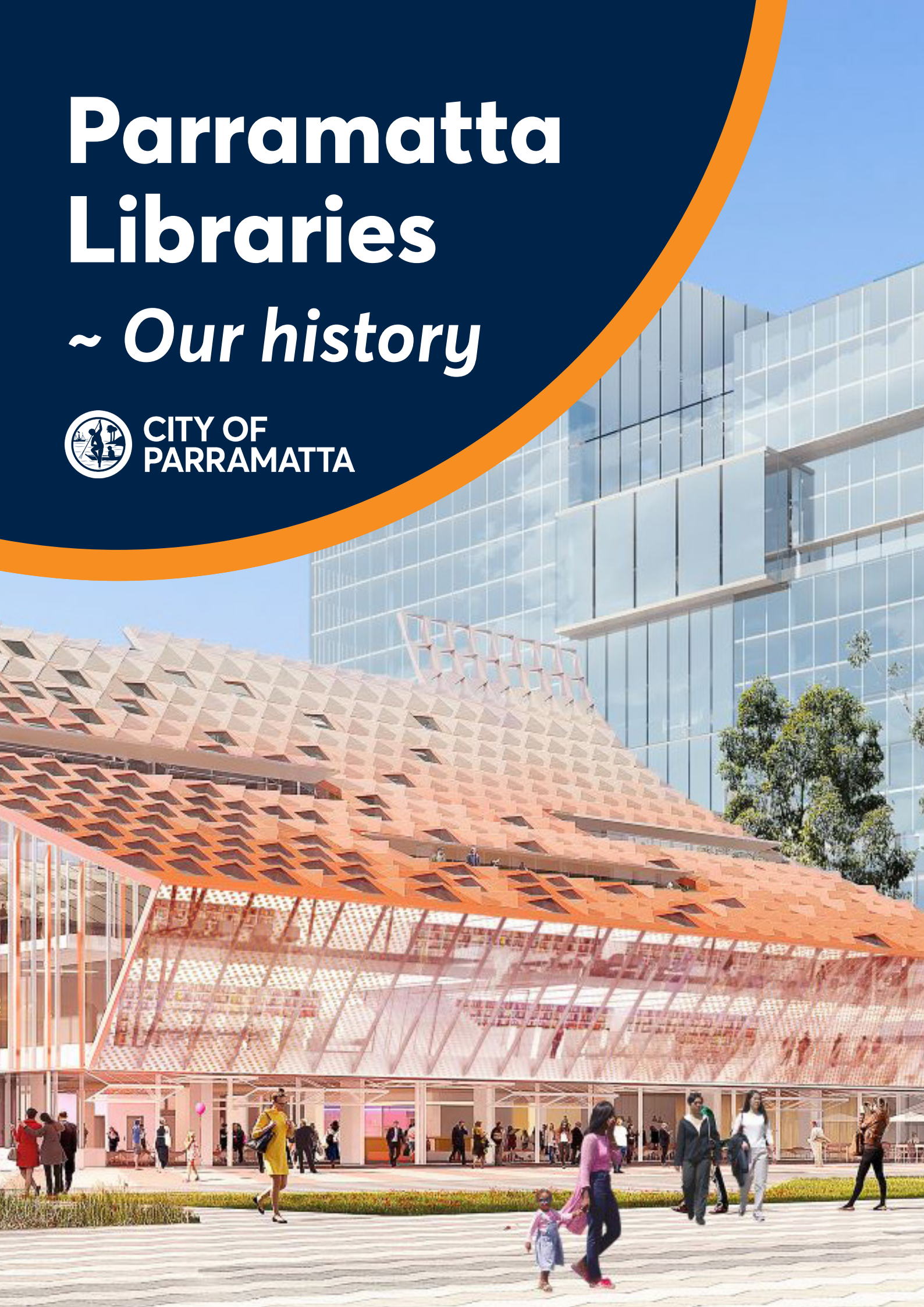


Parramatta Libraries

~ Our history



CITY OF
PARRAMATTA



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Front cover image: Artist impression of external view of PHive from Centenary Square (Source: City of Parramatta)

COMPILED BY:

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Branch Librarian/Team Leader - Heritage

September 2022

Research & Collection Services

Parramatta Heritage Visitor & Information Centre

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ISBN: 978-1-876941-48-2 (paperback)

ISBN: 978-1-876941-49-9 (ebook)

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This book has been compiled to celebrate the opening of City of Parramatta's new library and the new iconic building - new civic, cultural and community building. The six-storey building is dedicated to the community and has a contemporary public library, a Discovery Centre with exhibition spaces and visitor services, creative spaces and meeting rooms, Council Chambers, and a café. It is known as *Phive*. It is a place of pride that celebrates rich culture and unique heritage.

More information and stories on these [*Parramatta Libraries: Our History*](https://historyandheritage.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/) can be found on our website <https://historyandheritage.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/>

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We thank everyone who has helped in any way to bring about this book.

INTRODUCTION

Parramatta Council's first public library opened in 1958 in Jubilee Hall at Parramatta Town Hall. Jubilee Hall was previously used as offices by Council, however following Council's move to a new Administrative Building in 1958 the Hall became available for the library to begin operations.

This library service was officially inaugurated on the 29 November 1958, by Alderman D. J. Mahoney with Miss Margaret Miller, the City's first Chief Librarian, leading the library's operations.

In this publication, Research Team is reflecting on Parramatta Libraries' 64 years journey from First Library to opening other branches to state-of-the-art library at Phive.

Parramatta City Libraries Timeline 1958 to 2022

Neera Sahni

Year	Event
1958	Parramatta's first free Library opened in the Jubilee Hall No. 2 on 29 November 1958. Miss Margaret Miller as the first Chief Librarian. The library was opened by then Mayor, Alderman DJ Mahoney in front of a crowd of 100 people that included Tom Uren Minister, House of Representatives for Reid. A children's Library was in the Prince Alfred Park at Market Street opposite what is now the Riverside Theatres
1959	Dundas Children's Library was opened in the front room of Dundas Town Hall with the opening times of 3-5 pm Monday to Friday.
1959	Granville Branch Library opened in the Granville Town Hall.
1963	Ermington and Dundas Branch Library opened.
1964	Guildford Branch Library opened. Newly built Central Library building in Civic Place was officially opened.
1965	Formation of a joint Library service involving Parramatta City Council and Baulkham Hills Shire Council. Resignation of Miss Margaret Miller as City Librarian. Appointment of Mr. John Taylor as the new Chief Librarian.
1971	Library services were established at Baulkham Hills, Castle Hill and Carlingford.
1972	The Baulkham Hills based 'Bookmobile' service was introduced.
1975	The first Local History Librarian was appointed. Granville Branch opened.
1978	The Dural branch was opened at Round Corner, Dural. Another joint library service agreement is reached with Holroyd Council to establish branches at Merrylands, Wentworthville, and Greystanes.
1979	The Central Library extensions were completed. The Audio-Visual Section was opened.
1980	Opening of Wentworthville Branch Library.
1983	Introduction of the Housebound Readers Services.

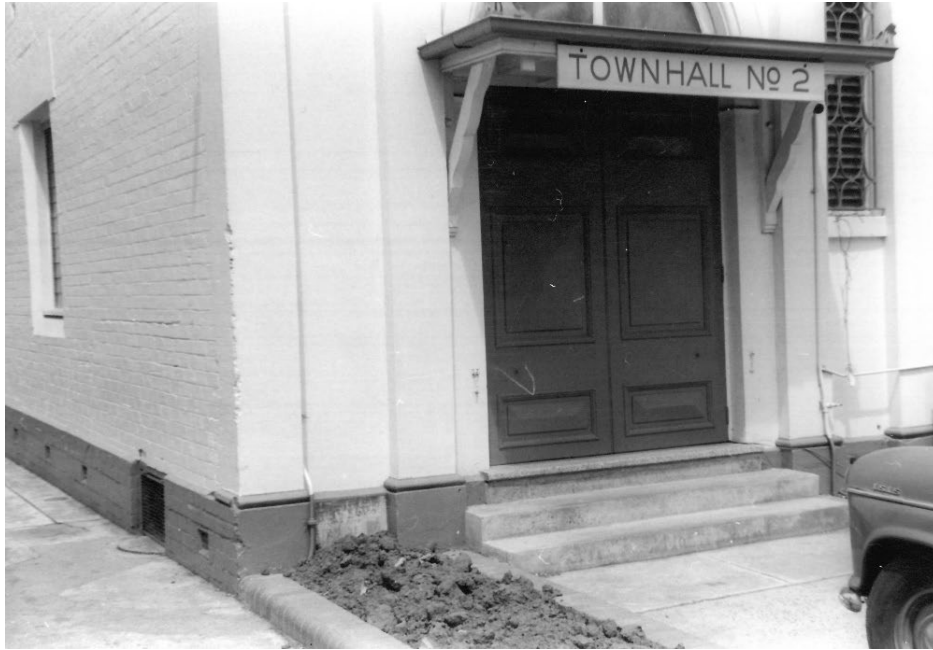
1984	Introduction of Saturday afternoon opening.
1987	New Bookmobile carrying about 2200 books.
1989	Baulkham Hills Shire Council severed ties with Parramatta and resolved to operate their own Library Service.
1990	Holroyd Council followed suit and decided to take responsibility for their Libraries. Opening of Emma Crescent Branch Library (also known as Toongabbie and now Constitutional Hill).
1991	PCC Lib appoints Katherine Mitchell first Young Adult Librarian – a first in NSW. The collection combined with HSC books services the 13-18 year olds.
1992	Arrival of computerisation for Central and Branches.
1993	A new video collection for Audio Visual was opened. Dundas Library Extended and refurbished.
1995	Retirement of Miss Winsome Collingridge and appointment of Ms Meredith Wallace as the new Library Manager. CD-ROM technology came to the Information Services section. Guildford Library refurbished and extended. Libraries go on-line. Public library provided with a multimedia computer linked to the internet and new information services made possible by Federal government grant. Optus Vision cable to network Complete refurbishment of Parramatta Central Library, introduction of internet services, multicultural collection, establishment of a lending collection, basic English collection and introduction of CD-Roms
1996	Internet on-line Launch of the compact Disc music collection. Language collection now in 13 languages. The Parramatta Heritage Centre – incorporating the Visitor's Centre was officially opened on the 29 th August 1998. Chinese (Traditional) Community Language Collection established Chinese (Simplified) Community Language Collection established
1997	Italian Community Language Collection established Greek Community Language Collection established
1998	The Parramatta Heritage Centre - incorporating the Visitor's Centre was moved from the library to new premises in Church Street. It was officially opened on the 29th August 1998. The move resulted in far more facilities and room to house the collections. Vietnamese Community Language Collection established Turkish Community Language Collection established
1999	Community Information Directory launched

	Hindi Community Language Collection established
2000	'Changing lifestyles open library doors on Sundays' reads the headlines of the Daily Telegraph on 15 Jan 2000 Technology Learning Centre at Parramatta City Library Korean Community Language Collection established
2001	Ermington Library extended & refurbished DVD collection Multicultural Excellence Awards 2001 for the establishment of a new Korean Collection at Parramatta City Library Resignation of Ms Meredith Wallace as Library Manager Appointment of Mr Roger Henshaw as the New Library Manager
2002	Web based catalogue Parramatta Library refurbished
2003	Talking books available in CDT format
2004	New computer system installed – AMLIB on 13 October 2004 Councils Online with 5 Councils - Parramatta, Hornsby, Randwick, Lake Macquarie and Wyong
2005	Constitution Hill renovations completed Live Homework Help – now known as Tutor Online
2006	Technology Learning Centre at Ermington Branch Library Resignation of Mr Roger Henshaw as Library Manager
2007	Technology Learning Centre at Dundas, Guildford, Granville & Constitution Hill Branch Libraries Net Loan Pro – Computer reservation system for public use Parramatta Library ground floor refurbished August – Naming of Darug Room Persian Community Language Collection established
2008	RFID – Radio Frequency Identification 50 th anniversary Parramatta City Library service - November 29 Parramatta Libraries – 2008 True Local Business Awards Winner Community Service Not-For-Profit Organisation Awarded to Parramatta City Council Library Multicultural Excellence Award 2008 in recognition of outstanding contribution to Multicultural Library Services, Public Libraries NSW Metropolitan Association Inc. (State Library NSW) Local Government Multicultural Health Communication Awards 2008 Winner. Parramatta City Council Library "Community Health Promotion for Chinese Community"
2010	Constitution Hill Library connected to Wi-Fi on 8 th May
2012	New library software "Symphony" goes live in March Your Digital Library launch (Wheeler Books) on 17 th May <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 new eBook readers • eBooks, eAudio available 24/7 to the community

2015	RFID – full conversion from magnetic security (3M Tattle tape) to RFID security in November
2016	<p>Parramatta Library, Civic Place closed permanently to make way for the build of the new library on 8 August</p> <p>Parramatta library relocates to 1-3 Fitzwilliam Street, Parramatta, on 14 August, a temporary premise while the new library is being built in the new Parramatta Square (previously known as Civic Place)</p> <p>Council Amalgamation on 12 May. Parramatta council now includes sections of Hills Council, Hornsby Council & Auburn Council</p> <p>Granville & Guildford Libraries are now in the Cumberland Council area</p> <p>Carlingford, Epping, Newington Wentworth Point Libraries are now in the Parramatta Council area</p> <p>Proclamation on 12 May - new council is called "The City of Parramatta"</p> <p>Guildford Library closed – acquired by the new Cumberland Council on 27 September</p> <p>Newington Library opened - acquired from Auburn Council on 29 September</p> <p>Granville Library closed - acquired by the new Cumberland Council on 13 October</p> <p>Epping Library opened – acquired from Hornsby Council on 4 November</p> <p>Carlingford Library opened – acquired from The Hills Council on 11 November</p>
2020	Earthworks and preparation for construction of 5 Parramatta Square
2021	Construction underway for 5 Parramatta Square
2022	23 September 2022 – opening of Phive – Parramatta Library

Parramatta's First Library

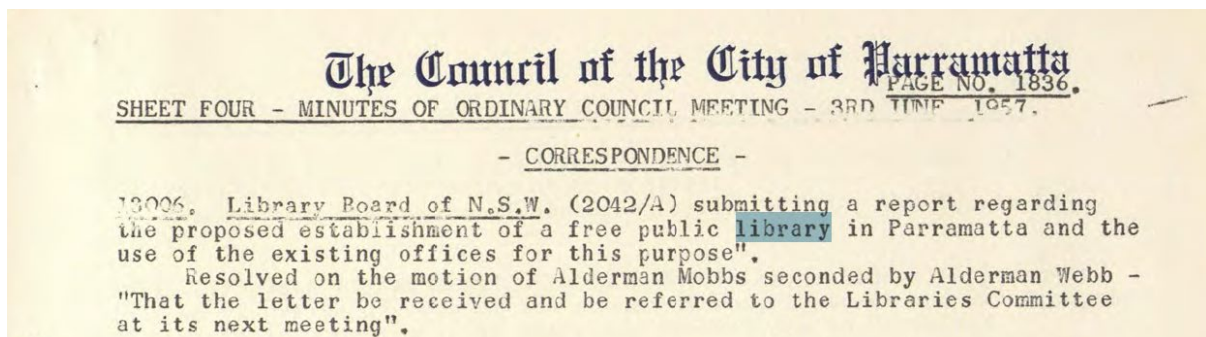
Neera Sahni



Parramatta's First Library. Source: City of Parramatta Library

Parramatta's first free library was officially opened by His Worship the Mayor, Alderman [Daniel John Mahoney](#) (1909-1996) on Saturday 29th November 1958 in front of a crowd of 100 people at Jubilee Hall No. 2 at Parramatta Town Hall.

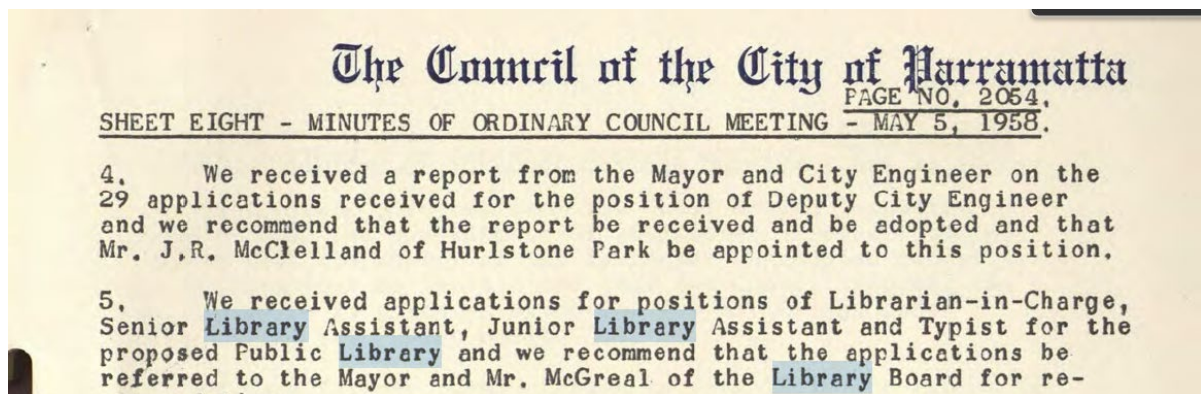
Proposal to open the free public library in Parramatta was submitted to the Library Board of New South Wales on 3rd June 1957.



City of Parramatta Meeting Minutes: 3rd June 1957

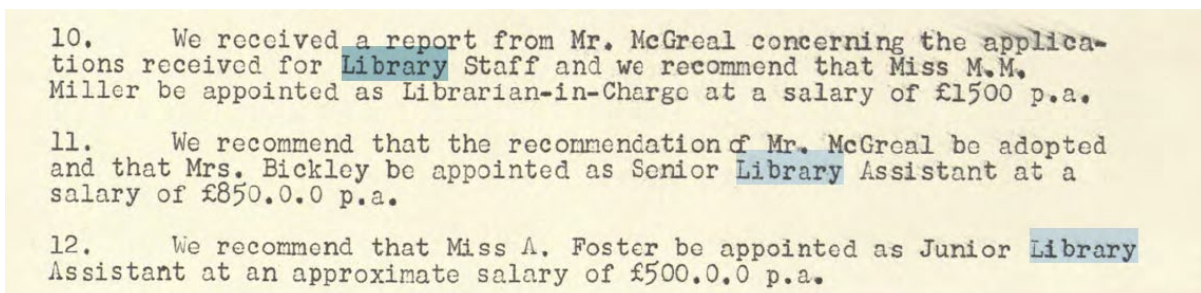
In the meeting minutes on 5th May 1958, it is mentioned that City of Parramatta have received applications for the positions of Librarian-in-charge, Senior Library

Assistant, Junior Library Assistant and Typist for the proposed public library. Applications were referred to Library board for reconsideration.



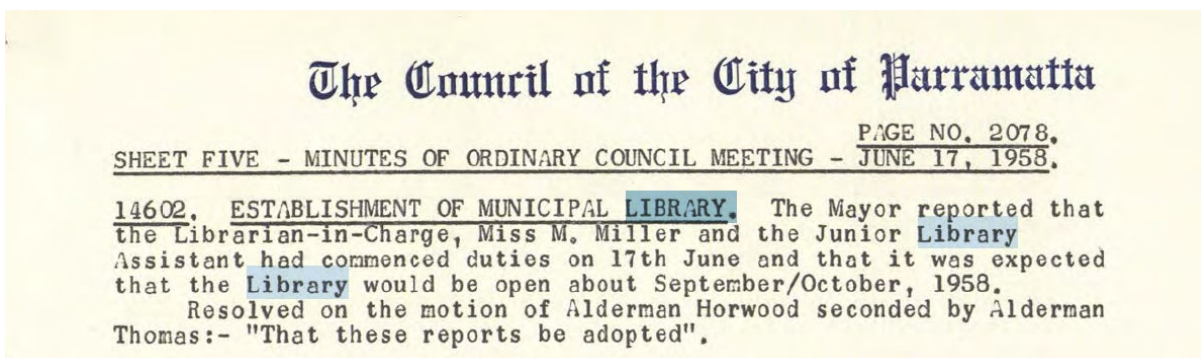
City of Parramatta Meeting Minutes: 5th May 1958

Miss Margaret Miller was appointed as Librarian-in-charge at a salary of 1500 pounds per annum. Mrs Bickley was appointed as Senior Library Assistant at a salary of 850 pounds per annum and Miss Annette Foster was appointed as Junior Library Assistant at a salary of 500 pounds per annum.



City of Parramatta Meeting Minutes: 19th May 1958

On 17th June 1958, Margaret Miller, Librarian-in-charge and Annette Foster, Junior Library Assistant commenced their duties in preparation of proposed library opening in September/October, 1958.



City of Parramatta Meeting Minutes: 17th June 1958

The date for official opening of the library is fixed for Saturday, 29th November 1958.

The Council of the City of Parramatta

PAGE NO. 2163.

SHEET FOUR - MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - OCTOBER 7, 1958.

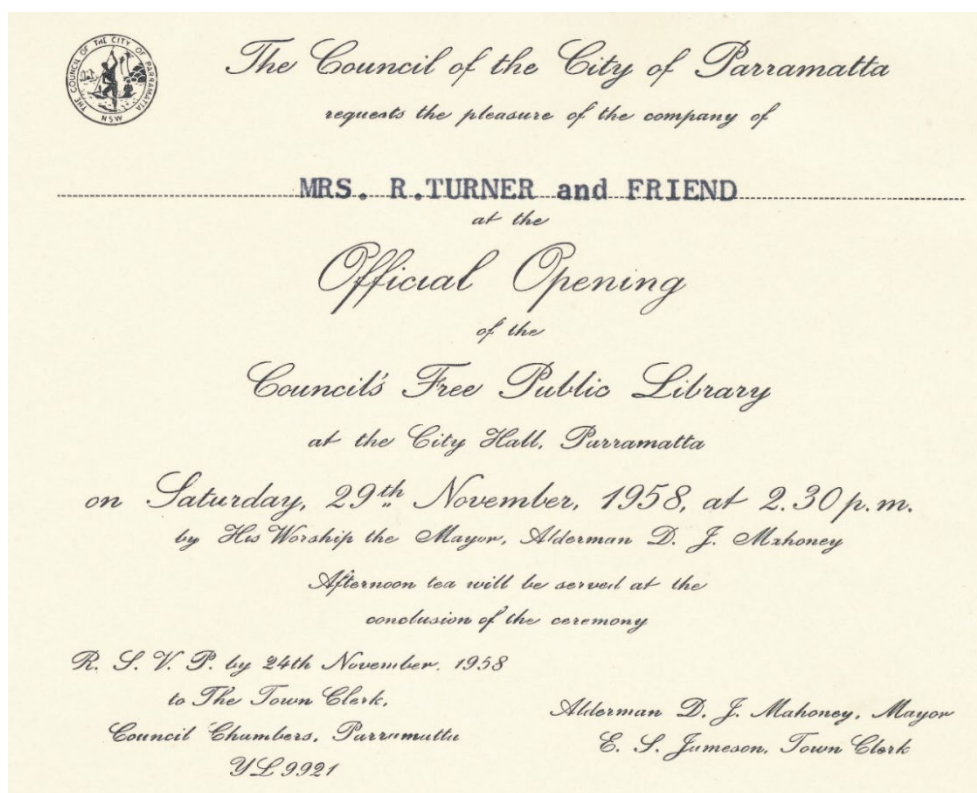
15177. LIBRARIES COMMITTEE. Resolved on the motion of Alderman Collins seconded by Alderman Mobbs:- "That the report of the meeting of the Committee held 30th September, 1958, be received and be adopted with the exception of Clauses 1 and 5".

15178. Clause 1, Date of Opening. Resolved on the motion of Alderman Ferguson seconded by Alderman Thomas:- "That the date for the official opening of the Library be fixed for Saturday, 29th November, 1958, and the organisation of the official opening be left in the hands of the Mayor and that the Minister for Local Government be asked to perform the Opening Ceremony".

15179. Clause 5, Entrance to Library in Jubilee Hall. Resolved on the motion of Alderman Thomas:- "That this item be referred to the Libraries Committee".

City of Parramatta Meeting Minutes: 7th October 1958

Official opening invitation of the Council's Free Public Library.



Official opening invitation of the Council's Free Public Library. Source: City of Parramatta Archives

Parramatta City Library – 1 Civic Place

Neera Sahni



Photograph - Civic Place. Detail of parking area viewed from Council Chambers. Source: Council Archives PRS110/004/001

Parramatta Council's first public library opened in 1958 in Jubilee Hall at Parramatta Town Hall. Jubilee Hall was previously used as offices by Council, however following Council's move to a new Administrative Building in 1958 the Hall became available for the library to begin operations. This library service was officially inaugurated on the 29 November 1958, by Alderman D. J. Mahoney with Miss Margaret Miller, the City's first Chief Librarian, leading the library's operations.

In 1961 the Parramatta 'School of Arts and Mechanics Institute' building was transferred to Parramatta Council and Council found itself with resources to provide Parramatta with a first-class library. The 'School of Arts Building' was sold for 75,000 pounds and used to not only build a new central library but also branch libraries at Ermington, Guildford and Telopea.



Parramatta City Library 1979 following its expansion. Source: Council Archives

The new Central Public Library was designed and erection supervised by J. Buckland and Druce of Parramatta, the consulting engineers were Maxwell H. Hadley and Associates also of Parramatta and the builders were A. V. Jennings Industries of Rydalmere. The new library formed a pivotal part of the development of Civic Place. The building was designed to have its entrance as the focal point when entering from Macquarie Street. The long building with its slender columns was built with reinforced concrete frame finished externally with white cement. The building was designed with a view for future expansion with the structure ready for a first-floor addition. The Library was opened by Mayor Alderman R. W. Van Nooten 28 November 1964. In 1978 the library was extended to include another floor.



Council film footage from 1964 showing the construction of the library and its completion. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQm7Y6Tvyzw>

Parramatta Children's Library - Prince Alfred Park

Emma Stockburn



Prince Alfred Park. Source: Emma Stockburn

In 1955 the Rotary Club of Parramatta and its president, Mr M Shephard decided that the clubs project for the year. It would be the building of a children's library for the people of Parramatta. During that year the use of land in Prince Alfred Park was approved by the New South Wales Lands Department.

The Rotary Club financed the construction of the building with Parramatta Council meeting some of the cost. Plans of the library were shown during a Parramatta Council Meeting.

"They show an ultra modern style contemporary building, with use of large areas of glass to provide natural daylight lighting in the interior."

The library will cater for the 6-16 age range and included various modern features including: large window, a porch, cork floors, washbasins, a relaxing colour palette, a workroom and toilet facilities.



Children's Library: Parramatta. Source: Daily Mirror, 11 November 1958

A library association was formed in 1956 from representatives from primary and high schools, colleges, and other community groups. The *"Library Association, who are depending upon a great deal of help from the business community, local schools, parents, and well-wishers for the funds to carry the project through to a successful opening."*

The children library received donations of books and monetary value, including a generous 400 pounds from a Rotary member.

The library officially opened in the week of 26th Feb 1958. The Mayor at the time Alderman AJ Mahoney praised the work done by the Library Association, the Rotary Club and the public.

"He said the library had been built in a most suitable setting. It would stimulate culture and education in children of the city"

At this time there was over 1800 books available for the children's library, thought more would be needed. Most of these resources had been provided by the Soroptimist and Inner Wheel clubs of Parramatta.

It was also at the opening of the Children's library that the Mayor announced that Parramatta would soon get a library of its own. And the children's library would become a branch of the main Parramatta Library.

Joint Regional Library Service Scheme

Anne Tsang



Joint regional library service scheme between Parramatta City, Baulkham Hills Shire and Municipality of Holroyd Council. Source: City of Parramatta Council, Hills Shire Council, Cumberland City Council

From 1965 and then 1978, Parramatta Library was administrator to a joint regional library service scheme with first Baulkham Hills Shire Council and later Holroyd Municipality Council. This joint service ceased in the late 1980s. At its peak, Parramatta Library was responsible for 12 branch libraries and a mobile service:

1. Parramatta City Library - 1 Civic Place, Parramatta opened 29 November 1958 to 9 August 2015 when it was demolished and temporarily relocated to Fitzwilliam Street awaiting the new library to be built in Parramatta Square.
2. Granville Branch Library opened on 7 June 1975 at 8 Carlton Street, Granville until 2020 when it relocated to the new Granville Centre at 1 Memorial Drive, Granville
3. Dundas Valley Branch Library opened 6 April 1963 at 21 Stuart Street, Telopea
4. Ermington Branch Library opened 19 October 1963 on the corner of River Road and Lister Avenue, Ermington
5. Guildford Branch Library officially opened on 16 May 1964 at Railway Terrace Guildford. A second pilot library run by Holroyd Council was located in the School of Arts Building, Miller Road, Guildford NSW.
6. Baulkham Hills Branch Library opened in 1967 at 1 Railway St, Baulkham Hills

Carlingford Branch Library opened on 26 July 1969 at 17 Lloyd Avenue, Carlingford

Castle Hill Branch Library opened in 1971 at 265 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill. In 2004, relocated to the Castle Hill Library and Community Centre on the corner of Castle and Pennant Streets, Castle Hill.

Dural Round Corner Branch Library opened 10 February 1979 at Pellitt Lane, Dural Round Corner

Greystanes Branch Library in the Greystanes Community Centre, Merrylands Road, Greystanes NSW opened in 1973

Pendle Hill Branch Library opened on 9 May 1967 in Stapleton Street, Pendle Hill

Merrylands Branch Library opened 21 August 1973 in the in the old Prospect County Council building in Miller Street, Merrylands

Wentworthville Branch Library opened on 9 August 1979 on Lane Street, Wentworthville NSW

In 1960, under provisions of the *Library Act 1939-45*, a Joint Regional Library Service Scheme was proposed for Parramatta and 4 other adjoining councils - Auburn, Holroyd (both now Cumberland Council), Blacktown and Baulkham Hills (now Hills Shire Council).

REGIONAL LIBRARY

DETAILED SCHEME

NOW BLUE-PRINTED

A detailed scheme has now been blueprinted for the establishment and administration of a vast regional library service in Parramatta and adjoining areas.

Details of the scheme were released for the first time by Holroyd Council this week.

FIVE AREAS

Areas which will benefit from the scheme, if it is finally adopted, will include Parramatta, Auburn, Blacktown, Baulkham Hills and Holroyd.

A conference of all interested councils will be held in Parramatta Council Chambers on Friday, December 2, at 8 p.m., to discuss the proposal.

The Library Board of N.S.W. has now completed a full-scale survey on the proposed service.

Jointly Managed

It has been recommended that the scheme be managed by a committee nominated by the several councils annually, in pursuance of a formal agreement made under the provisions of the 1939-45 Library Act.

Each council must contribute annually to the joint library account, an amount not less than that required to attract Government subsidy, namely at the rate of three shillings per head of population.

The joint library account would provide staff, books, shelving and furniture, also plant for a bookmobile service.

Each council would provide the necessary buildings required from time to time.

The joint library account would, however, provide the work space required in Parramatta for regional library purposes and also reimburse Parramatta Council for additional administration costs.

A development plan for the proposal has been prepared.

First Year

The programme for the first year would require the purchase of about £52,000 worth of books, which would be allocated as follows:

Auburn	£10,000,	Holroyd	£12,500
(partly by Guildford branch library);		Blacktown	£10,000,
Baulkham Hills	£4,000	and Parramatta	£15,482.

The amount spent on books in the second year would be slightly less than in the first year of operations.

This would be because of salaries of staff in newly opened branch libraries and bookmobile plant.

The joint library account would provide a bookmobile service for Holroyd, Blacktown and Baulkham Hills areas.

Proposal Discussed

In a report to Holroyd Council, Town Clerk, Mr. P. Arnett, said that in the first year of the scheme, Holroyd Municipal Council is to provide a suitable building in Merrylands which could be furnished and stocked ready for opening for the following year.

In the second year, council would have to provide a suitable building in Wentworthville, which would be furnished and stocked ready for opening for the next year.

Speaking on the report, the Mayor, Ald. M. J. Bennett, said there was a block of land at Merrylands that would be suitable.

He added that in his opinion additional rooms could be added to the present School of Arts building at Merrylands.

Ald. Webb said that he and the fellow trustee of the of the School of Arts had discussed the matter and agreed that the building could be made available to council for a regional library.

Ald. Edwards said he was still not happy about the library as he did not agree to any increase of rates, when drainage, kerb and guttering and road work was needed.

Ald. Bennett said that by utilising the regional library scheme, council would not be involved in as much costs as it would be if it established its own library.

Ald. Webb added that at the last municipal elections, nearly every candidate said he would make an effort towards establishing a municipal library.

Now we have this opportunity, we should act immediately and not wait two or three years," he said.

Concluding the debate, Ald. Maunder said:

"Surely we can carry the £12,000 without any increase in rate.

"After all it is only 0.2d in the £," Ald. Maunder said.

The report was adopted.

Source: *The Cumberland Argus*, 30 November 1960

This scheme however did not eventuate as seen in the article below.

REGIONAL LIBRARY SET-BACK

COUNCILS • Bombshell! PULL OUT

A plan to establish Australia's biggest regional library service in the western suburbs around Parramatta, received a sudden set-back last Friday, when two councils announced their intention of withdrawing from the inaugural scheme.

The bombshell announcements were made by the delegates of Holroyd and Blacktown Councils at a conference in Parramatta Council Chambers.

It rocked Baulkham Hills Council delegates who later said they did not have sufficient finance to start a library of their own and were counting on the regional scheme.

Auburn council delegates told the conference they would start their own service this year if the regional scheme was not introduced. They were assured by the secretary of the Library Board of N.S.W. (Mr. R. McGreal) they could join the Regional service at a later date if they adopted the Library Act in 1961.

After two hours' discussion, the 10 delegates agreed to seek a definite answer from the five councils concerned before taking any further action.

Surveyed needs

Mr. McGreal assured them two councils could start the library service on a regional basis but councils which joined later would have to be prepared to make a capital contribution in their first year in addition to the normal levy.

He said that with the Parramatta librarian (Miss M. Miller) he had made a comprehensive survey of the needs of Baulkham Hills, Auburn, Parramatta, Holroyd and Blacktown councils for a regional library.

It was estimated the service would have an annual income of more than £80,000, he added.

More books

"At least 60 per cent of this could be spent on providing more books," Mr. McGreal said.

"This would be a big advantage because libraries throughout the world spend no more than 25 per cent of their annual income on books," he added.

First shock of the meeting came when the Mayor of Holroyd (Ald. M. J. Bennett) said his council had adopted its estimates for 1961 and had been forced to delete its £12,000 levy for the library so that it would not have to increase the rate.

He said the council was very sympathetic towards the scheme and hoped to join it at a later date.

Moments later, Cr. D. Farrow said the same applied to Blacktown Council which had too many capital works to carry out in 1961 before it could think about a library.

"However, we have accepted a tender for more than £198,000 for a Civic Centre and a library building will be included in this," Cr. Farrow added.

Mr. McGreal then told the conference the whole scheme would have to be revised if it were to work successfully.

Cr. A. H. Whaling (Baulkham Hills) said his council had no hope of starting its own but with assistance would be able to provide a service.

He said Baulkham Hills, with a multitude of townships throughout the shire, had the same problem as Blacktown Council.

Assurance sought

A proposal to defer further consideration of the scheme for 12 months was rejected by the conference.

On the suggestion of Cr. B. A. Mullane (Baulkham Hills) the conference agreed to seek a definite assurance from the five councils of their intentions.

"If they say yes we know they will make allowance in their 1962 estimates and we will have something to work on," Cr. Mullane said.



Mayor of Holroyd (Ald. M. J. Bennett) is pictured addressing the Regional Library Scheme, last Friday.

Source: The Cumberland Argus, 7 December 1960

After the [Guildford branch library](#) was opened Railway Terrace Guildford on Saturday 16 May 1964 and local residents who lived in the Holroyd Municipality side were denied access to the new Library, the NSW Library Board supported Parramatta's then Chief Librarian [Miss Margaret Miller's](#) proposal for a special joint library agreement between the well-established Parramatta Library service and Holroyd Council who were required to adopt the *Library Act 1939* and apply for a subsidy as seen below.

RESIDENTS DENIED USE OF LIBRARY

Residents of Holroyd Municipality will not be allowed to use the new Guildford Library.

The N.S.W. Library Board made this decision last week even though many of the people concerned live only yards away from the building.

The library is situated in

the Parramatta City area and many people in Holroyd had asked if they would be permitted to use it.

The board supported an unfavourable report by

Parramatta's chief librarian (Miss M. Miller) on the proposal.

In its letter the board stated it did not favour councils operating well-established library services, such as in Parramatta, subsidising councils who were not prepared to put their adoption of the Library Act into effect.

The only way in which a library service would be acceptable to the board under these terms would be if Holroyd Council:

- Adopted the Library Act.

- Applied for a subsidy and entered into a special agreement with Parramatta City Council.

The Board said its annual report would name councils which did not provide a library service at all.

Holroyd was one of the councils which would be "named."

Holroyd Town Clerk, Mr. P. Arnett, said recently that his council had no immediate plans to build a library.

The letter continued:

"The board has considerable equity in Parramatta City Council's library service.

"If an agreement is entered into with another council whereby that service is extended to an area which has not adopted the Library Act, then the board is in effect subsidising that council through Parramatta City Council.

"This is not acceptable to the board. The board has no legal power to do this."

Source: The Cumberland Argus, 7 December 1960

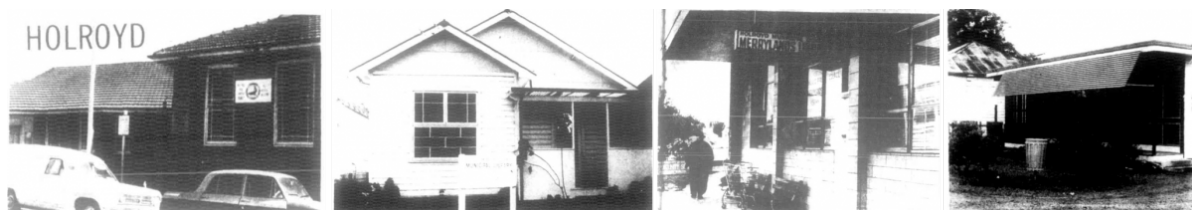
On 1 January 1965, a joint Library service was formed and began operating between Parramatta City Council and Baulkham Hills Shire Council. This service saw Parramatta Council administering the books and staff, while the Shire Council began an extensive building programme establishing library branches at Baulkham Hills in 1967, Carlingford in 1969, Castle Hill in 1971 and Dural Round Corner branch library in 1982.



Baulkham Hills Shire Library; an undated indoor photo of Carlingford Branch Library; Castle Hill Library at 256 Old Northern Road, Castle Hills, circa 1997; Dural Round Corner Library. Source: State Library of NSW, Carr, 1997 & Berry, 2011

In the same year (1965), Miss Margaret Miller, Parramatta's first City Librarian resigned and Mr. John Taylor was appointed as her replacement as the new Chief Librarian.

In the meantime, Holroyd Council established a pilot library at Guildford and through an offer of \$3,200 for books from the Pendle Hill War Memorial Swimming Pool Fund, established the Pendle Hill Library at Stapleton Street which was officially opened on 9 May 1967 by Mayor Ald. J. Bennett. Next it established Merrylands public library at Miller Street, Merrylands. This was another pilot library with a stock of 2,000 books and was officially opened by Mayoress E. Devlin on Tuesday 5 November 1968.



Guildford-Holroyd bookroom, Merrylands bookroom, Merrylands library, Wentworthville bookroom. Source: Broadcaster, 3 August 1971

On 12 June 1978, Holroyd Council and Parramatta City Library signed a joint regional library agreement. Holroyd Mayor Ald. Robert William Doyle Delvin in his local newspaper feature 'From the Mayor's desk' made the announcement as well as the future plans for library buildings to be built first in Wentworthville in 1979, followed by Merrylands in 1980 and Greystanes in 1981.

THE congratulations of the Council go to the immediate past president of the Local Government Association, Ald H. G. Percival, who was recently elected as a member of the Legislative Council.

This honor is significant to local government and reflects the increasing recognition that this level of government has attained.

Alderman Percival is a member of Campbelltown Council and is the local government representative upon the MWS & D Board and the Planning Environment Commission.

Many residents will be pleased with a decision by council last Tuesday to join with Parramatta City Council and Baulkham Hills Shire Council in a regional library.

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

ALD R. W. DEVLIN, HOLROYD

Credit to local government

The advantages of such a scheme have been under discussion for some considerable time and when completed will provide free library facilities to all Holroyd residents to any one of the libraries within the three municipal areas.

For its part, your council will establish branch libraries, firstly at Wentworthville, then also Merrylands and Greystanes. These will be phased in over a period of two to three years.

In the meantime, the existing small libraries

will be continued but gradually phased out.

I would point out, however, that immediate access to the central library at Parramatta and other branches in the Parramatta area will not be available. It is expected that this will occur from March, 1979.

Tentatively, it is envisaged the Wentworthville Library will be operational in the first half of 1979, the Merrylands Library twelve months later and at Greystanes a further twelve months.

Source: The Broadcaster, 28 February 1978

In 1985, tensions began to mount due to disagreements over the service being delivered by Parramatta Council. Holroyd and Baulkham Hills Shire Council were reported as feeling "short-changed" by the number of book stocks being received

per branch per user based on annual library reports and felt unfairly treated given the annual fee the subsidy council paid.

LIBRARY NOT GOOD ENOUGH

Council hits out at book allocation

HOLROYD Council claims it is getting "short-changed" by Parramatta Council over its library service.

Parramatta runs the central library services and allocates books to Holroyd and Baulkham Hills as part of a joint library system.

But Holroyd Council says the service is unsatisfactory and not worth the \$455,000 it contributes to running costs.

Holroyd Alderman Edward Cullen, at last week's council meeting, suggested he had strong evidence that both Holroyd and Baulkham Hills were receiving unfair treatment.

He offered to identify his sources at a future council meeting and suggested that it would also affect Baulkham Hills Council.

The debate was sparked by the Joint Library Services report presented by Parramatta City Council.

Holroyd aldermen noted what they considered an unfavorable allocation of bookstocks between Parramatta and Holroyd libraries.

Granville was shown to have 20,831 books but only 4431 borrowers, who took out 35,069 books.

But the 9034 borrowers from the Wentworthville library had only 19,839 books from which to choose. Even so, there were 100,312 book loans.



MR CULLEN

The figures relate to 1985.

Similar apparent imbalances were revealed in the report in relation to other Holroyd and city branch libraries.

Though agreeing that the 1985 report of three pages was much more comprehensive than had previously been received, council considered it far too meagre.

Holroyd Alderman Allen Brierley said council should get a lot more information for its \$455,000.

It was finally resolved to have council officers prepare a report on the Joint Library Service.

A decision would then be made whether or not to take the investigation further.

Source: The Parramatta Advertiser, 12 March 1986

In addition, they were also unsatisfied over the book selections made by Parramatta Library for the other municipal areas. Local newspapers reported the banning of books by Biggles and Enid Blyton.

BOOKS BAN 'A DISGRACE'

Select 'best' books aim of library

PARRAMATTA Library is not playing censor, but is "being selective" in what books it provides, according to its acting chief librarian, Mr John Taylor.

Mr Taylor said it was up to the libraries to provide books of the best standard within its budget.

"We are spending public money," he said.

"We feel we do provide as good a range as we can within our financial constraints."

Mr Taylor said the books were not banned from the libraries, but its selection guidelines did not include Enid Blyton and Biggles.

"We prefer to give more attention to books of a high standard," he said.

When Mr Taylor was asked if the selection guidelines would be changed if there was a strong protest from the public, he said council would then ask him for a report.

He considered it "very likely" the report would contain the same views expressed in the one currently passed by Baulkham Hills Council.

"I would not change my feelings on this," he said.



BANNED . . . Enid Blyton and Biggles books from Hills Public Library shelves.

Mr Taylor said the library regarded W.E. Johns and Blyton as "less than satisfactory authors."

He felt there was a mystique about Blyton and Johns

when they had not written for 20 years.

"The whole concept of children's literature has changed," he said.

"We are responding to that."

Mr Johns said library staff were trained in book selection and dealing with children's books.

"We are in a better position to know what is suitable for them," he said.

Shore hits at Noddy 'nonsense'

PARRAMATTA Library is "playing censor" in banning Enid Blyton and Biggles books from Hills Public Library shelves, according to Baulkham Hills Shire President, Councillor Les Shore.

by SANDRA KINGSTON

Mr Shore, who is also Castle Hill Public School principal, has slammed the decision as "hypocritical" and "a disgrace."

"It is overstepping the mark," he said.

The uproar follows a report by Parramatta acting librarian, Mr John Taylor which labelled childhood favorites Enid Blyton and Biggles as "racist" and "slow poison."

Mr Taylor's report was in response to a question from Baulkham Hills Council about alleged censorship of Biggles and Enid Blyton books from the Hills libraries.

Parramatta Council runs four libraries and a book mobile in the Hills district under an agreement with Baulkham Hills Council.

The libraries are at Castle Hill, Baulkham Hills, Carlingford and Dural.

Mr Taylor said limited money to buy books meant the library had to be selective when choosing children's books.

"The role of the modern public library is to provide books which are not only

popular but which also have merit of creativity and content," Mr Taylor said.

"The aim is to captivate the interest of children without the blatant snobbery, prejudice and acquisitiveness and racial attitudes mirrored

in books written by Enid Blyton, W.E. Johns (Biggles author) and similar writers."

Mr Taylor said both Enid Blyton and W.E. Johns had been criticised by leading experts on children's literature.

Margery Fisher of Grouching

TO PAGE 11

Source: The Hills Shire Times, 22 October 1985

This eventually led to the split and dissolution of the joint library agreement first with Baulkham Hills Shire Council in 1988 and later Holroyd Council.

LIBRARY SPLIT

By WENDY LOFTUS

BAULKHAM Hills Council has severed its ties with Parramatta City Library and is set to re-vamp the shire's library service.

As predicted in last week's *Mercury*, Cr Bernie Mullane submitted a presidential minute to the council on Tuesday recommending the agreement with Parramatta Council to provide services in the shire be dissolved.

The recommendation was carried and a report is being prepared to establish the best way the council can run its own service.

"It is time we bit the bullet and gave Parramatta (Council) notice that we wish to terminate the agreement. The book stocks in our four libraries are well below the standard offered in most local government areas," said Cr Mullane.

"Services offered by some libraries, such as the loan of paintings, videos and cassettes, are but a dream here. We have good staff but an appalling availability of new book stocks.

"This is a family shire and nothing is more important to residents than the education of their children. This education is being poorly served by our libraries and I believe we should go it alone or seek an alliance with another local government area.

"It costs the ratepayers of this shire \$900,000 per year and they are entitled to better value for money than they

'Poor service' for shire results in go-it-alone move

are getting," he said.

In supporting the split, Cr Jenny McCulla said: "We have not had the opportunity to employ our own staff and have reached the stage where we could operate a self-sufficient service."

Cr McCulla called for a detailed report to determine a strategy for the council to establish its own service, including a survey of residents' needs.

Cr John Worthington voted against the break-away, believing the council was not prepared for the split.

"Maybe before we sever ties we should have a report on who owns the books in our libraries and work out what we will be left with. We might very well finish up with no books," he said.

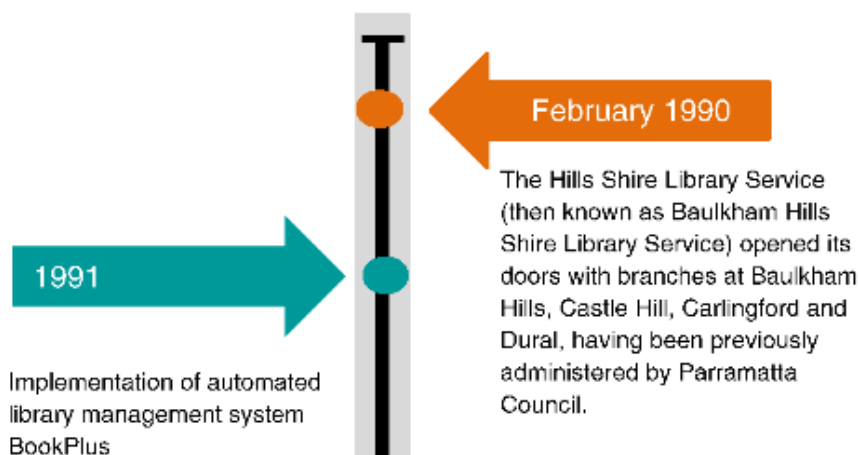
Under the current agreement the break-away will not be effective for another 12 months. During this time Cr Mullane believes his council will be prepared to stand alone.

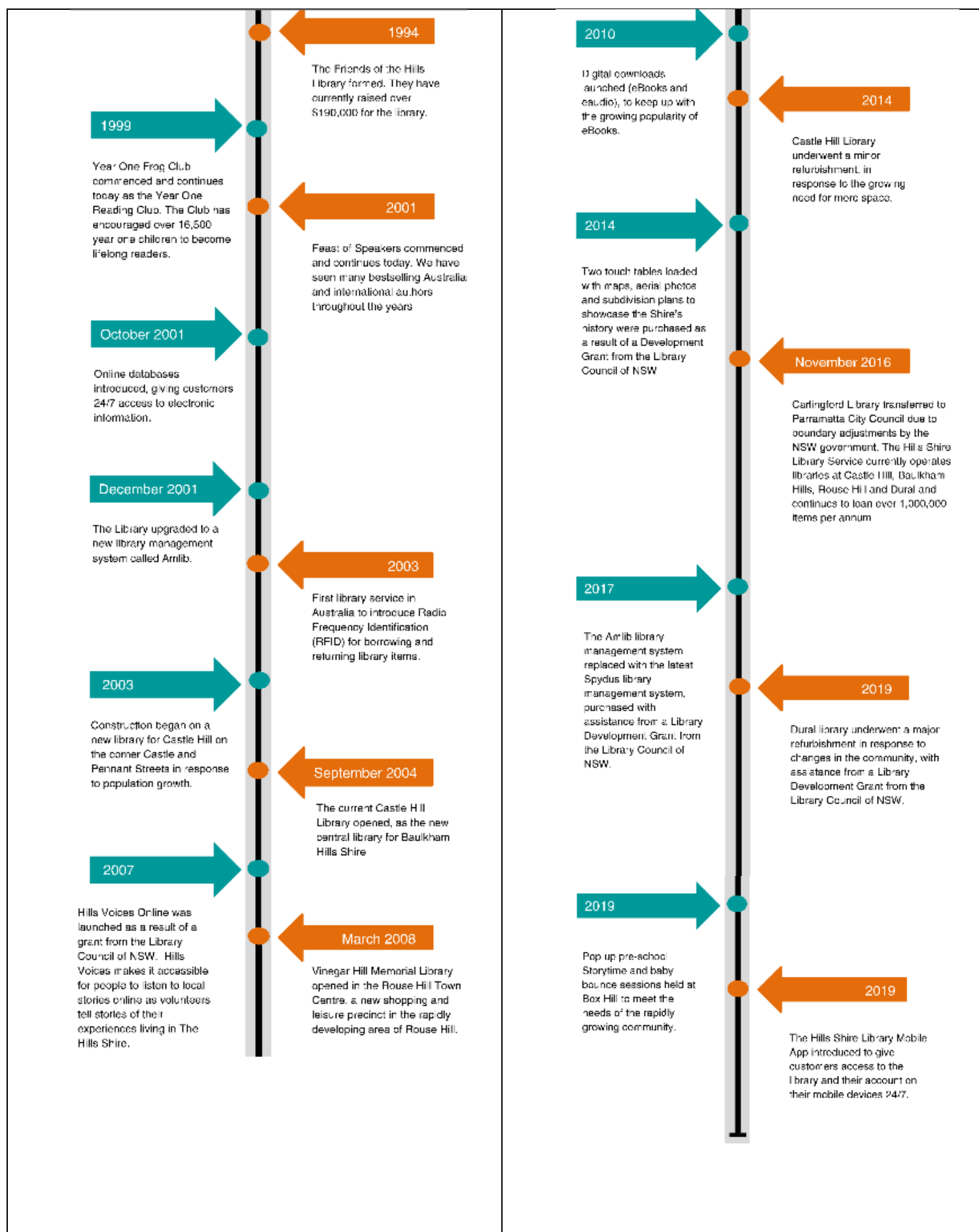
Source: Parramatta Mercury, 20 December 1988

The Hills Shire Library Service story continues and a timeline is available on their website <https://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Library/Local-Studies-Family-History/The-Hills-Shire-Library-Timeline>

THE HILLS SHIRE LIBRARY SERVICE **TIMELINE**

Celebrating 30 Years 1990-2020





City of Parramatta Library - Fitzwilliam Street Library

Anne Tsang



City of Parramatta Library - Fitzwilliam Street Library. View from ground entrance and level 1 entrance outside foyer. Source: @parracity via Twitter

Address: 1-3 Fitzwilliam Street, Parramatta NSW

On Friday 25 September 2015, the Fitzwilliam Street Library was officially opened by then City of Parramatta Council Acting CEO Sue Coleman and Lord Mayor Cr Scott Lloyd. This was a temporary library in preparation for the demolition of the old Civic Place Parramatta Central Library and the new library (in Phive) being built as part of the Parramatta Square redevelopment, expected to be completed in 2022.

The Fitzwilliam Street Library was leased from Raffles and has a floor space of 2,200 square metres, spread across 3 floors with the Ground floor and Level 1 being library public areas and Library staff work areas on Level 1 and 2. The Ground floor which is directly across from the Parramatta train station and bus transits includes the entrance to the Library, stairs to Level 1, the returns room and public returns chutes, bookable public computers and copy print facilities, magazines and books, as well as a staffed service area where clients can ask for assistance.

Upstairs on Level 1, access is either from the stairway connected to the Ground floor or via the lifts connected to Raffle College entry lobby. Toilets are near the level 1 lifts. This floor also includes a foyer, service desk where reservations can be

picked up, self-check machines, public photocopier area, HSC area, Reference/Tech bar, Children Area with a pram parking area next to the space rocket opposite the caterpillar book shelves/boxes. There is also a quiet study room, the Learning Centre, Macquarie room, Darug Room. Behind the scene, there is also staff meeting rooms and workrooms on level 1 and 2.

History of the Building – Enterprise House

Enterprise House is a 7-storey office building with basement parking for 106 cars plus a roof-top sports floor, tennis court and sauna. In early 1988, construction was completed and bought by the National Mutual Australian Property Trust (now AXA Australia's Wholesale Australian Property Fund) in December 1988. It was officially opened in 1989. The Ground level was refurbished in mid-2006 with a net lettable area of 9,785 square metres. Previous tenants include Department of Environment & Climate Change, NSW Office of Fair Trading and Probation and Parole Service.

The building was sold in 2014 to Singapore-listed company Raffles Education Corporation for \$29 million. Raffles began with one college in 1990 and now runs more than 20 colleges and universities across the world. In 2019, Enterprise House was sold to a trust run by private Asian company Wentruth for \$80 million. Current tenants include: Raffle College of Design and Commerce, ECA and Swinburne University of Technology venture, and City of Parramatta Council in the form of the Library, and Parramatta Computer Pals.

Usual Opening hours at Parramatta Library

- Monday to Thursday 9.30am - 6pm
- Friday 9:30am – 5pm
- Saturday 9:30am – 4pm
- Sunday 2pm - 5pm
- Closed on public holidays

Library Services

To discover the services and digital programming at the Parramatta Library, see the Library's websites, and social media platforms:

<https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/community/library> or

<https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/community/library/your-library-at-home>

Online library is always open 24/7 to view online resources, including ebooks, eAudio, browsing eMagazines and eNewspapers - <http://parra.city/online>

- JP times
- Online library
- Find a library
- Join the library
- My account
- Upcoming events
- 1000 Books Before School
- Community information
- eNewsletters
- English classes
- Inter-library loan
- Library apps
- Newspapers
- Parra Reads blog
- Parra Reads Match
- Print from your device
- Purchase suggestions
- Readerspace
- Help / FAQs

Parramatta Library

1 Fitzwilliam St, Parramatta
(off Valentine Avenue)
Ph: 9500 5159
Monday-Thursday 9:30am-6pm
Friday 9:30am-5pm
Saturday 9:30am-4pm
Sunday 2pm-5pm
[More details](#)

Carlingford Library

Constitution Hill Library

Dundas Valley Library

Epping Library

Ermington Library

Newington Library

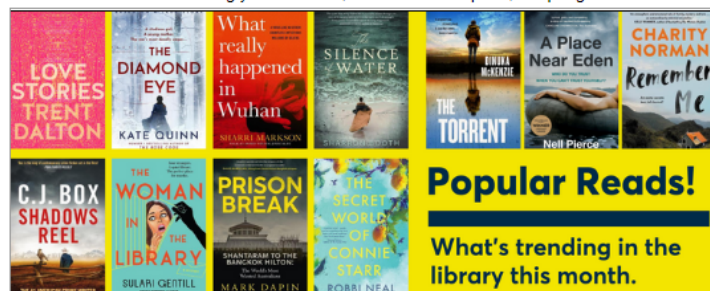
Wentworth Point

Heritage Centre

Changes are being made at our City branch Library as we begin our relocation to PHIVE - our new community, cultural and civic hub. Please find details of our pop-up services on our operation changes webpage: <https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/council-facility-operation-changes>

Open extended hours across seven days, PHIVE will be home to your new state-of-the-art Library, Customer Contact and Visitor Information services, community meeting spaces, café, and a diverse and vibrant cultural and community program.

We look forward to welcoming you to PHIVE, 5 Parramatta Square, in Spring 2022.



The online library remains open 24/7 at parra.city/online. Ebooks, eAudio books, digital magazines and newspapers and streaming videos are all available with your library card.



Screenshot of the Library's Open Access Public catalogue (OPAC)

PHIVE, 5 Parramatta Square

Emma Stockburn & Anne Tsang



Artists Impression of 5 Parramatta Square. Source: City of Parramatta

Set to open on Thursday 22nd September 2022 with a list of activities scheduled over the weekend.

PHIVE is Parramatta's new community, cultural and civic hub, located in the heart of Parramatta's CBD. Designed by award-winning French architect Manuelle Gautrand, in partnership with Australian architecture firms Lacoste + Stevenson and Design Inc., PHIVE is an architectural icon with six levels which will incorporate:

A world-class public library at the forefront of technology on Levels 1 and 2, offering an extensive book collection, digital resources, 24/7 book return facility, dedicated Children's Library, study areas, and a permanent home for the City of Parramatta Library.



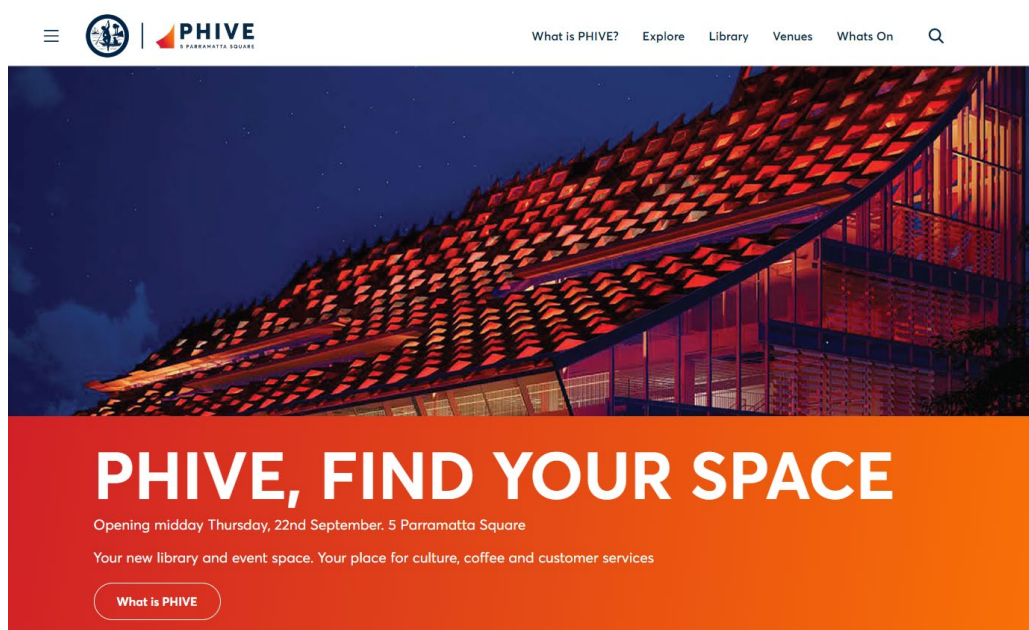
The building will also include a Discovery Centre and cultural heritage spaces, that will include interactive displays, exhibitions, and an Aboriginal Keeping Place for local Indigenous objects. There will also be a Research Lab and services that give access to the Council's cultural heritage collection, cultural programs as well as specialised library services.

The foyer will be a vibrant area with a concierge, visitor services, Council customer services and a café, as well as spaces for live performances and cultural activities.

The new City of Parramatta Council Chambers will also be housed at number 5.

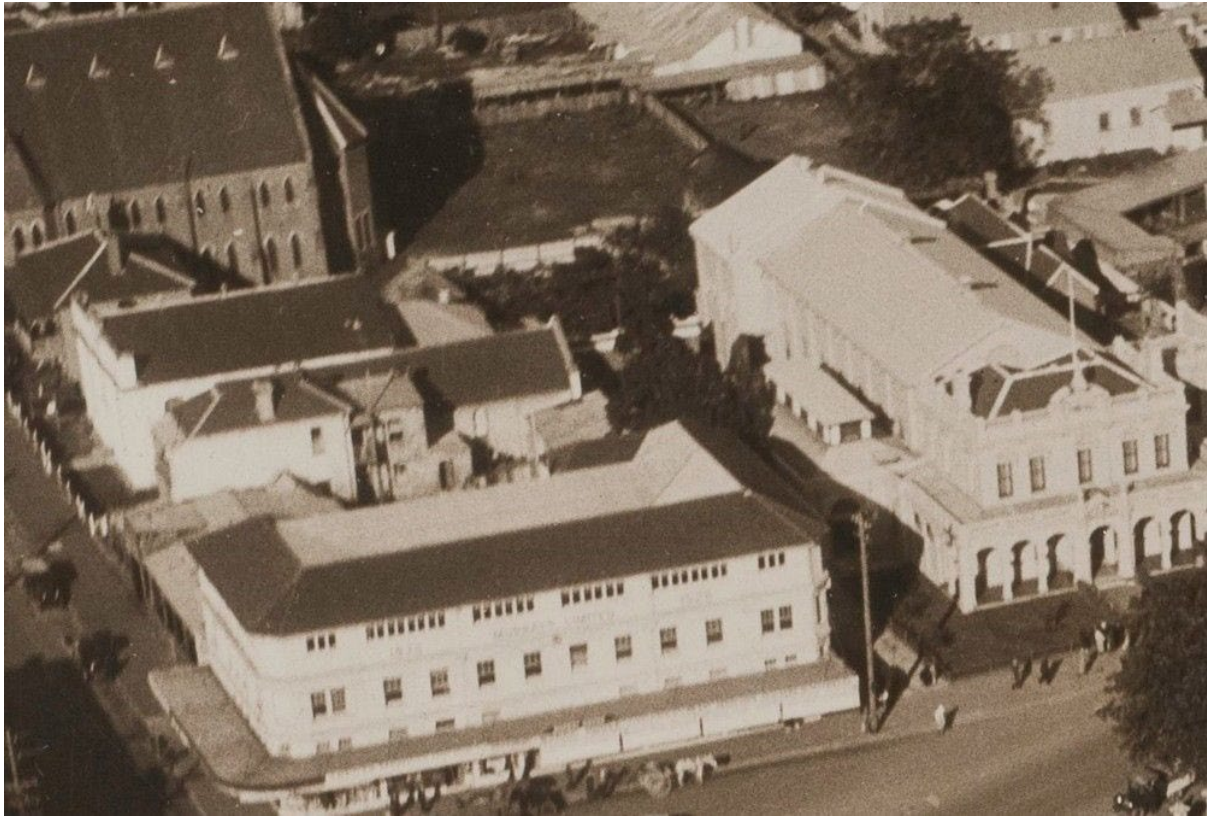
The 5 Parramatta Square building is being built to meet a 5 star Green rating, as with the whole of the Parramatta Square

For more details, visit the PHIVE website
<http://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/phive>



History of the Site

The site of 5 Parramatta Square and what will be the new Parramatta Library has a long history. A history connected to the growth of Parramatta as a city and a community.



Church Street, Parramatta, aerial view. Source: Archives, Research and Collections, Parramatta

The land which 5 Parramatta Square is being built on is behind the Town Hall. The area has been used for a variety of things over the years as well as having an extended period of disuse.

In the early 1800s it was the open space to the east of St John's Cathedral, which had been set aside by Governor Phillip and had also been the site of Parramatta's first fair/market organised by Governor Macquarie. This had been held on 13 January 1813. This area was surrounded by leases which had been issued as early as 1809. At its core was an area of public land which would be used for many years to come. On Thursday, 6 October, 1825, Parramatta held the first of the newly scheduled fairs. Unfortunately it appears it was not quite the event the Agricultural Society had hoped for. One contemporary account describes:

... few ginger bread nut stalls, orange baskets, and sundry lasses with their sweethearts, buying 'bonny blue ribbons' and other fairings. Neither cattle nor sheep, nor horses were there....

The markets continued to run into trouble and were met without much enthusiasm.

The October fair in 1827 proved to be as lack lustre as its predecessor. Indeed The Monitor's correspondent said ... *there was little worth attention done at the fair.*

However there may have been another reason for the poor take-up. These early markets although condoned by the governor were not managed as a proper English town-markets. For this to occur there had to be legislation enacted to ensure they were run properly. This included livestock securely fenced in, fees set, revenue the generated taxed according to the law.

On 31 March, 1832, an Act was passed by the Governor and the Legislative Council of the Colony to institute an 'Act for regulating the Rates and Tolls or Dues, to be Levied at the Markets of Sydney and Parramatta'.

But there were other problems. By 1839 the market had become a meeting place for rogues and vagabonds, who insulted the passengers who passed through. This eventually forced the Clerk of the Market to close a section of the markets permanently while not in use.

On the 1 June, 1844, amendments made by Sydney Council came into force and set out very clearly the rules and regulations for the Sydney Markets. This included that markets would be open every day of the year (except Sundays, Christmas day and Good Friday), the time they started (5.00 am), when the gates were to shut, and where goods were to be sold.

The Markets stayed in this form up until 1880, by the time the new Town Hall was opened in 1883 the area used by the markets and the pound had fallen into disuse.

The Pound was kept in the area very close to the markets area, this held animals lost and found in the district. It was closed and moved in 1862 for reasons of public health.

According to the mayor:

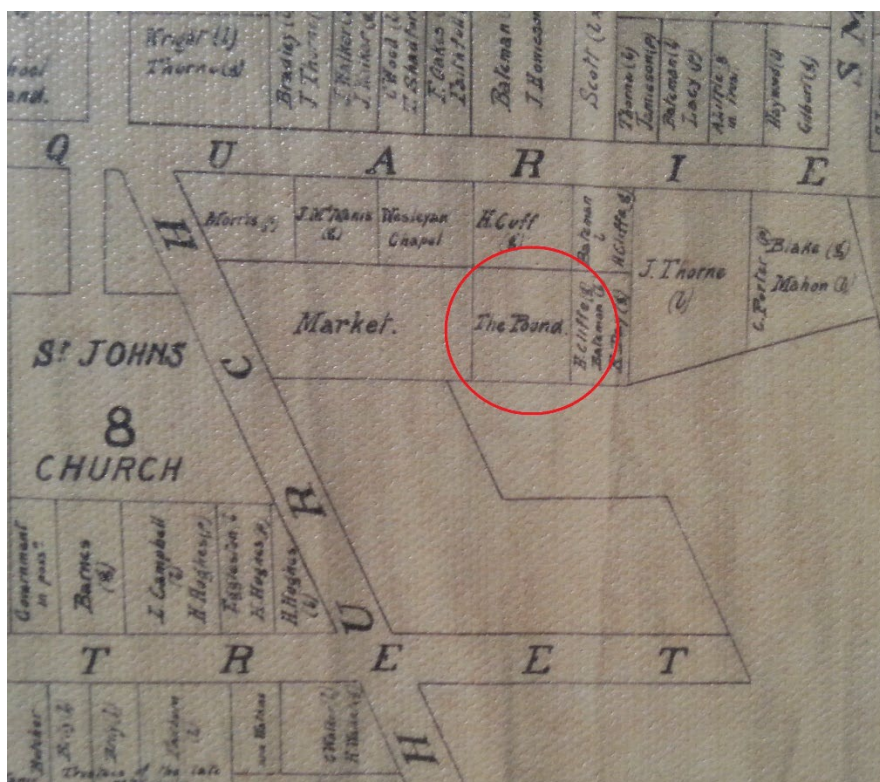
"much sickness having prevailed in two families in the immediate vicinity of the public pound in the town of Parramatta and medical men having given as their opinion that it arises in a great measure from the collection of filth, and a pool of stagnant water in the pound, immediately in the rear of the two premises, in which low fever develops itself, it is desirable that the attention of this council should be immediately directed to the removal of the pound to some locality in which it will be less likely to become a nuisance."

The pound land was granted to the Wesleyan Church in 1870 despite Council's attempt to secure ownership.

The drains running under the site were blamed for illness and fevers due to the noxious odours that rose from them, particularly during the hot summer months.

In an 1891 interview with Mayor Beames the drain at the rear of the Town Hall was described as passing:

"through the Wesleyan Church property and Dr. Johnson's, and under Macquarie Street to the river. The Mayor was also keen to point out that an outbreak of fever ascribed to the effects of the drain some two or three years previously were not necessarily the case. He also pointed out that the drain actually passed closer to the residence of the Council Clerk, Mr. Wickham and Dr. Johnsons' than the parsonage and neither of these family's blamed the drain for illness."



1844 Brownrigg map of the town of Parramatta showing the location of the pound behind the market. Source: Archives, Research and Collections, Parramatta

The plague outbreak in Sydney in 1900 renewed interest in improving sanitary conditions in Parramatta. In April 1900 the Inspector of Nuisances tabled a report which highlighted continuing problems in the district and Alderman Toohey took the opportunity to, ... call attention to a nuisance on the market lands, where a tip was being made. The land was clearly seen by some as a dumping ground for waste and the council periodically cleaned this up and had it shipped out of town.

But the Crown land behind the Town Hall continued to remain largely undeveloped, and making the best use of the land around the site of the old pound, and the ongoing drainage problems, were still being discussed in June 1936. This was when a petition was put forward by the Methodist Church to build a tennis court on vacant land at the rear of the building. However according to the Minister Rev J. Somerville:

"a drain over which the proposed court would pass was in a very bad state of repair. At the present time it is unsafe to jump on parts of the drain as there is a great danger of the whole section falling in."

A major modification to the site was started in 1949, when Council realised the current premises in the Town Hall would no longer be adequate to house the growing staff. As a result plans were developed for a new Council Chambers to be erected on the site of the old pound behind the Town Hall.

This opened in 1958 and was soon followed by the Council library, the opening of an internal loop road and a complete re-branding of the area as 'Civic Place'. In 2013 another phase of development began as the old buildings were removed and a new town centre, 'Parramatta Square', was erected in its stead.

Carlingford Branch Library

Anne Tsang



Carlingford Branch Library. Source: Anne Tsang

On 11 August 1966, the land title in which Carlingford Branch library is now located at, 17 Lloyd Avenue, Carlingford NSW 2118 ([View Map](#)) was transferred to Baulkham Hills Shire Council. Two years later plans were proposed to Baulkham Hills Shire Council to build a library for Carlingford. The architect was Bruce S. Smith of 70 Macquarie Street, Parramatta. On 26 July 1969 Carlingford Library was officially opened.

History of Carlingford

The area was originally known as Mobbs Hill after William Mobbs, an early settler. Carlingford probably received its name to honour Lord Carlingford who was Under-secretary of State for the Colonies from 1857 to 1860. His title is associated with the town of Carlingford in Ireland. The name was suggested by Frederick Cox who heard one of his employees describe the similarities between Mobbs Hill and the scenery of Carlingford in Ireland. Residents voted for the name in 1886.

History of the Carlingford Branch Library site

Date	Title	Owner	Notes
1.05.1857	Original crown grant	<u>James Larra</u>	Portion 113 of Carlingford in Shire of Baulkham Hills, Parish Field of Mars and County of Cumberland 600 acres ; <u>Sketch book 1 folio 77</u>
11.12.1913 to 20.01.1916	PA 19028 2639-142	Louisa Harris & Arthur William Harris	Joint tenancy
5.05.1916	2663-79	Burntrell & Bannerman Ltd	3 acres 1 rod 39.25 perches. Subdivided
21.03.1918	2832-61	Catherine Hall	36.5 perches
27.05.1925	2832-61	Winton Leet Turnbull, fireman	
21.10.1946	2832-61	Boy Scout's Association (NSW branch)	
11.08.1966	Transfer no. K421196	Shire of Baulkham Hills Council	
1968		Baulkham Hills Shire Council	Plans were proposed to Baulkham Hills Shire Council for Carlingford Library at Lloyds Avenue, Carlingford. The architect was Bruce S. Smith of 70 Macquarie Street, Parramatta.
26.07.1969			Carlingford Library officially opened
1970			Plans for the extension of Carlingford Kindergarten were drawn.
8.10.1974	Lease no. P137816		Joint tenants

	Lot 1 DP 8508	Hills Shire Council	
1982			Further library additions plans were drawn by Regency Design Centre of Castle Hill
1996			Proposed alterations and extensions were drawn by Stephenson & Turner Architect
2016			Council amalgamation. Carlingford Library transferred from Hills Shire Council to City of Parramatta Council
7.11.2016		City of Parramatta Council	Handover of Carlingford Library from The Hills Council to City of Parramatta
10.11.2016			Carlingford Branch Library officially reopened

Carlingford Branch Library services

Carlingford Library is open during the following hours:

- Monday to Friday: 10am – 5pm
- Saturday: 10am – 1pm

A Justice of the Peace Service is available. Please check [here](#) for times or contact the library to check availability on 02 9806 5850. They also offer a facsimile service on 02 9638 1146

Constitution Hill Branch Library

Anne Tsang



Constitution Hill Branch Library, 20 Hollis Street, Constitution Hill NSW 2145. Source: Anne Tsang 2019

Constitution Hill Branch Library was officially opened on Saturday 15 September 1990 at 2:30pm by the then Lord Mayor Alderman Alan Aizley Hyam. At the time, it was known as Emma Crescent Branch Library, Wentworthville.

Constitution Hill was a locality of Wentworthville until 19 January 2007 when it was officially promoted to a suburb by the Geographical Names Board of NSW.

History of the Branch Library

Preliminary plans to build a local library for the area was approved by Parramatta City Council in November 1988 and following detailed design work, approval was given to call tenders in April 1989. Initially seven companies were selected to submit tenders for the construction of the Library and in October 1989 Council accepted the tender from V.A. Gobbo Pty Ltd for the construction of the building. Funding for the construction was primarily a combination of a loan programme funds and a Bicentennial Grant.

The building was completed in August 1990, and internal fitting of the library including shelving and book stocking have been undertaken since that time. The building offered a single level library building with separate staff/work room and toilet facilities for male, female, disabled persons and staff. The work/staff room has an area of 49 metres square which is slightly larger than the other libraries in the area. Disabled access is available to all areas of the library.

The major consultant of the building was Kevin J. Curtin & Partners (Architects) Pty Ltd, with sub consultants H. G. Walter & Partners for electrical and mechanical works and Sinclair Knight & Partners Pty Ltd for structural works.

In 2002, a design brief for the extension of the Emma Crescent Library in Toongabbie was released.

On Monday 22 August 2005 Emma Crescent Library officially reopened and was renamed Constitution Hill Branch Library after alterations and extensions. According to the Lord Mayor of the time Councillor David Borger "\$1.2 million had been spent on upgrading the library" which was "double the size" of its 1990 original premises. The new library was also home to the now disbanded Toongabbie and District Historical Society and was more open with reduced shelf heights and wider aisles. It also featured a learning centre with more computers and Internet facilities, an expanded children's area, an exhibition area, a young person's area and language development space.

Today Constitution Hill Branch Library is a medium sized branch of the City of Parramatta Council Library. It is located at 20 Hollis Street, Constitution Hill NSW 2145, next to Greenleaf Park playground and Constitution Hill shops/ Emma Crescent Shopping Centre.

The Library is opening:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10am – 5pm
- Thursday: 10am – 8pm
- Saturday: 9.30am – 12 noon

There is also a Justice of the Peace Service. Please check [here](#) for times or contact the Library phone (02) 9806 5500 to check availability. A facsimile service is also available. The fax number is (02) 9896 2201

Dundas Branch Library

Neera Sahni



Dundas Valley Branch Library, circa 1970s. Source: City of Parramatta Council Community Archives Collection, ACC002/096/005

Dundas Branch Library was opened on Saturday 5 September 1959 by the Mayor, Alderman Eric Arthur Mobbs. The library opened in the former Dundas Council Chambers at 156 Marsden Road Dundas, with an initial stock of more than 1000 books. Around 100 people attended the opening ceremony. At the opening ceremony, Alderman Mobbs paid tribute to the work of the Ladies' Guild which he said "had been doing a magnificent job in carrying on library work in the district since 1954". A Children's Library also opened and was located in the front room of the Dundas Town Hall. The former Dundas Town Hall consisted of a hall on the southern side of the former Council Chambers building. The Children's Library was open Monday to Friday 3-5 p.m.

The suburb of Dundas began to grow quickly after orchard land was subdivided in 1902 and 1905. In 1955, the Housing Commission began to subdivide an additional 300 acres in Dundas. With the subsequent growth of one of the largest housing estates in Sydney, and a growing demand for Parramatta City Council to provide a broader range of community services and facilities, discussions

began around the possibility of creating a new community hall and a larger and better-equipped library. The Dundas Valley Progress Association, an association formed in 1956 as a non-political organisation to work towards the betterment of the district, had a new library with a community hall as one of its highest priorities. With its rapidly growing membership, this association's voice proved very influential, and solidified the support for a new library.

Parramatta Council Valuation books from the 1950s confirm that the site on which the current Dundas Library is located at 21 Sturt Street, Telopea, belonged to the NSW Housing Commission. In an article from The Cumberland Argus dated February 7, 1962, it was reported that the NSW Housing Commission would be dedicating land to Parramatta Council for construction of a new library and community centre on Sturt Street, near Telopea shopping centre. The Commission had certain conditions in releasing the land which included: A library must be constructed within 5 years; plans for the building must be submitted for the Commission's approval; return of the land to the Commission if the building covenant is breached; and finally that Council is responsible for all legal and surveying costs involved in the transfer of the land.

Mr D.J. Mahoney, a Member of the Legislative Assembly for Parramatta stated:

I feel that now the Commission has agreed to make the land available, Parramatta Council will move quickly to complete the project.

Parramatta Council had originally planned to use the proceeds from the sale of the School of Arts building to create a new library.

On Saturday 6 April 1963, at 3 p.m., the new Dundas Valley branch of the Parramatta City Library at Sturt Street, Telopea, was opened by the Mayor, Alderman Reginald Van Nooten. On the 23 August 1963, this site was officially transferred to Parramatta City Council.



The Council of the City of Parramatta
requests the pleasure of the company of

at the
Official Opening
of the
Dundas Valley Branch of the Parramatta City Library
at Sturt Street, Telopea (Dundas)
on Saturday, 6th April, 1963, at 3 p.m.
by His Worship the Mayor, Alderman R. W. Van Nooten
Afternoon tea will be served at the
conclusion of the ceremony

R.S.V.P. by 1st April, 1963
to The Town Clerk,
Council Chambers, Parramatta
635-9121

Alderman R. W. Van Nooten, Mayor
E. S. Jameson, Town Clerk

Official opening invitation of the Dundas Valley Branch. Source: Parramatta City Library – Branches (VF0832) Research Library Vertical File

In 1992 Dundas Library began using computers, in 1993 the library was extended and refurbished, and in 2013 a grant was received for a Toy Library.

Today Dundas Branch Library is still located at 21 Sturt St, Dundas Valley, alongside the Dundas Community Centre. The library's opening hours are as of September 2022:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10am – 5pm
- Thursday: 10am – 8pm
- Saturday: 9.30am – 12.00 noon

Note: Please check the Library's website for the most up to date information on branch opening hours, location and services.

Ermington Branch Library

Neera Sahni



Ermington Branch Library, River Road, Ermington NSW. Source: Google Maps, 2017

Ermington Library, which is located on the corner of River Road and Lister Avenue next to the Ermington Police Station, opened on the Saturday 19 October 1963 at 3pm. The Parramatta City councillors had originally resolved on the motion that the library would open on the Saturday 12 October, and that public services would commence from Monday 14 October, but this opening was delayed as the Parramatta City Band was unavailable that day.

By the early 1960s many residents believed that they should not have to travel into Parramatta to borrow books from a library, and began lobbying Parramatta Council. There were reports in the local newspapers of hundreds of books lying idle in packing cases in the store rooms of the Parramatta City Library and this infuriated readers. By March 1961 the newspaper rumours included the proposal that council was considering establishing a library and community centre in Ermington. Within a few months this plan had been ratified by council in principle, but was clearly dependent on the sale of the Parramatta School of Arts. As this stage the estimated cost for the construction of the new Ermington Library was £7,000.

With the eventual sale of the Parramatta School of Arts raising £75,000, the proceeds from this sale were quickly diverted towards the construction of the new Ermington Library and the construction of a new central library. In July 1962 the floor plans were submitted to council and by February 1963 the plans and specifications were ready and the tenders advertised. The tender of Rowell and Muston Pty. Ltd. in the sum of £9,369 was accepted by April and the colour scheme for the library was accepted by July. By September the opening times at the new branch were decided upon, and the library was now ready for its opening in October. The plans for the creation of a parking area adjacent to the new library began the following month.

With the opening of the Ermington Community Hall next to the library on the Saturday 5 March 1966, the library's place in the Ermington community was reinforced. The introduction of air-conditioning in the library in 1970 also assisted in making it a leisure and recreation centre for residents.



New extension Ermington Library 1990. Source: Research Library Vertical File

In 1990 a new extension was added to Ermington Library and in 1999 the library was refurbished as part of Parramatta Council's \$200,000 library refurbishment program. The improvements aimed to include more space for outreach activities, such as story time and school holiday activities, space for technology including CD-ROMS, word processing and eventually internet access. More efficient lighting, automatic doors, public toilets, ergonomic furniture and improved access for elderly and disabled patrons were also new additions. There was also the construction of a wall of glass bricks to allow natural light to filter into the building.

The project cost Parramatta City Council more than \$280,000. The Parramatta Lord Mayor Paul Garrard officially reopened the library on the 22 May 1999 with the Ermington Police and the Rydalmere Fire Brigade amongst the guests. Bagpipes played by Scottish piper Ted Armitage, and the Rydalmere Public School students dancing and reciting poems were also part of the celebrations. The reopening was also met with the news that an after-hours returns chute would be installed shortly.

Patrons visiting Ermington Library over the following years would have seen many advances. 1991-1992 saw the computerisation of the Parramatta Library service from a manual system to an integrated library management system with 300,000 items being transferred onto computer and a database of registered borrowers being created. New collections were added and grew quickly such as the video collection, the CD-Rom collection which covered a range of subject areas from legal to biographical topics and multicultural resources. In December 1993 it was announced that access to the internet would be made available at all the Parramatta libraries including Ermington Library. A family at Ermington would now be able to access information online from their local library.

Ermington Library has participated in many engaging initiatives to improve literacy in the local community. This has included a Homework Support Program to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged youth for primary and high school students attending local schools or living in the area. Ermington Library has also painted itself red as part of Parramatta City Council and Families NSW initiative to promote the importance of reading to children from birth as well as to encourage parents to read to their children daily. The library's reading mascot Redsee the Readasaurus joins in the singing and dancing to entertain the children. The library has also hosted a mobile petting zoo with native animals including an echidna, lizard, cockatoo and possum under the supervision from Taronga Park educators to create an interactive and educational experience for the children.

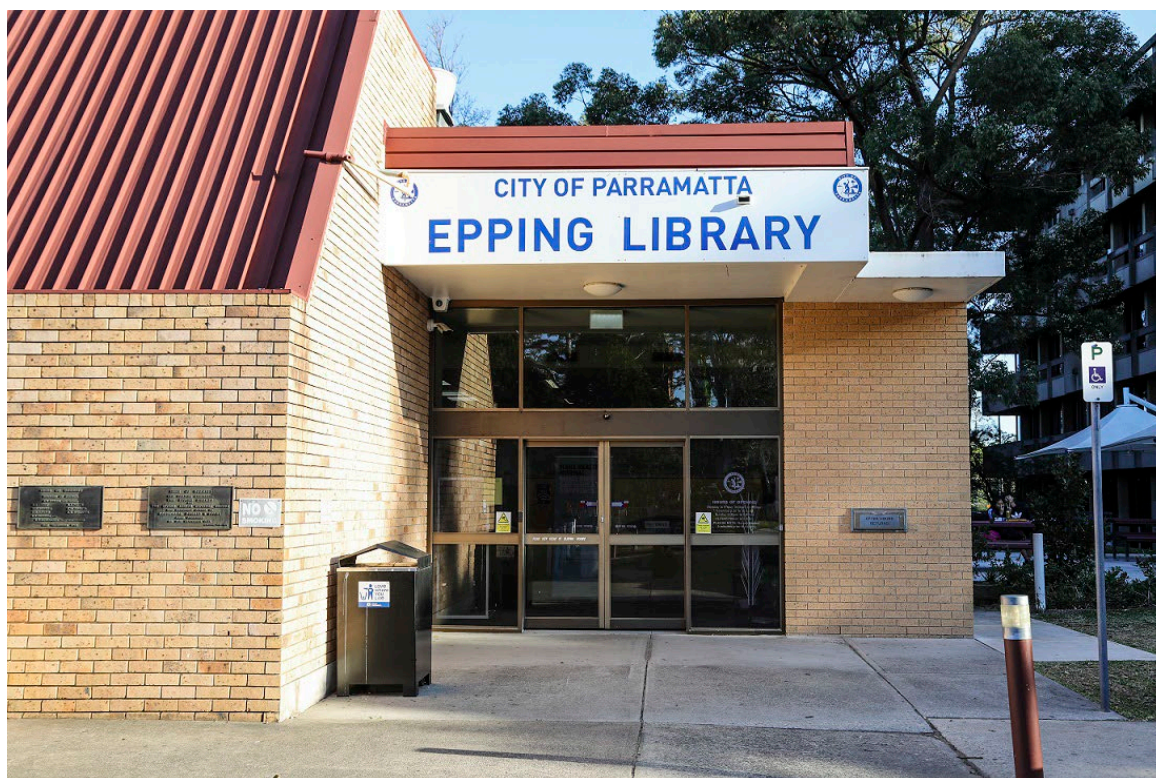
Ermington Library has also organised Smart phone, Tablet and Laptop training for its patrons. Recently, to celebrate Australian Library and Information Week, the library held a Family Trivia Night where the staff put together a quiz of all things about Aussies to have a fun night.

Ermington Library's Opening Hours are:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10am - 5pm
- Thursday 10am - 8pm
- Saturday 9:30am - 12pm
- Closed on Sundays and public holidays

Epping Branch Library

Anne Tsang



Epping Library - Places Spaces People Neighbourhoods. Source: City of Parramatta Council & ©Salty Dingo 2018

Epping Branch Library shares its building with the Epping Leisure and Learning Centre. It is currently located at 1 Chamber Court, Epping, NSW, via pedestrian access or 10 Pembroke Street, Epping, NSW (Lot 5 DP 249822). About 30 metres from Pembroke Street Park playground and about 210 metres away from Epping metro and train station and. Parking is available on premises.

As of 12 May 2016, with the Local Council boundary changes, Epping Branch Library has joined the City of Parramatta Library network from the Hornsby Shire Council.

History of Epping Branch Library

Epping Branch Library was officially opened on Saturday 21 September 1975 by the Shire of Hornsby Council with the Epping Senior Citizen Centre at then 10 Pembroke Street in Epping NSW. It had taken 5 years from the time Lot 6 and 8 (no. 10) Pembroke Street, Epping became available and plans were drawn up by

the architects. The site had previously been used as a public school in the demolished building known as 'Karonga House'.

Prior to Hornsby Shire Council establishing the Epping Library, there had been a library maintained in the School of Arts building in 1912 and later the free Epping Junior Library and Arts and Craft Centre was set up by a local parent committee group in 1945. The latter library was initially on Oxford Street in two vacant junk shops before it moved to the School of Arts building in 1949.

In 1969, discussions commenced between Hornsby and Parramatta Council in relation to setting up a library for the Epping area due to boundary issues.

Tenders were called for in 1973 and finally on 31 August 1974, Councillor Donald R. Evans laid the foundation stone for the Epping Library and Epping Senior Citizen Centre to be erected.

When Epping Branch Library first opened it was only open on the weekdays but after suggestions from the local community, operating hours were adjusted to include weekend hours. Another key issue discussed was parking.

No major refurbishments were made to the Epping branch library until 2013.



Epping Library. (Source: City of Parramatta Council)

Transfer to City of Parramatta

On 12 May 2016, with the Local Council amalgamation, the branch library was transferred to be part of the City of Parramatta Library network and renamed the Epping Library and Leisure and Learning Centre with a new address changed to Chambers Court, Epping. The Library was closed for four days from Monday 31 October and reopened at 10am on Friday 4 November 2016 as part of the transition.

Epping Library opening hours:

- Monday & Friday 10am - 5pm
- Tuesday to Thursday 10am – 8pm
- Saturday 9.30am - 12pm
- Sunday 2pm - 5pm

- Closed on public holidays

Regular programs offered at Epping Branch Library include: Tax Help One on One Sessions, Free training on how to download e-Resources to your device at Epping Library on Fridays 2-3pm and Homework Help in partnership with Shack Youth Outreach Epping during the school term: on Tuesdays 3.30 – 6pm free 30 minutes "One on One Chemistry tutoring - Years 10 to 12" with an accredited science teacher available to help with Chemistry questions, specifically stage 6, unit 2 and on Wednesdays 4.30 – 6pm, free 30 minutes "One on One Mathematics tutoring – Year 1 to Year 10" with an experienced volunteer to help students with mathematics questions. Bookings required, contact Epping Library 9806 5843

Epping Library and Learning and Leisure Centre Improvements (DA/191/2021)

City of Parramatta Council has proposed a \$1 million upgrade to the Centre to reconfigure the Library to meet the needs of existing and future library users, add four additional meeting rooms and upgrades to the toilet facilities to the Leisure and Learning Centre. To find out more about this and other Council projects, please see our Project Update News at:

<https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/wards/project-update-news>



Proposed new Epping Community Centre and Library (Source: Boker Architecture + Interiors <https://www.bokor.com.au/shop/item/epping-community-centre-and-library/community>)

Granville Branch Library

Neera Sahni



Granville Branch Library, Carlton Street, Granville, view of front exterior of two storey building, circa 1970s. Source: LSP 0763

The first branch library in Granville was opened on the 5 September 1959 in two upstairs rooms at the former Granville Town Hall at 10 Carlton Street Granville. Granville Town Hall was erected in Carlton Street in 1889 and was used as a town hall by the Borough of Granville until the suburb's amalgamation into the City of Parramatta in 1949. From 1949 the Granville Town Hall was then used as a community hall available for lease. The Granville Branch Library was formally opened as an additional branch of the Parramatta City Library service by Mayor Eric Arthur Mobbs with approximately 100 people in attendance. The Parramatta City Council Aldermen and their wives were also in attendance. The library began with an initial stock of 4,000 books, but the mayor stated in his opening address that the stock of books across the library network would increase by about 100 a week. He also announced that very few local government areas had achieved the

record set by Parramatta of opening a main library and 2 branches in less than a year.

A few years later in May 1961 the library's stock of then 9,000 books was almost lost in a fire in the Granville Town Hall. The assistant-caretaker Mr Lindsay Harris extinguished the fire that was barely 12 feet from the library's books. Paint was stripped off the ceiling of the room and the timber floor was scorched but luckily the collection was undamaged due to his quick response.

Granville Branch Library continued to operate from the Granville Town Hall location until Saturday May 24 1975. On Saturday June 7 1975 at 3:30pm the Granville Branch Library was officially opened at its new location at 8 Carlton Street Granville where it remained for 45 years. Mr. J.P. Flaherty, M.L.A. performed the opening ceremony.

In 1993 Granville Branch Library had major extensions which cost \$131,000. A new reference room, new carpets, greater disability access and more windows providing natural lighting were added. The library also had major landscaping work done outside the library. The library was officially reopened on the Saturday 25 September 1993.

On Remembrance Day November 11 1997 a terraced herb garden was officially opened by the Parramatta Lord Mayor John Haines in the Granville Library community garden. The garden was dedicated to the memory of Helen Fenech, a long-time worker for the Granville Baby Health Centre and Granville Multicultural Centre. Her sudden death earlier in the year shocked the local community and the creation of the garden was a successful collaboration between Granville Library, Granville Multicultural Centre, Parramatta Council, Granville TAFE Labour Market program and the Granville R.S.L. sub-branch. Unemployed students enrolled at the Granville TAFE were responsible for the construction of the garden. Many of the herbs had been grown by Helen and were donated by her husband John. The local newspaper *The Parramatta Advertiser* reported that *"many visitors to Granville Library have expressed their delight at the new gardens."*

In March 2010 the Parramatta Lord Mayor Paul Garrard invited the community to Granville Branch Library for a free public open day to celebrate the library's recent refurbishment and installation of a Wi-Fi connection. The refurbishment included the library being repainted, new carpet, furniture and shelving being installed as well as a redesign of the library space to make it more comfortable for the library patrons.

In 2016 as a result of the NSW Local Government Amalgamations, Woodville Ward of Parramatta Council was transferred to the newly formed Cumberland City Council. As Granville Library was located in the Woodville Ward, ownership

of the library was transferred from the City of Parramatta Council to Cumberland City Council.

New Granville Centre



(Source: Cumberland City Council)

Granville Library is currently located at 1 Memorial Drive, Granville in the newly created Granville Centre. The \$25 million multipurpose centre was officially opened on Tuesday 1 September 2020 by then Cumberland City Mayor Steve Christou in a low key event following Covid-19 restrictions.

In addition to the library with its back of house storage and offices, Granville Centre also includes an art gallery and arts spaces, a Community Centre with a large hall and multipurpose rooms, a meeting lounge and commercial kitchen and a new pool entry and a multi-sports courts and playground.

Current opening hours are:

- Monday and Thursday: 9:30am to 8pm
- Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 9:30am to 5:30pm
- Saturday: 9:30am to 12 noon

Please refer to Cumberland City Council website <http://cumberland.nsw.gov.au/> or phone (02) 8757 9061 for the most up to date information about Granville Centre and its Library, services and programs.

Guildford Branch Library

Neera Sahni

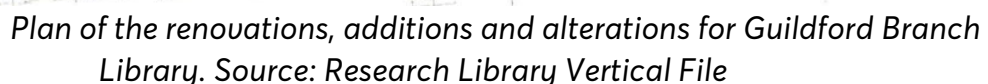


Guildford Library, Railway Terrace 2019. Source: State Library of NSW Public Library Services

Guildford Branch Library at Railway Terrace Guildford was officially opened on Saturday 16 May 1964 at 3pm by the Deputy Mayor Alfred Robert Cayley Thomas. Discussions regarding the construction of a new library in Guildford were already underway by February 1963 with the Parramatta City Councillors recommending that: *"the tenders for the Guildford Branch Library be advertised on receipt of the plans and specifications"* and that *"the building be sited on the northern side of the entrance to Guildford Car Park from Railway Terrace"*. The costs associated with the

It was initially resolved by the Parramatta City Councillors that Guildford Library would open on the Saturday 30 May but this was later amended to the 16 May 1964. The Opening of Guildford Library Official Guest List included: *"The Mayor and Aldermen of the Council and Ladies; Mayors of Adjoining Councils and Ladies; Members of the Library Board of NSW; Ex-Aldermen of the Granville area; Professional representatives; Representatives of the Parramatta School of Arts; The Department of Education representatives; Parramatta City Band; Church representatives and Principals and their wives of neighbouring schools."*

New extensions to Guildford Branch Library, with the appropriate amount of funding required, were proposed by the Parramatta Council General Manager to Parramatta Council in January 1993. Plans were also made to construct external toilets in conjunction with the extensions. In May 1994 Parramatta Council also gave approval for a mural art piece to be undertaken by young people and youth art workers and for it to be mounted on the wall of the Guildford Branch Library extension.



In September 1995 Parramatta Library's official newspaper Download reported that: "Guildford has finally re-opened. The official opening was on Saturday 26 August and the library re-opened on Monday 28 August. The library is unrecognisable – all who have seen it are full of praise for the new look. Shelves have been rearranged and repositioned around a central leisure area. Furniture has been upgraded. The stock looks terrific thanks to the efforts of Vanessa and Meagan who purchased, processed, covered, bugged, barcoded everything they could get their hands on (thanks to Support Services staff for their help too.) The mammoth task of returning stock to the library was executed with great good will... The publicity committee organised another great Gala day on the 28 August to publicise the reopening of Guildford. To celebrate the event the local community joined in fun and activities that were planned for the day. The library opened the doors at 10:30, with displays and giveaways greeting the people as they entered the branch. There was a special pre-school story time with free face painting in the morning. In the afternoon there was after school activities which included crafts and story time. Throughout the day 'pre-loved' books were on sale at bargain prices, and once again this was a success."

Throughout the 1990s Guildford Branch Library underwent many other changes including adopting learning languages multi-media kits, computerisation of their network, adopting a video collection and a book security system. Guildford Branch Library has had an extensive range of programs for children and adults over the years. Some of these have included: The Paint Parra REaD campaign which encourages parents to start reading, singing and writing with their children from birth; Author talks; See the stars at Guildford Light from a Distant Star as part of National Science Week; Evening story time for ages 0-5 with Mum and Dad in your pyjamas - after singing and stories, enjoy hot chocolate and cookies; beginner and intermediate computer courses; Positive parenting where you learn simple and practical strategies to confidently manage your children's behaviour and prevent problems developing and volunteer tax help. Guildford Branch Library has also participated in NAIDOC Week events with traditional music, language and storytelling; National Recycling Week and Seniors Week activities; manga drawing workshops; Taronga Mobile Zoo and Law Week Talks in Arabic to cater to the needs of Guildford's culturally diverse population.

In 2016 as a result of the NSW Local Government Amalgamations ownership of the Guildford Branch Library was transferred from the City of Parramatta Council to Cumberland City Council. Their opening hours are:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 9:30am to 5:30pm
- Thursday: 9:30am to 8pm
- Saturday: 9:30am to 12 noon

Please refer to Cumberland City Council website <http://cumberland.nsw.gov.au/> or phone (02) 8757 9063 for the most up to date information about Guildford Library, its services and events.

Local Studies and Family History Library

Neera Sahni



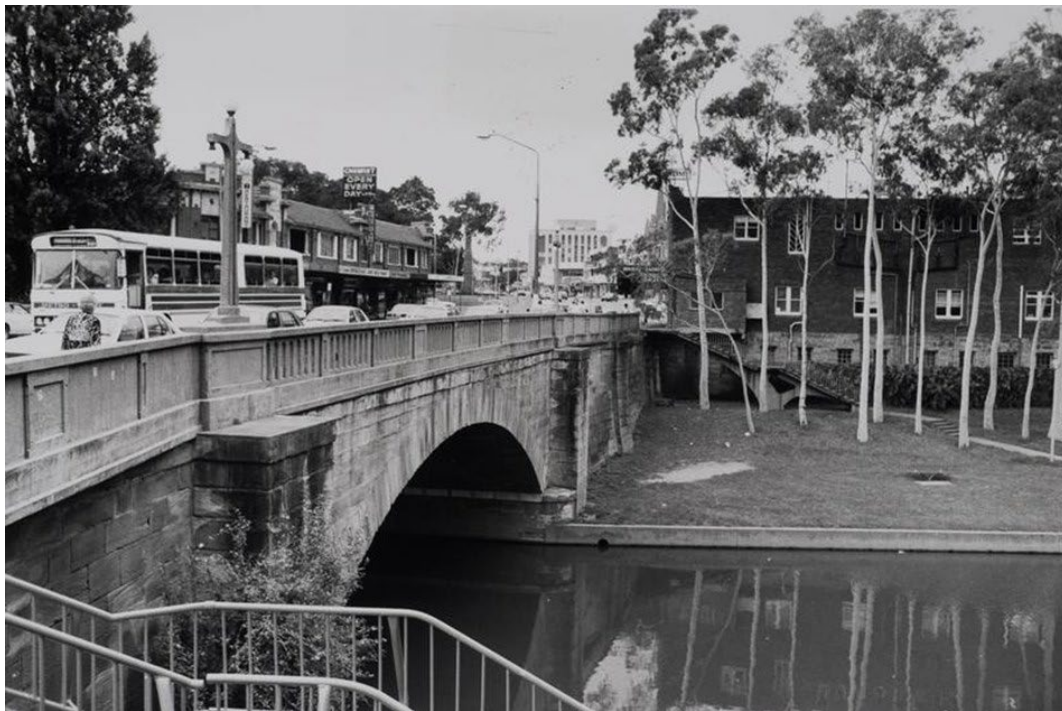
Parramatta Local Studies and Family History Research Library at the Parramatta Heritage Centre, 2021. Source: Anne Tsang

In 1975 the Parramatta City Library service appointed their first Local History Librarian. The local history collection functioned as part of the library's reference collection and when it purchased Births, Deaths and Marriages for all Australian states on microfiche in October 1997 it took a major step towards developing its family history collection.

The Local History collection remained at Parramatta Library until its closure on the Wednesday 26 August 1998, and reopened at 10:30am Monday 31 August 1998 in the new multi-functional Parramatta Heritage Centre at 346A Church St,

Parramatta. The Parramatta Heritage Centre had officially opened a few days earlier on the Saturday 29 August 1998.

There had been discussions for decades regarding the creation of a heritage repository for Parramatta but this began in earnest when the building at 346a Church Street was acquired by Parramatta Council from Meriton Apartments in 1994. The official hand-over of the building occurring in April 1995 by which time Parramatta Council had already proposed using the site as a Parramatta Heritage Museum and Resource Centre.



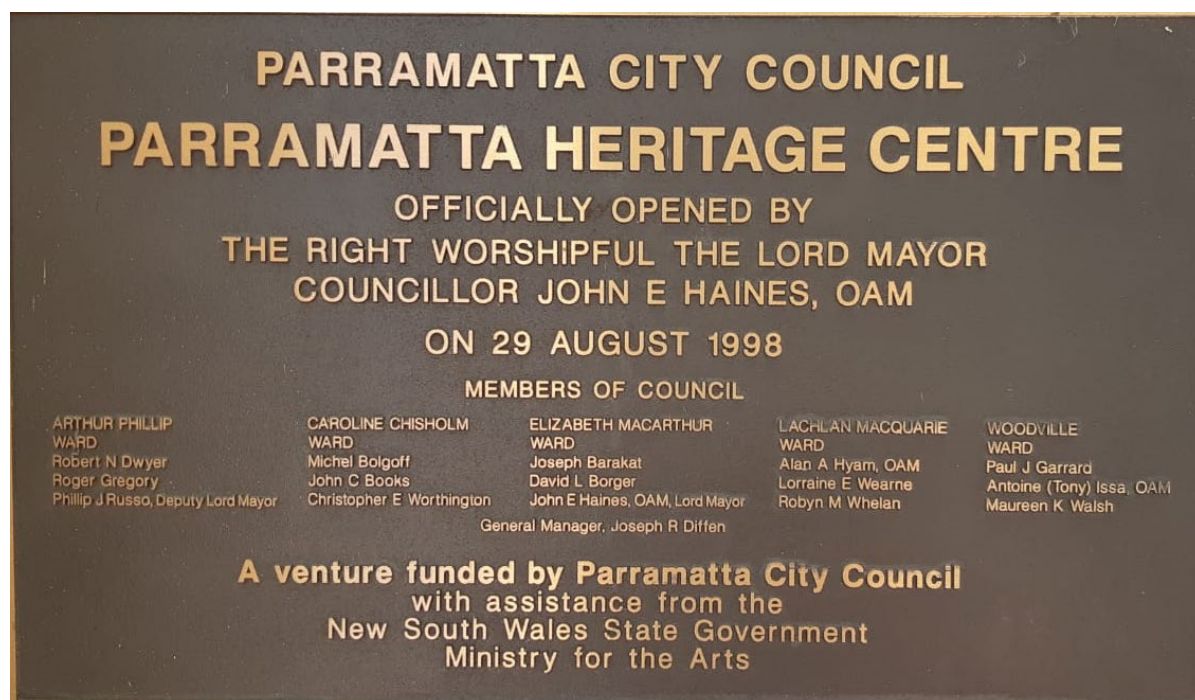
Site of the Parramatta Heritage Centre prior to construction viewed from Lennox Bridge, Parramatta, circa 1980s. Source: LSP 0935

Work started on the fit-out of the centre in February 1998 and by its opening in August of that year the new Local Studies and Family History Library had been incorporated into its services. The move resulted in the library having more room and facilities for the collection whilst overlooking the Parramatta River and Lennox Bridge. It was also a major step towards helping local residents and interstate and international visitors research family and local history without having to visit the NSW State Library, on Macquarie Street Sydney.

In December 1998 the Parramatta Visitor's Centre relocated to the Parramatta Heritage Centre from the Parramatta Riverside Theatres and with the Parramatta Council Archives and the Parramatta Cultural Collections now incorporated all in the one location the centre became a museum and a research centre offering a dynamic program of exhibitions and events, research, archives and a comprehensive range of tourist information on Parramatta and regional NSW.

Exhibitions, historical artefacts and collections, visitor services, archival resources, books, maps, photographs, seminar rooms for hire, audio visual experiences and research assistance all housed in one multi-faceted centre.

Parramatta Lord Mayor John Haines said at the opening of the centre that it would give students and locals a great resource for heritage research.



Parramatta Heritage Centre plaque. Source: Natalie Cassaniti

By 1999 Family History workshops in the library giving people a chance to learn about their family tree with an overview of the unique collection were being offered. Many of the early workshops concentrated on helping patrons use electronic and online resources to research their families and local history including house histories. The genealogy and house history workshops which often coincided with significant events including the NSW Heritage Festival and History Week began a program of learning that continues today.

In 2013 the Parramatta Heritage Centre restructured their services resulting in a greater integration between the Local Studies Library, the Visitor Information Centre, the Parramatta Council Archives and the Parramatta Cultural Collections. As a result, the library was increasingly referred to as the Research Library and the librarians and library assistants referred to as research facilitators and research assistants.



View of the Research Library taken from the south side of Parramatta River.

Source: Carla Dibbs Discover Parramatta

Currently the Research Library is part of the City of Parramatta Council's Research and Collection Services (RCS) team which consists of a Research and Collection Services Coordinator, an Archivist, a Cultural Collections Officer, and a Research Leader facilitating a genealogy and local studies team. This team can provide you with access to research, archives and cultural collections relating to Parramatta's Local Government Area helping to share and celebrate Parramatta's cultural heritage assets and stories. In addition, towards a greater integration of services, all sections of the Parramatta Heritage Centre including the library are increasingly involved in offering more resources and services online. For the RCS team this is now reflected in the Parramatta History and Heritage website which can be found at:

<http://historyandheritage.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/>

The RCS team continues to research and write research articles on an extensive range of [subjects](#), and create a range of publications reflecting our rich history. These can also be found on our [website](#). Some of the subjects include: Parramatta Female Factory Bicentenary; Parramatta Square; The Parramatta River Foreshore and Parramatta and District Nurses and Midwives to celebrate the 2020 Year of Nurses and Midwives.

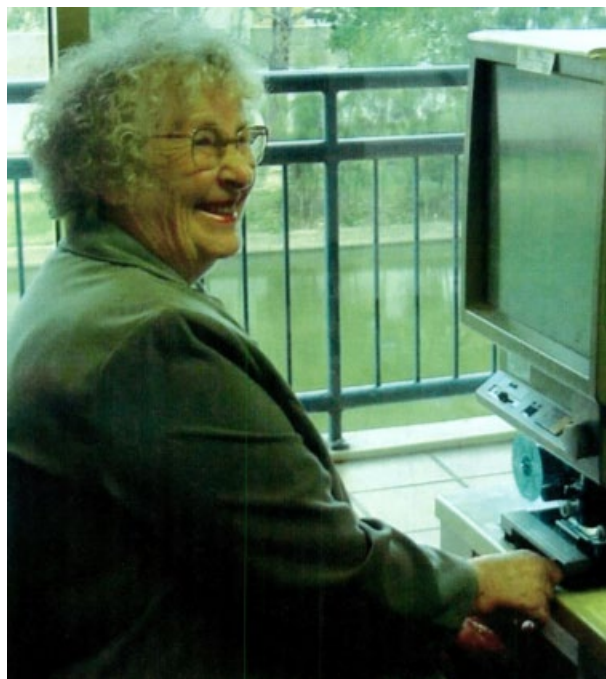
A major project that the Research Library with the other members of the RCS team has been involved with has been the celebration of the World War One Centenary. Together with a team of dedicated volunteers, the biographies of 1,962 soldiers, seamen and nurses from the Parramatta District has been

completed. This was the culmination of a four-year project. These stories of dedication, courage and loss are featured in these [publications](#). These stories can also be experienced through the World War One touch table found in the Research Library.

Throughout its history at the Parramatta Heritage Centre the library has created many displays on a range of subjects to both promote both the history and diversity of the region and the library's unique collection. These have included: Council records from 1862 detailing over 140 years of council action; Local dentist William Hart; The history of Parramatta transport; Women and Men of Parramatta; NSW Governors; ANZAC day; The Parramatta Female Factory; Historic Parramatta buildings; Chinese New Year; Parramatta's military history; Parramatta's retail history and the HMAS Parramatta Freedom of Entry.

Additional resources the Research Library offers includes an online [photographic collection](#), [Parramatta and District Local Research Guides](#), and a broad range of books, newspapers, maps, reports, microfilm, online databases and free public computers.

The Research Library has a long history of contribution from its many volunteers who have vastly contributed towards providing the research, skills and expertise that is now part of the heritage repository of the Parramatta Heritage Centre and Research Library. Their enthusiasm and knowledge has been a crucial part of the positive library experience shared by many patrons.



A volunteer in the Research Library (Source: Research Library Vertical File)

The Research Library responds to local, national and international Parramatta heritage and family history related enquiries. If you wish to contact one of our Research Team please send us a message through our [online enquiry form](#).

Since 25 July 2022, the Local Studies and Family History research Library officially closed to the public in preparation for its move into PHIVE, 5 Parramatta Square

The screenshot shows the top of the Parramatta History and Heritage website. The header is blue with the title 'Parramatta History and Heritage' and navigation links: Home, What we do, Research, and Contact. Below the header is a white search bar with three input fields: 'Search this website', 'Search the Library catalogue', and 'Search the Archives & Collections'. A large banner image follows, showing people in a library setting. Overlaid on the banner is the text: 'Research Library closed from 25 July 2022 to prepare for our move to PHIVE'. Below the banner, the main heading reads: 'Research Library closed from 25 July 2022 to prepare for the move to PHIVE'. The body text contains several paragraphs: 1. 'Changes are being made at the Parramatta Heritage and Visitor Information Centre Research Library and City branch Library as we begin our relocation to PHIVE - our new community, cultural and civic hub. Please find details of our [pop-up services](#).' 2. 'Open extended hours across seven days, PHIVE will be home to your new state-of-the-art Library, Customer Contact and Visitor Information services, community meeting spaces, café, and a diverse and vibrant cultural and community program.' 3. 'From Monday 25 July, our Local Studies & Family History Research Library (located within the Heritage and Visitor Information Centre) will be closed as we prepare for an exciting move to our new space within the Library at PHIVE, 5 Parramatta Square. We look forward to welcoming you to PHIVE, 5 Parramatta Square, in Spring 2022.' 4. 'During this time you can continue to access the local studies research team via email: localstudies@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au or online via the [enquiry form](#) on the Parramatta History and Heritage website.' 5. 'From Friday 9 September, the Heritage and Visitor Information Centre will close permanently as we get ready to transition our visitor services to PHIVE, 5 Parramatta Square. While we get ready for the move, you can still access visitor information via <https://atparramatta.com>.'

*Announcement of Research Library closure
(Source: City of Parramatta Council 2022)*

Mobile Branch Libraries and Outreach Services

Anne Tsang



City of Parramatta Libraries, Home Library Service van. Source: City of Parramatta, 2019

Mobile branch libraries or bookmobiles or travelling libraries are vehicle(s) designed, equipped and operated to extend and facilitate access to public library services to those people in the community who do not have reasonably convenient access to a static public branch library.

Former City of Parramatta Librarian Miss Margaret Miller (1958-1965) described bookmobiles as

"... a large vehicle with a five-ton chassis, to carry 2000 books, could be likened to a large bus. Borrowers would walk inside to take books from the shelves as they would in an ordinary library. Routes for the bookmobile, which will be driven by Mr John Stephenson, have been planned to enable the library to visit once a week at centres having a population of 100 or more, and twice a week at those with between 1000 and 3000."

Today although the City of Parramatta Library does not have a mobile branch library, there is an outreach library services most prominently in the form of our free **Home Library Services**

<https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/community/library/library-programs/home-library-service>.

This service is offered to people who are unable to visit the library due to poor health or disability, the frail aged, residents in a care facility, full time carers and residents who require temporary service after serious illness or injury. The van also delivers to local nursing homes, retirement villages and aged care facilities.

Please note: Residents/carers require a doctor's certificate stating causes or reasons why they cannot access their library due to medical conditions or illness.

History of Mobile Libraries in Australia

Growth in the use of mobile libraries or bookmobiles or travelling libraries in Australia started gaining traction in the late 1940s, post World War Two. They were already very common in the United States and England through the 1920s and 1930s. In parts of NSW, local Mechanics' and Literary Institutes offered a mobile book delivery service by subscription. The first public library bookmobile in NSW began on 9 October 1947 in Ku-ring-gai. During the 1950s a number of bookmobiles began operating in both regional NSW and the rapidly developing outlying metropolitan areas of Sydney.

In 1960 the Secretary of the Library Board, Mr. R McGreal and Parramatta City Librarian, Miss M Miller met to discuss the possibility of a regional mobile library service for Parramatta, Blacktown, Auburn, Baulkham Hills and Holroyd.

"A branch should be opened at Berala, with a bookmobile to serve Holroyd, Blacktown and Baulkham Hills. It is difficult to anticipate the future population growth in many areas, but there are places where, within ten years, the population will have grown to such an extent that a branch library ought to be provided rather than a mobile service. Blacktown Shire would need a bookmobile soon after it began a library service, as would Baulkham Hills Shire, while Holroyd would almost certainly need one on a temporary basis. If the councils operate independently, this would mean the provision of three separate mobile units, whereas the area concerned could be effectively served by one large bookmobile," the report added.

In 1972, with the joint regional library service agreement between Parramatta City Council, Holroyd Municipality and Baulkham Hills Shire Council, a mobile library service commenced with Parramatta providing the staff to drive the vehicle. In 1987, Parramatta Library received a new \$76,000 Isuzu vehicle bookmobile carrying about 2200 books supplied by Baulkham Hills Shire Council.



Librarian/ driver Bruce Morgan with the then new Book Mobile. Source: Mobile library turns over a new leaf, Hill News, 5 May 1987

Newington Branch Library

Anne Tsang



Newington Branch Library. Source: Anne Tsang

Newington Library was opened on Saturday 1 December 2001 as part of the Newington Community Centre. 2,000 people attended the official opening event by held by the then Auburn Council (proclaimed a City on 24 June 2009).

From Thursday 12 May 2016, Auburn City Council was abolished. Parts south of the Western (M4) Motorway amalgamated with Holroyd City Council and Parramatta City Council (Woodville Ward) to form Cumberland Council and areas north of the Western (M4) Motorway including the Sydney Olympic Park and Newington merged into City of Parramatta Council.

Newington Community Centre is located on Avenue of Europe and Avenue of Asia in Newington, New South Wales. It is in close proximity to the Newington shopping centre, behind the Newington Medical Centre.



Newington Library location map. Source: City of Parramatta Council, D05024293

The Centre features a main hall with a capacity of 100 and a meeting room which seats 40 people which is available for bookings.



Newington Community Centre floor plan. Source: City of Parramatta Council

As mentioned, it also offers a part-time Library and Customer Service operation to residents. The Library is temporarily closed. You can contact the Library on (02) 9806 5842 for further details.

History of Newington

Newington is situated on the traditional Aboriginal lands of the *Wann* clan, known as the *Wann-gal*. In 1807, John Blaxland acquired 520 hectares of land in the County of Cumberland reserving the original grants of Waterhouse, Shortland, Archer and Haslam. He named the estate Newington after his family estate in Kent, England and established a series of salt pans on the banks of the Parramatta River. By 1827, it was producing 8 tonnes of salt each week for the

Sydney market. Blaxland also established a tweed mill, limekiln and flour mill. Newington House was completed in 1832 and St Augustine's Chapel in 1838.

The suburb of Newington took its name from Blaxland's Newington Estate. The present suburb of Newington is bounded by Holker Street in the north, Louise Sauvage Pathway and Haslams Creek in the east, the Western (M4) Motorway in the south, and Henricks Avenue, Carnarvon Street and the industrial area in the west and is part of the Rosehill Ward. The 2017 Estimated Resident Population for Newington is 6,228, with a population density of 69.53 persons per hectare.

See also our articles:

- 'Newington – a brief history' by Emma Stockburn (2020, February 4).
- 'Silverwater – a brief history' by Anne Tsang (2016, October 21).
- 'Sydney Olympic Park and Homebush Bay – a brief history' by Emma Stockburn (2016, November 5).

History of Newington Community Centre

Prior to the Centre opening as a community space, it was originally built and used as the Olympic and Paralympic Athletes Village media and conference centre during the 2000 Olympic Games. After the Paralympics games concluded, the space was converted to the Newington Community Centre.

Wentworth Point Community Centre and Library

Emma Stockburn



Wentworth Point Library. Source: ALIA

The Wentworth Point Community Centre and Library (WPCCL) is a vibrant and versatile community hub that offers a wide range of facilities and resources for local residents and businesses.

The Community centre is situated on land that used to be mud flats. The point itself is built on a reclaimed industrial site on the southern shore of Parramatta River. Wentworth Point became a separate suburb in 2009.

The northern part of the peninsula was renamed Wentworth Point and gazetted in 1976, and officially became a new suburb on 2 October 2009. This occurred after the former Auburn Council sought public comment on a proposal to rename the Homebush Bay area, to remove confusion with its namesake suburb Homebush.

In 2013 as part of the NSW Governments Urban Activation Program, the former industrial area of Wentworth Point was put forward to be re-zoned as a residential area. This plan involved a range of residential buildings, a large park, walking paths, a new school and maritime facilities. As well as commercial and cultural elements such as a library, shopping centre and restaurants.



Wentworth Point Library Upper Level. Source: ALIA

The Library is placed at the centre of Wentworth Point, along the Parramatta River. The state of the art building includes the library, a community centre and places for the public to meet and create.

Contemporary Library Services includes a children's space, a learning lab, a quiet room for study, meeting spaces for community that can be moulded to the needs of a group. Also in the hub are creative studio's which can be used as dance, art spaces and music rooms. The building also includes free wi-fi and a 24-hour foyer that has a book vending machine.



Wentworth Point Library, Entrance. Source: ALIA

The building and the services it provided are well used and well thought of by the community. This is seen in the award the Wentworth Point Community Centre and Library received in the 2021 Australian Library Design Awards.

The opening hours of the Library are:

- Monday to Wednesday: 10am-5pm
- Thursday: 10am-8pm
- Friday: 10am-5pm
- Saturday: 9:30am-4pm
- Sunday: Closed

Services include:

- Contemporary Library Services
- Learning Lab
- Quiet Study Room opening hours are the same as the library (access with a City of Parramatta Libraries membership)
- Flexible Community Meeting Spaces
- Creative Space and Creative Studio
- Music Studios
- Co-working Spaces
- 24-hour foyer containing a book vending machine
- Free Wi-Fi

Please refer to the Library's website

<https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/wentworthpointcommunitycentreandlibrary> or phone (02) 9806 8600 or

WentworthpointCCL@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au for the most up-to-date information about the Library, its services and events.

Bookings can be made through the Bookings Team by email

WPCCLBookings@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au or phone (02) 9806 8688

Below is a booklet you can download to get to know the WPCCL



<https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/sites/council/files/2020-12/WPCCL%20Anniversary%20A4%20booklet.pdf>

Margaret Miller - First Parramatta Chief Librarian

Anne Tsang



Margaret Miller. Source: Parramatta Trust Ladies' Auxiliary

Miss Margaret Miller, B.A. was the First President of the Parramatta Business and Professional Women's Association in 1961. She is also significant to Parramatta as she being the first Chief Librarian of the first Parramatta City Library from 1958.

Margaret was born on 29 November 1914 in Stanmore, N.S.W., the daughter of Stephen George Miller and Margaret Mary (nee O'Brien). She studied and graduated from the Our Lady of Mercy College in Parramatta, N.S.W. In 1936, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Sydney and then

in 1937, she completed a further year of training at the Sydney Teachers College. From 1938, she worked as a high school teacher for the N.S.W. Department of Education until she transitioned to a career in librarianship in 1945.

Taking a position as the Wade Shire Library Griffith N.S.W. Librarian in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, she worked there from 1945 to 1948, before moving to Goulburn City Library N.S.W. as City Librarian for a year in 1949.

In 1949, Miss Miller's was appointed first librarian to the Lake Macquarie Shire. She was in charge of organising public libraries in the shire from 1950 to 1952 including the commencing of the Bookmobile library service – the first bookmobile to operate in northern N. S.W. after a successful trial in mid-1950. She oversaw the opening of the Speers Point central library in early 1950 which served as administrative headquarters for the Shire; the opening of the Boolaroo Free Public Library on 28 July 1950 at the former Boolaroo School of Arts, on Third Street, Boolaroo; the Belmont Branch Library on 14 August 1950 in the Community Hall, Pacific Highway in Belmont; and the Cardiff Branch in the former School of Arts building on 10 September 1951. The collection was classified under three main headings: novels and general reading; informative or educational; and books for children.

In 1952 to 1958, Margaret was a Librarian at the Public Library of N.S.W. in Sydney. She completed her Registration Examination in 1954. She was also a member of the Library Association of Australia (LAA) – the former Australian Institute of Librarians 1937-1949 and present Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), where she was the Honorary Secretary for the Board of Examiners from 1955 to 1957, General Secretary in 1962, N.S.W. Branch general Councillor 1963-66, Branch representative on the Library Board of N.S.W., and in 1977 was briefly Acting Executive Director until the appointment of Gordon Bower as the Executive Director in early 1978 of LAA.

She became the first Chief Librarian for Parramatta Council's first public library which was officially inaugurated on the 29 November 1958, by Alderman D. J. Mahoney. The Library was in the Jubilee Hall at Parramatta Town Hall following the vacating of Council's offices to a new Administrative Building and the Hall becoming available for the library to begin operations. Leading the library's operations, in 1965, she resigned from Parramatta Library and John Taylor was appointed. Under her leadership, she oversaw:

- Opening of Children's Library in Prince Alfred Square, Market Street (then known as Prince Alfred Park) in 1958
- Opening of Dundas Children's Library in the front room of Dundas Town Hall on Monday to Friday 3-5pm in 1959
- Building and opening of Ermington Branch Library in 1963
- Building and opening of Dundas Branch Library in 1963

- Opening of Guildford Branch Library in 1964
- Opening of Parramatta Central Library at Civic Place in 1964
- Formation of the joint Parramatta City Council and Baulkham Hills Shire Council Library service in 1965

In 1961, Margaret was also the first President of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Parramatta, when it received its Charter. An advocate for women and librarianship, she promoted the role and career opportunities for future librarians and in an article published in *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate* (22 August 1962, page 3).

LIFE IN BOOK BUSINESS

Librarian finds work interesting

A Parramatta woman "in the book business" for more than 20 years said this week she could still find her work interesting.

"It is certainly never dull or boring," she added.

"If a girl goes into librarianship seriously, it does present opportunities for a career of continuing interest and development."

The woman is Parramatta City Council's librarian (Miss Margaret Miller) who this year is General Secretary of the Australian Library Association.

Miss Miller is well qualified to answer all these questions.

Apart from experience in Local Government Libraries she worked for about six years with the N.S.W. Public Library,



set by the Australian Library Association.

She said people and books were "always interesting" and an important part of librarianship was dealing with people and their tastes in books.

A librarian's job was to facilitate the use of books under her control.

"One of the most important personal qualifications for a girl interested in the work is her ability to deal cheerfully, promptly and courteously with people."

Miss Miller said the Australian Library Association set Leaving Certificate Matriculation standard as the basis qualification for librarian trainees.

Part of the intense behind-the-scenes activity which makes it simple for a reader to select books from Parramatta libraries, is pictured here.

City Librarian, Miss Margaret Miller (seated) is checking the card index system with an assistant. Readers can check on availability of various authors in the library by checking the indexes.

She was in charge of the library's special training school.

Miss Miller has also controlled examinations. Training qualifications available in Australia were:

• Library Association Registration Certificate after completion of nine papers each of three hours.

• A full time diploma course at the School of Librarianship, University of N.S.W.

"A travel minded girl with either of these qualifications behind her would have no difficulty in obtaining a position in either the United Kingdom or the United States, especially in the United Kingdom," she added.

Miss Miller said Australia's first professionally trained librarian, in the modern sense, was a woman.

She was a Miss Windeyer, who in 1920 graduated from a New York library school, inaugurated in 1887 by Mr. Melvil Dewey.

"I personally have never been bored with library work.

"My advice is that any girl who hopes to progress, has to take into account the fact that it is a big field with opportunities, but requiring study and effort," she added.

Opportunity for keen girls

-20-

Kai He – Insights into Volunteer Experience

Kaito He



Kai He. Source: Kai He

My name is Kaitao He and I have been a volunteer research assistant at the Parramatta History and Heritage Centre since early 2019.

Born in China, I have called the Parramatta area home since 2006. I attended school in Parramatta and Carlingford, before undertaking history at the University of Sydney. My role at the Parramatta Heritage Centre has thus been a wonderful opportunity for me to contribute to my local community whilst exploring my personal interest in historical research and writing.

At the centre, I have worked on several projects focused on the long and storied history of the Parramatta and its Local Government Area (LGA) which spans from Toongabbie to Newington and Epping. These projects include commemorating past and present veterans of the First and Second World War, researching local honour rolls as well as the origins of street names in the Parramatta LGA.

A number of methods and sources have been used to conduct my historical research. Often, internet databases such as Trove or the State Library of NSW will have helpful digitised sources which would otherwise be inaccessible to local historians. Whilst working on the Street Names project, I found the State Library's extensive collection of subdivision plans to be particularly helpful as they usually include the date and developer responsible for the creation of new streets.

The centre itself holds an extensive collection of histories on its shelves, ranging from broader national histories to publications on Parramatta or its surrounding suburbs. It even includes local community histories, such as a book by Ermington Public School to mark its 75th anniversary from 1963!

The archives and vertical files located at the centre have also been of tremendous help to my research into Parramatta's local history, with forgotten newspaper clippings or archived council documents often holding the key to otherwise unanswerable questions about our past.

Finally, the wonderful team at the centre have been incredibly supportive and helpful in my research, whilst sharing their expertise and infectious passion for Parramatta's local history. The staff work alongside an enthusiastic community of volunteers to create a friendly environment for visitors and peers alike.

As Parramatta continues to grow, so will its history. The Parramatta Heritage Centre will continue to play a vital role in shaping the story of Parramatta, and I am glad to contribute to this mission.

Anne Mathews - Insights into Volunteer Experience

Anne Mathews



Anne Mathews: Source: Anne Mathews

Growing up in the Auburn area during the 1940s and 1950s Parramatta was our 'special occasion' place to visit. I can remember coming to Parramatta Park for picnics with the different groups to which I belonged. In my teens, Parramatta on a Saturday was something to look forward to. Visiting large shops like David Jones near the river and having a milkshake in their café were special treats. After marrying in 1968 we made our home in the Parramatta LGA. Parramatta shops became our shopping centre each week.

Late in the 1990s I started tracing my family history with a brother who had become unemployed. Originally we went to Lidcombe Library then when I changed my employment I started going to the Parramatta Library to research. Then the Local Studies Library at the Heritage Centre opened and I researched my family history there several times a week. In 2000, having changed from a 5 day a week position to a 2 day a week position I was invited to become a volunteer at the Local Studies Library helping people with their family history. I found that I enjoyed helping and I was soon attending the Centre most days even in the afternoon after work.

Helping with the artefacts from the many archaeological digs being carried out in the Parramatta area, which were received into the Heritage Centre, assisted me with the researching of the many exhibitions organized. We started cataloguing the items and photographing them to try to make it easier to find many of the significant items held in the collections. This I really enjoyed and continued at the Heritage Centre for the next 10 years. I found my time dealing with the items taught me more about the Parramatta area and its colonial past.

I soon found myself putting together an exhibition on Burnside Homes, North Parramatta. My father had been a small child when he lost his parents and was admitted to the homes with his infant brother. He had many fond memories of his time there so was one of the people featured in the exhibition.

Following one of the exhibitions, "Women Transported, life in Australia's Convict Female Factories" I found myself doing research of all the women who passed through the Parramatta Female Factory. This I have continued until this day and still enjoy finding out more and more about Parramatta in its infancy. During COVID I have more time to pursue these fascinating women and their stories. How they became the mothers of Australia.

I still go to the Local Studies Library and I am willing to help anyone with their family history and pass on the knowledge I have learned from the family history courses that I have enjoyed doing. COVID has put a stop to my volunteering for the moment; I am looking forward to restarting as soon as possible.

Along with volunteering at the Heritage Centre I started at Hambledon Cottage, Parramatta, as a Schools Guide. Showing the school children the history of Parramatta and seeing them relate to the different items held there is a wonderful experience for me. I am also waiting patiently for the return of my days with the children.

David Senior - Insights into Volunteer Experience

David Senior



David Senior. Source: David Senior

My name is David Senior and I have lived in the Parramatta area all my life. Local area history has always been of great interest to me, to the extent that sometimes I bore my family with the fascinating information found or the great mysteries resolved.

I have volunteered as a guide at Old Government House in Parramatta Park since 1998 and since 2017 had the opportunity be more involved in my favourite interest.

I commenced volunteering at the Parramatta History and Heritage Centre in March 2018. I have worked on several projects including writing profiles of

Parramatta veterans from First and Second World Wars, suburb histories and migration program from Spain - Martha Plan.

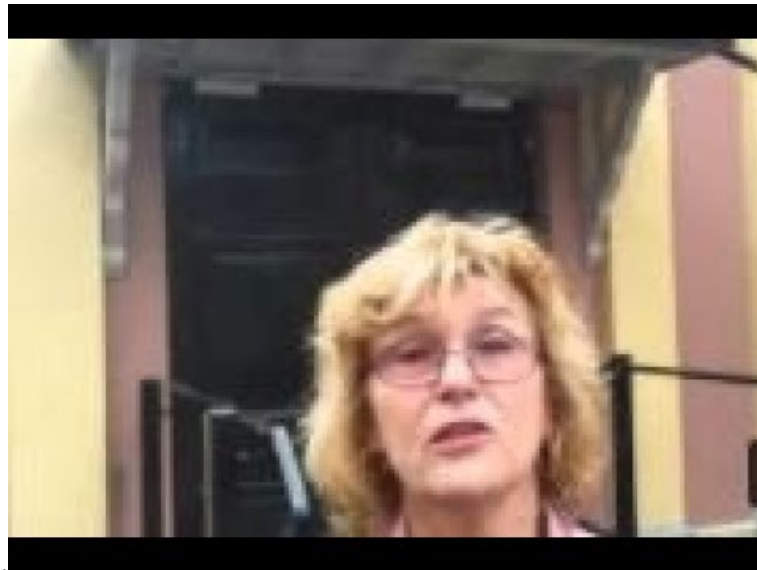
Through these projects information about Parramatta is made available to a much wider audience that helps promote Parramatta and its history. It was gratifying to receive a request from my local Probus group to make a presentation about the local area after they read my suburb profile on Dundas Valley and Baulkham Hills.

The successful completion of these projects is due the large collection of books, photographs, clipping files, digitised records that are held at the Centre. I have gained a much better understanding of our city and its people who were born, lived, worked, married, and died here, all making Parramatta be Parramatta.

The team at the Centre are a wonderful, knowledgeable, and dedicated group. We have a wonderful time each week discussing current issues, researching, and exchanging ideas and theories. It looks like I will be volunteering here for a long time to come.

Parramatta City Council Reminiscences – Part 1: The First Public Library

Katherine Mitchell



Librarian Katherine Mitchell's experience at Parramatta Library from 1960s as a library staff member. Interview was recorded in 2015.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6lu72Cjdzs>

Hi, Katherine, the librarian here again and right behind me is Jubilee Hall. I've got really special memories of this venue in fact because when I was in primary school and sort of junior high school I used to come to this venue and borrow books. I have memories of coming here to get some information on assignments you know probably in year five and six, but at that time it was you know a fabulous library. I mean it had books so I was thrilled but basically you know it was a basic library in many ways compared to modern libraries. It had a manual card system called the Brown System. That's irrelevant but it was just this very sort of time-consuming manual lending system. But basically it was still a wonderful place, it was full of children and adults and a great resource that Parramatta had. The librarian who started this library was a lady called Miss Margaret Miller. She was a real pioneer of libraries in Australia. She started the first vocational training course for librarians. She set it up at the Sydney TAFE. So she was a remarkable woman. We were lucky to have her here in Parramatta. She started, you know, the foundation of you know the wonderful library that we now have.

Interview transcript by Neera Sahn

Parramatta City Council Reminiscences – Part 2: Renovations

Katherine Mitchell



Librarian Katherine Mitchell's experience at Parramatta Library from 1960s as a library staff member. Interview was recorded in 2015

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bfuqPqwdOWM>

Hello, Katherine once again, a little bit about this building. I started at this library when I was 19 and I had pretty much just finished in high school and I was going to start doing a course. This was a one level building and it had very much a nice community feel but it was really compact compared to how it is today and of course no technology but it had a lovely old, well it had the first automated card library management system where we would use transaction cards which was really time consuming and clumsy - nothing like today - but you know once again it had lovely books, a great collection, and a nice community feel. The end part of the building, it was only one level, was the collection development centre, so cataloguing and processing books and you know buying books and down this part of the library was our collection with our customer service, you know, area right in the middle, so there was a reference part of the library so it had everything

you needed but you know it was pretty small scale. I know a little bit also about the entrance to the library because I actually worked on that. If you have a look at the indigenous signage or you know the pattern above the library - because up until then you know libraries were very low-key so they didn't really advertise themselves - so you know we decided that we would put a big library sign up so people would actually know that we were here.

Interview transcript by Neera Sahni

Parramatta City Council Reminiscences – Part 3: Student Collections

Katherine Mitchell



Librarian Katherine Mitchell's experience at Parramatta Library from 1960s as a library staff member. Interview was recorded in 2015.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOtmm1GStrk>

So I just wanted to tell you a little bit about this collection - it's a student collection HSC and junior school. So Parramatta Library was actually the first library to have not exactly a designated, but have a collection that was a special collection. Most libraries in the past had special areas of collection, and back in the day we had something that was you know fairly irrelevant like physics and we decided that because of that demographic that we should have a more appropriate collection because we have so many schools and Parramatta is such a hub, so that so many students pass through Parramatta. And so we decided that we would put money into establishing a multi copy text book collection, and study guides that are related and prescribed - that is to novels that relate to the HSC. That was our very

first collection back in 1995, and with it we have a complementary program of lectures, workshops and things to help students specifically year 11 to 12. Then later on we extended this collection to include from K right up to year 10 which is what we now have in Parramatta Library. And in fact it was the very first special collection in the whole of New South Wales. I think students come from all over Sydney to access this resource because of the excellence of it. And I mean that is really due to the fact that council had the foresight to give this library the resources to do it. The sort of programs that we do, for example this week we've got our workshops for English topic area discovery and we've been doing that for years also you know physics, chemistry, sciences, maths and this particular week it's chemistry and English. So that's the sort of programs that we run to complement the HSC collection. But the exciting thing is now we have really good resources for primary school collections and in particular really popular things for selective schools and NAPLAN resources to help you know supplement the students in our demographic and the people who can't always afford to buy a lot of expensive textbooks. So I think Parramatta Council and the library are very proud to be able to provide that service.

Interview transcript by Neera Sahni

Parramatta City Council Reminiscences – Entrance Design (Part 4)

Katherine Mitchell



Librarian Katherine Mitchell's experience at Parramatta Library from 1960s as a library staff member. Interview was recorded in 2015.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tD0Fti6cZRE>

Hi Katherine again, welcome back. A couple of things I wanted to mention. As you can see the library building is you know pretty much a very old fashioned 1960s building in pebblecrete, even though it's had an extra level added. But what I think is significant is the signage. Now I was involved in that, probably the early 2000s. Libraries were always very you know low key and they didn't really want to advertise themselves, so we decided that we would put a nice big library sign up. And you can see that is a really outsized library sign so that you know people knew that the library was here. And the other significant thing about the signage, or the decoration above the signage, is that Danny Eastwood a local Indigenous artist was commissioned to, actually his artwork was to be used on a lot of the library's

sort of stationary, and there's a sort of..., but anyway if you want to have a look at it it's a kind of picture of the eels tail and head to tail, and I think that's significant because you know it sort of points out that Parramatta began to think about Indigenous people and the fact that this was the land of the Dharug people. And that kind of consciousness was raised which I think was a really important thing for Parramatta to do.

Interview transcript by Neera Sahni

30th Anniversary Celebration: Parramatta Library

Neera Sahni



30th Anniversary Celebration: Parramatta Library. Source: City of Parramatta Library

Front: Unknown, Unknown, unknown Eileen Cassidy, Unknown, Margaret Miller (1st Library Manager), Chris Rickards, Annette Forster, Barbara Wiles, Donna ?, Marjorie Ball, Dawn ?, John Taylor (2nd Library Manager), Winsome Collingridge (3rd Library Manager.)

2nd Row: Unknown, Delma Drewe, Unknown, Unknown, Max Hamilton

3rd Row: Unknown, Margaret Hamilton (Watson)

4th Row: Unknown, Carol Blashke (Bennetts), Carole Nash, Karin Morley

5th Row. Peggy Medd, Katherine Mitchell, Unknown

6th Row: Brenda James, Chris Hallows (Moore), Unknown

7th Row: Unknown, Maureen Smallwood

8th Row: Carly Crewes, Heather Holland, Elaine Hood, Unknown

9th Row: Mercedes Bertus, Joan Suckling, Unknown, Unknown

10th Row: Sharon Pike, Marion Robertson, Linda Bathur

11th Row: Unknown, Unknown, Mary Wilmshurst, Rosemary Kosiak

12th Row: Unknown, Jeanette Dixon (Pearson), Lyn McLeod

13th Row: Unknown, Unknown, Bruce Morgan

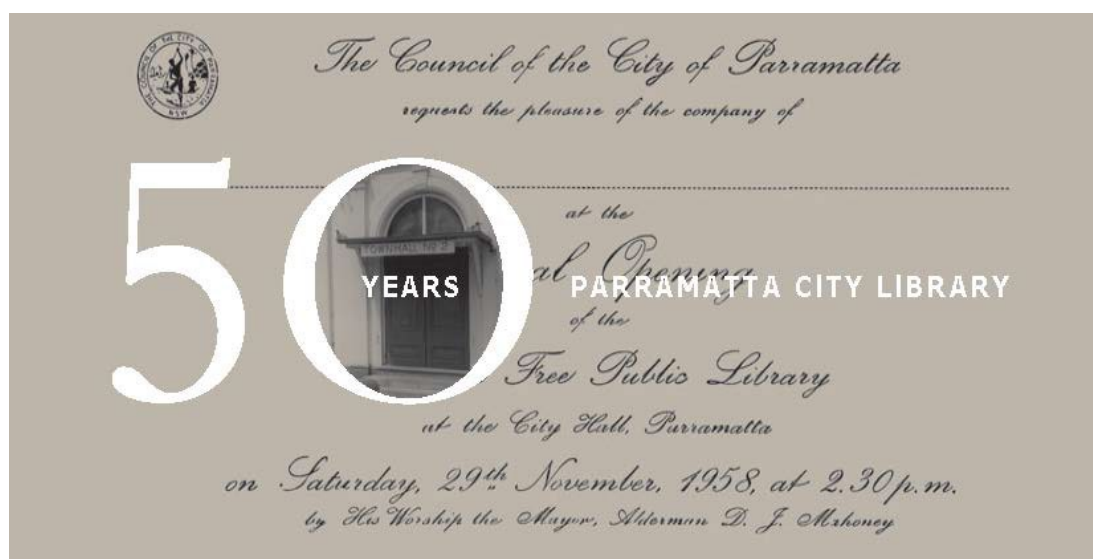
PS: If you know any staff member, please help us identify them. Thanks.

50th Anniversary: Parramatta Library

Neera Sahni



50th Anniversary: Parramatta Library. Source: City of Parramatta Library





- 1958 Opening of Parramatta's first free Library opened by Mayor, Alderman DJ Mahoney in front of a crowd of 100 people (including Tom Uren MHR for Reid) at Jubilee Hall No. 2 on Saturday 29 November 1958
Miss Margaret Miller, first Chief Librarian
Children's Library located in Prince Alfred Park in Market Street (opposite what is now the Riverside Theatres)
- 1959 Dundas Children's Library opened in the front room of Dundas Town Hall operating 3-5pm Monday- Friday
- 1963 SATURDAY BRANCH LIBRARIES OPENED
Ermington & Dundas Branch Libraries opened
- 1964 Guildford Branch Library opened
Newly built Central Library building in Civic Place officially opened
- 1965 Formation of a joint Library service involving Parramatta City Council & Baulkham Hills Shire Council
Resignation of Miss Margaret Miller as City Librarian
Appointment of Mr John Taylor as the new Chief Librarian
- 1971 Library services established at Baulkham Hills, Castle Hill & Carlingford
- 1972 Baulkham Hills based 'Bookmobile' service introduced
- 1975 First Local History Librarian appointed
Granville Branch opened
- 1977 Banning of Biggles books
- 1978 Dural Branch was opened at Round Corner, Dural
Joint library service agreement with Holroyd Council to establish branches at Merrylands, Wentworthville & Greystanes
- 1979 Central Library extensions were completed
Audio Visual Section opened
- 1980 Opening of Wentworthville Branch Library
- 1983 Introduction of Housebound Readers Services
- 1984 Introduction of Saturday afternoon opening
- 1985 Banning of Enid Blyton books
- 1987 New Book Mobile carrying about 2200 books (Bruce takes to the road)
- 1989 Baulkham Hills Shire Council severed ties with Parramatta & resolved to operate their own Library Services



1990

Holyroyd Council followed suit to take responsibility for their Libraries

Opening of Emma Crescent Branch Library
(also known as Toongabbie and now Constitution Hill)

1991

Parramatta City Library appoints Katherine Mitchell
first Young Adult Librarian – a first in NSW

The collection (combined with HSC books) services
13–18 year olds

1992

Computerisation for Central and Branch libraries

1993

New video collection for Audio Visual opened

Dundas Library Extended & refurbished

1995

Retirement of Miss Winsome Collingridge & appointment
of Ms Meredith Wallace as the new Library Manager
CD-ROM technology at the Information Services Section
Libraries go on-line

Public library provided with a multimedia computer
linked to the internet & new information services
made possible by Federal Government grant

Guildford Library refurbished & extended

Optus Vision cable to network

Complete refurbishment of Parramatta Central Library

Introduction of internet services

Establishment of multicultural lending collection

Basic English collection

CD Roms introduced

Arabic Community Language Collection established

1996

Internet on-line

Launch of Compact Disc music collection

Language Collection now in 13 languages

Chinese (Traditional) Community Language Collection

Chinese (Simplified) Community Language Collection

1997

Italian Community Language Collection established

Greek Community Language Collection established

1998

Parramatta Heritage Centre (Incorporating the Visitor
Information Centre) officially opened on 29 August 1998
in Church Street



2000

'Changing lifestyles open library doors on Sundays'
headlined in the *Daily Telegraph* 15 January 2000
Technology Learning Centre at Parramatta City Library
Korean Community Language Collection established

2001

Ermington Library extended & refurbished
DVD collection
Multicultural Excellence Awards 2001 for the establishment
of a new Korean Collection at Parramatta City Library
Resignation of Ms Meredith Wallace as Library Manager
Appointment of Mr Roger Henshaw as the new Library Manager

2002

Web based catalogue
Parramatta Library refurbished

2003

Talking books available in CDT format

2004

AMLIB new computer system installed
Councils Online with 5 Councils
Parramatta, Hornsby, Randwick, Lake Macquarie, Wyong

2005

Constitution Hill renovations completed
Live Homework Help (now known as Tutor Online)

2006

Technology Learning Centre at Ermington Branch Library
Resignation of Mr Roger Henshaw as Library Manager

2007

Technology Learning Centres at Dundas, Guildford,
Granville & Constitution Hill Branch Libraries
Net Loan Pro – Computer reservation system for public use
Parramatta Library ground floor refurbished
August – Naming of Darug Room
Persian Community Language Collection established

2008

RFID – Radio Frequency Identification
2008 True Local Business Awards winner
– Community Service Not-For-Profit Organisation
awarded to Parramatta City Library
Multicultural Excellence Award 2008
in recognition of outstanding contribution to Multicultural Library
Services, Public Libraries NSW Metropolitan Association Inc.
(State Library NSW)
Local Government Multicultural Health Communication Awards
2008 winner Parramatta City Council Library
'Community Health Promotion for the Chinese Community'
29 November – 50th Anniversary Parramatta City Library Service

60th Anniversary: Parramatta Library

Neera Sahni



60th Anniversary Cake. Source: City of Parramatta Library

Parramatta's first free library was officially opened by His Worship the Mayor, Alderman D. J Mahoney on Saturday 29 November 1958 in front of a crowd of 100 people at Jubilee Hall No.2 at Parramatta Town Hall.

On 29 November 2018, Parramatta Library celebrated its 60th anniversary. Celebrations kicked off by speech and official cutting of the cake by the Right Worshipful, The Lord Mayor Councillor Andrew Wilson. It is proud 60 years of inspiring the community through free access to knowledge and evolving with the community's needs and expectations.

In these 60 years Parramatta Library has provided free access to books, online resources and over 2000 events including digital literacy, children's events, HSC talks, author talks, talks in other languages, English conversation classes, job classes and many more. The library's goal is to enable to the community to connect, participate and learn.

Images of the celebrations. *Source: Parramatta Library*



Opening speech by the Right Worshipful, The Lord Mayor Councillor Andrew Wilson.
Source: City of Parramatta Library



Community Services Group Manager Sue Coleman. Source: City of Parramatta Library



Parramatta Libraries Manager Michele Burton. Source: City of Parramatta Library



*Cake cutting by the Right Worshipful, The Lord Mayor Councillor Andrew Wilson.
Source: City of Parramatta Library*



Let the celebrations began...patrons enjoying cake. Source: City of Parramatta Library



Let the celebrations began...patrons enjoying cake. Source: City of Parramatta Library



Parramatta Library Staff – dressed to impress. Source: City of Parramatta Library



The Lord Mayor Councillor Andrew Wilson and Librarian Hiba Kanj. Source: City of Parramatta Library



The Lord Mayor Councillor Andrew Wilson, Group Manager Sue Coleman, and Parramatta Libraries Manager Michele Burton. Source: City of Parramatta Library



Parramatta Library staff. From left to right – Johany Ali, Preetha Joseph, Hiba Kanj and Bruce Morgan. Source: City of Parramatta Library



Some memorabilia from early days. Source: City of Parramatta Library



Some memorabilia from early days. Source: City of Parramatta Library



60th Anniversary Display screen. Source: City of Parramatta Library

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Images



Parramatta Library at Civic Place. Source: LSP 0527



Parramatta Library at Civic Place. Source: LSP 0927



Parramatta Library at Civic Place. Source: City of Parramatta Library



Parramatta Library. Source: Council Archives PRS1111911



Front view of Emma Crescent Branch Library 1990. Source: City of Parramatta Council



Back view of Emma Crescent Branch Library 1990. Source: City of Parramatta Council



*Dundas Community Centre, Health Centre and Branch Library. 21 Sturt St, Telopea.
Source: Community Archives Collection ACC002/096/008*



*Dundas Community Centre, Health Centre and Branch Library. 21 Sturt St, Telopea.
Source: Community Archives Collection ACC002/110/026*



Carlingford Branch Library. Source: City of Parramatta Council



Carlingford Branch Library. Source: City of Parramatta Council



Epping Branch Library. Source: City of Parramatta Council



Epping Branch Library. Source: City of Parramatta Council

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27. 30th Anniversary Celebration: Parramatta Library

Courtesy thanks to the City of Parramatta Library staff especially Ranjini Panicker, Bruce Morgan and Anne Poole for supplying the information and images.

28. 50th Anniversary: Parramatta Library

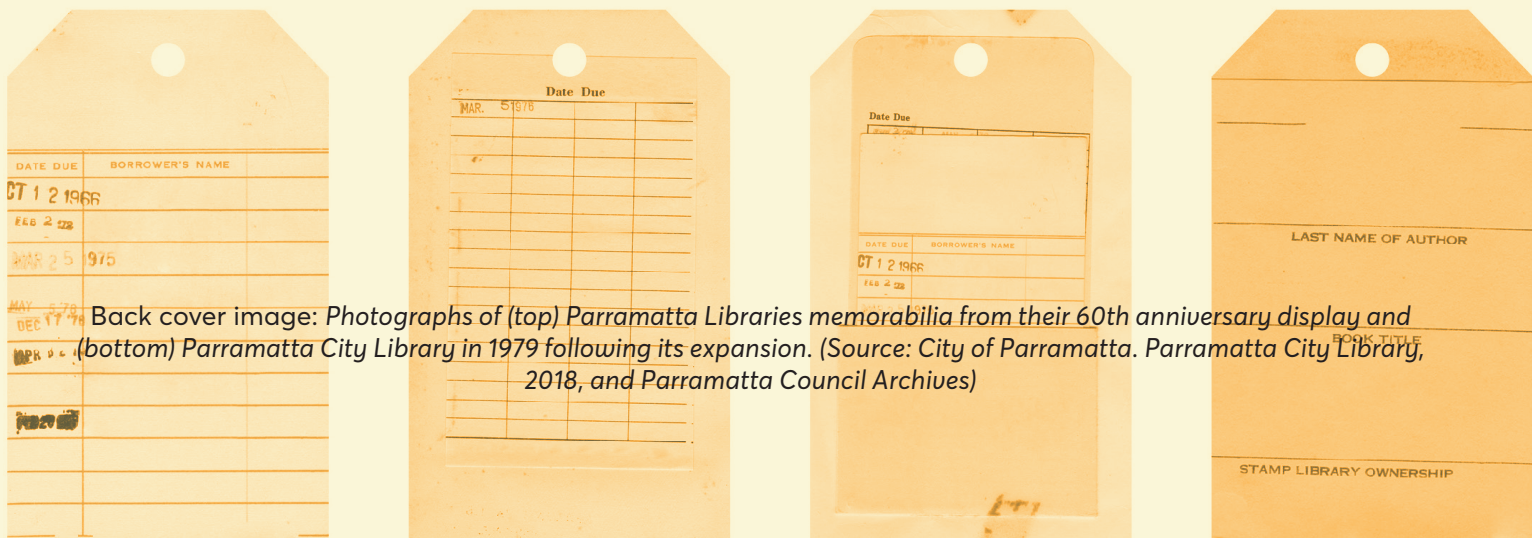
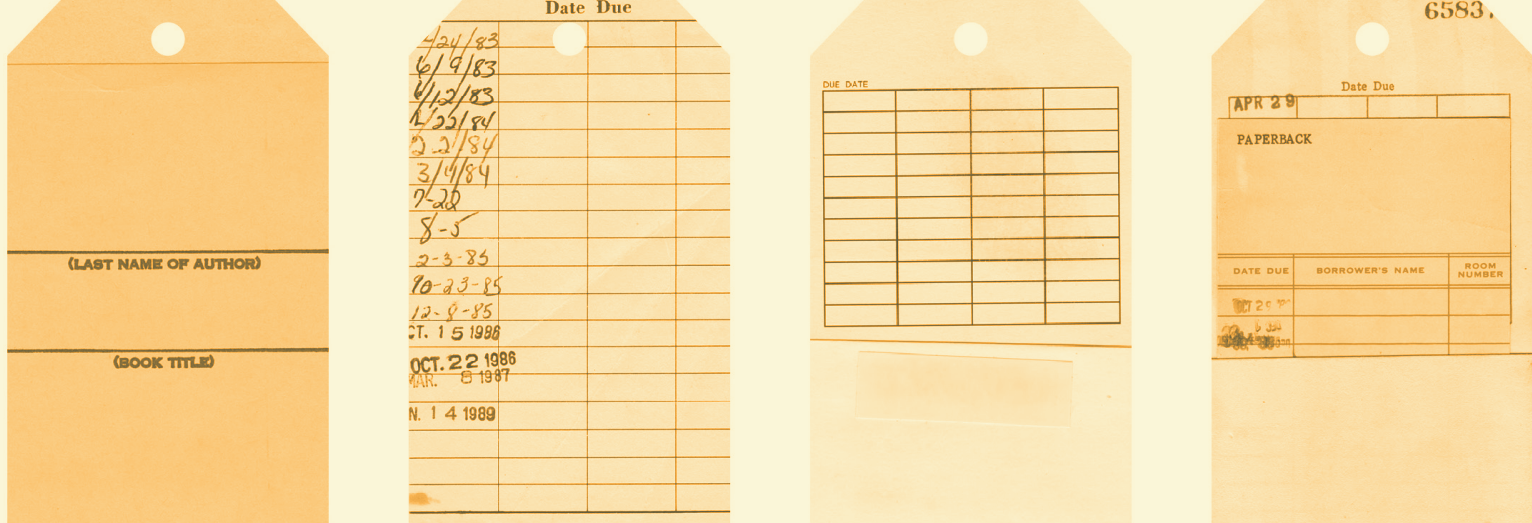
Courtesy thanks to the City of Parramatta Library staff especially Ranjini Panicker, Bruce Morgan and Anne Poole for supplying the information and images.

29. 60th Anniversary: Parramatta Library

Courtesy thanks to the City of Parramatta Library staff especially Ranjini Panicker, Bruce Morgan and Anne Poole for supplying the information and images.

30. Images

Courtesy thanks to the City of Parramatta Library staff especially Ranjini Panicker, Bruce Morgan and Anne Poole for supplying the information and images.



Back cover image: Photographs of (top) Parramatta Libraries memorabilia from their 60th anniversary display and (bottom) Parramatta City Library in 1979 following its expansion. (Source: City of Parramatta, Parramatta City Library, 2018, and Parramatta Council Archives)

