

# Live and Loud at the library

Can you distinguish between post-hardcore and old school punk? Staff at Eltham Library can. Each April since 2003, the library has hosted the Live and Loud at Your Library Gig, as part of a Youth Week program (Youth Week 2007: 14–22 April).

We began five years ago, with one young band playing a 40-minute original set in our foyer. Only about 30 teenagers (and some proud parents) watched but the music (and free pizzas and soft drink in the young adult area afterwards) was received very enthusiastically. Other patrons, who expressed surprise at punk music being played in the foyer on a Sunday afternoon,



were placated when they heard it was only to be an annual event. There were even some positive comments about teenagers using the library!



In the following years, the Library Gig grew and grew. Our promotional posters were displayed more widely. The bands designed their own promotional websites and Myspace pages. In 2006, four local youth bands played in the foyer to 120 teenagers and over \$100 of free pizza – provided by Nillumbik Youth Services – were consumed. Also, pleasingly, almost all the items from our new CD, magazine and DVD display were borrowed.

The Library Gig is now a much sought-after spot in the local music scene. This year, due to time constraints, we had to turn down two local bands who wanted to play. On 22 April 2007 we happily watched dozens of black t-shirt-wearing teenagers enjoying themselves at their local library.

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