

# College libraries rejuvenate reading culture following renovation

**T**he libraries of St Leonard's College have undergone significant transformations over the past few years. **LYDIA HOLMES** reports on how young people now relax in the enticing new spaces that have been carefully designed to encourage their enjoyment of literature.

In 2015 St Leonard's College, Victoria, started the process of planning major renovations in a variety of areas. Two of these areas included the college libraries. The Cornish Resource Centre and the McMillan Resource Centre had served their purposes over the past decade or so and were ready to be redeveloped and reimaged.

The Cornish Resource Centre, serving years 5–12, was rebuilt and reopened to the school community in May 2017. Its new position, located at the heart of the college, naturally encouraged it to become a central meeting place for our students. This new, renamed, Cornish Library reinvigorated our community's enthusiasm for reading and reignited their appreciation of books and their importance to all of us. Our research sections include non-fiction books alongside our electronic databases and e-journals. Our relationship with our English Department has been enhanced by a renewed wide reading program, which has encouraged reading in a relaxed atmosphere.

In February 2019, the junior school library renovation was completed and renamed McMillan House Library. The new space, located at the heart of the junior school, is innovative, enticing, warm and supports student literacy and learning. Generations sit together to enjoy reading books. The new open corridor design and layout encourages students to browse and borrow with unrestricted access, as students pass through to other areas of the junior school. Purpose built study nooks and books situated in the corridors are part of the bookshelves and mini libraries which have been established in separate parts of the school. These are designed to allow the students to stop, relax and read by themselves or with others at any time of the day. They are never far from their classroom, teacher and their peers. The non-fiction shelving meanders around a variety of different shapes which form the colourful custom-built pods enticing readers young and old to curl up and enjoy the world they are ready to enter. These dedicated open reading spaces optimise the learning environment which supports student growth.

The decor of the new McMillan House Library includes many windows, allowing natural sunlight to enhance the area,

bringing the space alive with warmth and light. The tiered amphitheatre seating allows students, ranging in age from 3–10 years to enthusiastically engage in lessons which enhances their literacy skills.

As a librarian, watching members of our community from the youngest students to grandparents, enjoying, exploring and learning about our world brings a smile to my face and warms the heart. It is delightful to be part of a revival of the art of reading with someone else, which we know will have a lasting positive effect on all who have reaped the benefit of reading together. 🌟

**LYDIA HOLMES**

Head of Libraries  
St Leonard's College



EMAIL

lydia.holmes@stleonards.vic.edu.au



Australian Library and Information Association



COLLABORATE DEVIATE INNOVATE

**REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN**

5-7 JULY 2019, ADELAIDE  
ALIA NEW LIBRARIANS' SYMPOSIUM 9

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

 <p><b>Craig Middleton</b> The Centre of Democracy <a href="#">@_museumguy</a></p>	 <p><b>Sarah Brown</b> Code like a Girl <a href="#">@SarahEsbie</a></p>
 <p><b>Jacinta Koolmatie</b> South Australian Museum <a href="#">@JKoolmatie</a></p>	 <p><b>Dr Eva Balan-Vnuk</b> Department of the Premier and Cabinet, SA Government <a href="#">@Eva_BalanVnuk</a></p>

[nls9.com.au/keynotes](https://nls9.com.au/keynotes) | [@ALIANs](#) | [#nls9](#)