STATE LIBRARY VICTORIA



Library Board of Victoria

Annual Report 2025–26

Library Board of Victoria Annual Report 2025–26
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Communications Manager
State Library Victoria
328 Swanston Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Australia

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Acknowledgement of Country and People

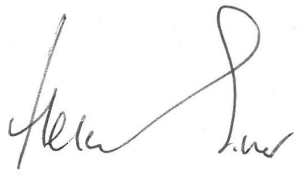
State Library Victoria acknowledges the traditional lands of all the Victorian Aboriginal clans, and their cultural practices and knowledge systems.

We recognise that our collections hold traditional cultural knowledge belonging to Indigenous communities in Victoria and around the country. We support communities to protect the integrity of this information, gathered from their Ancestors in the colonial period.

We pay our respects to their elders, past and present, who have handed down these systems of practice to each new generation for millennia.

Responsible body's declaration

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, I present the Library Board of Victoria's annual report for the year ending 30 June 2026.



Helen Silver AO
President, Library Board of Victoria
September 2026

President's report



I'm pleased to present my first annual report as President of the Library Board of Victoria. I am honoured to be taking up the position from Christine Christian AO, who dedicated 13 years of service to the Board, including 5 years as President. Her leadership has laid a strong foundation for the future success of the Library, and ensured that it will continue to thrive.

As the Library celebrates its 170th anniversary, it seems appropriate to reflect on its enduring legacy as an iconic cultural institution and trusted source of knowledge. Since the day it opened in 1856 the Library and the State Collection have been free to access and open to all – an idea that seemed radical at the time, but which has endured to this day. As we look ahead to the future, imagining what a library might be in another 170 years, there's no doubt many things will change. But as Victoria's library of record, we will continue in our mission to make information free and accessible, and to enrich the cultural, educational, social and economic lives of all Victorians.

Demand for our services, spaces and collections continues to rise, with our onsite visitation reaching a record-breaking 3,020,721 in 2025–26. This surpasses the goal set in our 2022–26 Strategic Plan, and reaffirms the Library's position as one of the most visited libraries in the world.

The State Collection is always at the heart of our work, and our new Collections Strategy 2025–29 will ensure it is managed effectively in years to come. The strategy provides a strong framework for building and caring for our collections, as well as making them accessible to all. We made many significant acquisitions this year, including manuscripts, archives, photographs, oral histories, rare books and artworks.

We also celebrated a milestone with the creation of more than 5 million digital files, making more of our state's heritage available to Victorians through accessible formats. Our collection of electronic resources continued to grow in response to the needs of our community, and thousands more digitised items were made available through Trove and the Library catalogue. The Library belongs to all Victorians, and this ongoing digitisation program ensures that everyone can access our collections whether they're able to visit us in person or not. Similarly, the Young Regional Writers' Program allowed students across regional Victoria to access the expertise of Australian writers to develop their creative writing skills. My thanks to our donors and the Victorian Department of Education for supporting this important program.

The Victorian Indigenous Research Centre has continued to build relationships with First Nations communities and advance cultural knowledge, as reflected in the success of the *Treaty* exhibition. The Library has also progressed arrangements to safeguard the Yoorrook Justice Commission's Official Public Record as the caretaker in trust of the archive.

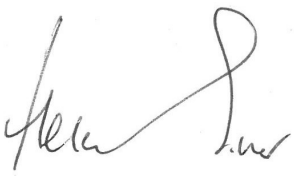
The *Public Libraries for Social Connection* report was released this year, highlighting the vital role that libraries play in addressing the growing problem of loneliness in the community. The report shows the huge contribution that public libraries make to Victoria, and that they are uniquely positioned to support connection, wellbeing and lifelong learning.

I'm grateful to all the Library's donors, members and partners who have supported our work over the past year, and without whom we couldn't achieve all that we do. A heartfelt thanks to all our dedicated staff and volunteers for their work and commitment to the Library and the community it serves.

On behalf of the Library Board of Victoria, I extend my thanks to the Victorian Government for its support of the Library. My thanks to the Hon. Ben Carroll, Premier of Victoria, the Hon. Jacinta Allan MP, former Premier of Victoria, the Hon. Vicki Ward MP, Minister for Creative Industries, and the Hon. Colin Brooks MP, former Minister for Creative Industries.

My sincere thanks to my fellow Board and Committee members for their warm welcome, as well as their commitment, dedication and contribution to serving the Victorian public and upholding the Library's purpose and vision. I would also like to thank former Chief Executive Officer Paul Duldig, who finished at the Library in August 2025, as well as John Wicks and Alistair Mytton for leading the Library through a period of transition.

It is a great honour to be a part of the Library's story. As we look ahead to the next 170 years, my fellow Board members and I are committed to ensuring that State Library Victoria remains a trusted cultural institution that supports all Victorians, now and in generations to come.



Helen Silver AO
President
Library Board of Victoria

Chief Executive Officer's year in review



It's my pleasure to share this report as Interim Chief Executive Officer of State Library Victoria. It's been a year of extraordinary achievements, record-breaking visitation and collection milestones.

Library visitation has grown year on year since the launch of our 2022–26 Strategic Plan, and we have now reached our ambitious target of 3 million onsite visits across the year. We have also surpassed our target of 1 million new visitors, with over 1.2 million people having come to the Library for the first time last year. With over 54% of our audiences identifying as culturally and linguistically diverse, this achievement highlights the Library's vital role in engaging and supporting diverse communities.

Our exhibitions also attracted record numbers, with over 2.5 million visits to *World of the Book*, *Rebel Heart*, *Treaty* and *Creative Acts*. *World of the Book* celebrated 20 years with a refreshed edition that showcased the history of books and storytelling through 300 treasures from the State Collection. Several of the Library's exhibitions were recognised at the 2026 Victorian Museums and Galleries Awards, reflecting the care and passion that go into curating these experiences for our public.

The year also delivered a number of major collection highlights, enabling access and preserving significant items for future generations. The digitisation of 16,953 Victorian newspapers has expanded free digital access to Victoria's documentary heritage, helping millions of users explore the state's history online. The Library completed the largest conservation project in its history, preserving the original architectural drawings for St Paul's Cathedral after 4 years of meticulous work made possible through donor support of the 2022 End of Financial Year Appeal.

The 2026 End of Financial Year Appeal, focused on digitising and preserving the Library's most fragile oral history recordings, demonstrated the value of our collections to Victorians with an astounding $575,591 raised before 30 June 2026. This success will allow us to preserve material that would otherwise have been lost to history, and make it accessible to all Victorians.

The Library continued to support our youngest visitors with weekly sessions focused on sharing stories and activities. We promoted the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge through our highly successful Book Bash events which engaged students across Victoria and interstate. We supported rainbow families in partnership with Midsumma Festival, and hosted over 8,000 participants on the forecourt for *Library on the Lawn* over the summer holidays.

StartSpace welcomed nearly 1,000 new members this year, who will be supported to build their businesses through workshops, mentoring and networking opportunities. Our Future Founders program, delivered in partnership with Study Melbourne, continues to successfully engage with international students and help them to develop their business ideas. StartSpace has built a vibrant and diverse community who will go on to contribute so much to Victoria through their business ventures.

In October 2025 the Library consulted on a proposed reorganisation intended to strengthen services in response to surging demand, and to better manage the new and different ways that people are engaging with us. Following consideration of feedback received during the consultation period, the proposal was withdrawn in December.

The Library reported a positive operating result for 2025–26. The Library did, however, experience a net cash outflow during the year. The timing of government funding and expenditure influenced this result, including funding for future commitments and staff costs relating to earlier periods. As funding and cost pressures continue, we will maintain careful financial management, prioritisation and effective use of resources into the next period.

My thanks to the Hon. Vicki Ward MP, Minister for Creative Industries, the Hon. Colin Brooks MP, former Minister for Creative Industries, and Claire Febey, Chief Executive of Creative Victoria and her team.

Thank you to Helen Silver AO, President of the Library Board of Victoria, members of the Board and its committees, and the executive leadership team for their guidance and support during my time at the Library.

I'd also like to take the opportunity to recognise the contribution of former Chief Executive Officer Paul Duldig and Acting Chief Executive Officer John Wicks who led the Library prior to my tenure.

I'm grateful to Library staff and volunteers who work so hard and have welcomed me to this great institution.

In June 2026, the Board announced the appointment of Vicki McDonald AM FALIA as the Library's new CEO. I welcome Vicki to the role and wish her well as she leads the Library into its next chapter.

It's been a privilege to serve as Interim Chief Executive Officer of State Library Victoria and work alongside colleagues so committed to delivering world-class library services to the people of Victoria.



Alistair Mytton
Interim Chief Executive Officer
State Library Victoria

2025–26 highlights

Become a must-do destination

90%

visitor satisfaction score

64+

visitor Net Promoter score

3,020,721

onsite visits

1,225,132

first-time visitors

2,460,632

exhibition visits

35 partnerships and collaborations

67,845

Ask a Librarian queries completed by our librarians

125,048*

Library members

* Includes free and paid memberships

Strengthen diverse communities

68,975

participating students

872

education programs delivered

3,397

StartSpace members (952 in FY26)

17

Fellows

150

creative practitioners engaged

5%

regional audience

54%

culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) audience

Become an active community voice for learning, knowledge and culture

2,668

programs delivered (online, hybrid and onsite, including education)

153,580

event attendees (online, hybrid and onsite, including education)

44,491

workshop participants

82%

of visitors agree that the Library actively promotes learning, knowledge and culture

78%

of visitors agree that an experience with State Library Victoria inspires curiosity, creativity and builds new skills

227,863

social media followers

239,053

Library blog readers

149,294

SLV News readers

Create a compelling digital experience

5,280,594

online user sessions

8,820

electronic acquisitions

40,197

ebook titles

1,788,888

items made more discoverable

961,678

page views of Library research guides

29,116

digitised items added to the collection

813

podcast downloads

5,239,383

digital collection items used (excluding Trove)

2,310,327

online video views

Deliver innovative and sustainable operations

286.16



staff
(FTE)

$629m*



collection
value

23,549



collection items
preserved and conserved

6,286



volunteer hours
contributed

281.6 TB



digital
collection size

99.99%



ICT network
uptime

* Based on insurance reporting (cost basis) FY25

Vision

We aspire to be globally recognised as a major destination for stimulating cultural experiences, a trusted place for contemporary debates and community-driven collecting, and a gateway to leading-edge digital experiences that invite new and creative ways to use the collection.

Our aim is for the community to recognise State Library Victoria as the trusted and dynamic cultural custodian of the rich heritage of Victoria, ensuring access for all to:

- better understand our past
- inform our present, and
- inspire our future.

Become a must-do destination

The Library precinct is a vibrant hub of activity, showcasing the collection, profiling expertise and maximising the use of our world-class spaces. We inspire new audiences, visitors, scholars and tourists to engage with the Library through our celebrated curated programs and deep expertise.

Strengthen diverse communities

Victoria's diverse communities are strengthened through their connection with the Library, seeing genuine relevance and representation in our collecting, and valuing their engagement with our collection, exhibitions, programs and staff.

Become an active community voice for learning, knowledge and culture

We are a leader in learning, knowledge and culture. The Victorian community actively engages with the Library as a trusted place to explore current issues, provoking questions, learning and debate.

Create a compelling digital experience

The Library's rich collection is accessible to all through a compelling digital experience, inspiring visitors to respond in creative and thoughtful ways.

Deliver innovative and sustainable operations

We are innovative and sustainable in delivering the programs and services that our community needs. Our people are central to our success. We invest in a skilled, diverse and engaged workforce, equipped with the right tools and infrastructure, supported by a sustainable funding base and additional revenue that maximises community impact.

Values

Innovation
We recognise and embrace new technologies, ideas and opportunities to improve, grow and develop as individuals and as industry leaders in a challenging environment.

Collaboration
We work together and with partners, sharing knowledge and resources to advance universal access to information.

Engagement
We work to understand, connect and meet the needs and expectations of our communities in the most appropriate ways.

Excellence
We provide outstanding service at all times, in a professional and ethical manner.

Respect
We strive to create an open and caring community by valuing and supporting individuals and acknowledging the strength of diversity.

Structure

State Library Victoria sits within the Creative Industries Portfolio, overseen by Creative Victoria, part of the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions.

The Library Board of Victoria governs the operations of the Library and reports to the Victorian Minister for Creative Industries. The Board is a statutory authority established under Section 16 of the *Libraries Act 1988* (Libraries Act).

Under the direction of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer manages the Library, including its collections, services, programs and responsibilities.

Key people

Minister

Until 20 April 2026, the responsible minister was the Hon. Colin Brooks MP, Minister for Creative Industries. On 21 April 2026 the Hon. Vicki Ward MP was sworn in as Minister for Creative Industries.

Vice-Regal Patron

As the Library's inaugural Patron, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria, acknowledges the Library's powerful impact in shaping education, culture and community wellbeing.

Chief Executive Officer

Overall responsibility for:

- executing Board-approved strategies, plans and budgets
- ensuring the effective and efficient functioning of the Library
- developing, preserving and providing access to the State Collection
- implementing Board-approved policies, processes and codes of conduct
- driving innovation in Library services, digital access and public engagement
- ensuring the Library delivers public value and aligns with community needs.

Occupied in an interim capacity by Alistair Mytton from 31 March to 28 August 2026. Until 14 August 2025, the role was occupied by Paul Duldig. John Wicks occupied the role in an acting capacity from August 2025 until 30 March 2026.

Library executive

Director, People and Partnerships

Responsible for the Library's people, culture and strategic relationships, including:

- workforce capability and engagement
- safety and security
- inclusion, diversity and access
- corporate partnerships
- philanthropy
- memberships
- Victorian Indigenous Research Centre (VIRC)
- sector engagement.

Occupied by Kath Brown.

Director, Experience

Responsible for the strategic development of Library services and the customer experience, including:

- visitor experience
- information and customer service
- brand and audience engagement
- exhibitions and programs
- early-stage entrepreneur support (StartSpace).

Vacant. Until 27 March 2026, the role was occupied by Joel McGuinness.

Director, Collections and Chief Librarian

Responsible for the development, description and preservation of the State Collection, including:

- legal deposit
- digitisation and digital preservation
- collection valuation
- collection exhibition loans (inward and outward)
- storage and environmental conditions.

Occupied by Roxanne Missingham, who was appointed as Interim Director, Collections on 28 July 2025, then appointed as Director, Collections and Chief Librarian on 16 February 2026.

Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer

Responsible for leading organisational resourcing, accountability and transparency, as well as overseeing:

- financial management
- property management
- project management
- governance (policy, risk management and legal) and planning.

Occupied in an interim capacity by Brent Westerbeek. Until 15 April 2026, the role was occupied by John Wicks.

Chief Digital Officer

Responsible for creating compelling digital products and experiences that make the Library's collection available to all through innovative, experimental and creative ways, as well as overseeing:

- technology infrastructure and systems
- digital innovation
- web experiences
- digital content production.

Occupied by Paula Bray.

Governance

Library Board of Victoria

The functions of the Board are set out in Section 18 of the *Libraries Act*:

- ensuring the maintenance, preservation and development of a State Collection of library material, including a comprehensive collection of library material relating to Victoria and the people of Victoria
- ensuring that material in the State Collection is available to such persons and institutions and in such manner and subject to such conditions as the Board determines, with a view to the most advantageous use of the State Collection
- ensuring the availability of such other services and facilities in relation to Library matters and Library material (including bibliographic services) as the Board determines
- arranging the publication and sale of reproductions of any Library material in the State Collection
- overseeing the exhibition of material from the State Collection for information, education and entertainment
- overseeing cooperation in programs with libraries and information organisations to promote access to library and information services and resources
- exercising leadership and promoting high standards in the provision of library services and information services
- providing advice and information to the Minister on any matter concerning libraries and information organisations
- performing any other functions appropriate to the Board as the Minister may approve.

The Board must also ensure that the Library's activities contribute to the enrichment of the cultural, educational, social and economic life of the people of Victoria.

Board members

Helen Silver AO, President

Helen Silver AO was appointed the 25th President of the Library Board of Victoria in March 2026, as State Library Victoria marks its 170th anniversary. Helen is a highly experienced and respected executive who has worked at the highest levels of the public and private sectors. Between 2013 and 2021, she worked for Allianz Australia where her last role was Deputy Managing Director. Previously, Helen spent nearly 30 years in executive roles in the Victorian and Commonwealth public service. She was the Secretary of Victoria's Department of Premier and Cabinet between 2008 and 2013, where she led the state through major events such as the Black Saturday bushfires. She also led the arts portfolio and Arts Victoria – the government's creative body now known as Creative Victoria. Alongside board and executive roles in the insurance, banking and infrastructure sectors, Helen also has a long-standing connection to creative industries. She currently serves as Chair of the Australian Children's Television Foundation and previously served on the board of Victorian Arts Centre Trust and Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Helen takes a lead role in promoting and advocating for gender equality and diversity both in her work organisations and in the community, and has a deep interest in public policy and the arts. In 2015, Helen was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to public administration, business and commerce and the Victorian community.

Adam Lewis

Adam Lewis was appointed to the Board in May 2018 and reappointed in 2021 and 2024. Adam served as a member of the Vision 2020 Redevelopment Project Steering Committee, and was a member of the Audit and Risk Management Committee and the Appointments and Remuneration Committee until they were replaced in May 2026 by the Audit and Risk Committee and the People and Culture Committee. Adam was appointed Chair of the newly created Audit and Risk Committee in May 2026. Adam is an alumnus of McKinsey and Company, where he spent 20 years as an advisor to major firms and governments around

the world. He was a partner for 14 years, a managing partner for Australia and New Zealand for seven years, and a member of McKinsey's Asia Council and global Senior Partner election committees. Since leaving McKinsey in 2010, Adam's roles have included Chair of Palette, Deliciou, HPS Technology, and Southern Innovation. Adam has previously been a director of the Melbourne International Film Festival, a member of the Australia Council for the Arts, and an advisory board member of the Smith Family. He is also the former chair of Aconex Pty Ltd and Message Media Limited. He holds a B.Eng (Hon.) from Curtin University and an MBA (Hon.) from the University of Illinois.

Alex Cartel
Alex Cartel was appointed to the Board in March 2022 and reappointed in 2025. He has been a member of the Library's Foundation Council since 2020 and its Chair since 2022. Alex has a longstanding connection with the Library, his family having migrated to Australia in the 1970s to enable his father Andrew to take up a role with State Library Victoria, originally as a reference librarian. Alex is Managing Director and Head of Global Advisory, Australia, Rothschild & Co, and has served as a member of the Australian Takeovers Panel since 2013, becoming President in 2019. Alex was previously Managing Director, Head of Banking, Capital Markets & Advisory, Australia & New Zealand at Citi Bank, and Managing Director, Co-head of Corporate Finance, Deutsche Bank in Australia, having commenced his career as a solicitor with Allens in Melbourne. Alex has a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from the University of Melbourne.

Cheri Ong
Cheri Ong was appointed to the Library Board in May 2019 and reappointed in 2022 and 2025. Cheri was a member of the Audit and Risk Management Committee, which was replaced in May 2026 by the Audit and Risk Committee, to which she was appointed. She is also a member of the Foundation Council. Cheri is the founder and Chair of the Asian Australian Foundation. She was a member of the governing council of International House, University of Melbourne, and the Chair of its Risk Committee. Cheri was previously a board member and Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee of Multicultural Arts Victoria. She was formerly Head of Regulation and Compliance at KPMG Australia and the Asia Pacific Chief Operating Officer for KPMG Risk Management. She has held various legal counsel roles at several financial institutions. Cheri has a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Laws from Monash University and is also a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Keren Murray
Keren Murray was appointed to the Board in July 2024 and is the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Public Libraries. Keren is an experienced non-executive director in the community and literary sectors. She has led the transition of small NFPs from startups to impactful, well-respected and sustainable organisations. Keren has served as the Chair of the Stella Prize board, founding Director and Secretary of Women and Mentoring (WAM), and board member of YWCA Victoria. Keren was a Commonwealth Scholar completing a Bachelor of Civil Laws and a Master of Philosophy in Law at the University of Oxford. She holds Bachelor degrees in Arts and Law from the University of Melbourne, as well as a Post-graduate Certificate in Public Policy and Management. Keren is also a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Inala Cooper
Inala Cooper was appointed to the Board in March 2022 and reappointed in 2025, and is a member of the Foundation Council and Advisory Committee on Public Libraries. Inala is the Director of Murrup Barak, the Melbourne Institute for Indigenous Development at the University of Melbourne. She is a Board member of the Adam Briggs Foundation and a member of the National NAIDOC Committee. Inala's previous roles included Senior Adviser in the Yulendj Indigenous Engagement Unit (now the William Cooper Institute) at Monash University and Board member of Jesuit Social Services and Culture is Life. Inala has a Masters degree in Human Rights Law (2012) from Monash University and is a social commentator, change-maker and advocate for Indigenous rights, social justice and human rights. Her undergraduate degree at Deakin University was in Drama and Contemporary Dance (1998), and she holds a Diploma of Arts, Small Companies and Community Theatre from Swinburne University of Technology (2002). Inala is now undertaking her PhD in Indigenous identity and human rights at the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law at Monash University. Inala is a Yawuru woman from Broome in the Kimberley, Western Australia. She grew up in south-west Victoria on Gunditjmara land and has lived on the land of the Kulin Nations in Melbourne for over 30 years.

John Dewar AO
Professor John Dewar AO was appointed to the Board in July 2024. John has held many leadership positions in the higher education sector, including Vice-Chancellor at La Trobe University (for 12 years from January 2012 to January 2024), Griffith University and the University of Melbourne (as Deputy Vice-Chancellor – Global Relations, and Provost) and, more recently, Interim Vice-Chancellor and President at the University of

Wollongong. Since February 2024, John has been a partner at KordaMentha in their performance improvement team. He is a graduate of the University of Oxford, where he was also a Fellow of Hertford College from 1990 to 1995. John taught at Lancaster University and the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom, and worked for the London law firms Allen & Overy and Farrer & Co.

Dr Caroline Aebersold
Dr Caroline Aebersold was appointed to the Board in November 2025, and is a member of the Foundation Council and the Audit and Risk Committee. Caroline is a former psychologist and holds a doctorate in human rights law from Monash University. She is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, has strong governance expertise, and brings over 25 years of experience in non-executive director roles, including with several purpose-driven organisations working in education and learning, human rights, mental health and the arts. Caroline's previous executive roles include over a decade as CEO of a national arts education not-for-profit, as well as diverse leadership experience across a range of sectors including mental health, education and the public sector. Her experience in consulting and advisory roles includes strategy, community engagement, public policy and service design, digital transformation, governance and regulatory reforms, with a focus on delivering enhanced public outcomes across Victoria and nationally. Caroline is deeply passionate about quality and accessible health, creativity and learning.

Christine Mackenzie AM FALIA
Christine Mackenzie AM FALIA was appointed to the Board in March 2026. She has more than 40 years of leadership experience in the library sector, having started her career as a librarian at State Library Victoria in 1975. Christine has served as CEO of Yarra Plenty Regional Library and Manager of Brisbane City Council Library Services, the largest public library system in Australia. Christine is a past President of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions and a past President of ALIA, becoming a Fellow in 2008, and has long been a leading voice for libraries nationally and internationally.

Peter McPhee AM
Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee AM was appointed to the Board in March 2026. He is a distinguished academic and author, and the first Provost of the University of Melbourne. With extensive experience in academic leadership and governance – including as Chair of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority and Melbourne University Publishing – he brings deep expertise in education, policy and cultural institutions.

The Observership Program
The Library participates in the Observership Program, which provides training and practical experience in not-for-profit board leadership and ongoing networking opportunities for future leaders. Roshan Ghadamian was the Board Observer for 2026.

Standing committees
Several standing committees report to the Library Board of Victoria.

Advisory Committee on Public Libraries
An advisory group to the Board and a communication link between the Board, public libraries and Public Libraries Victoria (PLV).
- Keren Murray, Chair
- Inala Cooper
- Christine Mackenzie AM FALIA
- Paul Duldig, CEO, State Library Victoria (until 14 August 2025)
- Alistair Mytton, Interim CEO, State Library Victoria
- Ross Coller, Head of Strategic Relationships, State Library Victoria (until 3 October 2025)
- Kathleen Brown, Director, People and Partnerships, State Library Victoria
- Vanessa Schernickau, CEO, Geelong Regional Library Corp and incoming President, PLV (until 24 November 2025)
- Sally Both, CEO, Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation (until 24 November 2025)
- Felicity Macchion, Manager, Library and Community Centres, Wyndham City Council
- Georgina Earl, President, Public Libraries Victoria and Unit Manager of Library Services at Merri-bek City Council, PLV executive
- Tanya Flockhart, Library and Information Services Manager, Glenelg Shire Council
- Cory Greenwood, Coordinator Library Services and Engagement, Yarra Libraries

Appointments and Remuneration Committee
In May 2026, the Appointments and Remuneration Committee was superseded by a newly created People and Culture Committee, which has been established to provide oversight on workplace culture, health, safety and wellbeing, major transformation and organisational change, as well as supporting the Board with CEO recruitment and remuneration and Board nominations and appointments.

The Appointments and Remuneration Committee oversaw the nominations process for recommending members for appointment to the Library Board of Victoria. The committee ensured that the Library's policy and practice relating to executive remuneration and individual remuneration packages for executives were consistent with Victorian Government PEER policy.

The committee reviewed executive officer salaries, performance and bonuses, recruitment, appointments, and associated issues, when appropriate.

- Christine Christian AO, Chair (until 3 March 2026)
- Adam Lewis

People and Culture Committee

The People and Culture Committee was created in May 2026 to replace the Appointments and Remuneration Committee. It provides oversight on workplace culture, health, safety and wellbeing, and major transformation and organisational change It also supports the Board with CEO recruitment and remuneration, and Board nominations and appointments.

- John Dewar AO, Chair
- Helen Silver AO
- Inala Cooper
- Keren Murray
- Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee AM

Audit and Risk Management Committee

In May 2026, the Audit and Risk Management Committee was superseded by a newly created Audit and Risk Committee, which has been established to independently review and assess the effectiveness of the Library's systems and controls for financial management, performance, sustainability and risk management.

The Audit and Risk Management Committee oversaw the effectiveness of the systems and controls for financial management, performance and sustainability, including risk management, and ensured compliance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*. The committee approved the internal audit provider and determined the internal audit program. All members of the Audit and Risk Management Committee were independent members.

- Adam Lewis, Chair (from March 2026)
- Cheri Ong
- Alistair Mytton, Chair (resigned as member and Chair in February 2026), external member
- Clare Gibney, external member
- Michael Hill, external member

Finance Committee

In May 2026, the Finance Committee was superseded by a newly created Audit and Risk Committee, which has been established to independently review and assess the effectiveness of the Library's systems and controls for financial management, performance, sustainability and risk management.

The Finance Committee oversaw the Library's financial performance and sustainability by assessing all significant financial and commercial information before it was presented to the Library Board of Victoria, including investment objectives and strategy. The committee sought to confirm that Library management had accurate, concise and timely processes for financial reports, budgets and forecasts of operations for which the Board is responsible.

- Christine Christian AO, Interim Chair (until 3 March 2026)
- Katrina Efthim, external member
- Gavriel Friedland, external member
- Chelsie Harris, external member

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee was created in May 2026 to replace the Audit and Risk Management Committee and Finance Committee. The Audit and Risk Committee reviews and assesses the effectiveness of the Library's systems and controls for financial management, performance, sustainability and risk management.

- Adam Lewis, Chair
- Cherie Ong
- Dr Caroline Aebersold
- Clare Gibney, external member

State Library Victoria Foundation Council

Supports the Board to realise its strategic objectives by providing advice, advocacy and active engagement with management for the Library's fundraising program, which includes attracting donations, gifts and bequests and honouring donors.

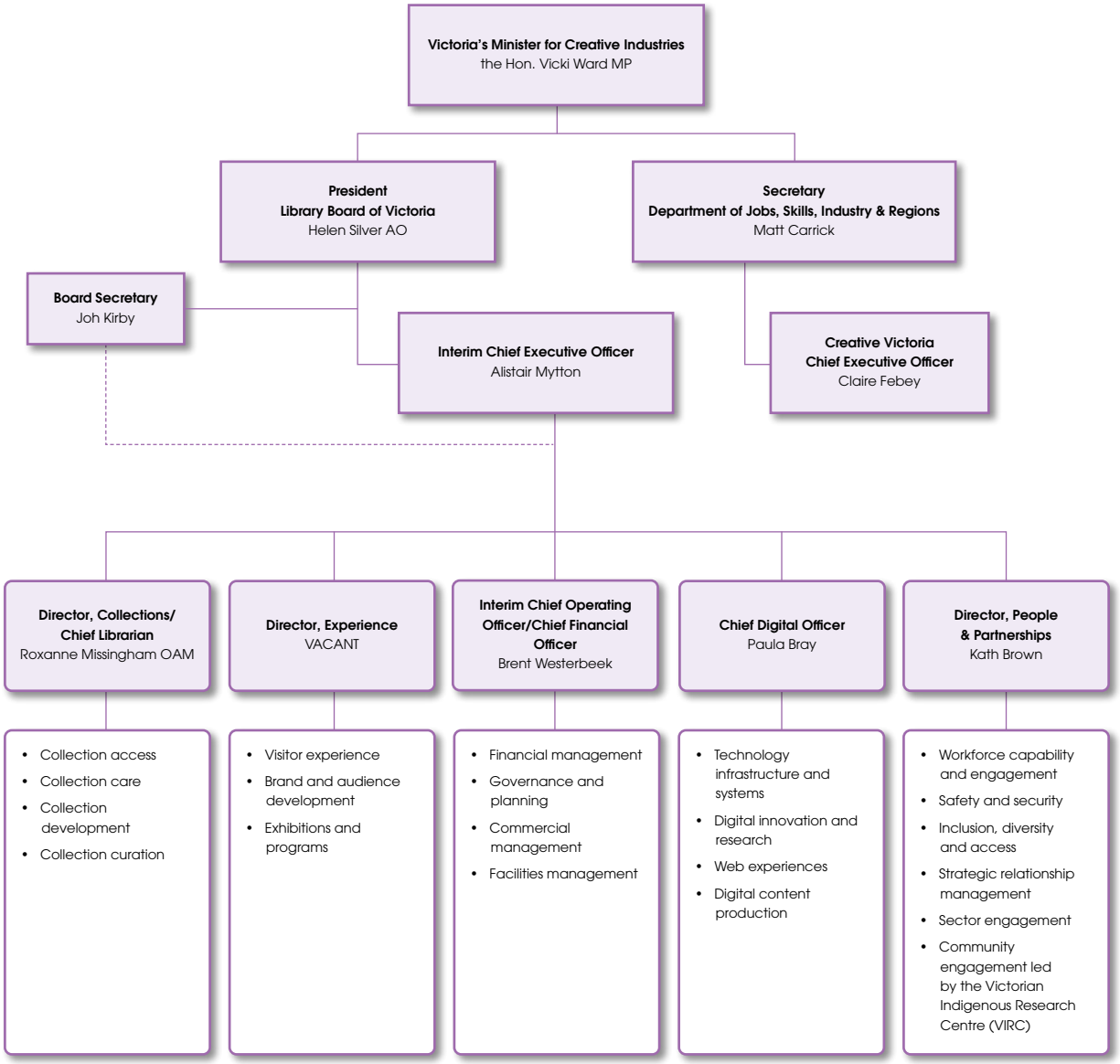
- Alex Cartel, Chair
- Helen Silver AO (from 10 March 2026)
- Christine Christian AO (until 3 March 2026)
- Cheri Ong
- Inala Cooper
- Dr Caroline Aebersold (from November 2025)
- Dianne Reilly, external member
- Helen Imber, external member
- Thomas Hudson, external member
- Professor Katie Stevenson, external member
- Daniel Attia, external member

StartSpace Committee

This committee did not meet in 2025–26 and has been disbanded.

Organisation chart

as at 30 June 2026



Report of operations

This section reports on key initiatives and projects aligned with the Library's 5 strategies:

- Become a must-do destination
- Strengthen diverse communities
- Become an active community voice for learning, knowledge and culture
- Create a compelling digital experience
- Deliver innovative and sustainable operations.

Become a must-do destination

Record visitation reflects Library's enduring appeal

State Library Victoria welcomed 3,020,721 visits during 2025–26, marking another year of record-breaking visitation. On average, more than 8,300 people walked through the Library's doors each day, reinforcing its position as one of the world's most visited libraries. From students and researchers to tourists, families and lifelong learners, the Library continues to attract a broad and diverse community. More than 1.2 million visitors were new to the Library, reflecting success in reaching new audiences and ensuring the Library remains a welcoming and relevant destination for all Victorians.

Visitor satisfaction stayed consistently high across both onsite and online experiences, reflecting the strength of the Library's collections, exhibitions, programs and services. As the Library celebrates its 170th anniversary, these achievements show its value as a trusted cultural institution that continues to evolve while remaining true to its founding purpose of providing free access to knowledge and ideas.

Welcoming every visitor

Every visit to State Library Victoria is supported by the dedication and expertise of the Library's staff, who play a vital role in helping audiences discover and engage with the Library's collections, exhibitions and experiences.

Throughout 2025–26, staff welcomed people from across Victoria, Australia and the world while providing information, orientation and personalised recommendations that encouraged deeper exploration of the Library's spaces and collections. Staff delivered 945 guided tours throughout the year, helping visitors to discover the Library's history, architecture and collections through engaging, expert-led experiences.

Library staff also supported the successful delivery of major exhibitions, public programs and events, ensuring that every visitor enjoyed a welcoming, accessible and memorable experience. Supported by 119 volunteers contributing more than 6,200 hours of service, Library staff played an important role in maintaining consistently high levels of visitor satisfaction and reinforcing the Library's reputation as one of Australia's leading cultural destinations.

Inspiring the next generation

The Pauline Gandel Children's Quarter continued to be one of the Library's most popular destinations for families. In addition to a vibrant program of scheduled events, the Pauline Gandel Children's Quarter offered daily drop-in activities designed to enrich every visit. The space welcomed 348,958 visitors, with 30,032 participants taking part in 358 drop-in activities delivered by Library staff, averaging 84 participants per session. Through imaginative, accessible and engaging experiences, the Pauline Gandel Children's Quarter fostered curiosity, creativity and a love of learning for Victoria's youngest visitors.

Exhibition success

Opening in February 2026 and due to run until January 2027, ***Rebel Heart: Love letters and other declarations*** has quickly established itself as one of the Library's most successful recent exhibitions. *Rebel Heart* explores the many expressions of love through handwritten letters, diaries, photographs, artworks and treasured personal objects, presenting historic collection material alongside new commissions from Angie McMahon, Mo'Ju, Mindy Meng Wang and Amos Roach. The exhibition

welcomed 237,188 visitors in just over four and a half months, surpassing visitation targets, with 57% of *Rebel Heart* visitors indicating they visited the Library specifically to visit this exhibition. The exhibition also drove significant online interest, with 'love letters exhibition' becoming the most searched term on the Library's website after general library information, demonstrating strong public engagement and curiosity.

Running from August 2025 to May 2026, ***Creative Acts*** revealed the journeys behind artistic creation – where the process is as powerful as the outcome. The exhibition invited visitors to step inside the inner worlds of creators like Vali Myers and Peter Carey, and discover the intense, sometimes otherworldly forces that drive them to bring something entirely new into being. Featuring almost 600 artefacts and newly commissioned works, *Creative Acts* offered a rare window into the State Collection as well as the inner worlds and workings of artists.

The Library's long-standing ***World of the Book*** exhibition marked its 20-year anniversary of celebrating the rich history of books and the written word. Reimagined each year, this iteration featured more than 300 rare and iconic collection items, including 20 treasures from the inaugural 2005 exhibition and several significant acquisitions. The exhibition welcomed 92,284 visits in this milestone year, becoming the most visited exhibition in the Library's history.

Programming with purpose

This year marked the introduction of State Library Victoria's **Programming Strategy 2025–29**, which shapes how we create meaningful events and experiences based on what audiences most want from the Library. Serving as a unifying framework for the organisation, it galvanises teams around a shared ambition, fosters collaboration, and provides clarity around programming priorities, processes and pathways. This whole-of-Library commitment is designed to respond to what audiences desire most from the Library, now and in the future: universal access to knowledge, meaningful cultural experiences and opportunities to shape our shared civic life. This year's programming was designed around annual thematic narratives that connected exhibitions, collections and programs, creating richer and more meaningful audience experiences.

The Library delivered 1,825 public programs* across the year, welcoming 88,240 participants. The 2026 thematic narrative of **Love and Memory** came to life through the ***Rebel Heart*** exhibition, with a series of sold-out events that explored relationships, creativity and contemporary culture. The **Truth and Creativity** narrative was reflected in exhibitions including ***Creative Acts*** and aligned public programming.

The Library continued to strengthen its position as one of Melbourne's leading after-hours cultural destinations through ***Library Up Late***, delivering immersive evenings in partnership with major festivals including **Midsumma**, the **Melbourne International Comedy Festival** and **RISING**. Audiences explored exhibitions alongside live music, comedy, artist talks and interactive experiences, with 4,304 attendees participating across the series and many visiting State Library Victoria for the first time.

Programming for children and families remained a cornerstone of the visitor experience. ***Library on the Lawn*** transformed the forecourt into a vibrant summer festival of storytelling, play and creativity, while our June ***Book Bash*** events, delivered in partnership with the **Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge**, welcomed thousands of students to author talks, school holiday activities and literacy experiences designed to inspire a lifelong love of reading. As a 2026 **Midsumma Festival Hub**, the Library also presented inclusive family programming, ensuring audiences of all ages and backgrounds could see themselves reflected in the Library's programs.

Expert guidance unlocks knowledge

State Library Victoria provided expert research support, helping visitors navigate the breadth and depth of the State Collection through personalised assistance, specialist expertise and trusted information services.

Throughout the year, Library staff responded to over 67,000 enquiries via the Ask a Librarian desk and email service, supporting investigations into topics ranging from local and family history to architecture, literature, government records and Victorian social history. Staff also provided specialist research expertise, resolving 6,380 complex research enquiries through the Library's onsite and digital research services.

* Excludes education programs.

World of the Book celebrates 20 years of stories

For 20 years, *World of the Book* has invited visitors to discover the extraordinary stories preserved within State Library Victoria's collections. In its milestone 20th anniversary year, the exhibition welcomed 92,284 visits, becoming the most visited exhibition in the Library's history and surpassing its previous annual visitation record. As Australia's longest-running, largest and most popular book exhibition, *World of the Book* demonstrates the lasting appeal of books, storytelling and free public access to knowledge.

Reimagined each year, the exhibition charts the rich history of books and the written word through the depth and breadth of the State Collection. Running from 31 May 2025 to 17 May 2026, the 20th anniversary edition featured more than 300 rare, sacred and iconic collection items, including 20 treasures from the inaugural 2005 exhibition that returned to display to mark the milestone. Visitors also encountered 2 significant acquisitions on public display for the first time in Australia: the Hyakumantō Darani, produced in Japan almost 1,250 years ago and recognised as the earliest recorded example of mass-printed text in the world; and a rare 15th-century scribe's knife used in the creation of handwritten manuscripts before the invention of the printing press.





Twenty years of opening the State Collection

Since opening in 2005, *World of the Book* has displayed more than 5,000 collection items and received over 5 million visits, providing free access to some of the most treasured and significant objects in the State Collection. The exhibition continues to reveal new stories from the collection while celebrating the enduring role of books in preserving knowledge, recording history and inspiring imagination across generations.

Spanning more than 4,000 years of human history, the anniversary edition took visitors on a journey from ancient clay tablets and medieval manuscripts to contemporary publishing and beloved Australian literature. These remarkable objects showcased the richness and diversity of the State Collection and underscored the Library's commitment to making it freely accessible to all. Through open access to its collections, the Library enables people to discover stories, knowledge and ideas from the past, enriching understanding, inspiring curiosity and helping to shape the future.

'After more than 20 years, this iconic exhibition continues to resonate with Victorians and visitors of all ages because it brings the State Collection to life in a way that is both inspiring and accessible. State Library Victoria is proud to offer this experience free to everyone.'

Alistair Mytton, Interim Chief Executive Officer

A record-breaking milestone

The exhibition's record-breaking success formed part of an exceptional year for State Library Victoria, contributing to more than 2.5 million exhibition visits across the Library and helping drive the organisation towards more than 3 million visits during 2025–26. Alongside *Rebel Heart, Creative Acts* and Treaty, *World of the Book* demonstrated the public appetite for free cultural experiences that connect people with ideas, history and creativity.

As State Library Victoria celebrated its 170th anniversary, *World of the Book* stood as a powerful reminder of the Library's ongoing purpose. More than an exhibition about books, it celebrated humanity's shared desire to create, preserve and share knowledge, ensuring the stories of the past remain accessible, relevant and inspiring for generations to come.

The **Heritage Collections Reading Room** was a vital destination for collection access, with 3,105 bookings by researchers to consult rare books, manuscripts, maps, photographs, architectural drawings and original archival material. Librarians and collection specialists helped visitors access 11,905 heritage items, supporting academic research, creative projects, publications and lifelong learning.

Demand for online research support also remained strong, with 546,071 research guide sessions across the year. Along with access to digital collections and specialist advice, these ensured Victorians across the state and beyond could connect with the State Collection regardless of location.

These services demonstrate the enduring value of expert librarianship, ensuring visitors are not only able to access the Library's collections, but also develop the confidence and skills to explore them independently.

Strengthen diverse communities

Working towards truth-telling and Treaty

The **Victorian Indigenous Research Centre (VIRC)** plays a leading role in advancing First Peoples' knowledge, truth-telling and cultural leadership at State Library Victoria. Throughout the year, the VIRC built partnerships with First Nations communities while ensuring Aboriginal voices, knowledge systems and cultural authority remained central to the Library's collections, exhibitions and programs.

The VIRC's work was reflected in the ongoing success of the ***Treaty*** exhibition, which explored Victoria's historic journey towards Treaty through contemporary storytelling, historical records and community voices. Presented at a significant moment in Victoria's history, the exhibition provided an important space for visitors to engage with one of the state's most significant social and political reforms while encouraging deeper understanding of truth-telling, self-determination and First Peoples histories.

The Library also continued its role as caretaker in trust of the **Yoorrook Justice Commission's Official Public Record**, progressing cultural governance arrangements and preservation planning to ensure this nationally significant archive is safeguarded for future generations. Over 200 copies of *Yoorrook: Truth Be Told* were distributed to Victorian public libraries, enabling statewide access to findings from Australia's first formal truth-telling inquiry led by First Peoples.

Each library received an accompanying letter from Damien Bell, CEO of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, to support local communication and engagement.

Investing in research and creative practice

State Library Victoria continued to invest in research, scholarship and creative practice through a refreshed **Fellowships Program**. Launched in early 2026, the redesigned program supports both academic research and creative practice through **5 Research Fellowships**, **6 Creative Fellowships** and a **Creative Residency**. Fellows receive funding, office space at the Library, and specialist support from liaison librarians to pursue ambitious projects inspired by the State Collection.

The renewed program also expanded opportunities for participation through new strategic partnerships, including the inaugural **UNESCO Cities of Literature Fellowship**, promoting Melbourne's internationally recognised literary culture, and the **Asian Australian Foundation Fellowship**, supporting new research into the Library's Asian Australian collections. Recognising the importance of regional access, additional financial assistance was also introduced to support fellows travelling from regional Victoria to undertake research in Melbourne.

Building the State Collection

State Library Victoria continued to build the State Collection through acquisitions that preserve Victoria's documentary heritage while ensuring the collection remains relevant, representative and responsive to our communities. Acquisitions throughout the year expanded the breadth and depth of the collection, capturing stories that reflect Victoria's rich cultural, creative and social history.

During the year, the Library acquired 541 significant collection items across manuscripts, archives, photographs, oral histories, rare books, artworks and contemporary publications. Highlights included a first edition of *Emma* by Jane Austen, purchased through the support of donors to the Women Writers Fund; *Searching for Sanctuary: A Journey of Survival*, a documentary photograph collection by Barat Ali Batoor; and a collection of material relating to the Pilkington glass factory in Dandenong. Each acquisition contributes new perspectives to the State Collection, and creates opportunities for future research, exhibitions and public engagement.

The Library also worked closely with donors, collectors, creators, publishers and community organisations to secure material of enduring cultural significance. These partnerships ensure important stories are preserved for future generations while reflecting the diversity of Victoria's people, places and experiences.

These acquisitions demonstrate the Library's ongoing commitment to building a collection that documents both Victoria's history and its evolving identity.

Supporting the next generation of entrepreneurs
Powered by State Library Victoria, **StartSpace** supports aspiring and early-stage entrepreneurs from all backgrounds. Through free membership, mentoring, workshops, networking and access to industry expertise, StartSpace helps founders transform innovative ideas into sustainable businesses.

During the year, StartSpace welcomed 952 new members from 1,576 applications, bringing total membership to 3,397 founders since launch. Members represented a diverse cross-section of Victoria's entrepreneurial community, spanning industries including artificial intelligence, health technology, education technology, creative industries, professional services and consumer products. Women and non-binary people make up 34% of members, and 37% are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

A diverse calendar of events, workshops and networking opportunities helped members develop practical business skills, make industry connections, and find pathways to funding and investment. Flagship initiatives including **Flip the Pitch** connected founders with organisations across Victoria's startup ecosystem, while the **Future Founders** program, delivered in partnership with **Study Melbourne**, supported international students to develop entrepreneurial skills, build professional networks and establish new ventures.

The Library invested directly in emerging entrepreneurs through scholarships and funding opportunities, providing selected founders with equity-free financial support, mentoring and access to coworking facilities and industry expertise. These initiatives make StartSpace a vital launchpad for innovation, helping founders build businesses that contribute to Victoria's economic, creative and social prosperity.

Become an active community voice for learning, knowledge and culture

Creating conversations
State Library Victoria created opportunities for discussion, dialogue and cultural participation through a number of programs that engaged the public in meaningful conversations designed to enhance learning, knowledge and understanding.

Salon After D'Arc continued in 2025–26 as a thought-provoking after-hours series of events. Supported by the **Helen Macpherson Smith Trust** and featuring collection items acquired through the **Women Writers Fund**, the series brings together writers, artists and thinkers in an intimate salon-style setting. The 2025 season explored the hidden forces that shape how we know what we know – from the media we consume, to the myths we inherit, the dreams we chase, and the rituals we keep. In July ***Myths, Misdiagnoses and Misinformation*** looked at the gendered gaps in medicine through history, and in September ***Dreams, Creativity and the Subconscious*** explored the mysterious link between sleep, stories and the imagination. October's sold-out Salon, ***Divination, Ritual and the Occult***, featured a special immersive experience delivered by former Library fellow **Lawrence Leung**, which explored the borders between belief, scepticism and the supernatural. The 2026 series launched in June with ***Fever Dreams***, which delved into love and obsession as a powerful emotional and cultural force.

Beginning as a pilot program in October 2025, the **Open Studio** series provided an agile, low-resource platform for the Library's StartSpace, SLV LAB and Fellowships communities of practice to share work in progress, fostering creative exchange and cross-pollination of ideas. These talks covered topics as diverse as climate futures, sleep health, child development research and how to create more neuro-inclusive workplaces. The pilot demonstrated strong demand for a regular program to animate the Create Quarter and position the Library as an active site of research, knowledge sharing and innovation. Based on these learnings, the program will be developed into a monthly series that gives the audience the chance to see ideas taking shape, join conversations, and discover the Library as a living site of creation, research and innovation.

Giving regional students the confidence to tell their stories

Every child has a story worth telling. During 2025–26, State Library Victoria's Young Regional Writers' Program expanded beyond its successful northeast Victoria pilot, bringing leading Australian authors into classrooms across regional Victoria and providing hundreds of students the opportunity to develop literacy, creativity and confidence through storytelling.

Supported by more than $250,000 from the Victorian Department of Education and State Library Victoria donors, the program expanded to reach more than 32 schools over 2 years, beginning with schools across Geelong, the Bellarine Peninsula and Victoria's west. During the reporting period, 573 students from 19 schools participated in a term-long creative writing journey delivered at no cost to schools or families.

Co-designed with teachers and children's authors, the program combined online workshops, classroom learning and face-to-face sessions with acclaimed Australian writers Huda Hayek, Amie Kaufman, Alex Miles and Jess McGeachin, encouraging students to see themselves not only as readers, but as storytellers.

Breaking down barriers to creativity

For many students in regional Victoria, opportunities to work alongside published authors are rare.

The Young Regional Writers' Program helps address this gap by ensuring geography is no barrier to creative and collaborative learning experiences. Across a term of workshops, students developed characters, explored narrative structure, experimented with illustration and shared their work with peers, building confidence in their ideas and discovering that every story has value.

The program also fostered meaningful partnerships between schools, teachers, authors and local libraries, reinforcing State Library Victoria's commitment to equitable access to literacy, learning and creative opportunities for young Victorians, regardless of postcode.

Finding their voice

The program's impact was reflected in the confidence, creativity and enthusiasm demonstrated by participating students. Students described feeling inspired by the opportunity to learn directly from professional authors and valued the chance to share their work with peers from other schools.

‘It is great for young writers who need that little push to be excellent.’
Ben Tate, Year 5 student, Lara Primary School

‘It was a really cool experience being taught and guided by a person that writes books for a living.’
Milena Lamberti, Lara Lake Primary School

Investing in the next generation

The Young Regional Writers' Program reflects State Library Victoria's commitment to expanding access to literacy, creativity and learning opportunities for young people across the state. By connecting students with professional authors and supporting self-expression through storytelling, the program helps to build confidence and skills, and nurture the next generation of Victorian writers, readers and creative thinkers. As the program expands across regional Victoria, it ensures the stories shaping the state's future are written by young people from communities right across Victoria.





Delivered as part of the Library's 170th anniversary program, ***The Power of Research Libraries*** online in-conversation event on 30 April featured **Richard Ovenden OBE**, the 25th Bodley's Librarian at the University of Oxford and one of the world's leading voices on libraries and archives, alongside **Adjunct Associate Professor Mary Carroll**, an expert in the history of public libraries in Victoria. In conversation with State Library Victoria's Roxanne Missingham, Director, Collections and Chief Librarian, they discussed the evolution and future of research and public libraries – from preserving knowledge and supporting scholarship, to expanding access, engaging diverse communities and fostering social and democratic participation. This was a unique opportunity for researchers, library professionals, students and those passionate about the role of libraries to hear from an internationally recognised leader, and reflect on the enduring importance of libraries.

Nurturing curiosity and belonging

Baby Bounce, ***Toddler Tales*** and ***Storytime*** attracted 15,120 children and families across the year. This suite of programs provides educational and fun activities for pre-school age kids nearly every week of the year.

The ***Library on the Lawn*** 'Kids Festival' activated the Library's forecourt, Create Quarter and Pauline Gandel Children's Quarter during the 2026 summer school holidays, with free activities included storytelling, bubble dance parties, face painting and a scavenger hunt. Attracting 8,633 participants, the event was designed to keep children reading, engaged and learning during the long summer break – including helping them to avoid the well-known 'summer slide' in literacy. The event provided the opportunity to promote Public Libraries Victoria's **Big Summer Read** program, encouraging children to read books over the summer break.

State Library Victoria's **Rainbow Families** program sparked curiosity, creativity and connection for LGBTQIA+ families in 2025–26. Delivered in partnership with Midsumma Festival and supported by Rainbow Families Switchboard, the program featured a suite of inclusive events including rainbow storytime, collage workshops, and a musical adventure and drama workshop. Rainbow Families has become a significant family-focused initiative that affirms diverse family structures and identities, and offers visibility, representation and genuine inclusion.

The Library promoted the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge as part of this year's statewide ***Book Bash*** events, featuring authors Amie Kaufman, Jess McGeachin, Huda Hayek, Morris Gleitzman, Shelley Ware and Sally Rippin. These programs encouraged students to engage with their love of reading through a variety of activities that sparked imagination and developed literacy skills, and reached tens of thousands of students across Victoria and interstate. Additionally, the Andy Griffiths online book launch and literacy workshop reached more than 15,500 students.

Leadership in the library sector

In 2025–26, State Library Victoria continued its strong leadership and collaboration across the public library sector in Victoria, nationally and internationally.

The **2023–26 Statewide Public Library Development Projects** reached completion this year, marking a significant milestone for the collaboration between State Library Victoria and Public Libraries Victoria (PLV). The collaboration aims to ensure every Victorian can access library collections and services, support a skilled and leadership-ready workforce, foster innovative community engagement, strengthen advocacy for public libraries and improve service delivery efficiency.

In May 2026 the ***Public Libraries for Social Connection*** report was launched at the ALIA National conference, adding to a growing body of libraries for health and wellbeing research that demonstrates the sector's impact on community connection and resilience. The 'Libraries for Health and Wellbeing' project resulted in a collection of practical resources and tools that communicates the measurable social and economic value delivered by public libraries.

The **Future State: Empowering Library Leaders program** expanded with the successful launch of the Senior Leadership Program, which complements established pathways for emerging leaders and reinforces a whole-of-career approach. The newly renamed **Ramsay Reid Fellowship** for sustaining investment in innovation and specialist practice attracted a strong field of applicants. Ben Kolaitis from City of Melbourne libraries was named our 2025 fellow. His project is on how public libraries, as one of society's most trusted institutions, can support communities to navigate the challenges and opportunities presented by AI.

Cross-sector collaboration was reinforced through initiatives such as the **CAVAL Cross-Institutional Mentoring Program**, while the **Communication Access Project**, developed with Scope Australia and people with lived experience, delivered practical tools and training to support more inclusive library services across Victoria. State Library Victoria also hosted an event as part of Library and Information Week in July 2025 for library sector staff in partnership with the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA). This day of presentations and networking opportunities focused on how libraries actively work to dismantle barriers to reading, advocating for literacy in all its forms.

These achievements reflect an effective partnership model between State Library Victoria and PLV, with co-designed programs ensuring relevance, practical application, and measurable outcomes for the sector. Building on this momentum, a new annual agreement with PLV will be developed in 2026–27, with the next round of projects focused on leadership, digital inclusion, AI capability and sector-wide insights.

Library membership

State Library Victoria provides all Victorians with free access to our extensive collections, resources and expert staff. Our free **Access membership** unlocks thousands of eresources and over 4.5 million books, photos, artworks, maps and more. Members also enjoy access to popular facilities, including meeting rooms and recording studios.

In addition to free membership, we offer paid **Cultural**, **Student** and **Family memberships**. These provide added benefits such as exclusive experiences, curated content and event discounts. A portion of each membership fee supports Library programs and collection development, helping to enrich the experience for all users. The paid membership program includes more than 800 active members.

Working with media to share our stories

This year, State Library Victoria worked with television, radio, print and digital outlets to share our stories with Victoria, Australia and the world. During the reporting period, there were 1,894 mentions of the Library in the media.

Highlights:

- The State Collection earned 249 media mentions. Standouts include a feature in *The Age* on how the Library returned a photograph of an unknown World War I soldier to his family and the WG Alma Conjuring Collection featured on ABC TV and ABC Radio Melbourne.
- ***Rebel Heart: Love letters and other declarations*** earned 57 media mentions with high-profile coverage in *The Guardian,* ABC Radio National's *Life Matters,* Nine News, and a 5-star review in ArtsHub.
- ***World of the Book*** earned 34 media mentions with features in *The Australian* and *The Guardian*, and coverage on ABC Radio Melbourne and *Time Out*.
- The End of Financial Year Appeal, ***Hear Their Voices Again: Help us preserve 100 years of memories***, earned 11 media mentions with notable coverage in *The Australian* and interviews on ABC Radio Melbourne and ABC Radio Victoria Statewide.
- The Library's education and families programming earned 41 media mentions. Notable coverage includes the **Young Regional Writers' Program** on ABC Radio Victoria Statewide and in the Geelong Advertiser. ***Library on the Lawn*** featured on Nine News, and ABC's *Creative Types* aired an episode shot at the Library with author Andy Griffiths.

Recognition for excellence

State Library Victoria's commitment to innovation, collaboration and public value was recognised through multiple honours at the **2026 Victorian Museums and Galleries Awards**. ***Make Believe: Encounters with misinformation*** received the Large Project of the Year (Museums & Galleries) award, while ***Searching for Sanctuary: A journey of survival by Barat Ali Batoor*** was highly commended in the Small Project of the Year (Galleries) category. The Library also received shortlist recognition for ***Treaty***, ***Melbourne Out Loud: Life through the lens of Rennie Ellis*** and ***Mouthful of Dust***, reflecting the breadth of its work across exhibitions, First Nations storytelling and digital innovation.

Mouthful of Dust also won an Australian Good Design Award for digital design, web design and development; a Heritage in Motion Award for new digital experiences; and a w3 Award for innovative or experimental websites.

These awards recognise the creativity, expertise and collaboration of staff across the Library while reinforcing its position as one of Australia's leading cultural institutions.

Libraries that connect us

As loneliness and social isolation impact communities across Australia, State Library Victoria is helping reshape the conversation about the role of public libraries in everyday life. During 2025–26, the Library commissioned and released the *Public Libraries for Social Connection* report, presenting compelling evidence that libraries are essential community infrastructure that improves wellbeing, fosters belonging and creates opportunities for meaningful social connection.

Drawing together contemporary research and insights from across Victoria's public library network, the report demonstrates that libraries are far more than places to borrow books. Through welcoming spaces, inclusive programs, trusted staff and strong community partnerships, libraries play a vital role in addressing one of society's most significant public health challenges.

Connection that changes lives

Social connection is now recognised as a key determinant of health, with the World Health Organization equating the impacts of loneliness to those of smoking and obesity. In Australia, one in 3 people experience loneliness, while one in 6 are at risk of severe loneliness. Young adults, older Australians, First Nations peoples, culturally diverse communities and LGBTQIA+ people are among those most vulnerable to social isolation.

The *Public Libraries for Social Connection* report demonstrates that public libraries are uniquely positioned to respond to this challenge. As trusted 'third spaces' – places where people can gather, learn and connect without needing to spend money – libraries provide welcoming environments that encourage civic participation and boost local communities.

One quarter of Victorian public library visitors come to meet friends or simply spend time in public library spaces, highlighting the growing importance of libraries as places of connection as cost-of-living pressures, remote work and changing social patterns reshape community life.





Evidence of impact

The report reinforces the huge contribution that public libraries make across Victoria every day.

The most recent data from 2024–25 shows that Victorian public libraries welcomed more than 24.2 million physical visits, while more than 2.14 million people participated in library programs supporting literacy, lifelong learning and community connection. More than 112,000 programs were delivered across the state, with one in 3 Victorians now holding a public library membership.

Research commissioned by State Library Victoria also found that 74% of Victorians believe library staff help foster a sense of safety and belonging, while 72% say staff strengthen community connection. Importantly, the report estimates Victorian public libraries generate $234 million in health and wellbeing benefits every year, demonstrating the significant social return on investment libraries deliver to communities across the state.

‘Libraries have always connected people with knowledge. Increasingly, they also connect people with one another. By bringing together trusted spaces, welcoming staff and inclusive programs, libraries help strengthen the social fabric of communities across Victoria.’

Kath Brown, Director, People and Partnerships

Leading beyond our walls

State Library Victoria plays a leadership role beyond its own visitors and collections.

Commissioning the *Public Libraries for Social Connection* report reflects the Library's commitment to research, advocacy and sector leadership, providing evidence to support future investment in public libraries and recognising their contribution to community wellbeing.

The findings also reinforce State Library Victoria's own impact. Welcoming more than 3 million visits annually, delivering evidence-based early years literacy programs and providing inclusive spaces such as the Pauline Gandel Children's Quarter, State Library Victoria demonstrates how libraries create opportunities for learning, belonging and connection at every stage of life.

Create a compelling digital experience

Digital innovation expands what's possible

Digital innovation and expanded online access continued to transform how people discovered, explored and engaged with State Library Victoria throughout 2025–26. By using new technology and digitisation techniques to create user-centred digital experiences, the Library ensured more Victorians could connect with collections, knowledge and culture wherever they live.

The Library explored how emerging technologies can transform access to collections, knowledge and culture through **SLV LAB** – the Library's digital innovation hub. Designed to push the boundaries of what a library can be, SLV LAB brings together technologists, artists, designers, researchers and Library staff to explore how advanced technologies can unlock library data, collections and spaces for the benefit of all Victorians. Throughout the year, SLV LAB published articles, experiments and audio recordings examining how technology is shaping the future of libraries and cultural institutions. The **In Conversation** series featured leading Australian and international thinkers, including **Dr Mia Ridge**, **Vincent Morisset**, **Dr Amelia Winger-Bearskin** and **Yoyo Munk**, exploring topics including artificial intelligence, digital culture, technology design, misinformation and the evolving role of libraries in a digital world.

The Library also fostered creative experimentation through artist residencies and immersive digital experiences. The inaugural Creative Technologist-in-Residence, **Yoyo Munk**, developed the mixed reality artwork **In Memory | Of Being**, creating a virtual gallery of audio and archival images from the State Collection. The pilot **Open Studio** series further connected the StartSpace, SLV LAB and Fellowships communities, creating new opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing and creative exchange.

Collections without borders

The Library expanded digital access to the State Collection, ensuring more Victorians could discover, explore and use collection material regardless of where they live. Through ongoing digitisation, strategic collection development and investment in digital resources, the Library improved access to knowledge while preserving Victoria's documentary heritage for future generations. These initiatives reinforced the Library's commitment to making Victoria's collections more accessible, discoverable and relevant for current and future generations.

Throughout the year, 49,819 physical and electronic items were added to the State Collection, bringing the Library catalogue to 4,194,265 bibliographic records. An additional 29,116 digitised items were made available online through the Library catalogue and **Trove**, expanding access to newspapers, photographs, manuscripts, maps, rare books and archival collections for researchers and the wider community.

The Library also built its digital research offering through new electronic resources spanning history, culture, fashion, gender studies and international newspapers. During the year, 7 significant eresources were added to the collection, including *A Global History of Epidemics, 1800–1970*; *Asia in the Twentieth Century: General MacArthur and War, Occupation and Reconstruction in the Pacific, 1941–1972*; and *The Nineteenth Century Stage*. British newsreels from 1911–1930 were also added, and *The Times* digital archive was extended to 2024. At 30 June, Library members could access 144 ecollections comprising more than 893,199 individual titles, alongside 78 subscription databases providing remote access to 1,154,533 ebooks, journals, newspapers, audio and video resources.

Digital collecting continued to evolve through community demand. During the year, 1,886 ebooks were acquired through the Library's evidence-based and demand-driven acquisition program, representing 32% of all ebook acquisitions and bringing the permanent ebook collection to 40,197 titles. This responsive approach ensures the State Collection reflects the interests and research needs of Victorian readers while making high-quality digital resources available across the state.

National eDeposit (NED)

The Library continued to preserve Victoria's contemporary publishing heritage through the **National eDeposit (NED)** service, ensuring born-digital publications are collected alongside traditional print materials under the Libraries Act 1988.

During the year, 473 Victorian publishers deposited 4,168 new electronic books and serial titles through NED, bringing the total number of Victorian digital publications preserved through the service to 35,125. A further 3,146 print publications were received under legal deposit, ensuring both physical and digital publishing outputs form part of Victoria's documentary record.

By providing publishers with the option to deposit electronic publications directly, NED strengthens long-term preservation while making Victorian publishing more accessible to researchers and readers across Australia.

Connecting our community online
State Library Victoria engaged audiences through our growing online channels, sharing collection stories, exhibition highlights, behind-the-scenes insights and learning resources across multiple online platforms.

Throughout the year, the Library's online community grew to 227,863 social media followers across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube and X, generating 2,640,822 engagements through organic and paid campaign content. Social media played an important role in extending the reach of major exhibitions, public programs and anniversaries, while collaborations with artists, authors, creators and cultural partners introduced the Library to new and diverse audiences.

The Library also built engagement through blogs, newsletters and video content, ensuring audiences could discover Victoria's stories wherever they were. Together, these channels complemented onsite experiences and reinforced the Library's role as a trusted source of learning, knowledge and culture.

Blogs spotlight history and culture
State Library Victoria's blogs continue to educate and entertain, offering insight into Victoria's rich history, culture and communities. In 2025–26 there were 359,609 sessions across 41 blogs, showing increasing engagement with stories from across the Library's extensive collections. Popular blogs included *Cracking the narrative: pruning the misinformation from your family tree* with 3,545 sessions, *Marvellous Melbourne's own Willy Wonka – E.W. Cole and his famous Book Arcade* with 5,190 sessions, and *Using the Victorian Police Gazette to research your ancestors* with 3,605 sessions, showing a deep engagement with Victorian history and the enduring appeal of family history research among Library visitors.

Deliver innovative and sustainable operations

Improving our processes
The Library's collections are unique and of enduring value to the people of Victoria and to researchers across Australia and beyond. The **Collections Strategy 2025–29**, launched in February 2026, sets out the Library's collection role, goals and priorities for the next 4 years, outlining a framework for collecting, description, storage, management, preservation and innovation. As custodians of the State Collection, we are working to ensure it remains relevant and valued now, and for generations to come. The ongoing development of the collection responds to evolving community needs and rapid changes in the way information is created and communicated. The strategy provides a strong framework to ensure we can build knowledge and community, and inspire our future through collection activities.

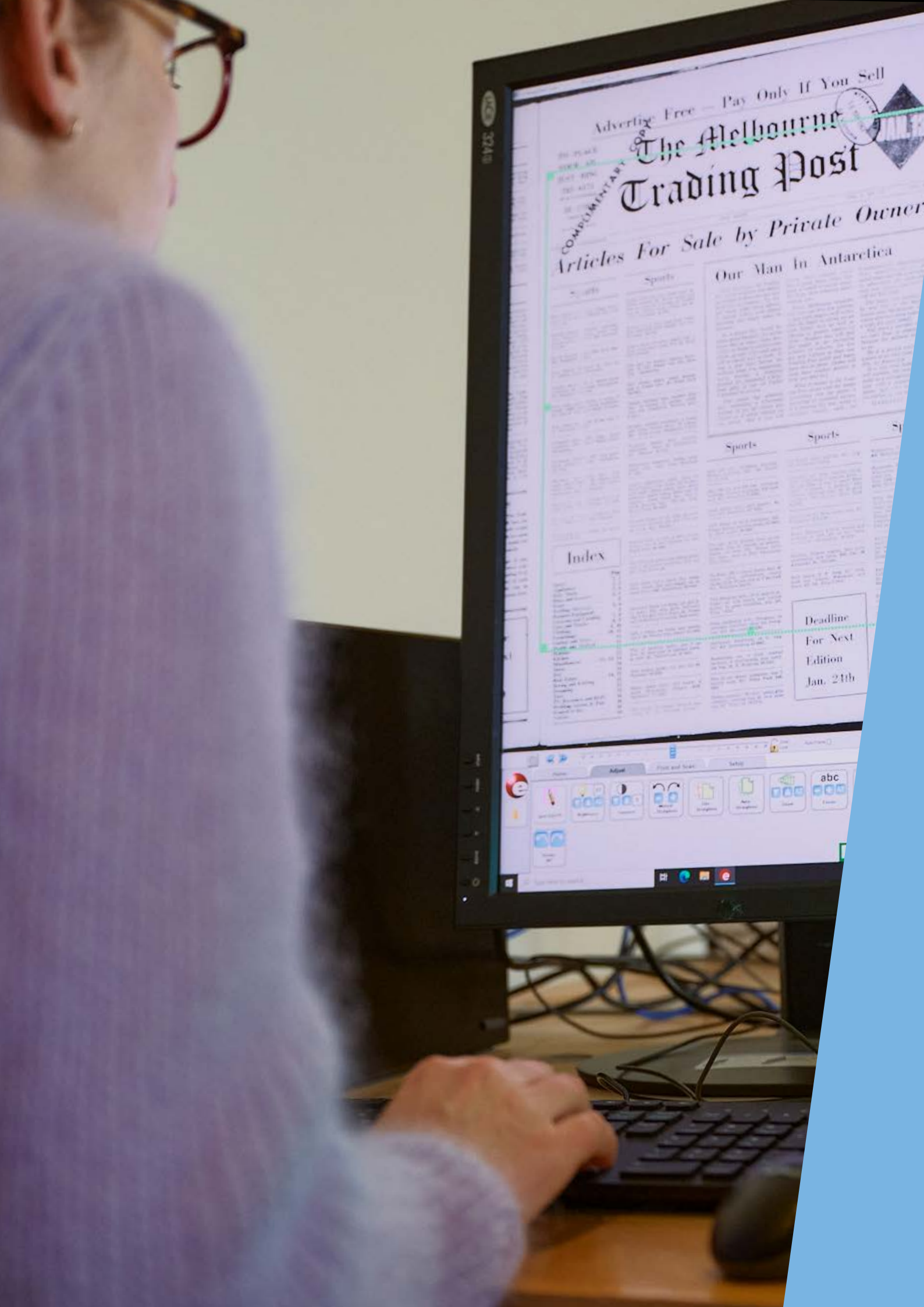
In April 2026 the Library began preparations for its first **Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)**, to take meaningful action to advance reconciliation. This process will be undertaken in consultation with Reconciliation Australia, using their toolkit, templates and resources. Staff information sessions were facilitated by Professor Peter Radoll and RAP Working Group co-chairs Jeremy Ambrum (Indigenous Programmer, Victorian Indigenous Research Centre) and Alex Gionfriddo (Librarian). Reflect RAP outcomes include developing relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders, and scoping where the Library can best have impact in its sphere of influence. The Reflect RAP Working Group has been established and terms of reference drafted, and the group has now commenced planning for the Reflect RAP to be drafted and implemented over the next 12 to 18 months.

A sought-after commercial venue
State Library Victoria is a popular venue for events including conferences, weddings and other celebrations. The Library's commercial events generate revenue that is essential in supporting operations and the offering of high-quality services to the public.

The Big Group commenced as the Library's events and catering partner in July 2025. In July 2026, the Big Group took over the lease for our retail food and beverage spaces located in the Russell Street Welcome Zone and Tulk building on La Trobe Street. Renovation of both spaces has commenced for reopening later in the year, including a new-look café called Biblio.

More than 250 commercial events were delivered in the Library's event spaces across the year, including 58 weddings.

Notable events included:
- **Murdoch Children's Research Institute** – A gala to celebrate the institute's 40th anniversary, attended by more than 300 leaders from research, clinical care, government, philanthropy, commerce and the community as well as guest of honour Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.
- **Plant Biosecurity Research Symposium** – A 2-day symposium across 6 of our commercial venues aligned with the International Day of Plant Health.


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Unlocking Victoria’s stories through digital access

During 2025–26, State Library Victoria reached a significant milestone with the creation of more than 5 million digital files, marking decades of work to preserve and share Victoria's heritage. From newspapers and photographs to rare books, maps, architectural drawings, manuscripts and audiovisual recordings, the Library continued to expand free digital access to the State Collection, ensuring more Victorians could discover their history wherever they live.

Digitisation has been a cornerstone of the Library's work since 1993, supported by investment from Creative Victoria and local history associations. Today, those partnerships are transforming fragile and unique collection material into enduring digital resources that can be explored by anyone, anywhere, extending access to Victoria’s heritage and enabling new forms of use across industry, education and local government.

Bringing Victoria's newspapers back to life

One of the year's most significant achievements was the ongoing digitisation of Victorian newspapers, preserving thousands of fragile editions and making them freely available through the National Library of Australia's Trove platform.

Working alongside local history societies and community partners, State Library Victoria supported the digitisation of newspapers from metropolitan and regional communities across the state, making stories that might otherwise have been lost accessible to future generations. Throughout 2025–26, the Library digitised or supported the digitisation of 20 newspaper titles and 16,953 issues, adding to one of Australia's richest collections of regional news.

The impact of this work extends far beyond preservation. Between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026, digitised Victorian newspapers on Trove recorded 3,165,869 Australian users, 3,120,990 international users and more than 11 million page views, demonstrating extraordinary public demand for free access to Victoria's documentary history.

Access without boundaries

Digitisation is about more than preserving the past – it is about removing barriers to knowledge.

Throughout the year, the Library extended access to trusted digital resources, enabling Victorians to explore newspapers, journals, databases and research collections regardless of where they live. Statewide access to resources including PressReader and Informit provided members with free access to thousands of Australian and international publications, while continued investment in digital discovery made it easier than ever to explore the State Collection online.

Whether researching family history, supporting school studies, pursuing academic research or simply satisfying personal curiosity, more Victorians were able to access the Library's collections without needing to visit Melbourne.

Preserving the past, empowering the future

As State Library Victoria celebrates its 170th anniversary, digital access is redefining what it means to be a public library.

Every item digitised represents another story preserved, another barrier removed and another opportunity for someone to connect with Victoria's history. By combining long-term preservation with contemporary technology, the Library is ensuring the State Collection remains not only protected for future generations, but freely accessible to communities across Victoria, Australia and the world.

‘Libraries have always connected people with knowledge. By expanding digital access to the State Collection, we're ensuring those connections continue to grow – across generations, across communities and across Victoria.’

Roxanne Missingham, Director, Collections and Chief Librarian

- **Consulate General of Italy** – A celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Italian Republic, featuring 3 Ferraris on the forecourt provided by Zagame Automotive Group, a performance by Melbourne Opera, mozzarella made and served live by That's Amore Cheese, and freshly piped cannoli by Cannoleria.
- **Verdi Requiem** – A transformation of the La Trobe Reading Room into an immersive celebration of the arts to honour the iconic orchestral piece, under the artistic direction of Amy Vaughan Creative.
- **Melbourne International Film Festival** – Opening night gala for the 2025 festival, which attracted around 1,200 guests after the premier screening of Oscar-nominated film *If I Had Legs I'd Kick You*.
- **MECCA** – End-of-year event with 650 guests across the La Trobe Reading Room and The Ian Potter Queens Hall, with arrival entertainment on the forecourt.

Additionally, the Library was used as a shoot location for:
- AO x Polo Ralph Lauren campaign with Joseph Zada
- Indonesian feature film *Ibadah & Cinta*
- AusAlert national test TV commercial
- Perri Cutten Winter 26 fashion shoot.

During the warmer months, the forecourt hosted several product giveaways, including:
- Garnier pimple patches by Bioderma
- Trilogy skin care serums by Chemist Warehouse
- Driscoll's strawberries
- lemon and peach Lipton iced tea with the Australian Open
- Batman merchandise by Triple M radio
- ice cream by Billy Van Creamy.

Visitation to Readings bookshop continued to climb, resulting in an increase in sales.

Partnerships driving innovation and impact
Strategic partnerships and collaborations expanded the reach and impact of State Library Victoria's programs, exhibitions and collections, enabling the Library to connect with new audiences and deliver richer cultural experiences throughout the year.

Midsumma Festival
In 2026, the Library built on its longstanding partnership with **Midsumma Festival** through an expanded program celebrating LGBTQIA+ stories, creativity and community. As a 2026 Midsumma Festival Hub, the Library presented a vibrant families program alongside the inaugural Fantasy Ball, creating welcoming and inclusive experiences for audiences of all ages while celebrating the diversity of Victoria's communities.

RISING
In May 2026, the Library continued its successful partnership with **RISING**, presenting ***Library Up Late x RISING*** as an immersive after-hours experience inspired by ***Rebel Heart*** and offering a final opportunity to see and hear from the artists featured in ***Creative Acts***. Featuring live music, artist talks, curator tours and contemporary performance, the sold-out event welcomed 2,100 visitors.

Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge
The Library maintained its partnership with the **Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge**, championing literacy and lifelong learning through ***Book Bash*** and a range of author talks, school holiday activities and education programs. Together, these initiatives inspired thousands of students across Victoria to discover the joy of reading and storytelling, while reinforcing the Library's role as a trusted partner in children's literacy and education.

Melbourne Writers Festival
In 2026 the Library reprised its role as major partner of the **Melbourne Writers Festival** to celebrate the festival's 40th anniversary. The Library hosted 26 of the festival's 80 events during the festival weekend, as well as the MWF Schools program. The Library also co-programmed 2 events – ***Life Lines: A Song Cycle of Dorothy Porter*** and ***The Book Factory*** – bringing contemporary literary performance and public art into the heart of the Library and solidifying its role as a destination for literary culture.

University of Melbourne
The Library's strategic partnership with the **University of Melbourne** fostered collaboration across research, learning and creative practice. Graduate placements in curatorial practice and book conservation, collaborative exhibition development and expanded innovation through **SLV LAB** created valuable opportunities for emerging professionals while building connections between academic research, collections and public programming. The uptake of **Narrm Scholarship** memberships also introduced new student audiences to the Library's collections, spaces and programs. The Library and University of Melbourne are progressing plans for a renewed 3-year agreement, building on strong governance and trusted relationships to support sustained collaboration and shared outcomes.

Melbourne Innovation District (MID)

The Library formalised an agreement with **Melbourne Innovation District (MID)** in early 2026 after several years of being an active participant in the City North innovation district. The MID partnership, steered by RMIT, aims to support social, economic and environmental innovation in Melbourne for the benefit of the whole city. In September 2025 the Library hosted the Melbourne City North: Inclusive By Design gathering, bringing together partners from government, universities, cultural and not-for-profit organisations to explore the civic role of innovation in shaping Melbourne's future.

Pullman Melbourne City Centre

The Library's hotel partnership with **Pullman Melbourne City Centre** was renewed from July 2025 to June 2026, focusing on shared goals of enhancing the visitor experience and reaching new audiences. The partnership delivered a suite of joint marketing and promotional initiatives.

Committee for Melbourne

As part of its membership of **Committee for Melbourne**, the Library hosted a Best Practice Tour in May 2026. Committee for Melbourne members were treated to an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour to discover State Library Victoria's storage spaces, card catalogue and magnificent Domed Reading Room.

Partners and supporters

Thank you to our Corporate Members

We proudly recognise and appreciate the following Corporate Members for their support:

Preserving a Victorian icon

After 4 years of work, State Library Victoria completed the largest conservation project in its history – preserving the original architectural drawings of St Paul's Cathedral for future generations. Spanning 175 drawings and almost 480 square metres, the project safeguarded one of Victoria's most significant collections of architectural drawings while ensuring it can continue to inform, inspire and be enjoyed for generations to come.

The drawings were started in 1878 by renowned English architect William Butterfield and capture the vision behind one of Melbourne's most recognisable landmarks. Ranging from intricate architectural details to enormous life-size renderings measuring more than 5 metres in length, the collection offers a remarkable insight into the design and construction of St Paul's Cathedral during the Marvellous Melbourne era.

Four years of meticulous conservation

Conserving the collection demanded exceptional skill, patience and precision. Over the course of the 4-year project, conservators cleaned, repaired and reassembled all 175 architectural drawings, with 50 classified as highly complex because of their size and condition. More than 1,783 hours – equivalent to over 234 working days – were dedicated to stabilising the collection, including 1,250 hours spent repairing the most challenging drawings.

Beyond their architectural significance, the drawings reveal the human story behind the cathedral's construction. Handwritten instructions from Butterfield sit alongside notes from builders, and boot prints left by tradespeople who stood on the life-sized plans as they transformed the architect's vision into one of Melbourne's defining landmarks.





A community investment in Victoria's heritage

The project was made possible through the generous support of donors to State Library Victoria's 2022 End of Financial Year Appeal.

With conservation now complete, the drawings are being digitised to expand public access, enabling researchers, architects, historians and the wider community to explore this remarkable collection from anywhere in Australia. Funding from the appeal has also supported specialised storage solutions to protect the oversized plans for generations to come.

'As custodians of Victoria's social history, we are incredibly fortunate to care for such a rare and significant collection. Thanks to the support of the Victorian community, these remarkable drawings will be preserved to inspire future generations.'

Roxanne Missingham, Director, Collections and Chief Librarian

Preserving tomorrow's history

The conservation of the St Paul's Cathedral drawings reflects State Library Victoria's enduring responsibility as custodian of the State Collection.

Every repaired page represents another piece of Victoria's history protected from deterioration and made available for future discovery.

Donors support the Library
State Library Victoria thanks our generous and loyal donors for their support this year, which enables everything from exhibitions and education programs to vital acquisitions and conservation work. Our donors help us grow the State Collection and share the stories it holds with audiences across Victoria and beyond.

Many also choose to donate personal collections they have thoughtfully curated over years, entrusting the Library to preserve and share these important cultural materials. We are especially grateful to those whose contributions supported the acquisition of rare books this year, including through targeted donations and the Women Writers Fund.

Philanthropy highlights from the reporting period include:

- **2026 End of Financial Year success** – The appeal *Hear Their Voices Again: Help us preserve 100 years of memories* sought to raise $200,000 to digitise the most fragile and significant of the Library's oral history recordings. The appeal was extraordinarily successful with $575,591 raised by 30 June to fund digitisation and preservation work. The Library hopes to raise $2 million to preserve the entire collection of more than 20,000 recordings of people's memories and reflections, and make them easily accessible to historians and the public.
- **Women Writers Fund acquisitions** – The Women Writers Fund is a pioneering initiative that seeks to redress the historical gender imbalance in State Library Victoria's collection by acquiring works by under-represented women writers. So far, the fund has enabled the Library to purchase more than 260 significant texts by female authors, including a major new acquisition – a first edition of *Emma* (1816) by Jane Austen in its original Regency-period binding and featuring a dedication to the Prince Regent, rumoured to be Austen's biggest fan.
- **Redmond Barry bookcase** – The Library was successful in purchasing a bookcase belonging to Sir Redmond Barry. This item is deeply connected with the founder of the Library, and the purchase was supported by a number of generous donors.
- **Peter Steedman bequest** – Pete was a well-known politician and journalist, as well as a student leader, union official and music industry executive. He had a well-established relationship with the Library, and donated his personal archive across a number of years before he passed away in 2024. His generous $500,000 bequest will support work on the Peter Steedman Archive, and a fellowship focusing on Australian social and political history.
- **Bookplates program** – Bookplates are personalised dedications placed inside new books entering the State Collection, and offer a meaningful and lasting way to show support for State Library Victoria. New bookplates were launched in August 2025 featuring stunning botanical works by 19th- and 20th-century female artists who contributed to Victoria's artistic legacy: Christian Waller, Fanny Anne Charsley and Caroline Peebles. The program raised $39,225 by 30 June 2026, with 100 bookplate donations.
- **Young Regional Writers' Program** – Beginning as a pilot program in northeast Victorian schools in 2025, the Young Regional Writers' Program will expand to more than 32 schools over 2 years. Supported by more than $250,000 from the Victorian Department of Education and donations to the Library's 2025 End of Year Appeal, the program reflects the Library's statewide impact and commitment to literacy, creativity and equitable access to opportunities for children and young people regardless of postcode.

State Library Victoria also gratefully acknowledges the support of the following individuals, families and organisations:

$100,000+
Helen Macpherson Smith Trust
Krystyna Campbell-Pretty AM and family
Estate of Pete Steedman
Anonymous: 1

$25,000+
Jan McDonald
Geoffrey Cains
Estate of Imants Arvids Berzins
Mietta Foundation
The Stuart Leslie Foundation
Felton Bequests' Committee
Roxanne Missingham FALIA, PHEA, OAM

$10,000+
William George Alma Estate
Helen Sykes
Robert Shanks and Josephine Shanks
Australian Children's Television Foundation
Ballandry (Peter Griffin Family) Fund, a sub-fund of Australian Communities Foundation
Asian Australian Foundation

Jo Porter and Michael Nossal, a giving fund in the Australian Philanthropic Services Foundation
Philip Jaroslow
Helen Silver AO
Andrew Sisson AO and Tracey Sisson
Tony Wheeler AO and Maureen Wheeler AO
The Brenda Shanahan Charitable Foundation
Hew and Howard Gerrard
MK Hope
Chris Browne and Vivien Santer
Anita Anderson OAM and Graham Anderson
Morag Fraser AM
Lisa Ring
Datt Family Foundation
Anonymous: 1

$5000+
Whiting Lukies Family Foundation
The Silver Gold Fund, a sub-fund of Australian Communities Foundation
Christine Christian AO
Maria Myers AC and Allan Myers AC KC
Rhys Watson
Rosemary Merralls
Betsy Polasek
The William Angliss (Vic) Charitable Fund
Adam and Susie Lewis
The Van Straten and Turley Foundation
Russell Jones
John Higgins AO and Ms Jodie Maunder
Greg Shalit and Miriam Faine
Electrical Trades Union Victoria branch
Priscilla Warr
Alex Cartel
Anonymous: 2

$1000+
Patricia Edgar AM
Brent Biasin
John and Mary Barlow
Sharon Rowell
Paul and Samantha Cross Foundation
RMIT University
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John and Margaret Harrison
Ian Campbell McKellar
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Elizabeth and Andrew Owen
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Irene Kearsey and Michael J Ridley
Nan Brown
Olivia Susanto
Cheri Ong and William Lye OAM KC
Sally Edwards

Carmel O'Keeffe and Ian Young
Annely Aeuckens and Dallas Simpson
Jim and Georgina Simmonds
Keren Murray and David Dyer
Helen Imber and Ian Proctor
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Diana Warren
Toni Burton
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Melissa Coulter Ryan
Mary Lush
Virginia Vindin-Price
Ralph Renard and Ruth Renard
Judith Brett
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Dianne Weidner AM
Miss Nancy James
Mary Kehoe
Bowness Family Foundation
Ian McKenzie and Sue Cutler
John Arthur
Robin Campbell AM
Joan Spiller
Anonymous: 8

Financial summary

Summary of financial results with 5-year comparatives*

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2024 $'000	2023 $'000	2022 $'000
Revenue from government[1]	62,181	58,814	60,404	52,955	48,308
Other revenue[2]	10,895	10,464	8,205	11,204	9,416
Total revenue	**73,076**	**69,278**	**68,609**	**64,159**	**57,724**
Total expenses (excluding depreciation)	**(63,398)**	**(64,809)**	**(59,563)**	**(57,428)**	**(53,989)**
Net result before depreciation	**9,678**	**4,469**	**9,046**	**6,731**	**3,735**
Depreciation	**(13,520)**	**(13,076)**	**(11,990)**	**(12,626)**	**(24,023)**
Total expenses	**(76,918)**	**(77,885)**	**(71,553)**	**(70,054)**	**(78,012)**
Net result for the year after depreciation^	**(3,842)**	**(8,607)**	**(2,944)**	**(5,895)**	**(20,288)**
Cash flow from operating activities	**1,777**	**8,483**	**7,015**	**7,567**	**(1,368)**
TOTAL ASSETS	**1,202,335**	**1,106,531**	**1,098,687**	**1,081,356**	**1,085,700**
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**14,750**	**19,869**	**13,006**	**12,605**	**11,971**
NET ASSETS	**1,187,585**	**1,086,662**	**1,085,681**	**1,068,751**	**1,073,729**

Notes

^ The net result for the year is presented before other comprehensive income and other economic flows. These items are reported separately in the Comprehensive Operating Statement and Statement of Changes in Equity.

1 Government revenue includes recurrent operating funding of $54.8 million, Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) funding of $3.1 million, contingency funding of $2.2 million and other government grants of $2.1 million.

2 Other revenue includes income from commercial activities, donations and bequests, investment income, and other externally generated revenue sources.

* The above summary, which includes net assets, should be reviewed in conjunction with the accompanying financial statements.

Current year financial review

The Library Board of Victoria reported a net result before depreciation of $9.7 million in 2025–26, an improvement of $5.2 million on the 2024–25 result of $4.5 million.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (Cont'd)
Current year financial review (Cont'd)

After depreciation expense of $13.5 million, the Library recorded a net result of $3.8 million deficit, compared with an $8.6 million deficit in the prior year.

The improved result included income that is tied or restricted for specific purposes, including future expenditure. Accordingly, the result before depreciation should not be interpreted as an equivalent increase in funding available to support the Library's general operations.

Revenue performance
Total revenue increased by $3.8 million (5%) to $73.1 million in 2025–26. The increase was primarily driven by government funding which increased by $3.4 million (6%) to $62.2 million.

Other revenue increased by $0.4 million (4%) to $10.9 million, reflecting income generated from commercial activities, donations, bequests, investments and other external sources.

Expenses and operating result
Total expenses before depreciation decreased by $1.4 million (3%) to $63.4 million, reflecting lower operating expenditure during the year.

Depreciation expense increased by $0.4 million (3%) to $13.5 million, largely due to capital asset additions and valuation movements.

As a result, the Library's net result after depreciation improved by $4.8 million, from a deficit of $8.6 million in 2024–25 to $3.8 million in 2025–26.

Financial position and cash flow
The Library's financial position remained strong, with net assets increasing by $100.9 million (9%) to $1.19 billion at 30 June 2026. The increase was primarily attributable to upward revaluations of the Library's land, buildings and cultural collection assets recognised during the year. The increase was therefore largely non-cash and did not represent a corresponding increase in funding available for operations.

Total liabilities decreased by $5.1 million (26%) to $14.8 million, mainly reflecting reductions in payables and employee provisions, partially offset by movements in lease liabilities.

The improvement in the accounting result did not translate into a corresponding increase in operating cash flow, as growth in cash payments to suppliers and employees exceeded the increase in cash receipts during the year. Net cash inflows from operating activities were $1.8 million, compared with $8.5 million in 2024–25. While total cash receipts increased by $2.5 million to $73.0 million, payments to suppliers and employees increased by $9.3 million to $71.3 million, resulting in a lower operating cash inflow for the year.

Key performance indicators

The Library's 2025–26 planning framework was designed to achieve outcomes articulated in the 2022–26 Strategic Plan.

Description	Unit of measure	Target 2025–26	Actual 2025–26	Actual 2024–25
Onsite visits	Number	3,000,000	3,020,721	2,818,114
Overall visits[1]	Number	7,700,000	8,344,865	7,391,282
New visitors	Number	1,000,000	1,225,132	1,017,100
Digital engagements with the collection	Number	4,000,000	5,239,383	4,072,870
Online sessions regional Victoria	Number	136,495	149,705	135,612
Visitor satisfaction with onsite or online experience	%	90%	90%	90%

Notes

In 2025–26, the Library is on track to deliver key results stated in the 2022–26 Strategic Plan subject to future funding outcomes.

1. Overall visits include online sessions and onsite visits.

Creative Industries portfolio service agreement

The Creative Industries portfolio service agreement establishes a range of performance indicators under the Creative Industries Portfolio performance framework including Department Performance Statement and Creative State deliverables.

2025–26 Department Performance Statement (DPS) performance indicators

Description	Unit of measure	Target 2025–26	Actual 2025–26	Actual 2024–25	Actual 2023–24	Actual 2022–23	Actual 2021–22
Agency website visitation[1]	Number	4,700,000	5,280,594	4,573,168	6,000,016	6,275,089	5,327,953
Users/attendances at all agencies[2]	Number	2,250,000	3,020,721	2,818,114	2,651,495	2,113,188	831,655
Members and friends of agencies[3]	Number	1,250	886	1,453	1,377	1,242	1,100
Volunteer hours	Number	7,000	6,286	6,694	6,682	7,392	3,357
Students participating in agency education programs[4]	Number	20,000	68,975	109,202	72,927	115,175	13,371
Agency collections storage meeting industry standards	%	99%	95.1%	96.6%	93.4%	96.9%	95.2%
Visitors satisfied with visit	%	90%	90%	90%	91%	91%	97%

Notes

1. There was an increase in traffic across collection websites in FY26 including the catalogue and image viewer.
2. Onsite visitations reached a record 3 million visits in FY26. In FY26, the Library recorded over 2 million exhibition visits and welcomed more than 99,000 attendees to onsite programs.
3. The result is lower than target due to a number of memberships lapsing.
4. The Library had an outstanding response to the online student program, which reached over 48,693 primary school students in more than 520 schools.

Creative Industries portfolio performance indicators 2025–26

Description	Unit of measure	Target 2025–26	Actual 2025–26
Community connection / inclusion			
Total number of volunteers	Number	120	119
Programming activities			
Number of events[1]	Number	1,100	1,796
New exhibitions on site (permanent or temporary)	Number	4	4
Exhibition attendance[2]	Number	2,000,000	2,509,001
Sector engagement			
Loans to other organisations from the collection	Number	710	387
Regional venues in receipt of touring programs / exhibitions	Number	2	2
Collections and infrastructure			
Collection electronically registered	Number	4,560,000	4,490,815
Newly acquired collection electronically registered	Number	60,000	49,819
Collection on public display	Number	200,000	206,799
Collection publicly accessible online	Number	4,090,000	4,449,058
Collection publicly accessible online with digitised elements	Number	835,000	845,690
All facility safety audits conducted	Yes/No	Yes	Yes

Notes

1. It also strengthened its programming through partnerships with organisations such as Midsumma, the Melbourne Writers Festival, and individual artists, delivering a diverse and engaging program of events for audiences.
2. The Library delivered a number of major exhibitions during the year, attracting strong attendance. *Creative Acts* welcomed 264,333 visitors. *Rebel Heart,* which opened on 12 February 2026, attracted 237,188 visitors in just over four and a half months. *World of the Book,* celebrating its 20th anniversary, welcomed 92,284 visits during the year and has had over 5 million visits since its opening 20 years ago.

Acquisitions statistics

VOLUMES ADDED TO STOCK JULY 2025 – JUNE 2026

Method of acquisition	Purchase	Donation	Govt donation	Legal deposit	Total 2025–26	Total 2024–25
Newly acquired physical items/volumes						
Monographs	3,286	2,444	332	1,844	7,906	9,031
Serials	233	899	714	998	2,844	3,377
Newspapers	72	33	1	253	359	1,387
Sheet maps	49	577	6	14	646	1,044
Sound and video recordings	131	1,432	0	35	1,598	1,435
Music scores	2	23	0	1	26	30
Ephemera folders (Political-Riley/ Arts-AAA/Theatre Programs)	0	367	0	1	368	1,213
Pictures					26,145	18,532
Manuscripts (items)					1,107	805
TOTAL physical items/volumes	**3,773**	**5,775**	**1,053**	**3,146**	**40,999**	**36,854**
Electronic acquisitions						
PANDORA (Victorian websites)			960	857	1,817	2,542
Ebooks (purchased titles)	2,774				2,774	1,529
Born digital Victorian serials (titles) (NED)				525	525	379
Born digital Victorian monographs (titles) (NED)				3,643	3,643	4,079
Born digital heritage – pictures		54			54	2,728
Born digital – manuscripts (gigabytes)						134
Electronic collections (purchased)	7				7	6
Total electronic items	**2,781**	**54**	**960**	**5,025**	**8,820**	**11,263**
Total physical and electronic	**6,554**	**5,829**	**2,013**	**8,171**	**49,819**	**48,117**
Additions – manuscripts						
Physical – manuscripts (linear metres)	0.7				37.96	59.80
Born digital – manuscripts (gigabytes)	281	887			1,167.57	133.55

ACQUISITIONS STATISTICS (Cont'd)

CONSOLIDATED PHYSICAL STOCK HOLDINGS 2024 TO 2026

Stock holdings (volumes)	30 June 2024	30 June 2025	30 June 2026
Monographs	1,599,306	1,608,029	1,613,508
Serials	652,205	655,152	652,137
Newspapers	117,165	118,328	118,775
Maps	45,217	46,325	48,942
Sound and video recordings	44,371	45,816	47,472
Music scores	42,147	42,164	42,174
Ephemera (folders) (Political-Riley/ Arts-AAA/Theatre Programs)	48,263	49,204	48,622
Pictures	1,329,739	1,517,650	1,748,857
Manuscripts (items in Alma)		52,913	57,668
TOTAL	**3,878,413**	**4,135,581**	**4,378,155**
Manuscripts (linear metres)	7,998	8,058	8,096

CONSOLIDATED ELECTRONIC HOLDINGS 2024 TO 2026

	30 June 2024	30 June 2025	30 June 2026
PANDORA (Victorian websites)	26,047	31,041	32,858
Ebooks (purchased titles)	35,906	37,423	40,197
Born digital Victorian serials (titles) (NED)	2,694	3,073	3,596
Born digital Victorian monographs (titles) (NED)	23,793	27,872	31,529
Born digital – pictures	1,554	4,282	4,336
Electronic collections (purchased)	131	137	144
TOTAL	**90,125**	**103,828**	**112,660**
COMBINED TOTAL (physical and electronic)	**3,968,538**	**4,239,409**	**4,490,815**
Born digital – manuscripts (gigabytes)	191	324.5	1,492

ACQUISITIONS STATISTICS (Cont'd)

CONSOLIDATED ECOLLECTIONS 2024 TO 2026

	30 June 2024	30 June 2025	30 June 2026
Ecollections (purchased)	131	137	144
Ecollections (component titles)	**827,059**	**860,843**	**893,199**

Notes

1. Stock holdings in Alma equates to items (physical volumes) and electronic titles publicly accessible.
2. Consolidated physical and electronic holdings data from Alma, including manuscripts and pictures.
3. Monographs: includes pamphlets, books, kits, software, microforms, etc.
4. Music scores: previously part of monographs.
5. Ephemera collections (AAA, Riley and Theatre programs) at folder level from item report.
6. Pictures: newly acquired based on Alma additions.
7. Manuscript data presented as items from Alma. If linear metres need to be converted to items (divide cm total by ave 17.5cm per item). Both item and linear metre measurements are included in the table.
8. PANDORA is an archive of Victorian digital publications and websites gathered from the internet and data from PANDAS site.
9. Ebooks: available for remote access for Victorian registered users.
10. NED data collected from Alma.
11. Born digital serial and monograph (NED): Victorian electronic titles deposited by publishers into the National edeposit service to meet legal deposit requirements.
12. Ecollections represent themed or single-format collections of monographs, serials and original materials purchased for perpetual access by the Library (discoverable via the catalogue) but are not included in overall stock holdings.
13. Stock holdings do not include eresource and database subscriptions.
14. 2025–26 serials consolidated statistics are lower due to data clean-up ahead of collection valuation.

Health, safety and wellbeing performance measures

The Library's health, safety and wellbeing program continues to guide our approach to both psychosocial and physical health and wellbeing initiatives. Our strong collaborative approach encourages our leaders and employees to work together to mitigate risk and engage on matters and initiatives that are fit for purpose and future orientated.

We continue to support individuals through their employee lifecycle by promoting physical and psychosocial safety through the provision of services such as our Employee Assistance Program (EAP), rehabilitation programs, early intervention programs and Return to Work programs, along with a wide range of paid leave programs. These programs, initiatives and flexible work arrangements help Library employees balance work and personal responsibilities, while supporting diversity, inclusion and a whole-of-organisation approach to flexibility.

Hazard and incident management

The online health and safety system continues to provide improved reporting and visibility of incidents and hazards. Most recorded incidents are related to behaviour by visitors towards each other and/or State Library Victoria's employees. We continue to invest in our employees' safety and wellbeing through the provision of essential and targeted training to handle these encounters, and leverage off our strong relationships with other service organisations to support our visitors with complex social needs.

Health, safety and wellbeing performance measures

Category	Measure	2025–26	2024–25	2023–24
Incidents	No. of incidents	605	745	601
	Rate per 100 FTE[1]	18.87	9.67	15.65
Policy currency (review cycle 3 years)	Occupational health and safety (OHS) policy current	Yes	Yes	Yes
Provisional Improvement Notices (PINs)	No. of PINs issued by HSRs	0	0	0
	No. of identified issues actioned	N/A	N/A	N/A
HSR training (health and safety representative)	% of HSRs trained	100%	100%	100%
WorkSafe interactions	Notifiable incidents	0	3	1
	Notices received	0	0	0
	Visits (including as a result of notifiable incidents)	3	0	0
	% of identifiable issues actioned	100%	100%	100%

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING PERFORMANCE MEASURES (Cont'd)

Category	Measure	2025–26	2024–25	2023–24
WorkCover claims management	Number of standard claims[2]	2	4	2
	Rate per 100 FTE	1.2	2.4	1.12
	Number of lost time claims	1	4	2
	Rate per 100 FTE	0.68	2.4	1.12
	Number claims exceeding 13 weeks	0	1	1
	Rate per 100 FTE	N/A	0.60	0.56
	Fatality claims	0	0	0
	Average cost per standard claim[3]	$3,780	$49,954	$30,535
	% claims with a return-to-work (RTW) plan > 30 days	100%	100%	100%
Consultation and participation	Evidence of agreed structure of designated work groups (DWGs), HSRs and issue resolution procedures (IRPs)	Completed	Completed	Completed
	Compliance with agreed structure on DWGs, HSRs and IRPs	Completed	Completed	Completed
	Number of OHS Committee meetings	7	8	6

Notes

The introduction of a new safety software system and contractor management system in March 2026 has simplified and improved hazard and incident reporting and management, as well as contractor compliance. Improved data analysis functionality will enable more detailed reporting for future years' results.

1. Following a review of health, safety and wellbeing performance reporting, the incident rate methodology has been updated to align with the standard Australian full-time equivalent (FTE) calculation methodology. Incident rates are now reported as the number of employee injury incidents per 100 FTE employees.
   To ensure consistency and comparability of trend data, FY24 and FY25 incident rates in this table have been retrospectively recalculated using the revised methodology. Consequently, the incident rate published in the FY25 Annual Report has been superseded by the recalculated FY24 and FY25 figures provided here, which will form the baseline for FY26 reporting. This change improves the accuracy, consistency and comparability of injury performance reporting over time and aligns with contemporary Australian workforce reporting standards.
2. There is no change to the number of standard claims reported in the FY25 Annual Report. However, workers compensation claim classifications may change over time as costs develop. Claims initially recorded as minor claims (medical and like-only claims) may subsequently meet the threshold for classification as a Standard Claim, resulting in adjustments to previously reported figures. A claim is classified as a standard claim where lost time exceeds 10 days or medical expenses meet or exceed the applicable threshold, which is indexed annually on 1 July.
3. The average cost per standard claim reported in the FY25 Annual Report reflects claim costs current at the time of reporting. As workers compensation claims remain active and continue to incur costs throughout their lifecycle, average claim costs are subject to change as claims mature and additional costs are incurred resulting in adjustments to previously reported figures.

Public sector values and employment principles

Public sector values

State Library Victoria continues to meet our obligations under the *Public Administration Act 2004*. The Library and our employees are governed by the Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector Employees, which promotes adherence to the public sector values and informs the way we approach our work. The Library has also developed a set of Library-specific values, which are embedded in the Cultural and Creative Agencies Enterprise Agreement 2025. Along with our ways of working, these describe the expectations for all employees, including contractors and volunteers.

All employees are required to successfully complete a suite of compliance modules on commencement of employment, which cover Code of Conduct, equal opportunity, anti-discrimination and harassment, and child safety. Regular refresher training is provided, and employees must demonstrate understanding and compliance with these and other core modules.

Employment principles

We are committed to providing all applicants with an equal opportunity to demonstrate that they are the best person for the job. This includes positively responding to accommodation requests from candidates at all stages of the recruitment process to ensure equitable access for all applicants.

We actively review our recruitment practices and seek feedback from candidates throughout the process to ensure our policies and practices are inclusive.

Statement of workforce data and merit and equity

State Library Victoria is committed to applying merit and equity principles when appointing staff. The selection process ensures applicants are assessed and evaluated fairly and equitably, without discrimination, against the key selection criteria and other accountabilities. Employees have been correctly classified in workforce data collections.

Workforce data as at June 2026

		June 2026							June 2025						
		All employees		Ongoing			Fixed-term & casual		All employees		Ongoing			Fixed-term & casual	
		Head-count	FTE	Full-time head-count	Part-time head-count	FTE	Head-count	FTE	Head-count	FTE	Full-time head-count	Part-time head-count	FTE	Head-count	FTE
	All (non-executive)	**347**	**281.16**	**210**	**76**	**264.26**	**61**	**16.9**	**339**	**284.73**	**205**	**70**	**256.73**	**64**	**28**
Demographic data	**Gender**														
	Male	116	99.11	79	19	93.41	18	5.7	111	98.21	77	18	90.71	16	7.5
	Female	225	177.85	127	57	166.85	41	11	224	183.82	127	52	165.02	45	18.8
	Self-described	6	4.2	4	0	4	2	0.2	4	2.7	1	0	1	3	1.7
	Age														
	15–24	4	0.4	0	0	0	4	0.4	4	2.2	1	1	2	2	.2
	25–34	66	46.5	33	14	43.7	19	2.8	61	45.4	23	13	33.5	25	11.9
	35–44	98	80.71	56	30	77.41	12	3.3	98	81.41	54	28	74.61	16	6.8
	45–54	85	74.85	63	11	69.85	11	5	82	74.92	65	8	70.62	9	4.3
	55–64	68	59.5	46	11	54.5	11	5	63	55.9	46	10	53.4	7	2.5
	65+	26	19.2	12	10	18.8	4	0.4	31	24.9	16	11	23.6	4	1.3
Classification data	**VPS 1–7**														
	VPS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	VPS 2	79	37.41	16	23	15.61	40	5.8	77	47.31	20	20	34.01	37	13.3
	VPS 3	106	89.7	66	30	22	1 0	1.7	111	92.7	64	29	85.9	18	6.8
	VPS 4	78	72.35	57	17	12.35	4	3	74	69.02	55	15	66.2	4	4.29
	VPS 5	52	49.9	43	6	47.3	3	2.6	53	51.7	46	6	50.7	1	1
	VPS 6	25	24.8	21	0	0	4	3.8	18	18	15	0	15	3	3
	VPS 7	7	7	7	0	0	0	0	6	6	5	0	5	1	1
	Senior employees														
	STS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Executives	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	0	5	0	0
	Total employees	**352**	**286.16**	**215**	**76**	**264.26**	**61**	**16.9**	**344**	**289.7**	**210**	**55**	**261.73**	**64**	**28**

STATEMENT OF WORKFORCE DATA AND MERIT AND EQUITY (Cont'd)

Annualised total salary, by $20,000 bands, for executives and other senior non-executive staff 2026

Income band (salary)	Executives	STS
< $160,000		
$160,000–$179,999		
$180,000–$199,999		
$200,000–$219,999		
$220,000–$239,999		
$240,000–$259,999		
$260,000–$279,999		
$280,000–$299,999		
$300,000–$319,999	1	
$320,000–$339,999	2	
$340,000–$359,999	1	
$360,000–$379,999		
$380,000–$399,999		
$400,000–$419,999		
$420,000–$439,999	1	
$440,000–$459,999		
$460,000–$479,999		
$480,000–$499,999		
TOTAL	**5**	**0**

Reconciliation of executive officers

Total number of executive officers by gender 2026

	All		Male		Female		Self-described	
Class	**No.**	**Var.**	**No.**	**Var.**	**No.**	**Var.**	**No.**	**Var.**
SES1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES2	4	4	1	3	3	1	0	0
SES3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	**5**	**5**	**2**	**3**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**0**

Reconciliation of executive numbers 2025–26

		2025	2026
	Executives	4	4
	Accountable Officer (CEO)	1	1
Less	Separations	1	1
	Total executive numbers at 30 June	**5**	**5**

Environmental performance

State Library Victoria is committed to environmental sustainability in its operations and supports the Victorian Government's target of net zero emissions by 2030. The Library aligns with the Victorian Government's sustainability objectives by adopting new technologies and practices that lower emissions and enhance environmental performance. Sustainability is a core part of our 2022–26 Strategic Plan, guiding the delivery of innovative, efficient and environmentally responsible operations.

The Environmental Sustainability Working Group (ESWG) was formed during the 2022–23 reporting period to improve the long-term sustainability of the Library's buildings and operations and reduce the Library's impact on the environment. Following a brief hiatus, the ESWG continues to meet on a monthly basis to discuss long-term sustainability opportunities for the Library's buildings and operational activities to reduce the Library's impact on the environment.

Environmental performance 2025–26

		Measurement	Melbourne	Ballarat	Comment
	Electricity use				
EL1	Total electricity consumption	mWh	7,068.25	589.91	Actual consumption as invoiced
EL2	Onsite electricity generated	mWh	0	0	Monitored power generated unknown
EL3	Onsite installed generation capacity segmented by source	mW	0	0.09963	Solar in Ballarat
EL4	Total electricity offsets – solar generation	mWh (EL1 x 25%)	1,767.06	147.47	100% green power purchased as per SEC retail contract
	Stationary fuel use				
F1	Total fuels used in buildings and machinery segmented by fuel type	MJ	1,672,564.36	473,295.23	Figures from gas supplier monthly invoices
F2	Greenhouse gas emissions from stationary fuel consumption segmented by fuel type	tCO2-e	99.23	28.08	Figures from gas supplier invoices
	Transport use – n/a, no fleet vehicles				

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE (Cont'd)

		Measurement	Melbourne	Ballarat	Comment
	Total energy use				
E1	Total energy usage from fuels	MJ (F1+T1)	1,672,564.36	473,295.23	
E2	Total energy usage from electricity	MJ (EL1)	25,445,700	2,121,676	Total Kwh x 3.6
E3	Total energy usage segmented into renewable and non-renewable sources	MJ (E1+E2)	27,118,264.36	2,594,971.23	
E4	Units of energy used normalised by FTE, headcount, floor area, or other entity or sector specific quantity	MJ (E3*FTE)	7,667,960,430	8,822,902.18	State Library Victoria FTE 286 (Melb = 283, BOSS = 3)
	Sustainable buildings and infrastructure – n/a, no new buildings constructed or leases engaged during 2025–26				
	Greenhouse gas emissions				
G1	Total scope one (direct) greenhouse gas emissions	tCO2, CH4, N2O, other and CO2-e (F2+T3)	99.23	28.08	tCO2, CH4, N2O, other and CO2-e
G2	Total scope two (indirect electricity) greenhouse gas emissions	tCO2-e	0	0	100% green power

Asset Management Accountability Framework maturity assessment

The Asset Management Accountability Framework is a non-prescriptive, devolved accountability model of asset management that requires compliance with 41 mandatory requirements in the following categories:

- Leadership and accountability.
- Planning.
- Acquisition.
- Operation.
- Disposal.

Self-assessment is required every 3 years. The next assessment is due to be reported in the 2026–27 financial year.

Information and communication technology (ICT) expenditure

ICT expenditure refers to the Library's costs in providing business-enabling ICT services within the current reporting period. It comprises Business as Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure and Non-Business as Usual (Non-BAU) ICT expenditure. Non-BAU ICT expenditure relates to extending or enhancing the Library's current ICT capabilities. BAU ICT expenditure is all remaining ICT expenditure that primarily relates to ongoing activities to operate and maintain the current ICT capability.

For the 2025–26 reporting period, the Library had a total ICT expenditure of $7,084,225, with the details shown below.

BAU expenditure Total	Non-BAU expenditure Total = A+B	Operational expenditure A	Capital expenditure B
$4,948,242	$2,135,983	$1,854,331	$281,652

Freedom of information

State Library Victoria embraces the objectives of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Vic) (FOI Act), which gives the community the right to request access to documents held by Victorian public sector agencies.

Our website provides information about the following:

- the types of documents maintained by the Library
- the type of information released by the Library via a Freedom of Information request
- how to request access to information
- the application fee.

Depending on the nature and complexity of the request, the individual requesting access may need to pay an application fee and additional charges for searching, retrieving and copying documents.

The Library does not have to give access to a document which is an exempt document under the FOI Act.

Requests processed

During the year ending 30 June 2026, the Library received 6 valid requests for access to documents under the FOI Act.

Making a request

A request for access to documents under the FOI Act can be made in writing to the Freedom of Information Officer.

Email
foi@slv.vic.gov.au

Address
Policy, Risk and Legal
State Library Victoria
328 Swanston Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Further information on the operation of the FOI Act is available on the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner's website.

Additional information available on request

In compliance with the requirements of the Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance, details in respect of the items listed below have been retained by State Library Victoria and are available (in full) on request, subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*:

- details of publications produced by State Library Victoria about itself, and how these can be obtained
- details of any major external reviews carried out on State Library Victoria
- details of major research and development activities undertaken by State Library Victoria
- a statement on industrial relations within State Library Victoria
- details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged
- a statement of completion of declarations of pecuniary interests by relevant officers
- details of overseas visits undertaken
- details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by State Library Victoria to develop community awareness of the agency and its services
- details of all consultancies and contractors, including consultants/contractors engaged, services provided, and expenditure committed for each engagement.

The information is available on request from:
Policy, Risk and Legal
State Library Victoria
328 Swanston Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
foi@slv.vic.gov.au

Additional information included in annual report

Details in respect of the following items have been included in State Library Victoria's annual report, on the pages indicated below:

- assessments and measures undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety of employees (on pages 53 and 54)
- a list of State Library Victoria's major committees, the purposes of each committee, and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved (on pages 19 and 20).

Information that is not applicable to State Library Victoria

The following information is not relevant to State Library Victoria for the reasons set out below:

- a declaration of shares held by senior officers (no shares have ever been issued in State Library Victoria).

Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* (Vic) (PID Act) encourages and facilitates disclosures of improper conduct by public officers and public bodies. Improper conduct includes conduct that is corrupt, involves a substantial mismanagement of public resources, or involves a substantial risk to public health or safety or to the environment.

The PID Act provides protection to persons who make disclosures and aims to ensure that disclosures are properly assessed and investigated where necessary.

State Library Victoria is committed to the objectives of the PID Act. The Library does not tolerate improper conduct by its staff and will take all reasonable steps to protect people from any detrimental action taken in reprisal for a person making a disclosure under the PID Act.

Compliance with the PID Act

Under the PID Act, State Library of Victoria cannot receive public interest disclosures about the Library or its employees. Disclosures must be made directly to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC):

Level 1, North Tower
459 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Phone 1300 735 135

Further information about making disclosures can be found on IBAC's website.

Building Act 1993

The Library is compliant with the National Construction Code of Australia and relevant Australian standards for buildings and building works. Essential services and building maintenance requirements are in accordance with the National Construction Code and relevant Australian standards specific to each discipline: mechanical, fire, electrical, lifts.

There was 1 major infrastructure project (greater than $50,000) completed during the reporting period. The failed sprinkler mains within the Stawell Building were replaced to return the building to code.

The Library received no emergency or building orders regarding buildings during the reporting period.

The following were issued for Library-owned buildings:

- Building permits – 1
- Certificate of final inspection – Certificate no. 7253727627028

There were no Library buildings brought into conformity with building standards during the reporting period.

Local Jobs First Act 2003

The *Local Jobs First Act 2003* (Vic) aims to promote employment and business growth by expanding market opportunities for local industry and providing for industry development in projects, developments, procurements and other initiatives undertaken or funded (whether wholly or partially) by the State.

The Local Jobs First Policy is comprised of the Victorian Industry Participation Policy and the Major Project Skills Guarantee.

The Library is required to apply the Local Jobs First policy in all projects valued at:

- $3 million or more in metropolitan Melbourne or for state-wide activities; or
- $1 million or more for projects in regional Victoria.

The Library is also required to apply the Major Project Skills Guarantee policy requirements all construction projects valued at $20 million or more.

During 2025–26, there were no activities that triggered the application of the Local Jobs First Policy, or the Major Project Skills Guarantee requirements.

Competitive Neutrality Policy

The Library continues to fulfil its requirements on competitive neutrality. The Library follows its Pricing Policy to ensure products, fees and charges identified as profitable are assessed against the Victorian Government's Competitive Neutrality Policy.

Disability Act 2006

The *Disability Act 2006* (Vic) provides a legislative scheme for persons with disability, which reaffirms and strengthens their rights, recognising their need for support across the government sector and within the community.

State Library Victoria adopts a social model approach to disability, recognising that barriers within environments, systems and attitudes can limit participation. Through its Disability Action and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2025–26, the Library is working to enhance accessibility and inclusion across its programs, collections, services and workforce for people with disability.

During the reporting period, the Library introduced a number of initiatives to enhance accessibility and inclusion for online and onsite visitors, including:

- The Library continues to strengthen accessibility for online visitors. Significant improvements have been made to the Library website, including enhanced site tagging for screen readers, improved text legibility, better colour contrast, and the removal of embedded text within images.
- The Library continues to support inclusive access through the provision and maintenance of accessible technologies for staff and visitors. This includes three assistive technology PCs located in Front of House areas for public use.
- The Library delivered digital accessibility training sessions, equipping staff with practical knowledge and skills to improve the accessibility of digital products, services, communications and online content.
- The Library explored training opportunities to strengthen staff capability in responding to the needs of Deaf and disabled visitors. Staff were provided with the opportunity to participate in Deaf Awareness and Communication Training.
- Regular Auslan Storytime sessions were introduced, featuring Deaf storytellers who use Auslan as their primary language. Sessions are supported by qualified Auslan interpreters to ensure access for hearing participants.
- Low-sensory spaces are available, where practicable, to support visitors participating in relevant onsite programs and events.
- Exhibition guides are available in large-print format to improve accessibility for visitors with low vision.
- A range of Library tours include accessibility information to help visitors plan their experience. Portable hearing loops and bookable wheelchairs are available, and alternative routes are provided to avoid stairs and ensure full wheelchair accessibility.
- Companion Card ticketing is available for Library events, supporting greater participation by people with disability and their companions.
- The Library continues to embed accessibility and inclusion considerations into the design and delivery of services, programs and visitor experiences.

Carer's Recognition Act 2012

State Library Victoria has taken all practical measures to comply with its obligations under the Act. These include:

- participating in the CARE@WORK pilot program in partnership with Different Journeys to better understand the experiences and needs of employee carers
- identifying opportunities to strengthen workplace systems, policies and practices that support employees balancing work and caring responsibilities
- embedding flexible work practices and tailored supports to improve employee wellbeing, workforce participation and staff retention
- increasing awareness of the experiences and contributions of carers through inclusive workplace practices and compassionate leadership
- continuing an ongoing partnership with Different Journeys to strengthen support for carers and foster an inclusive, resilient workplace.

Government advertising expenditure

There were no advertising campaigns with a media spend of $100,000 or greater.

Major contracts

The Library engaged in no major contracts exceeding $10 million.

Details of contracts that have been disclosed in the Victorian Government contracts publishing system can be viewed via the *Buying for Victoria* website.

Disclosure of grants and transfer payments (other than contributions by owners)

The Library has provided assistance to certain companies and organisations. Financial assistance provided in 2025–26 is listed in the table below.

Details of financial assistance	Awarded recipients	ABN	Amount
Program A: Lisa Ring and Family Scholarships **Grant:** Lisa Ring and Family Scholarship recipients 2026 **Total:** The scholarships totalled $20,000 distributed between 2 recipients *The Lisa Ring and Family Scholarships offer seed funding, coaching and support to new business founders in the very early stages of their business journey.*	Predictx Health Pty Ltd	27687376914	$10,000
	Umbrellus Enterprises Pty Ltd	30683114605	$10,000
Program B: Library Sector Engagement Program **Grant:** The Margaret C Ramsay and Barrett Reid Scholarships **Total:** The scholarships totalled $24,094 distributed to 2 recipients *The Margery C Ramsay and Barrett Reid Scholarships empower library professionals to develop bold ideas that enhance services, address community needs and contribute to the future of libraries in meaningful ways.*	Mia Peardon[1]	N/A	$4,094
	Benjamin Kolaitis	21261850650	$20,000

1. Grant was awarded in FY25 and paid over two financial years. The FY26 amount represents the portion paid during FY26.

DISCLOSURE OF GRANTS AND TRANSFER PAYMENTS (Cont'd)

Details of financial assistance	Awarded recipients	ABN	Amount
Program C: Fellowships Program **Grant:** Fellowships **Total:** The scholarships are focused on providing support to new business ideas and startup ventures led by international students. Totalled $176,000 distributed to 14 recipients. *State Library Victoria offers fellowships to encourage the imaginative use and development of the Library's collections for creative purposes.*	Adam Fawcett	28724624536	$15,000
	Anna McMichael	65717916531	$15,000
	Avni Dauti	52362548202	$15,000
	Avni Dauti	52362548202	$15,000
	Brendan Casey	52513136301	$15,000
	Danielle Clarke	N/A	$15,000
	Ella Mittas	85679025027	$5,000
	Elyas Alavi	45680063947	$15,000
	GJ Cameron & Crisp	94736021031	$15,000
	Joanne Amarisa	90331909323	$15,000
	Lorraine Brigdale	54305327521	$7,500
	PD Macasaet & M Tan	20574484687	$15,000
	Peta Clancy	79354282078	$7,500
	The Trustee for Futura Free Trust	25830552235	$15,000
Program D: Access Education Program **Grant:** Access Education Bursary **Total:** The bursaries totalled $43,675 distributed between 59 recipients. *The grants support will make it possible for students from all backgrounds across Victoria to participate in our education programs onsite and online.*	Alexandra Primary School Council Official	51414467442	$400
	Athol Road Primary School	50374605156	$700
	Balliang East Primary School Council	21487812770	$773
	Bannockburn P-12 College	33494377166	$382
	Bass Coast College	64509695037	$900
	Bayside P–12 College	55464553141	$500
	Bell Park North Primary School	65746200688	$1,056
	Bemin Secondary College	50473945635	$700
	Carraragarmungee Primary School	28015164894	$259
	Cranbourne Secondary College	13318228752	$900
	Dandenong High School	92120198071	$700
	Don Valley Primary School	69422916168	$900
	Drouin Secondary College	26538019611	$900
	Edgars Creek Secondary College	65596489210	$700
	Geelong High School	40414508454	$900
	Gladesville Primary School Council	80639161092	$1,692
	Gleneagles Secondary College	22418502381	$700
	Glengala Primary School	12313426597	$500
	Greensborough Secondary College	62629395575	$500
	Hamlyn Banks Primary School	47285547473	$313
	Hampton Park Secondary College	56008621004	$700
	Healesville High School	70112133277	$900
	Heatherhill Primary School	61943927567	$700
	Kilsyth Primary School	61357518487	$700

DISCLOSURE OF GRANTS AND TRANSFER PAYMENTS (Cont'd)

Details of financial assistance	Awarded recipients	ABN	Amount
	Kismet Park Primary School	88298170244	$700
	Kolbe Catholic College	18060047420	$700
	Koo Wee Rup Primary School	11272121059	$725
	Koo Wee Rup Secondary College	95678029015	$900
	Koorlong Primary School Council	86130490115	$900
	Kurnai College	84442041696	$900
	Lalor Primary School Council	46252887647	$700
	Lara Lake Primary School	77566729064	$624
	Lara Primary School	92881037384	$364
	Lethbridge Primary School Council	62985806824	$525
	Longwood Primary School	72959427151	$400
	McClelland College School Council	59363146029	$700
	Mandama Primary School	46518102751	$700
	Middle Kinglake Primary School	92055058238	$660
	Miners Rest Primary School	36980883527	$900
	Mooroolbark Grammar Association Incorporated	30026717264	$700
	Mount Hira College	86093977621	$700
	Mount Ridley P–12 College	42123026944	$700
	Neerim District Secondary College	15892809320	$900
	Pakenham Secondary College	97768082955	$900
	Pembroke Primary School	77287736552	$700
	Peranbin Primary College	12938819595	$900
	Portarlington Primary School	50213195575	$648
	PVGC Council Official Account	58538323413	$500
	Roxburgh College	21939490732	$700
	St Albans East Primary School	51048068898	$1,905
	Springvale Campus Minaret College	85232014290	$700
	Sunshine College	16615517531	$500
	Tanjil South Primary School	37798535090	$900
	Thorpdale Primary School	13124898643	$900
	Warrnambool College	80680940660	$900
	Westall Secondary College	93811845595	$700
	Western English Language School	89756268939	$500
	Whittlesea Secondary College	75849044786	$1,400
	Yea Primary School Council	64016946694	$150

Consultancy expenditure

Details of consultancies over $10,000

In 2025–26, there were 10 consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were $10,000 or more. The total expenditure incurred during 2025–26 in relation to these consultancies was $767,851 (excluding GST). Details of individual consultancies are outlined below.

Consultancies over $10,000

Consultant	Purpose of consultancy	Start date	End date	Total approved fee (ex GST)	Expenditure in 2025–26 (ex GST)	Future expenditure (ex GST)
The Trustee for THE MASS TRUST	Development of the State Library Victoria brand strategy, brand architecture and visual identity framework	16 Jun 2025	31 Dec 2025	166,040	84,392	
Leadership & Learning Pty Ltd	Leadership and organisational development advisory services to strengthen workforce capability and leadership effectiveness	1 Jul 2025	30 Jun 2026	144,000	126,800	17,200
Radoll & Associates Pty Ltd	Advisory services to support delivery of the Yoorrook Official Public Record (OPR) Stage 2 project	25 Aug 2025	28 Feb 2026	140,000	34,276	
Elliott R Bledsoe	Strategic policy advice and recommendations to inform the Library's approach to artificial intelligence	19 Jan 2026	14 Dec 2026	85,760	36,831	48,929
Strategic Project Partners	Project management and strategic advisory services to support the organisational transformation program	1 Aug 2025	30 Nov 2025	319,923	319,924	
Perfectly Paired Group Pty Ltd	Strategic review and recommendations to support the future retail and catering operating model and commercial growth opportunities	20 Sept 2025	30 Mar 2026	47,000	47,000	
Tony Grybowski And Associates Pty Ltd	Strategic advisory services to support development of the Library's future public programming and audience engagement approach	29 Aug 2025	30 Nov 2025	42,052	42,052	

CONSULTANCY EXPENDITURE (Cont'd)

Consultant	Purpose of consultancy	Start date	End date	Total approved fee (ex GST)	Expenditure in 2025–26 (ex GST)	Future expenditure (ex GST)
Ernst & Young	Development of a commercial partnerships strategy and asset framework to support future partnership and revenue opportunities	11 Dec 2025	31 Dec 2025	39,995	39,995	
K.A.H Solutions	Advisory services to support development of the Collection Storage Plan and Physical Collection Storage Masterplan	8 Jan 2025	30 Sept 2025	34,800	15,280	
Vanessa Bartlett	AI ethics advisory services to support development of the Library's artificial intelligence policy framework	1 Jan 2026	30 Apr 2026	21,304	21,304	

Details of consultancies under $10,000

In 2025–26, there were no consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were less than $10,000.

Reviews and studies expenditure

During 2025–26, there were 5 reviews and one study undertaken with the total cost of $189,667 (excluding GST). Details of individual reviews and studies are outlined below.

Name of the review/study	Reasons for review/study	Terms of reference	Anticipated outcomes	Estimated cost for the year (ex GST)	Final cost, if completed (ex GST)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL
Valuation Report	Independent valuation of the State Library Victoria collection for financial reporting and compliance with applicable accounting standards	To undertake an independent valuation of the State Library Victoria's physical and digital collections for financial reporting and insurance purposes, including the assessment of significant collection items	Independent valuation of the State Library Victoria collection to support financial reporting and compliance with accounting and reporting requirements	$64,000	$128,000	N, in progress
Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Development Review	To inform the development of the Library's Reconciliation Action Plan and strengthen First Nations engagement and governance practices	Review existing reconciliation commitments and undertake consultation with staff and stakeholders to develop a Reconciliation Action Plan aligned with Reconciliation Australia's framework, including measurable actions, accountabilities and governance arrangements	Development of the State Library Victoria Reconciliation Action Plan, including cultural consultation and engagement to inform priorities and initiatives	$5,000	$6,610	N, in progress
Victorian Indigenous Research Centre (VIRC) Review	To assess the governance, strategy, operations and future direction of the VIRC and identify opportunities to strengthen Indigenous leadership and sustainability	To review the VIRC's purpose, governance, operations, partnerships, cultural safety, community engagement and future sustainability, and provide recommendations to support its ongoing development and impact	Independent review of the Victorian Indigenous Research Centre, including assessment of governance, strategy and operations, with recommendations for future development	$25,000	$25,000	N, for internal use

REVIEWS AND STUDIES EXPENDITURE (Cont'd)

Name of the review/study	Reasons for review/study	Terms of reference	Anticipated outcomes	Estimated cost for the year (ex GST)	Final cost, if completed (ex GST)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL
Digital Discovery and User Research Study	To undertake research and discovery activities to support project planning, service development and strategic decision-making	To conduct user research, discovery and analysis activities to identify user needs, opportunities and requirements that support future service and project development	User experience and discovery research to inform future digital service and platform improvements	$53,240	$79,860	N, in progress
StartSpace Membership Model Review	To review and refine the StartSpace membership model and support sustainable growth, financial viability and member engagement	To review and refine the StartSpace membership model, including membership structure, member pathways, financial sustainability and growth opportunities	Review of the StartSpace membership model, including market analysis and strategic recommendations to support future growth and member engagement	$21,800	$31,800	N, for internal use
Public Libraries for Social Connection Study	To explore the role of public libraries in supporting social connection and develop an evidence base to inform policy and sector development	To review and analyse the contribution of public libraries to social connection and provide evidence-based recommendations to support future sector development	Report with evidence-based findings to inform policy development and sector-wide initiatives	$20,263	$48,500	Y, website

Disclosure of emergency procurement

The Library had nil reports in 2025–26 in relation to activating any emergency procurement.

Disclosure of procurement complaints

The Library had nil reports in 2025–26 in relation to procurement complaints.

Disclosure of social procurement activities under the Social Procurement Framework

The Social Procurement Framework governs how the Victorian Government undertakes social procurement. The framework applies to the procurement of all goods, services and construction undertaken by, or on behalf of, entities subject to the Standing Directions 2018 under the *Financial Management Act 1994*. State Library Victoria applies the Victorian Government's Social Procurement Framework (SPF) to eligible procurements.

Commitment and priorities

The Library is committed to embedding social and sustainable outcomes in procurement while maintaining value for money and probity. Our priorities are to:

- increase opportunities for Social Traders–certified social enterprises and Kinaway-verified Aboriginal businesses where suitable
- promote safe, fair and inclusive workplaces (including women's equality and safety)
- encourage environmentally sustainable practices and outputs, applied proportionately to category and market conditions.

Achievements in 2025–26

Key achievements included:

- establishing a baseline approach for integrating Social Procurement Framework requirements into procurement activities
- identifying process, template and reporting changes required to support future implementation
- increasing organisational awareness of social procurement obligations and opportunities.

Planned initiatives for 2026–27

To continue embedding social procurement considerations into procurement activities, the Library will:

- update sourcing templates to include social procurement prompts and evaluation language, enabling social outcomes to be considered where appropriate
- establish mechanisms to identify and monitor spend with recognised social benefit suppliers, including Social Traders–certified social enterprises and Kinaway-verified Aboriginal businesses
- provide awareness and training sessions for staff involved in procurement activities and evaluation processes.

Compliance note

The Library will report direct social procurement spend and progress against defined measures once the 2025–26 data capture and reporting processes are in place.

Library Board of Victoria financial report for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

The Library Board of Victoria is pleased to present its audited general purpose financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2026, and provide information about the Board's stewardship of the resources entrusted to it. It is presented in the following structure:

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Financial management attestation

STATE LIBRARY VICTORIA

Library Board of Victoria

Attestation for financial management compliance with Ministerial Standing Direction 5.1.4

I, Helen Silver AO, on behalf of the Library Board of Victoria, certify that the State Library Victoria has no Material Compliance Deficiency with respect to the applicable Standing Directions under the Financial Management Act 1994 and Instructions.



.....
Helen Silver AO
President
14 September 2026

Declaration in the financial statements

LIBRARY BOARD OF VICTORIA

The attached financial statements for the Library Board of Victoria have been prepared in accordance with Direction 5.2 of the Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, applicable Financial Reporting Directions, Australian Accounting Standards including interpretations, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

We further state that, in our opinion, the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2026 and financial position of the Library Board of Victoria at 30 June 2026.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We authorise the attached financial statements for issue on 14 September 2026.

.....
Helen Silver AO
President
14 September 2026

.....
Vicki McDonald
Chief Executive Officer
14 September 2026

.....
Brent Westerbeek
Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer
14 September 2026

Auditor-General's report

VAGO
Victorian Auditor-General's Office

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of the Library Board of Victoria

Opinion	I have audited the financial report of the Library Board of Victoria (the authority) which comprises the: • balance sheet as at 30 June 2026 • comprehensive operating statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • cash flow statement for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information • declaration in the financial statements. In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the authority as at 30 June 2026 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 7 of the *Financial Management Act 1994* and applicable Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures.
Basis for Opinion	I have conducted my audit in accordance with the *Audit Act 1994* which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. My independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975.* My staff and I are independent of the authority in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.
Other information	The Board of the authority is responsible for the "other information" included in the authority's Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2026. The other information in the Annual Report does not include the financial report and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information included in the Annual Report. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information when it becomes available and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.
Board's responsibilities for the financial report	The Board of the authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and the *Financial Management Act 1994*, and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.

Level 31 / 35 Collins Street, Melbourne Vic 3000
T 03 8601 7000 enquiries@audit.vic.gov.au www.audit.vic.gov.au

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT (Cont'd)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

As required by the *Audit Act 1994,* my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the authority's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the authority to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



MELBOURNE
16 September 2026

Paul Martin
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Continuing operations			
Revenue and income from transactions			
State Government funding	2.1	62,181	58,838
Operating activities	2.4	4,482	3,647
Donations and bequests	2.5	2,774	3,487
Investment income	2.6	2,535	2,197
Interest income	2.7	1,104	1,109
Total revenue and income from transactions		**73,076**	**69,278**
Expenses from transactions			
Employee expenses	3.1.1	41,954	45,305
Depreciation	4.1.3, 4.2.1	13,520	13,076
Supplies and services	3.2	21,444	19,504
Total expenses from transactions		**76,918**	**77,885**
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)		**(3,842)**	**(8,607)**
Other economic flows included in net result			
Net (loss)/gain on financial instruments	8.2	(156)	1,217
Other losses from other economic flows	8.2	(1)	(130)
Total other economic flows included in net result		**(157)**	**1,087**
Net result from operations		**(3,999)**	**(7,520)**
Other economic flows – other comprehensive income:			
Items that will not be reclassified to net result			
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	4.1.3	71,049	7,916
Changes in cultural asset revaluation surplus	4.2.1	32,838	-
Total other economic flows – other comprehensive income		**103,887**	**7,916**
Comprehensive result		**99,888**	**396**

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Assets			
Financial assets			
Cash and deposits	6.2	22,416	22,805
Receivables	5.1	5,003	3,400
Investments	4.3.1	24,842	24,999
Total financial assets		**52,261**	**51,204**
Non-financial assets			
Property, plant, equipment and right-of-use assets	4.1	662,880	600,051
Cultural assets	4.2	486,043	453,179
Prepayments and deferred expenditure	5.2	1,151	2,097
Total non-financial assets		**1,150,074**	**1,055,327**
Total assets		**1,202,335**	**1,106,531**
Liabilities			
Payables	5.3	2,875	5,910
Contract Liabilities	5.4	141	83
Borrowings	6.1	2,447	594
Employee-related provisions	3.1.2	9,287	13,282
Total liabilities		**14,750**	**19,869**
Net assets		**1,187,585**	**1,086,662**
Equity			
Accumulated deficit		(88,813)	(81,598)
Donations and bequests reserve		21,890	19,687
Specific purpose grants reserve		4,306	3,293
Physical and cultural assets revaluation surplus		601,128	497,241
Contributed capital		649,074	648,039
Net worth		**1,187,585**	**1,086,662**

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

	Notes	2026 $'000	20254 $'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Receipts from State Government		59,983	59,078
Receipts from other entities		7,862	6,919
Interest received		1,104	1,109
Distribution received		2,366	1,656
Net GST recovered from the ATO [(a)]		1,717	1,687
Total receipts		**73,032**	**70,449**
Payments			
Payments to suppliers and employees		(71,255)	(61,966)
Total payments		**(71,255)**	**(61,966)**
Net cash flows from operating activities		**1,777**	**8,483**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(927)	(319)
Payments for cultural assets		(2,010)	(2,120)
Net cash flows used in investing activities		**(2,937)**	**(2,439)**
Cash flows from financing activities			
Payment of principal portion of borrowings [(b)]		(264)	(165)
Capital contribution		1,035	585
Net cash flows from financing activities		**771**	**420**
Net (decrease)/ increase in cash and cash equivalents		(389)	6,464
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		22,805	16,341
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6.2	**22,416**	**22,805**

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes

(a) Goods and Services Tax paid to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is presented on a net basis.

(b) The Library has recognised cash payments for the principal portion of lease payments as financing activities; cash payments for the interest portion as operating activities consistent with the presentation of interest payments; and short-term lease payments for leases and low-value assets as operating activities.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	Physical asset revaluation surplus [a]	Cultural assets revaluation surplus [a]	Donations and bequests reserve [b]	Specific purpose grants reserve [c]	Accumulated surplus / (deficit) [d]	Contributions by owners [e]	Total
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Balance 30 June 2024	**239,424**	**249,901**	**17,211**	**3,977**	**(72,286)**	**647,454**	**1,085,681**
Net result for the year	-	-	-	-	(7,520)	-	(7,520)
Net transfer to / (from) accumulated surplus	-	-	2,476	(684)	(1,792)	-	-
Revaluation of non-current assets	7,916	-	-	-	-	-	7,916
Capital contribution	-	-	-	-	-	585	585
Balance 30 June 2025	**247,340**	**249,901**	**19,687**	**3,293**	**(81,598)**	**648,039**	**1,086,662**
Net result for the year	-	-	-	-	(3,999)	-	(3,999)
Net transfer to / (from) accumulated surplus	-	-	2,203	1,013	(3,216)	-	-
Revaluation of non-current assets	71,049	32,838	-	-	-	-	103,887
Capital contribution	-	-	-	-	-	1,035	1,035
Balance 30 June 2026	**318,389**	**282,739**	**21,890**	**4,306**	**(88,813)**	**649,074**	**1,187,585**

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes

(a) Represents changes from the revaluation of land, buildings and cultural assets.

(b) Represents the balance of donations and bequests which have been received to be applied to specific purposes and is unexpended at 30 June 2026.

(c) Represents the balance of funds received from external organisations to be applied to specific purposes and is unexpended at 30 June 2026.

(d) Represents the cumulative net result from the current year and all prior years.

(e) Additions to net assets which have been designated as contributions by owners (the State of Victoria) are recognised as contributed capital. Other transfers that are contributions also have been designated as contributions by owners.

1 ABOUT THIS REPORT

Overview

The annual financial statements represent the audited general purpose financial statements for the Library Board of Victoria (the Library). The purpose of the report is to provide users with information about the Library's stewardship of resources entrusted to it.

The annual financial statements were authorised for issue by the Library Board of Victoria on 14 September 2026.

Reporting entity

The Library is a statutory agency of the State of Victoria, established under Section 16 of the *Libraries Act 1988* (as amended).

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities is included in the Report of Operations, which does not form part of these financial statements.

Its principal address is 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne VIC 3000.

The Library is one of 9 cultural agencies of the Victorian Government and was established in 1853. These agencies are overseen by Creative Victoria (CV), a division of the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR). Creative Victoria is responsible for supporting, championing and growing the state's creative industries. The Library governs the activities and operation of the State Library and reports to the Victorian Minister for Creative Industries.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements are Tier 2 general purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with AASB 1060 *General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities* (AASB 1060) and Financial Reporting Direction 101 *Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards* (FRD 101).

These financial statements are in Australian dollars, and the historical cost convention is used unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

The accrual basis of accounting has been applied in preparing these financial statements, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Consistent with the requirements of AASB 1004 *Contributions*, contributions by owners (that is, contributed capital and its repayment) are treated as equity transactions and, therefore, do not form part of the income and expenses of the Library.

Capital grants which have been designated as contributions by owners are recognised as contributed capital. Other transfers that are in the nature of distributions to or contributions by owners have also been designated as contributions by owners.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about financial information being presented. The significant judgements made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by those judgements are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in applying *Australian Accounting Standards* (AASs) that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates are disclosed in the notes under the heading: 'Significant judgement or estimates'.

These financial statements cover the Library as an individual reporting entity and include all the controlled activities of the Library. There is no entity consolidated into the Library.

1 ABOUT THIS REPORT (Cont'd)

Rounding amounts

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest $1,000 unless otherwise stated.

Compliance information

These general-purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Management Act* (FMA) and applicable AASs, which include Interpretations, issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB).

Where appropriate, those AASs paragraphs applicable to not-for-profit entities have been applied. Accounting policies selected and applied in these financial statements ensure that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

Going concern

As part of the preparation of these financial statements, the Library assessed its ability to continue as a going concern for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Creative Victoria, through Addendum 3 to the 2025–26 Appropriation Letter, confirmed the Library's operational funding for the four-year period from 2025–26 to 2028–29, including an additional $2.2 million contingency release in 2025–26 to support short-term cash flow requirements.

Total operating funding is confirmed at approximately $60.1 million for 2025–26, with forward estimates of approximately $55.8 million in 2026–27, $55.6 million in 2027–28 and $56.8 million in 2028–29, inclusive of indexation and levy adjustments.

Based on the confirmed funding and forward estimates, management has concluded that the Library has adequate resources to continue its operations and meet its obligations as they fall due. Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The Library will continue to work with CV and the DJSIR to support the development of a sustainable operating model that aligns with government expectations while maintaining essential services.

Comparative information

The financial statements provide comparative information in respect of the previous year.
Where applicable, comparative amounts have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation in the current year.

2 FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

Introduction

The Library receives revenue from the State Government of Victoria, commercial activities and philanthropic sources to meet its objectives. The State Government funding principally comprises the government capital funding and other grants for specific purposes. These revenue streams are described in more detail in Notes 2.1 to 2.7.

Significant judgement: revenue recognition

The Library recognises revenue in line with Australian Accounting Standards.

The Library has made judgements that amounts received in relation to grants should be recognised under AASB *15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* depending on whether contracts with customers create enforceable rights and obligations and performance obligations are sufficiently specific. Where the criteria to apply AASB 15 is not met, AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* is applied. When AASB 15 is applied, judgements are made to determine the timing of satisfaction of performance obligations, and in determining price and amounts allocated to performance obligations.

Structure

2.1 Summary of revenue and income that funds the delivery of our services
2.2 Revenue and grants from State Government
2.3 Other grants
2.4 Operating activities
2.5 Donations, bequests and philanthropic income
2.6 Investment income
2.7 Interest income

2.1 Summary of revenue and income that funds the delivery of our services

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
State Government – funding	2.2	60,123	56,853
State Government – other grants	2.3	2,058	1,985
Subtotal State Government funding		**62,181**	**58,838**
Operating activities	2.4	4,482	3,647
Donations and bequests	2.5	2,774	3,487
Investment income	2.6	2,535	2,197
Interest income	2.7	1,104	1,109
Total revenue and income from transactions		**73,076**	**69,278**

The revenue and income that fund the delivery of the Library's services are accounted for consistently with the requirements of the relevant accounting standards disclosed in the following notes.

2 FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES (Cont'd)

2.2 Revenue and grants from the State Government

State Government funding and other grants

State Government funding does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations attached and accordingly is recognised as income upon the earlier of receipt or unconditional right to receipt in accordance with AASB 1058.

2.3 Other grants

Grants recognised under AASB 1058

The Library has determined that grant income is recognised as income of not-for-profit entities in accordance with AASB 1058 on the basis that it has been earned under arrangements that are either not enforceable or linked to sufficiently specific performance obligations.

Income from grants without any sufficiently specific performance obligations or that are not enforceable, is recognised when the Library has an unconditional right to receive cash which usually coincides with receipt of cash. On initial recognition of the asset, the Library recognises any related contributions by owners, increases in liabilities, decreases in assets or revenue ('related amounts') in accordance with other Australian Accounting Standards. Related amounts may take the form of:

- contributions by owners, in accordance with AASB 1004 *Contributions*
- revenue or a contract liability arising from a contract with a customer, in accordance with AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*
- a lease liability in accordance with AASB 16 *Leases*
- a financial instrument, in accordance with AASB 9 *Financial Instruments*
- a provision, in accordance with AASB 137 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets.*

Capital grant income received during the current reporting period which is related to work not yet commenced has been deferred and recognised as deferred grant income (refer Note 5.3). Capital grants to construct an asset that is controlled by the Library is recognised as income under AASB 1058 as the asset is developed using the 'progressive percentage costs incurred method' because it most closely reflects the progress to complete the asset.

Grants recognised under AASB 15

Revenue from grants that are enforceable and contain sufficiently specific performance obligations are accounted for as revenue from contracts with customers under AASB 15. These grants relate to the delivery of specific programs and are normally received in advance. Revenue is recognised when the Library satisfies the relevant performance obligations by delivering the specified activities or services to funding bodies. This recognition is based on the consideration set out in the funding agreements, to the extent that it is highly probable that a significant reversal of revenue will not occur. Payments are generally received in advance or shortly after, the completion of the relevant performance obligations.

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Revenue from contracts with customers (AASB 15)			
Specific purpose grants from State Government entities		243	-
Income for not-for-profit (AASB 1058)			
Other grants from State Government entities[(a)]		1,815	1,961
Total other grants	2.1	**2,058**	**1,985**

Note

(a) Refer to Note 8.6 for further details of grants from State Government entities.

2 FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES (Cont'd)

2.4 Operating activities

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Venue hire[a]		1,416	1,089
Catering sales		802	906
Tenant income		383	379
Ticket sales		638	171
Memberships		185	268
Other revenue[b]		1,058	834
Total operating activities revenue	2.1	**4,482**	**3,647**

Notes
(a) All venue hire revenue is recognised at a point in time.
(b) Other revenue includes cost recoveries from third parties.

The revenue from operating activities are transactions that the Library has determined to be classified as revenue from contracts with customers in accordance with AASB 15.

Revenue from venue hire represents revenue received from a third party for the use of the Library's building facilities. Revenue is measured based on the consideration specified in the contract with the customer. Customers are invoiced and revenue is recognised upon delivery of the services and accepted by customers.

Consideration received in advance of recognising the associated revenue from the customer is recorded as a contract liability (Note 5.4).

2 FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES (Cont'd)

2.5 Donations, bequests and philanthropic income

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Donations		1,578	1,371
Donated cultural assets at fair value		608	716
Bequests		588	1,400
Total donations and bequests	2.1	**2,774**	**3,487**

Donations, bequests and philanthropic income

Donations and bequests are recognised as income upon receipt at their fair value when the recipient obtains control over the resources, irrespective of whether restrictions or conditions are imposed over the use of the contributions. The balance of unexpended donations and bequests tied to a specific purpose is transferred from the accumulated surplus/deficit to the donations and bequests reserve on an annual basis. Amounts are transferred from the donation and bequests reserve back to accumulated surplus/deficit in line with the expenditure of the donation or bequest on the specific purpose for which it is intended.

Donated cultural assets

Donated cultural assets are recognised when they are accepted by the Library, control of the asset has transferred to the Library, and the donor has executed a deed of gift. Donated cultural assets are initially recognised at fair value, determined through an independent valuation or, where appropriate, an internal curatorial assessment undertaken by the Library.

Where the assessment, cataloguing or accessioning process is complex, donated cultural assets may be recorded as work in progress until all collection management requirements have been completed and the assets are formally accepted into the collection.

Voluntary services

The Library receives contributions in the form of volunteer services. However, consistent with its policy on volunteers, the Library's service delivery does not depend on volunteers and these services would not be purchased if they were not donated. On this basis these contributions have not been recognised as services received free of charge.

2 FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES (Cont'd)

2.6 Investment income

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Distributions from managed investment schemes		2,535	2,197
Total investment income	2.1	**2,535**	**2,197**

Distributions from managed investment schemes are recognised when the right to receive payment is established.

Net realised and unrealised gains and losses on the revaluation of managed investment schemes do not form part of income from transactions but are reported either as part of income from 'other economic flows' in the net result.

2.7 Interest income

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Interest income		1,104	1,109
Total interest income	2.1	**1,104**	**1,109**

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method which allocates the interest over the relevant period.

3 THE COST OF DELIVERING OUR SERVICES

Introduction

This section provides an account of the expenses incurred by the Library in delivering its objectives. In section 2 the funds that enable the provision of services were disclosed, and in this note the costs associated with the provision of services are recorded. Expenses incurred in delivering the objectives of the Library are outlined from 3.1 to 3.2 below:

Structure

3.1 Expenses incurred in the delivery of services
3.2 Supplies and services

3.1 Expenses incurred in the delivery of services

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Employee benefit expenses	3.1.1	41,954	45,305
Supplies and services	3.2	21,444	19,504
Total expenses incurred in delivery of services		**63,398**	**64,809**

3.1.1 Employee benefits in the comprehensive operating statement

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Salaries and wages, annual leave and long service leave[(a)]		34,671	37,872
Superannuation expense		3,994	4,079
Other salary-related costs		2,882	2,949
Termination benefits		407	405
Total employee benefits	3.1	**41,954**	**45,305**

Note

(a) During the year, the Library paid $4.2 million in Enterprise Agreement (EA) back payments that had been accrued at 30 June 2025.

Employee expenses include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, fringe benefits, leave entitlements, termination payments, superannuation contributions and WorkCover premiums.

The amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement in respect of superannuation represents the contribution paid or payable by the Library to the superannuation funds of employees. The Library does not recognise any accrued defined benefit liability in respect of the plan(s).

Termination benefits are payable when employment is terminated before the normal retirement date, or when an employee accepts an offer of benefits in exchange for the termination of employment. Termination benefits are recognised when the Library is demonstrably committed to terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal or providing termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy.

3 THE COST OF DELIVERING OUR SERVICES (Cont'd)

3.1 Expenses incurred in the delivery of services (Cont'd)

3.1.2 Employee benefits in the balance sheet

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave (LSL) for services rendered to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Current provisions		
Salaries and wages provisions[(a)]	537	4,778
Long-service leave	3,987	4,054
Annual leave	2,873	2,760
Provisions for on-costs	813	877
Total current provisions for employee benefits	**8,210**	**12,469**
Non-current provisions		
Employee benefits	959	714
On-costs	118	99
Total non-current provisions for employee benefits	**1,077**	**813**
Total provisions for employee benefits	**9,287**	**13,282**

Note

(a) A provision was recognised in 2025 for the back payment of salaries and wages resulting from the approved EA. This provision reflected the Library's financial obligation to make retrospective adjustments to employee remuneration for the period prior to the EA's formal approval.

3 THE COST OF DELIVERING OUR SERVICES (Cont'd)
3.1 Expenses incurred in the delivery of services (Cont'd)
3.1.2 Employee benefits in the balance sheet (Cont'd)

Wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and on-costs) are recognised as part of the employee benefit provision as current liabilities, because the Library does not have an unconditional right to defer settlements of these liabilities.

The liability of salaries and wages are recognised in the balance sheet at remuneration rates which are current at the reporting date. As the Library expects the liabilities to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date, they are measured at undiscounted amounts.

The annual leave liability is classified as a current liability and measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid, as the Library does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and it is not considered probable that the average sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future. As sick leave is non-vesting, an expense is recognised in the comprehensive operating statement as it is taken.

Employment on-costs such as payroll tax, workers' compensation and superannuation are not employee benefits. They are disclosed separately as a component of the provision for employee benefits when the employment to which they relate has occurred. The on-costs provision is immaterial in 2026.

Long service leave

Unconditional long service leave (LSL) is disclosed as a current liability, even where the Library does not expect to settle the liability within 12 months because it will not have the unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement should an employee take leave within 12 months. The components of this current LSL liability are measured at:

- undiscounted value – if the Library expects to wholly settle within 12 months, or
- present value – if the Library does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

Conditional LSL is disclosed as a non-current liability. There is a conditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement until the employee has completed the requisite years of service. This non-current LSL is measured at present value. Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of non-current LSL liability is recognised as a transaction, except to the extent that a gain or loss arises due to changes in bond interest rates for which it is then recognised as an `other economic flow' in the net result.

3 THE COST OF DELIVERING OUR SERVICES (Cont'd)

3.2 Supplies and services

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Buildings and facilities		9,456	8,922
Information technology		3,965	3,473
Professional and finance		3,229	2,602
Marketing and promotion		1,640	2,295
Grants distributed		280	311
Low value leases		156	131
Lease interest payments		52	52
Other expenses from ordinary activities		2,666	1,718
Total supplies and services	3.1	**21,444**	**19,504**

Other operating expenses generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations. It also includes a loss allowance from transactions that are mutually agreed. Other operating expenses are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

Grant expenses represent transfers of resources to external parties for general or specific purposes where the Library does not receive approximately equal value in return. Grant expenses are recognised when the grant is paid or payable and the Library has a present obligation to make the payment.

Low value leases represent leases where the underlying asset's fair value (when new, regardless of the age of the asset being leased) is no more than $0.01 million.

4 KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY

Introduction

The Library controls assets that are utilised in the delivery of its services. The key assets include property, plant and equipment, right-of-use assets, cultural assets, managed investment schemes and financial assets.

Structure

4.1 Property, plant, equipment and right-of-use assets
4.2 Cultural assets
4.3 Investments

4.1 Property, plant, equipment and right-of-use assets

	Gross carrying amount		Accumulated depreciation		Net carrying amount	
	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Land	222,915	193,697	-	-	222,915	193,697
Buildings	432,712	400,323	-	-	432,712	400,323
Equipment [(a)]	11,530	10,720	(6,372)	(5,194)	5,158	5,526
Right-of-use assets [(b)]	3,419	1,652	(1,324)	(1,147)	2,095	505
Closing balance	**670,576**	**606,392**	**(7,696)**	**(6,341)**	**662,880**	**600,051**

Notes

(a) Equipment includes assets under construction that are initially measured at cost. Upon completion, assets are measured in accordance with FRD 103 *Non-financial Physical Assets*. Assets under construction are not depreciated until they are completed and available for use.

(b) As a result of a change in FRD 104 leases effective for reporting periods from 30 June 2026, right-of-use assets are measured at cost for reporting period 2026. The comparative information for reporting period 2025 is not restated and is reported on previously determined measured basis. For further information refer to Note 8.3.

Initial recognition

Property, plant and equipment are measured initially at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment.

The cost of constructed non-financial physical assets includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project, and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overheads.

Where an asset is received for no or nominal consideration, the cost is the asset's fair value at the date of acquisition.

Subsequent measurement

Property, plant and equipment are subsequently measured at fair value less accumulated depreciation. Fair value is determined with regard to the asset's highest and best use (considering legal or physical restrictions imposed on the asset, public announcements or commitments made in relation to the intended use of the asset). Refer to Note 7.3 for more detail on the fair value determination of these assets.

Right-of-use assets are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated depreciation, impairment and any adjustments for remeasurement of the lease liability. The Library depreciates the right-of-use assets on a straight-line basis from the lease commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. Impairment of right-of-use assets is determined and accounted for in accordance with AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets*.

4 KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY (Cont'd)
4.1 Property, plant, equipment and right-of-use assets (Cont'd)

Land, buildings and equipment

Land, buildings and equipment are measured at fair value. The management revaluation considerations with respect to land and building gives regard to their highest and best use after due consideration is made for any legal or constructive restrictions imposed on the asset, public announcements or commitments made in relation to the intended use of the asset. Refer to Note 7.3.1 for a more detailed discussion of the fair value determination of these assets.

4.1.1 Depreciation and amortisation

Property, plant and equipment, including freehold buildings but excluding land, have finite lives and are depreciated. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis at rates that allocate the asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life.

The following are typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes, including right-of-use assets, used in the calculation of depreciation. Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for current and prior years are included in the table below:

Asset class	2026	2025
Buildings – heritage	100 years	100 years
Buildings – specialised	25–40 years	25–40 years
Land right-of-use assets	60 years	30 years
Equipment	5–20 years	5–20 years
Equipment right-of-use assets	3–5 years	3–5 years
Cultural assets – non-heritage collection	50 years	50 years

Depreciation begins when the asset is available for use – that is when it is in the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management. The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period. Where it is determined that the estimated useful life of an asset has changed, the depreciation rate for the asset is adjusted accordingly.

Right-of-use assets are generally depreciated over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term. Where the Library obtains ownership of the underlying leased asset or if the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the entity will exercise a purchase option, the entity depreciates the right-of-use asset over its useful life.

Land and heritage collection assets, which are considered to have an indefinite life, are not depreciated. Depreciation is not recognised in respect of these assets because their service potential has not, in any material sense, been consumed during the reporting period.

4.1.2 Impairment of property, plant and equipment

The recoverable amount of primarily non-cash-generating assets of not-for-profit entities, which are typically specialised in nature and held for continuing use of their service capacity, is expected to be materially the same as fair value determined under AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*, with the consequence that AASB 136 does not apply to such assets that are regularly revalued.

4 KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY (Cont'd)

4.1 Property, plant, equipment and right-of-use assets (Cont'd)

4.1.3 Reconciliation of movement in carrying value of property, plant and equipment and right-of-use assets

	Land	Buildings	Equipment [c]	Right-of-use assets [b]	Total
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
2026					
Opening balance	**193,697**	**400,323**	**5,526**	**505**	**600,051**
Additions	-	40	888	1,780	2,708
Depreciation	-	(9,482)	(1,256)	(190)	(10,928)
Revaluation of assets [a]	29,218	41,831	-	-	71,049
Closing balance	**222,915**	**432,712**	**5,158**	**2,095**	**662,880**

Notes

(a) Fair value assessments have been performed for all classes of assets in this purpose group. A full revaluation of land and building assets was performed as at 30 June 2026. Refer to Note 7.3 for more information.

(b) As a result of a change in FRD 104 leases effective for reporting periods from 30 June 2026, right-of-use assets are measured at cost for reporting period 2026. The comparative information for reporting period 2025 is not restated and is reported on previously determined measured basis. For further information refer to Note 8.3.

(c) Equipment includes assets under construction that are initially measured at cost. Upon completion, assets are measured in accordance with FRD 103 *Non-financial Physical Assets*. Assets under construction are not depreciated until they are completed and available for use.

4.1.4 Right-of-use assets

The Library leases various IT equipment and land. The IT equipment lease contracts are typically made for fixed periods of 3–5 years with an option to renew the lease after expiry. The land lease for Ballarat Off-Site Storage (BOSS) is recognised over a lease term of 60 years, comprising an initial 30-year term and a 30-year extension period. The renewal period was included in the lease term during the year following reassessment of the extension option, which was determined to be reasonably certain to be exercised.

For leases of IT equipment that are either short-term leases and or/leases of low-value assets, the Library has elected to apply the practical expedient not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for these leases. These lease costs are expensed in the period to which they relate (see Note 3.2 for low value and short-term lease expenses).

Right-of-use assets under leases at significantly below-market terms and conditions that are entered into principally to enable the Library to further its objectives, are initially and subsequently measured at cost. The Library does not hold any leases at significantly below market-terms.

Right-of-use asset – initial recognition

The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability, any initial direct costs incurred, and is adjusted for any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentive received. The cost of the right-of-use asset also includes an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located.

Right-of-use asset – subsequent measurement

Right-of-use assets are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated depreciation, impairment and any adjustments for remeasurement of the lease liability. The Library depreciates the right-of-use assets on a straight-line basis from the lease commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. Impairment of right-of-use assets is determined and accounted for in accordance with AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets*.

4 KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY (Cont'd)

4.2 Cultural assets

	Gross carrying amount		Accumulated depreciation		Net carrying amount	
	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Heritage collection	386,820	332,129	-	-	386,820	332,129
Non-heritage collection	97,578	129,470	-	(10,023)	97,578	119,447
Donated material WIP	1,645	1,603	-	-	1,645	1,603
Closing balance	**486,043**	**463,202**	**-**	**(10,023)**	**486,043**	**453,179**

Cultural assets comprise items in the State Collection and other cultural assets. Control of the State Collection is vested in the Library by virtue of the *Libraries Act 1988*. Additions to the State Collection may take the form of either a purchase by the Library or a donation from a third party.

All cultural assets are held for exhibition, education, research and historical interest. Such assets are deemed worthy of preservation because of the social rather than financial benefits they provide to the community. The nature of these assets means that there are certain limitations and restrictions imposed on their use and/or disposal.

The fair value of cultural assets and collections, heritage assets and other non-financial physical assets that the State of Victoria intends to preserve because of their unique historical, cultural or environmental attributes, is measured at market value or the replacement cost of the asset less, where applicable, accumulated depreciation (calculated on the basis of such cost to reflect the already consumed or expired future economic benefits of the asset) and any accumulated impairment. The basis of valuation is dependent on the existence of market information and the characteristics of the asset class. These policies and any legislative limitations and restrictions imposed on their use and/or disposal may impact their fair value.

Purchased cultural assets are initially carried at cost and revalued subsequently at fair value. Donated or bequeathed cultural assets are carried at fair value. This is determined through an independent valuation or, where appropriate, an internal curatorial assessment undertaken by the Library. Items in the heritage collection are not depreciated as they do not have a finite useful life. The current use is considered the highest and best use. Refer to Note 7.3.1 for a more detailed discussion of the fair value determination of collections.

The Library also maintains digital collections comprised of:

- born-digital materials, including electronic publications and other content received in digital format and preserved through digital repository systems such as the National edeposit (NED) service and Rosetta digital preservation system, and
- made-digital materials, being digital reproductions created through the digitisation of physical collection items.

These collections are maintained to support the Library's statutory functions and to provide cultural, educational and research benefits to the public.

The Library does not recognise born-digital or made-digital collections as assets in the financial statements. While these collections generate significant service potential and public value, the Library has determined that many digital collection materials do not meet the asset recognition criteria under Australian Accounting Standards.

4 KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY (Cont'd)

4.2 Cultural assets (Cont'd)

The Library's rights in relation to digital collection materials vary considerably and may be limited to preservation and access activities. In some cases, copyright may have expired or the Library's rights may otherwise be insufficient to demonstrate control over the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the underlying content. In addition, the unique nature of these collections, the absence of active markets and the challenges associated with reliably measuring their value limit the ability to recognise these materials as separate assets for financial reporting purposes.

The Library also holds digital reproductions of physical collection items that are already recognised within the carrying value of cultural assets. Recognising those digital reproductions separately could result in duplication of asset values in the financial statements.

Accordingly, expenditure associated with the acquisition, preservation, storage, management and digitisation of digital collection materials is recognised as an expense when incurred, unless it meets the recognition criteria for another asset class under applicable accounting standards.

4.2.1 Reconciliation of movements of cultural assets

	Heritage collection	Non-heritage collection	Work in progress	Total
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
2026				
Opening balance	**332,129**	**119,447**	**1,603**	**453,179**
Purchases	799	1,211	-	**2,010**
Donated materials	210	303	96	**609**
Revaluation of cultural assets	53,628	(20,790)	-	**32,838**
Transfers	54	-	(54)	**-**
Depreciation	-	(2,593)	-	**(2,593)**
Closing balance	**386,820**	**97,578**	**1,645**	**486,043**

4 KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY (Cont'd)

4.3 Investments

The Library holds managed investment schemes to provide for future operating and capital purposes, including the purchase of cultural assets. Funds are classified as current or non-current.

Current funds represent funds held either in transactional bank accounts or invested in order to reduce volatility in value and optimise the investment income earned.

Non-current funds represent funds held in perpetuity (endowed funds) and invested with the intent of maximising their long-term value. As a result, these funds may experience more volatility in value.

Managed investment schemes held by the Library are measured at fair value through the net result and as described in Note 7.3.1.

Gains or losses on revaluation of managed investment schemes due to changes in market value are recognised as 'Other economic flows' in the net result.

4.3.1 Analysis and purpose of investments

	Total Dedicated funds	
	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Managed investment schemes and other financial assets [(a)]	24,842	24,999
Total financial assets	**24,842**	**24,999**

Note
(a) Held at the Victorian Funds Management Corporation (VFMC).

General funds have been generated by the Library from operating activities and are applied to the achievement of the Library's future strategic objectives, including expenditure on property, plant and equipment.

Dedicated funds have been granted, donated or bequeathed to the Library. These funds are dedicated to specific purposes, as expressed by the original grantor, donor or testator. The change in value of dedicated funds reflects the economic change impacting securities held in actively traded markets.

Dedicated funds shown as 'managed investment schemes and other financial assets' are categorised as follows:

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Dedicated funds shown as managed investment schemes and other financial assets		
Corpus	16,251	16,354
Bequests/donations	8,591	8,645
Total managed investment schemes and other financial assets	**24,842**	**24,999**

5 OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Introduction

This section sets out those assets and liabilities that arose from the Library's operations.

Structure

5.1 Receivables
5.2 Prepayments and deferred expenditure
5.3 Payables
5.4 Contract liabilities

5.1 Receivables

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Current – contractual		
Accrued investment income	2,198	2,029
Debtors – external	287	909
Other receivables	140	157
Current – statutory		
Statutory GST recoverable	178	305
Other receivables [(a)]	2,200	-
Total current receivables	**5,003**	**3,400**

Note

(a) This represents State Government funding receivable from the DJSIR at 30 June 2026.

Contractual receivables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as 'financial assets at amortised costs'. They are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. The Library holds the contractual receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and therefore subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Statutory receivables do not arise from contracts and are recognised and measured similarly to contractual receivables (except for impairment) but are not classified as financial instruments for disclosure purposes. The Library applies AASB 9 for initial measurement of the statutory receivables and, as a result, statutory receivables are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction cost.

5 OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (Cont'd)

5.2 Prepayments and deferred expenditure

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Prepayments	1,151	2,096
Deferred expenditure		
CARM Centre Bundoora	-	1,000
Accumulated depreciation	-	(999)
Total prepayments and deferred expenditure	**1,151**	**2,097**

Prepayments represent payments in advance of receipt of goods or services or that part of expenditure made in one accounting period covering a term extending beyond the period.

The value of deferred expenditure in 2025 represents the remaining value of the CAVAL Archival and Research Materials (CARM) Centre after the Library write-down in 2004–05. During the year, deferred expenditure was written off and derecognised at 30 June 2026.

5.3 Payables

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Contractual			
Supplies and services		1,616	3,800
Accrued expense		717	1,412
Deferred capital grant income	5.3.1	376	548
		2,709	**5,760**
Statutory			
Amounts payable to other government agencies		166	150
Total payables		**2,875**	**5,910**

Accounts payable and accrued expenses represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Library prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid and arise when the Library becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of those goods and services, and statutory payables such as goods and services tax and fringe benefits tax payables.

Contractual payables are classified as financial instruments and measured at amortised cost. Accounts payable represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Library prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid (refer to Note 7.1.1).

Statutory payables are recognised and measured similarly to contractual payables but are not classified as financial instruments and not included in the category of financial liabilities at amortised cost because they do not arise from contracts. Payables for supplies and services have an average credit period of 30 days.

5 OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (Cont'd)

5.3 Payables (Cont'd)

5.3.1 Deferred capital grant income

Deferred capital grant income is recognised progressively as the asset is constructed, since this is the time when the Library satisfies its obligations under the transfer by controlling the asset as and when it is constructed. Income is progressively recognised as the work is completed (see Note 2.3). The Library has deferred some grant consideration received as a liability for outstanding obligations. Deferred capital grant income amounted to $0.376 million in 2026 (2025: $0.548 million).

There was a slight delay on completion of the construction work and the Library is expected to recognise all of the remaining grant income for capital works in the following year.

5.4 Contract liabilities

Contract liabilities include consideration received in advance from customers and funding agencies for venue hire, guided tours and specific programs where revenue is recognised under AASB 15.

Revenue is recognised as the Library satisfies its performance obligations by delivering the relevant goods or services. The remaining contract liabilities are expected to be recognised as revenue within the next 12 months. As at 30 June 2026, contract liabilities of $0.141 million (2025: $0.083 million) were expected to be recognised as revenue within the next 12 months.

6 HOW WE FINANCED OUR OPERATIONS

Introduction

This section provides information on the sources of finance utilised by the Library to deliver its services.

Structure

6.1 Borrowings
6.2 Cash and deposits
6.3 Commitments for expenditure

6.1 Borrowings

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Current lease liabilities	130	202
Other borrowings	275	-
Total current borrowings	405	202
Non-current lease liabilities	2,042	392
Total borrowings	**2,447**	**594**

The Library leases land and IT equipment. The land lease contract for BOSS is for 30 years with an extension of 30 years (2025: 30 years) and for IT equipment the lease is typically for fixed periods of 3–5 years with the options to renew the lease after expiry.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease if that rate is readily determinable at the Library's incremental borrowing rate. Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability will be reduced for payments made and increased for interest. It is remeasured to reflect any reassessment or modification, or if there are changes to in-substance fixed payments.

During the year, the Library reassessed the lease term for the land lease for BOSS. Based on a review of the underlying lease arrangements, it was determined that it is probable that the 30-year extension will be taken up and accordingly, the lease term was extended from 30 years to 60 years. As a result, the lease liability and corresponding right-of-use asset were remeasured, resulting in an increase of approximately $1.4 million as at 30 June 2026.

6.2 Cash and deposits

Cash and deposits, including cash equivalents, comprise cash on hand and cash at bank. The Library's accounts are held in the Central Banking System (CBS) under the *Standing Directions 2018*.

For cash flow statement presentation purposes, cash and cash equivalents are indicated in the reconciliation below.

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Cash at bank	3,349	9,578
Cash held for restricted purposes	19,067	13,227
Total cash and deposits	**22,416**	**22,805**

Cash held for restricted purposes is held for specified purposes and is not available for the general operating activities of the Library. The funds are expected to be applied in accordance with the relevant funding agreements, donor conditions and other approved purposes.

6 HOW WE FINANCED OUR OPERATIONS (Cont'd)

6.3 Commitments for expenditure

Commitments for future expenditure include operating and capital commitments arising from contracts. The following commitments are disclosed at their nominal value and inclusive of the GST payable and are not included in the balance sheet. These future expenditures cease to be disclosed as commitments once the related liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet.

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Capital expenditure commitments		
Capital expenditure includes building redevelopment payable as follows:		
Not later than one year	712	88
Later than one year, not later than five years	-	68
	712	156
Other expenditure commitments		
Other expenditure includes mechanical and lift maintenance, ICT, security, cleaning and rental of the Library's Ballarat offsite storage site payable as follows:		
Not later than one year	6,605	6,188
Later than one year, not later than five years	11,380	15,410
	17,985	21,598
Total commitments for expenditure (inclusive of GST)	18,697	21,754
Less GST recoverable from the ATO	(1,700)	(1,978)
Total commitments for expenditure (exclusive of GST)	**16,997**	**19,776**

7 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS

Introduction

The Library is exposed to risk from its activities and outside factors. It is often necessary to make judgements and estimates associated with recognition and measurement of items in the financial statements. This section sets out financial instrument specific information (including exposure to financial risks) as well as those items that are contingent in nature or require a higher level of judgement to be applied, which for the Library relate mainly to fair value determination.

Structure

7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures
7.2 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities
7.3 Fair value determination

7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures

Introduction

Financial instruments arise out of contractual agreements that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Due to the nature of the Library's activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under statute rather than a contract (for example taxes, fines and penalties). Such assets and liabilities do not meet the definition of financial instruments in AASB 132 *Financial Instruments: Presentation.*

Categories of financial assets

Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets are measured at amortised costs if both of the following criteria are met and the assets are not designated as fair value through net result:

- the assets are held by the Library to collect the contractual cash flows, and
- the assets' contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interests.

These assets are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less any impairment.

The Library recognises the following assets in this category:

- cash and deposits
- receivables (excluding statutory receivables).

Financial assets at fair value through net result

Other financial assets are required to be measured at fair value through net result unless they are measured at amortised cost.

The Library recognises listed equity securities as mandatorily measured at fair value through net result and designates all of its managed investment schemes as fair value through net result.

Derecognition of financial assets

A financial asset (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is derecognised when:

- the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired
- the Library retains the right to receive cash flows from the asset, but has assumed an obligation to pay them in full without material delay to a third party under a 'pass through' arrangement
- the Library has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset and either:
  - has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset
  - has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset but has transferred control of the asset.

Where the Library has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards or transferred control, the asset is recognised to the extent of the Library's continuing involvement in the asset.

7 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS (Cont'd)

7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures (Cont'd)

Categories of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities at amortised cost

Financial liabilities measured at amortised costs are initially recognised on the date they are originated. They are initially measured at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these financial instruments are measured at amortised cost with any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value being recognised in the net result over the period of the interest-bearing liability, using the effective interest rate method. The Library recognises the following liabilities in this category:

- payables (excluding statutory payables)
- borrowings.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires.

When an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as a derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability. The difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognised as an 'other economic flow' in the comprehensive operating statement.

7 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS (Cont'd)

7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures (Cont'd)

7.1.1 Financial instruments – net gain/(loss) on financial instruments by category

	Carrying amount	Net gain/ (loss)	Total interest income (expense)	Fee income/ (expense)	Impairment loss
2026					
Financial assets at amortised cost					
Cash and deposits	22,416	-	1,104	-	-
Receivables [a]	2,625	-	-	-	-
Financial assets at FVTPL					
Investments	24,842	(156)	-	2,535	-
Total financial assets	**49,883**	**(156)**	**1,104**	**2,535**	**-**
Financial liabilities at amortised cost					
Payables	2,709	-	-	-	
Borrowings	2,447	-	52	-	-
Total contractual financial liabilities	**5,156**	**-**	**52**	**-**	**-**
2025					
Financial assets at amortised cost					
Cash and deposits	22,805	-	1,109	-	-
Receivables [a]	3,095	-	-	-	-
Financial assets at FVTPL					
Investments	24,999	1,217	-	2,197	-
Total financial assets	**50,899**	**1,217**	**1,109**	**2,197**	**-**
Financial liabilities at amortised cost					
Payables	5,760	-	-	-	-
Borrowings	594	-	52	-	-
Total contractual financial liabilities	**6,354**	**-**	**52**	**-**	**-**

Note

(a) The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts (e.g. amounts owing from Victorian Government and GST input tax credit recoverable and taxes payable).

7 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS (Cont'd)

7.2 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet but are disclosed and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value.

Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

Contingent assets

As at 30 June 2025 and 2026, the Library has been pledged donations which are expected to be honoured in the future, although they are not legally enforceable. The timing and value of these future economic flows are contingent on events beyond the Library's control.

Contingent liabilities

The Library has no contingent liabilities (2025: nil).

7.3 Fair value determination

This section sets out information on how the Library determines fair value for financial reporting purposes. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Land, buildings, equipment and cultural assets are carried at fair value, with the exception of right-of-use assets arising under AASB 16, which are measured using the cost model.

Fair value hierarchy

In determining fair values, a number of inputs are used. To increase consistency and comparability in the financial statements, these inputs are categorised into three levels, also known as the fair value hierarchy. The levels are as follows:

- Level 1 – quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2 – valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable, and
- Level 3 – valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

The Library determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by reassessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

The Valuer General Victoria (VGV) is the Library's independent valuation agency for its land and buildings while CBRE Valuations Pty Ltd is the independent valuer engaged for its cultural assets. In conjunction with VGV, the Library monitors changes in the fair value of each asset and liability through relevant data sources to determine whether revaluation is required.

Structure

For those assets and liabilities for which fair values are determined, the following disclosures are provided:

- Valuation techniques
- Details of significant assumptions used in the fair value determination.

7 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS (Cont'd)

7.3 Fair value determination (Cont'd)

7.3.1 Fair value determination: Non-financial physical assets

Valuation techniques and significant assumptions of non-financial physical assets measured at fair value

AASB 2022-10 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities* amended AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* by adding Appendix F *Australian implementation guidance for not-for-profit public sector entities*. Appendix F explains and illustrates the application of the principles in AASB 13 on developing unobservable inputs and the application of the cost approach. These clarifications are mandatorily applicable annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024. FRD 103 permits Victorian public sector entities to apply Appendix F of AASB 13 in their next scheduled formal asset revaluation or interim revaluation process (whichever is earlier).

A full independent valuation of all the Library's land, buildings and cultural assets was undertaken as at 30 June 2026. Land and buildings were valued by the VGV and cultural assets were valued by CBRE Valuations Pty Ltd, both being independent valuers. These independent valuers were involved in the revaluation of these assets during the current financial period, with an effective valuation date in 30 June 2026. This resulted in an increase of $71 million and $33 million in the property, plant and equipment and cultural asset balance, respectively, and physical and cultural assets revaluation surplus in the current period.

The entity applied AASB 2022–10, including Appendix F of AASB 13 and the requirements of FRD 103 prospectively as part of the current scheduled formal revaluation process. This did not result in any material valuation movements as the adoption of amendments did not have a material impact or have already been factored into the previous valuations.

For all assets measured at fair value, the Library considers the current use is the highest and best use.

Cultural assets are valued using the market approach, whereby valuation of the assets is determined by a comparison to similar examples of the artist's work in existence throughout Australia and research on recent prices paid for similar examples offered at auction or through art galleries.

The Library holds $1,042 million (2025: $901 million) in assets listed as heritage assets (land, buildings and cultural assets). These heritage assets cannot be modified or disposed of without formal ministerial approval.

Equipment, including plant, equipment and motor vehicles is held at fair value. The fair value is determined using the current replacement cost method.

Specialised land and specialised buildings: The market approach is also used for specialised land, although is adjusted for the CSO to reflect the specialised nature of the land being valued. The CSO adjustment reflects the valuer's assessment of the impact of restrictions associated with an asset to the extent that is also equally applicable to market participants. This approach is in light of the highest and best use consideration required for fair value measurement and takes into account the use of the asset that is physically possible, legally permissible, and financially feasible.

For the Library's specialised buildings, the current replacement cost method is used, adjusting for the associated depreciations.

7 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS (Cont'd)

7.3 Fair value determination (Cont'd)

7.3.1 Fair value determination: Non-financial physical assets (Cont'd)

Asset	Valuation technique	Significant unobservable inputs	Range (weighted average)
Specialised land	Market approach	Community Service Obligation (CSO) adjustment	30% [(a)]
		Land rate per m^2	$16,500/m^2$ ($16,500/m^2$)
Specialised buildings	Current replacement cost	Direct cost per square metre	$4,603-$4,609/m^2$ ($4,607/m^2$)
		Useful life	25–40 years (33 years)
		Remaining useful life	6–33 years (20 years)
Heritage buildings	Current replacement cost [(b)]	Direct cost per square metre	$6,800-$26,000/m^2$ ($15,266m^2$)
		Useful life	30–100 years
		Remaining useful life	10–50 years
Equipment assets	Current replacement cost	Useful life of equipment	5–20 years
Cultural assets	Market approach	Professional judgement	n/a
		Statistically verified random samples	n/a

Notes

(a) CSO adjustments of 30% were applied to reduce the market approach value for the Library's specialised land.

(b) For some heritage and iconic assets, cost may be the reproduction cost of the asset rather than the replacement cost if their service potential could only be replaced by reproducing them with the same materials.

8 OTHER DISCLOSURES

Introduction

This section includes additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or otherwise, for the understanding of this financial report.

Structure

8.1 Ex gratia expenses
8.2 Other economic flows included in net result
8.3 Changes in accounting policy
8.4 Responsible persons
8.5 Remuneration of executives
8.6 Related parties
8.7 Remuneration of auditors
8.8 Subsequent events

8.1 Ex gratia expenses

There were no ex gratia expenses in aggregate or individually in excess of $5,000 (2025: nil).

8.2 Other economic flows included in net result

Other economic flows are changes in the volume or value of an asset or liability that do not result from transactions.

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Net loss on financial instruments		
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation of managed investment schemes due to changes in market value	(156)	1,217
Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows		
Gains/(loss) on revaluation of long service leave liability due to the changes in bond rates	(1)	(130)
Total other economic flows included in net result	**(157)**	**1,087**

8 OTHER DISCLOSURES (Cont'd)

8.3 Changes in accounting policy

The Library has made a change in accounting policy to change the measurement basis from the revaluation model to the cost model for the subsequent measurement of right-of-use assets arising from market leases, in accordance with the updated requirements under FRD 104. This change in accounting policy had an immaterial impact on the right-of-use asset balances.

Upon adoption of the cost model, the Library has applied a modified retrospective approach. The approach takes the right-of-use asset's carrying amounts recorded under the revaluation model as at 30 June 2025 as the right-of-use asset's opening balances on application of the cost model.

Accordingly, the comparative information presented is not restated and is reported at the previously determined fair value. The Library will measure all right-of-use assets using the cost model. Right-of-use assets measured using the cost model are held at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment and any adjustments for remeasurement of lease liability.

Right-of-use assets arising from significantly below-market leases

The Library is not required to make any adjustments to right-of-use assets arising from significantly below-market leases, including peppercorn leases, as the Library already measures these right-of-use assets using the cost model in accordance with AASB 16 and FRD 104, and are thus not impacted as a result of this accounting policy change.

Impacts on financial statements

On transition to the cost model, there was no impact on the Library's financial statements. No impairment was identified by the Library for the right-of-use asset held as at 30 June 2026.

8.4 Responsible persons

In accordance with the Ministerial Directions issued by the Minister for Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, the following disclosures are made regarding responsible persons for the reporting period.

Names

The Accountable Officer of the Library is the Chief Executive Officer [1]. The persons who held the positions of Minister and Accountable Officer of the Library are as follows:

Minister for Creative Industries	The Hon. Colin Brooks	1 July 2025 to 21 April 2026
Minister for Creative Industries	The Hon. Vicki Ward MP	21 April 2026 to 30 June 2026
Chief Executive Officer	Paul Duldig	1 July 2025 to 14 August 2025
Acting Chief Executive Officer	John Wicks	15 August 2025 to 30 March 2026
Interim Chief Executive Officer	Alistair Mytton	31 March 2026 to 30 June 2026

Remuneration

Remuneration received or receivable by the Accountable Officer in connection with the management of the Library during the reporting period was in the range $510,000–519,999 ($460,000–469,999 in 2025).

The names of Board members who have held office throughout the year unless otherwise stated are:

Christine Christian AO (President until March 2026)
Helen Silver AO (President from March 2026)
Adam Lewis
Cheri Ong
Alex Cartel
Inala Cooper
Keren Murray
John Dewar AO (until August 2026)
Caroline Aebersold (from November 2025)
Christine Mackenzie AM (from March 2026)
Peter McPhee (from March 2026)

No member of the Board has received remuneration or retirement benefits during 2025–26 (2025: nil).

8 OTHER DISCLOSURES (Cont'd)

8.5 Remuneration of executives

The number of executive officers, other than ministers and accountable officers, and their total remuneration during the reporting period are shown in the table below. Total annualised employee equivalents provide a measure of full-time equivalent executive officers over the reporting period.

Remuneration comprises employee benefits (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) in all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by the entity, or on behalf of the entity, in exchange for services rendered. Accordingly, remuneration is determined on an accrual basis.

Several factors affected total remuneration payable to executives over the year. A number of employment contracts were completed and renegotiated and a number of senior executive service members retired, resigned or were retrenched in the past year.

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Remuneration of executive officers		
Total remuneration [a]	**1,607**	**1,606**
Total number of executives	7	5
Total annualised employee equivalents [b]	5	5

Notes

(a) The total number of senior executive service members who meet the key definition of Key Management Personnel (KMP) of the entity under AASB 124 *Related Party Disclosures* and are also reported within the related parties disclosure (Note 8.6).

(b) Annualised employee equivalent is based on the time fraction worked over the reporting period.

8 OTHER DISCLOSURES (Cont'd)

8.6 Related parties

The Library is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the State of Victoria. Related parties of the Library include:

- all key management personnel and their close family members and personal business interests (controlled entities, joint ventures and entities they have significant influence over)
- all Cabinet Ministers and their close family members
- all departments and public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole of state consolidated financial statements.

All related party transactions have been entered into on an arm's length basis.

Significant transactions with government-related entities

The Library received funding from and made payments to government-related entities below. All transactions were undertaken in the ordinary course of business and were at arm's length and on normal commercial terms.

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Receipts		
Department of Education – grant funding	1,813	1,406
DJSIR – funding	54,858	56,854
DJSIR – within portfolio grants	1,036	585
DJSIR – Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) funding	3,065	-
Global Victoria – Future Founders Festival	61	198
VFMC – distributions	2,368	1,532
Payments		
State Revenue Office – payroll tax paid	2,390	2,324
Receivables		
Department of Education – grant funding	-	555
DJSIR – grant	2,200	-
VFMC – distribution receivables	2,198	2,031
Investments		
VFMC – Managed investment schemes	24,842	24,999

8 OTHER DISCLOSURES (Cont'd)
8.6 Related parties (Cont'd)

Key management personnel (KMPs) of the Library during the year include the following:

Minister for Creative Industries	The Hon. Vicki Ward MP (from April 2026)
Minister for Creative Industries	The Hon. Colin Brooks (until April 2026)
President	Christine Christian AO (until March 2026)
President	Helen Silver AO (from March 2026)
Board member	Alex Cartel
Board member	Adam Lewis
Board member	Caroline Aebersold (from November 2025)
Board member	Cheri Ong
Board member	Christine Mackenzie AM (from March 2026)
Board member	Inala Cooper
Board member	John Dewar AO (until August 2026)
Board member	Keren Murray
Board member	Peter McPhee (from March 2026)
Chief Executive Officer	Paul Duldig (until August 2025)
Acting Chief Executive Officer	John Wicks (from August 2025 until March 2026)
Interim Chief Executive Officer	Alistair Mytton (from March to August 2026)
Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer	John Wicks (until August 2025)
Acting Chief Operating Officer	Kathleen Brown (from August 2025 to April 2026)
Acting Chief Financial Officer	Lorena Gordon (from November 2025 to April 2026)
Interim Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer	Brent Westerbeek (from April 2026)
Director, People and Partnerships	Kathleen Brown
Director, Collections and Chief Librarian	Roxanne Missingham (from February 2026)
Director, Experience	Joel McGuinness (until 27 March 2026)
Chief Digital Officer	Paula Bray

Remuneration of key management personnel

The compensation detailed below excludes the salaries and benefits that the Minister for Creative Industries receives. The Minister's remuneration and allowances is set by the *Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968* and is reported within the State's Annual Financial Report.

Compensation of KMPs	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Total [(a)]	**2,119**	**2,072**

Note

(a) KMPs include the Accountable Officer (CEO) and persons who meet the definition of executive officers under FRD 21. Executive officers are also reported in the disclosure of remuneration of executives (Note 8.5).

Transactions and balances with key management personnel and other related parties

Given the breadth and depth of State Government activities, related parties transact with the Victorian public sector in a manner consistent with other members of the public e.g. stamp duty and other government fees and charges. Further employment of processes within the Victorian public sector occurs on terms and conditions consistent with the *Public Administration Act 2004* and Codes of Conduct and Standards issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. Procurement processes occur on terms and conditions consistent with the Victorian Government Purchasing Board requirements.

In 2025–26, donations and other contributions totalling $0.046 million (2025: $0.008 million) were received from Board members, the CEO, executive officers and their related parties. Independent scrutiny of the proposed donations was conducted by the Library's Audit and Risk Management Committee with advice of a respected independent expert.

8 OTHER DISCLOSURES (Cont'd)

8.7 Remuneration of auditors

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Fees paid and payable to the Victorian Auditor-General's Office for auditing the financial statements	40	47

The Auditor-General provided no other services to the Library.

8.8 Subsequent events

Subsequent to 30 June 2026, Vicki McDonald commenced as Chief Executive Officer of the Library on 8 September 2026 following her appointment by the Library Board on 17 June 2026. The commencement had no impact on the Library's financial position as at 30 June 2026.

Other than the matter disclosed above, no events have occurred after the reporting date that would require adjustment to, or disclosure in, the financial statements.

Disclosure index

The Annual Report of the Library Board of Victoria is prepared in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* and the Standing Directions of the Minister of Finance. This index has been prepared to facilitate identification of compliance with statutory disclosure requirements.

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