

ADELAIDE, COME ON UP!

Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood opened the library on 6 February.



If you had to choose a single word to describe Adelaide's newest library, perched right in the heart of town atop the city's newest retail precinct, it might be the word 'clever'. If you had two words it might be 'very clever'.

Lord Mayor of the City of Adelaide Stephen Yarwood is proud of the new library and the team that created it. They have partnered with local business and the community to deliver a flexible and friendly environment. It is positively teeming with smart thinking, from the innovation lab flanked by a wall of see-through movable book cases to the furniture made from recycled milk cartons and the bag hooks next to each height-adjustable computer station.

"One of the great things about this space is the way it incorporates the best of new technology and design principles while maintaining the traditional services of a community library," said Stephen.

"With its central location, people can take a break from their shopping, drop in during their lunch break and enjoy the outdoor reading room or try out one of the 3D printers, there are so many options on offer."

The space is also a true GLAM sector mashup, with gallery quality lighting and recessed hanging rails in the ceiling, allowing the library to hang an exhibition if they want to. This capability is backed by a comprehensive plan to offer in-residence spaces to artists, poets, writers and other creative types and plans to partner with other CBD cultural icons such as the Art Gallery and South Australian Museum with coordinated extended opening hours.

The new library is on the top floor of a retail space with access not from Rundle Mall but from a laneway alongside – both significant challenges in their own right. Add the 12 month timeframe and a modest budget and what Adelaide has received in return is some serious creativity.

Consultation with the community, with staff and with architectural design firm Hassell have led to a light-filled chameleon of a space that caters to quiet research, meeting and working spaces ranging from high tech to no tech, indoor and outdoor areas with a bird's eye view of the city and a digital hub with all manner of smart technology for one-on-one or group sessions.

The mantra for this library is lifelong learning, and not just for the patrons. Through the consultation and planning process, the staffing plan has also been reworked to create strong and enticing career paths for staff in a clear succession plan aimed at getting the best recruits and letting them shine.

The excitement in the library and the staff room is palpable. Project manager and Team Leader Anne Rundle says "we are excited about the opportunities that the new library will provide for increased participation and co-creation between staff and community and the flexibility of the space which will enable us to continue to evolve and respond to the changing needs of the city."

The signage design and artwork are designed to be friendly and uplifting.



ALIA Executive Director Sue McKerracher described the City Library as "an elegant solution".



Open Week attracted hundreds of visitors to the new library.