
Year of Build	March 2015
Approximate Cost	\$12.5 m
Approximate Size	1400 sqm (excluding staff areas, meeting & training rooms), total of approximately 1800 sqm
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnerships with Cohealth, Active Maribyrnong, Melbourne City Mission &amp; Braybrook Men's Shed</li> <li>• Environmental initiatives such as solar powered external lighting, sensor activated lighting throughout building</li> <li>• Community garden, maternal and child health services, sports pavilion and public art installations</li> <li>• Joint funding arrangement</li> <li>• Library cafe</li> </ul>

Won Local Government Professionals Award – Council very proud of the various services offered in the hub. Something for everyone in this low socio-economic profile area

Lots of concrete in the exterior build

Had a very business-like entrance which lacked the welcoming feel.

Large Community Hall – with acknowledged acoustic issues and many on the group reflected that working around this existing hall was a flaw in the process

Library section carpeted – good acoustics and generally a good feel in the library area itself.

See through shelving on wheels for flexibility

## Self-serve Check Outs

Central Information Section with shelving flowing out from there

Study areas and a separate Quiet Study Room. Quiet study area was noticed by the group as being less inviting than others we had seen.

## Other Services provided at the Hub:

Maternal and Child Health (including breast feeding room)

Cohealth (access to GP & specialist medical services) – Income from this tenant

Optometry Clinic located within Cohealth

Early Learning Centre – with separate rooms for 3 and 4 year olds

Mens's Shed (indoors and next to Library?)

Sports Pavilion (with direct access to sports grounds, change rooms with no activity on the day we visited)

4 Community meeting rooms

Computer Training rooms (which can be accessed from outside but no access to Library)

Multi-Faith Room with acknowledged issues/ learnings that arose once built

All rooms are bookable

Large Shared Staff Room to integrate staff from different function areas, with commercial kitchen which can also be hired. Staff courtyard appeared to be a less than inviting space.

Outsourced Café near front entrance not being used at the moment – no interest from commercial sector in operating this

Many comments noted the Institutional feel of the facility with so many rooms, wasted space and lots of passages.

Considerable disadvantage in that community, is now well served by a facility that offers many options and services. Many elements not easily translatable to Prospect.



**Library at the Dock - LendLease partnership, City of Melbourne, Victorian Government**



Builder/Architect/Designer	LendLease/Clare Design
Year of Build	May 2014
Approximate Cost	\$26 m
Approximate Size	3000 sqm
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gallery space</li> <li>• 120-seat theatre space with retractable seating</li> <li>• Recording studio</li> <li>• A semi-outdoor terrace where you can play table tennis on artificial grass, and where louvred walls and roof can open up to the park view and the sky for natural ventilation</li> <li>• In the dedicated kids' reading area there are child-scaled curving shelf units designed by the Clares and an interactive floor</li> <li>• The building is constructed almost entirely of CLT, Cross Laminated Timber, which is 30 per cent lighter than traditional structures – a crucial feature given the library rests on a 75-year-old wharf. CLT also has a much lower carbon footprint.</li> <li>• 85 kW solar panels on the roof</li> <li>• Water harvesting for flushing toilets</li> <li>• Central skylights that act as ventilation chimneys</li> <li>• All furniture and fitout meets Green Star ratings</li> </ul>

Fantastic location with great water views

Amazing 6 Star Green Energy Rated with use of sustainable timber products (Cross-laminated and recycled timbers throughout)

Three storey building but Library signage not a strong presence and not as inviting/welcoming as it could have been

**Their recommendation - Keep name of library as people relate to it and trust it**

A lot of community consultation occurred prior to building the Library, including pop-up libraries and this was needed as the community was brand new and developing with the high density apartments. Results of community consultation — Connect / Learn / Create model

There are a large number of families and retirees living in Docklands high-rise apartments with high incomes needing a Community Hub. There is a Children's Hub next door.

Great Café at the entrance to the Library – privately operated – not for profit social enterprise, open to 7pm when rest of facility closes at 5pm. More of a Café plus books, rather than many other Libraries with internal Cafés we had visited.

Lay-out had a book-shop feel to the collections. Shelving in wheels but not see through and some commented it was a bit high which closed the feel

Childrens' area had an Interactive mat which changes every 2 minutes

Large activity rom with flexible seating that can be hired out as well as Large study area and separate room

Information desks are knowledge desks, specialist in each area available across all floors

Bookable spaces require induction due to high-level technology involved. Specialist in emerging technologies on staff - Ben

They have a 'Community animator' role position coordinating space

Gallery Exhibition Area where they work with Uni students

Community Lounge Room with a welcoming feel. Grassed floor area with 2 Table Tennis Tables

Large Computer area and Knowledge Hub – Music / Recording Studio

Working towards On-Line booking services for studio and Community Rooms

Run programs in partnerships with organisations and are based on community feedback, or gaps identified by research

Touchscreen tables (see photo)

Exhibitions with maritime partners to tell the dock story - past, present & future

Learning what to do with 3D printers, Google pens etc..

Workshops on how to make 3D environments for history story telling etc...This work becomes part of the collection.

Egg chairs with VR. History of cloud documentary now showing.

Showers for community to use

800 Visitors/ day and 120,000 in first year (seemed low to members of our group)

## Boyd Community Hub



Builder/Architect/Designer	-
Year of Build	2012
Approximate Cost	\$20 m (building and land purchased for \$10.5 m)
Approximate Size	-
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage listed building of the former JH Boyd Girls High School, purchased by City of Melbourne for \$10.1m in 2007.</li> <li>• Integrated Community facility that includes Library, café, family services, community meeting rooms and studio (Creative Spaces)</li> </ul>

Heritage listed building surrounded by high-rise buildings / apartments

Built in 1890's as the JH Boyd Domestic High School. Now owned and operated by City of Melbourne. Re-fit complete in 2012

Small site containing Café / Meeting Rooms / Maternal Child Health Service / Playgroups as well as the Library

Strong Chinese population with families living in the area

As the Library is small they looked at the demographic for a point of difference. Section of Chinese language books

Layout had a bookshop feel with shelving on wheels and small centred seating areas

Computers down each side of the building

Reasonable size café in separate room and lounge area

Assembly Hall with kitchenette

FREE WiFi throughout

Second Floor:

Family Counsellors

Maternal Health Care (City of Melbourne employees)

Artists' Studios – they lease these premises on a rotational basis

Many felt similarities with current Thomas Street Centre which was not desirable for our future.

## City Library



Quick visit mainly to see Gallery space

Situated in central Melbourne down a laneway

10,000 visitors each weekend

Very busy, happy atmosphere on entering

Large Café at entrance, also with separate street access, so functions more as a Café that happens to be next to Library rather than Library with internal Café

Upstairs art space for hire – used on alternative fortnights by artists for exhibition openings and musicians

Artists are promoted on Facebook, E-Letters etc. and this gallery space is reserved for unknown or emerging artists

The Library takes no responsibility for the works on show – artists must be on hand to sell the works, collect money etc.

There is a piano which can be played by the public (but only for those at a certain standard)

Library section had spacious computer area, lots of study / quiet spaces, but no meeting rooms



### Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre – Carlton



Builder/Architect/Designer	Harris HMC
Year of Build	July 2015
Approximate Cost	\$15.5 m
Approximate Size	-
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage listed building of the Royal Women's Hospital</li> <li>• Multicultural demographic with LOTE collection of 10% of Chinese, Japanese and Korean.</li> <li>• Includes recording studio, computer lab, conference room and meeting spaces,</li> </ul>

Two-Storey building

Heritage listed building with an extension added on which most attendees felt had been done very well with quality high end finishes

Great feel on entering the centre

Library section also had bookshop style shelving with many items facing out (display format)

Shelving not on wheels and not see-through

Carlton demographic 15 – 30 year olds (average age in Carlton is 27)

Second most common language spoken is Chinese and there were lots of bi-lingual books in the Childrens' Sections

Maximum use of facility only as good as induction to use for groups

Podcasting popular as part of video edit suite

Other areas include:

Activity Room for Aged Services with Commercial Kitchen – very light, bright and welcoming

Multiple meeting rooms and activity rooms

Learn 'English' room

Meeting and Reflection Room (this is a small room which could not be changed due to heritage restrictions on the building)

Art room – very bright coloured cupboards

Community Hub open longer hours than the Library section

## **DEBRIEF:**

- We don't need everything but what we have should be the best. Quality stands out in what we saw today.
- What works in one area doesn't necessarily work in another – need to know our community and cater for their needs. Acknowledged previous study and current LibraryPLUS consultation occurring.
- Technology is clearly important
- Space must be flexible – not just for the next year, but for the next 10-20 years
- Space that flows is important rather than numerous narrow corridors and areas that feel open without being empty is the right balance
- Inside / Outside space is great but can not be an afterthought
- Have some interesting things – e.g. a piano and not just a room full of books
- Be aware of the number and demographic of people we need to service
- Braybrook had too many rooms and corridors, but the Library section was good and light. It was universally viewed as one which tried to provide everything to everyone and in doing so, did not meet the mark of what City of Prospect would be trying to achieve
- Have some chairs that have back support for the older demographic and be careful with the colour and type of furnishings. Melton had some that already looked stained, worn out and tired.

- Watch the balance between books and activities
- The warmth between some of the libraries was very different – we need to be careful who we choose as an architect and must brief them well. They should be instructed to visit the ones we believed had the best features AND feel
- Melton and the Partnerships appeared to work very well
- Docklands use of space / quiet areas / outside area really good – and a Coffee shop that appeared to be more successful than most in Libraries. Library at the Dock
- Can have a multiple storey building that works well but be aware of resourcing costs. Overall ongoing operating costs of the building MUST be manageable
- Sightlines and space are hugely important within the building and beyond if views exist
- Floor treatments were very different in the libraries – some worked better than others and there were occasions where concrete floors actually worked
- Flexibility is the key
- Use of spaces out of Library hours need to be accessible so be careful with the design to be clear on how it will operate
- Consider the shape of areas/ spaces and furniture but remember comfort and inviting areas are important
- What can be get via sponsorships?
- If we choose the Prospect Oval area it needs the whole area to be developed with the Library HUB as the centrepiece which may be beyond our capacity
- The new LibraryPLUS needs to accommodate various groups of Prospect so they feel they own it
- Need to be careful about the ‘bundle’ we put together
- There is clearly a demand for people bringing their own devices and sitting with them using WiFi etc
- Outdoor space MAY be important but be clear on who will use it and how. Make sure it is not an afterthought
- Need to be clear on what we are trying to achieve and then make space for it
- Needs to be more than just a building; it needs to serve the community and be a space that is loved

## **KEY ISSUES:**

- Transformable Space

- Don't just have books but the books we have need to be displayed as best we can
- MUST be a service to the Community
- Partnerships and income streams
- Active Animated space, open and responsive
- Operating costs – replacement items, level of staffing

### **Adelaide Metropolitan Library Tour - 19 April 2016:**

- Civic Centre, Prospect Oval precinct and depot site (City of Prospect)
- Strathalbyn Library (Alexandrina Council)
- Coventry (Stirling) Library (Adelaide Hills Council)
- Burnside Library (City of Burnside)
- Campbelltown Library (City of Campbelltown)

**Attendees:** Mayor O'Loughlin, Cr Lee, Cr Barnett, Cr Bowman, Cr Harris, Cr Standen, Cr Evans (from 6.00pm at Campbelltown)

### **PROSPECT OVAL PRECINCT:**

North Adelaide Cricket Club clubrooms – 700m<sup>2</sup> total floor area on 350m<sup>2</sup> footprint– major building issues with cracking etc.

Croquet Club - 600m<sup>2</sup> – Prospect own the premises and would have to evict the club. There is nowhere obvious in the City of Prospect area to relocate them.

RSL- have shown no interest since late 2014 when their leadership changed.

The general location has poor comparative exposure but is blessed with reasonable access to two main roads and is in the geographic centre of the city.

However, it is not a vibrant location and Libraries perform best and add most to an already vibrant location.

If the Library was located on the eastern side of the oval it would not be connected to the Playground and in looking at the overall precinct, there is no real obvious best location. Consideration needs to be given to how well the two main uses (Sport and Library) will cross pollenate (if at all). Would there be issues competing with the Football game day crowds during winter?

The Darren Lehmann Cricket Academy is also interested in developing something.

### **TRAM BARN/DEPOT:**

Heritage listed and not large enough for a Library area – it is only 1/8<sup>th</sup> of the size needed at 300m<sup>2</sup>.

Could we use the barn section for the library and build one or two levels on the lean to sections to use for the Hub etc? Potentially yes but need to recognise the tram barn, whilst a feature, does represent a significant constraint that will impact on build cost.

The barn would not be good for a gallery space – damp walls, ventilation not consistent - galleries need a controlled atmosphere.



The site has good exposure to Main North Road and is close the current location. It would require off-street parking of at least 30 – 40 spaces.

The site could work but we would need to relocate the Depot which adds a further complexity. Could we sell the site and do a 100 year lease or something similar? All options remain on the table but will depend on market take-up.

With either of the above two locations, we should consider the danger of a busy road. Do not put the Children's area near automatically opening doors to the main road.

Crossing Main North Road is an important consideration for ANY site in our city.

### **STRATHALBYN: (Alexandrina Council)**

Built / Upgraded in 2011 for a cost of around \$5 million. It is a branch of the main library at Goolwa.

Had an inviting feel about it both inside and outside.

Three staff work there each – One Customer Service (Council services) and two Library staff.

The addition to the old building (which was previously a school) has been done well with floor to ceiling windows which let in lots of natural light. It is Eco Friendly with windows that open at certain temperatures.

250 – 260 visits per day. (Just under half the average of Prospect)

Shelving is a good height and on wheels for easy movement and flexibility.

Two meeting rooms, a Local History Room and Separate Reading Room – away from children's area and quieter.

Community Centre also attached.

Tea / Coffee making facilities with communal microwave.

Flooring is a mix of carpet (in the children's area) and terrazzo, but didn't seem too noisy.

Metal roof – acknowledged as noisy when it rains.

Children's Art/Craft area had storage shelves which could be hidden away by push button operated doors.

Consistent design language and clever signage helped with the positive feel that most of us experienced.

### **COVENTRY LIBRARY – STIRLING: (Adelaide Hills Council)**

Built in 2011. The Library Manager was strongly involved in the design.

Fabulous location and outlook onto a park connected to the vibrant Main Street which separates the Library from the Main Road.

Autumn colours flow through to the interior colourings giving it a warm welcoming feel with the design orientated as best it can to capitalise on the vista into the active park.

Provides Library and Council Services at separate desks (separate heights) – however, one large flow on desk would work much better.

Tuesday has the highest number of visitations – 1200 – as it is closed on Monday. Other weekdays average 800 visits, and the weekend 600-800 visits. Approx double the Prospect visitation.

A Central 'engine room' where staff can look out on to all areas of the library, which a Returns Bin that raises the books up for easy use by staff instead of bending down.

Near front entrance can be used as a function room – accommodates up to 200 people with some events held outside on the lawned area.

Tea / Coffee making facilities with tables and red chairs – called REFRESH.

The library shelving is not on rollers for easy movement, but the open shelving (at the bottom) gives the appearance of space. Several comments suggested open at the top would be a preferred option.

The Children's and Youth areas are quite separate – the children's areas has shelving on wheels, flexible design, carpet and can be locked off from front function space.

Business Centre – computer desks/seats and quite close together. Small businesses can advertise on computer screens FREE for 4 weeks.

The Community Room is free for use by Community groups, with a small fee for businesses.

Separate Training Room with computer and a pull down screen and projector.

Back Staff Office - all the work is done here – the other library branches offer front-line services only. There is a daily courier run between branches.

Back room storage is an issue.

## **BURNSIDE: 16 years old – 2,220m<sup>2</sup>**

Burnside was the first re-developed Library in SA and is the second busiest library after Tea Tree Gully with 1,000 visits per day and 780,000 – 800,000 loans per year.

The Library is about to start **RFID** (Radio Frequency Identification) for self-serve check out kiosks.

At the moment the entrance to the Library looks like a factory, with manual book return happening at the front and with customer service somewhat concealed behind it.

Shelving is too high and not on wheels so it has no flexibility.

The ceiling is low and the air conditioning blocks the view of the windows and natural light.

There is a Computer Training Room and a Local History Room

Good size Children's Library with Parenting Lounge adjacent which leads on to a large Toy Library and Events Area and separate Youth Room.

There is a computer section in the centre with 4 pods of 4 computers.

The semi-circular hallway which has the Library, Council Customer Service, Meeting Rooms, and Coffee shop leading off it, looked a bit like a train station with chairs against the walls and a stand of bus timetables.

## **CAMPBELLTOWN: Finished in 2010 – it took 14 months to complete**

Size increased from 1,282m<sup>2</sup> to 2,375m<sup>2</sup>

4,000 people joined the Library in the first 12 months and as a result there was a 25% increase in loans and the Toy Library doubled its borrowings.

They went from 11 to 50 public PCs.

25 Staff – 13 FTEs – large staff office with lots of storage space.

Not yet RFID.

The Youth Area has a pull-down scree and projector, lots of bean bags and cushions, but not particularly well used. It needs more youth events to activate it rather than a change in design. Area is not able to be closed off for noisy active group events.

Separate WiFi space and Quiet Study Area.

The Children's area also needs to be closed off as the noise carried from the Baby Bounce and similar sessions. A big metal tree (artistic statement piece) with multi coloured lighting was a feature in the Children's area with a chair at the base of the tree for story telling.

Large separate Toy Library.

Shelving was not on wheels except for the children's area.

Outdoor Garden area with Shade Sails and tables and chairs (recently replaced with plastic finish as the timber had warped in the weather). Second fence installed to stop theft opportunity. No utilisation at time of visit.

Large open Computer / Office type area for public use – photocopying, scanning, printing etc – all at a cost.

IT Suite / Training Room contained 15 computers stepped on three levels. There is a Kids Computer Club once a week.

The Local History room had windows that looked into the room from the library area. There is a Local History Officer in the centre three days a week.

The room had a fabulous feel with an old table and chairs in the centre but glass on display cabinets would help them to manage the space.

Multi-Media / Audio section with large lounge chairs and head phones.

The Art Display area was very bland – library staff have stated they had nothing to do with the displays. Artists do all the set up and arrange sales themselves but only pay a nominal amount to use the space to promote their work.

The meeting room can be divided into one or two rooms, however, it is not large enough for public meetings or to have invited Authors.

## **DEBRIEF:**

### Campbelltown

- lighting too bright and stark
- Floor plan good and functional
- Not enough room for authors' talks or public meetings
- Not keen on the colours – masculine, not modern

### Strathalbyn

- Service Desk at the entrance in good location - easy to find but not intrusive.
- Open Vista windows – lots of light
- Great design language, consistent throughout

### Stirling

- The park is an existing much loved open active space which becomes a feature of the library through its design to focus the views and natural light

### Burnside

- The parents area was inviting and useful but some opportunities have been missed to have the design and layout easy to follow (without signage)

## **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

- No cafes really worked in a big way across all libraries we have visited (other than the Dock and Melb CBD but that was more due to the busy space and ground level activation)
- We need a space for craft projects which can be left to come back to in a week's time. Need a wet area as part of a 'makers space'
- We need to engage kids, not just the older demographic
- History in Burnside foyer was quite good. History is a very important part of leaning
- Outdoor areas – inviting – roof top garden in Adelaide CBD was excellent
- Outdoor Space – have we seen one as good as Adelaide CBD? No. Many appear as an afterthought and that's their failure.
- Could we have multiple levels for books / IT Hub / Business Areas / Meeting Rooms / with a Roof Top Garden
- Youth Spaces are important – how do we engage the 12-25 year olds? Adelaide Uni Hub is fantastic for this age group

## **WHAT WAS AWESOME:**

- Strathalbyn – had lots of little nooky place for kids / people to read
- The colours blended, not too complicated, signs were all in lower-case
- Great integration from old to new; however, the verandah area hasn't worked because they ran out of money.