



# Media release

---

Mayor: Richie Williamson  
General Manager: Scott Greensill

LOCKED BAG 23 GRAFTON NSW 2460  
Telephone: (02) 6643 0200  
Fax: (02) 6642 7647

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 2015

## **Libraries good for the soul of a community**

SOMETHING amazing is happening in our public libraries.

What was once simply a place to read books and conduct research has evolved into a full-fledged idea factory, business incubator lab, job search central, meeting place, and an all-around hub of economic activity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Regional librarian, Kathryn Breward, said public libraries were still home to vast collections of wonderful books of all varieties.

“But along with the dawn of the digital age and an ongoing commitment to best meet the changing needs of the communities they serve, today’s public libraries reflect the dynamic and exciting realities of our lives as members of modern communities,” she said.

“At their core, libraries are an ultimate physical manifestation of democracy, they provide free access to information and knowledge and the potential of that can be liberating, empowering and positive beyond our wildest expectations. Our libraries have and continue to be social places, too, to meet a friend, have a play date, listen to a guest speaker, or even strike up conversation with a stranger.

“What we are now increasingly seeing is that public libraries have become a go-to location for business professionals to hold meetings, for job seekers to gain access to resources and network, and myriad other exciting uses from people of all walks of life.

“Before our eyes, and quite possibly without us noticing, public libraries have become a central part of our economy, workforce development and, generally, an establishment that nourishes the entrepreneurial spirit at the heart of every successful business.

“Libraries are not an intellectual luxury or some elitist, dusty old building filled with books. They are a living, breathing entity that is inextricably linked to every facet of our lives and helping to usher in a new grassroots level of economic development and social enrichment.

“Public libraries do not just tell us who we are and the way we once were; if you look closely the next time you’re at your local library, you may just get a glimpse into the future, all of ours.”

Release ends.



Caption: Play areas and a range of new facilities that cater for a range of interests means libraries are increasingly becoming part of the community's soul.

---

**For media inquiries contact Clarence Valley Council communications coordinator, David Bancroft, on 6643 0230 or 0429 104 118.**