



*Communities on the Move* is a program aimed at collecting the social and settlement history of a particular ethnic group. Run similarly to *Achievers' Day*, key community members are identified and interviewed for the oral history collection. Photographs, documents, and other memorabilia are collected and digitised to go into the Local Studies collection with copies provided to the community group. The finale of this program is a celebration of that specific community group – dancing, music, guest speakers from the community, and, of course, food traditional to that culture.

Do programs like these build community? In the *Finding MY Place* program we are obviously working with very small numbers of students compared to our overall population. However, the ongoing costs to the community of these young people dropping out of school early are potentially enormous – with minimal job opportunities they may end up dependant on social services long term. Worst case scenario is criminal activity and, ultimately, the justice system. *Achievers' Day* targets a different group of young people, but also aims to inspire them to achieve to their potential. *Communities on the Move* allows one community group to showcase their history and culture to the rest of the community, thereby promoting understanding and fulfilling Council's motto *Celebrating Diversity*.

So, what's the benefit to the library service of building community apart from purely altruistic outcomes? Community building also builds for our future – partnerships, collections, good will, great publicity, and, ultimately, library users.

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# REVITALISING A DECLINING SERVICE

The library service at Gumeracha library was in slow decline, but remained important to the Gumeracha community. So with a miniscule budget of \$30 400, and a lot of creativity, the Gumeracha Civic Centre Revitalisation began.

The aims were to:

- create a 'shared space' for Gumeracha Library and the Torrens Valley Community Centre (TVCC),
- revitalise a library service,
- provide the Community Centre with main street frontage and increased space, and
- maximise usage of Council facilities by the community.

Community Centre. The library is now accessible for six days, up from three, and the centre has achieved stronger partnerships with community volunteers. The Community Centre has increased space – and all of these outcomes were achieved with no additional operating costs.

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## All outcomes were achieved with no additional operating costs

Over the course of the revitalisation, the library and foyer were redecorated, with refit of the current service desk and work area. Community and Council information display areas were improved, and the foyer refurbished to include moveable magazine and newspaper stands. Two discrete areas were created: a 'café' area with tables and chairs, and a reading area with easy access to the current coffee machine. Finally, changes were made in service delivery model, increasing the use of volunteers during 'unstaffed' periods.

The revitalised Gumeracha Civic Centre launched on 10 November 2013, with the new shared space model increasing access to library resources and facilities while providing street front access to the

