



FIRST MAKER SPACE IN MELBOURNE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

In November last year, Mill Park Library, a branch of the Yarra Plenty Regional Library, launched the first technology 'maker space' in the northern suburbs of Melbourne, and the first in a public library in Melbourne.

The maker space offers new, innovative, state-of-the-art technology for visitors to use. The technology includes a 3D printer, Arduino boards and Makey Makey kits for electronics projects, as well as computers and iPads for video making, editing and stop motion animation.

The idea of Mill Park's Maker Space is to provide resources and technologies not readily available to the general

public; a space where resources are available for patrons to make things.

The public library setting provides a safe and accessible space where anyone in the community can interact, understand and develop through use of the technologies available in the space.

Maker spaces are learning environments that serve as a community gathering point for knowledge, tools, mentors and expertise.

Mill Park library is developing its maker space in conjunction with the staff and students of La Trobe University's Department of Electronic Engineering, School of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences.

"La Trobe students will be mentors in the maker space and demonstrate the capabilities of coupling creativity with modern technology to solve real life problems," says Dr Eddie Custovic, Associate Lecturer, La Trobe University.

Further resources will be added as the Maker Space is developed.

As well as making the Maker Space resources available to library patrons, Mill Park proposes to work with local schools offering them the use of our resources as well as giving them the opportunity to become mentors and share their expertise with others.

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