

WINNING STREAK FOR HUME LIBRARIES



Hume Libraries is the public library service of Hume City Council, located on Melbourne’s north-western fringes, and 2014 was quite a year for their library team. Hume Libraries received three major accolades, recognising the high esteem the local community has for the library service, its appreciation for high quality community buildings, and the commitment of the staff that work tirelessly for the community.

The first honour awarded to Hume Libraries was the title of Australia’s Favourite Library Service by ALIA in May 2014. We received an astounding 30,000 votes via phone, email, text and online. The support shown by the community for our learning spaces, the services we provide and the multitude of programs we deliver was overwhelming and humbling.

In late 2014, Hume City Council also was the recipient of the inaugural International Public Library of the Year award for the Craigieburn Library, located at Hume Global Learning Centre – Craigieburn. The award was presented by the Danish Agency for Culture at a ceremony during the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) conference in Lyon, France. Craigieburn Library beat libraries from England (the Birmingham Library), the Netherlands (Bookmountain Library in Spijkenisse) and Denmark (Ørestad Library).

The \$17 million Hume Global Learning Centre – Craigieburn, designed by architects Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp, provides a range of services under one roof – including the Craigieburn Library, an exhibition gallery, occasional childcare program, café, Council’s Customer Service Centre and a training and conference facility.

And the celebrations continued as the Hume Libraries service was the first in Australia to achieve eSmart status. The eSmart initiative, developed in partnership by the Alannah and Madeline Foundation and the Telstra Foundation, aims to increase cyber-safety and deals with cyber-bullying by changing behaviours. Many public libraries in Australia have now signed up to the program. For Hume Libraries, the achievement of eSmart status means that staff are well-equipped to ensure that our community use their – and our – technology in a smart, safe and responsible way.

It was a big year for Hume Libraries, and one that will be hard to beat! However, the momentum will continue and we have many things planned for 2015 – such as introducing MakerSpace facilities in three branches. The MakerSpaces will have a combined focus of electronics and digital media, offering programs covering basic programming, stop-motion animation, music and video editing, and 3D printing.

If you’re local to Melbourne, come and visit the library at the Hume Global Learning Centre – Craigieburn. The centre is about 30 minutes from the CBD. If you’re from another part of Australia and find yourself in Melbourne, please stop by – we’d love to show you our beautiful buildings and chat with you about our services and programs.

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