



Australia's Favourite Library



WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Australia's Favourite Library Campaign became bigger than we could have ever imagined! It is certainly crystal clear that Australians love their libraries and all the important services they provide.

The campaign launch for Australia's Favourite Library coincided with Library Lovers' Day in February this year. Members of the public were asked to nominate the libraries they loved by phone, email or online in a range of categories.

We were thrilled to receive 547 nominations for 203 different libraries and library services. Voting launched in the middle of March and we were overwhelmed by the number of votes received – all 223,768 of them!

AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE LIBRARY: SANDRINGHAM LIBRARY

Sandringham Library in Victoria received the most votes throughout the campaign, receiving the title of Australia's Favourite Library. It was clear from the beginning how popular Sandringham is, with a flood of nominations coming in from Sandringham Library users. While everyone we heard from was thrilled with the services the library provides, it is the wonderful library workers who make this library truly stand out to its users, as these nominations explain:

'I love the Sandringham Library. The staff is marvelous – especially as I am 84 and often need help. They have introduced me to ebooks and they cater for everybody'.

'Sandringham Library is a great place. Staff are very helpful, knowledgeable and friendly and they go out of their way to assist customers... They have some wonderful programs for adults, children and storytelling'.



And our category winners are:

AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE LIBRARY SERVICE: HUME LIBRARIES

We can't put it better than this nomination did: 'I would love to vote for the Hume Libraries as the Favourite Library as we use their services quite frequently as a family and love what they offer... It is just pure luxury to have such a great service around the corner from home...'

AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY: MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

Macquarie University was nominated for its 'very cool design' by one of its users. It isn't surprising they took home the top spot for a university library – Twitter is full of praise for the library and services.

Mayor Laurence Evans said the Sandringham win was a testament to the forward thinking staff that have made the library a place where people want to be. 'I'm really proud of the Bayside library service. Our staff are passionate about the role that libraries play in fostering a love of reading in people of all ages. They provide a fantastic, friendly service and are always looking for ways to improve the service we provide'.

AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE COLLECTING INSTITUTION: STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND

As one nomination put it: 'The State Library of Queensland is inclusive making it a welcome place for people of all cultures and ages, as well as small children'.

AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE GOVERNMENT LIBRARY: AIATSIS

It was great to see nominations for special libraries too. The Australian Institute of Australian and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Library was our winner and, as one nomination put it, 'is home to one of the most wonderful and least known resources in Australia'.

AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE HEALTH LIBRARY: BALLARAT HEALTH SERVICES LIBRARY

The Ballarat Health Service Library is a very small library with a very big heart. The library's users clearly see the important role they play, as evidenced by the votes that came in for them.

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AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE RURAL LIBRARY: DENMARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

The rural community rallied behind the Denmark Public Library throughout the campaign. We received numerous comments about the wonderful and helpful staff.

AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE SCHOOL LIBRARY: ST AIDENS ANGLICAN GIRLS' SCHOOL JUNIOR SCHOOL LIBRARY

'We're so lucky to have such a dynamic, caring and innovative junior school library,' one of St Aidans' supporters told us.

AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY: HARVEST BIBLE COLLEGE LIBRARY

The Harvest Bible College Library had their students come out in droves to show the love they have for their library.

ACT'S FAVOURITE LIBRARY: DICKSON LIBRARY

Dickson Library was nominated for the wonderful services they provide to children of all ages.

NSW'S FAVOURITE LIBRARY: SINGLETON LIBRARY

Singleton Library is a favourite in NSW. One fan put it this way: 'My husband and I always boast that we have the best library in the world. It deserves any and all recognition it gets'.



Above: Congratulations to Sandringham Library in Victoria. From a field of 203 contenders and 223,768 votes, Sandringham emerged as Australia's Favourite Library in 2014. Sandringham's staff and services stood out, with a flood of nominations praising the staff for 'going out of their way' to help.

NT'S FAVOURITE LIBRARY: NORTHERN TERRITORY LIBRARY

Good things come in small packages, as fans of the Northern Territory Library attest: 'The Northern Territory Library is Australia's smallest state library but excels at providing similar services. It holds the most comprehensive collection of Northern Territory material in the world'.

QLD'S FAVOURITE LIBRARY: CARINDALE LIBRARY

Queensland's winning library was nominated as central to their local community: 'Carindale Library is the heart of our community, with a wonderful program of inclusive events designed to meet the needs of our community'.

SA'S FAVOURITE LIBRARY: VICTOR HARBOR LIBRARY

South Australia's winning library is located in a rapidly growing coastal town: 'Victor Harbor is a town where everyone knows everyone, and the public library is a fantastic hub at the centre of this growing regional community'.

TAS'S FAVOURITE LIBRARY: KINGSTON LINC

Nominations for Tasmania's winner included praise for special spots to relax: 'Kingston LINC is always clean and fresh looking and when I worked near them, I could go and sit in there very happily with a book near big glass windows with the sun shining in'.

WA'S FAVOURITE LIBRARY: MUNDIJONG PUBLIC LIBRARY

A positive response to rapid growth in the community helped WA's winning library collect votes: 'The Library Manager and her staff meet the challenge of a too small library building for such a fast growing community by creating a warm, welcoming atmosphere and providing many fascinating and stimulating services and events for the appreciative community'.

Congratulations to all of the winners and to everyone who participated. It was delightful to hear about all of the wonderful libraries across Australia during this campaign and great to know Australians clearly do love their libraries.

We Believe in Libraries

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