Libraries are changing

Libraries are now interactive places reflecting our changing society: more transient, multicultural, growing older and digitally sophisticated. While libraries will continue to provide a quiet, reflective space for reading and learning, increasingly the libraries of the future will be a meeting space for the local community.

THE VALUE OF LIBRARIES

The NSW Government’s People Places is a framework for councils to review, renew and revitalise local library services. Libraries are valued as they:

• Provide a cultural hub and focal point for the community
• Are functional and multipurpose accommodating a range of activities and uses
• Enable user-friendly access to the latest in technology
• Attract a wide range of users providing areas for relaxation, research, leisure and learning
• Have effective and efficient delivery of services
• Develop from a cooperative approach to ensure the changing needs of the community are met
• Are good value in the longer term and contribute to environmental sustainability
KU-RING-GAI LIBRARIES

In Ku-ring-gai, the refurbished Gordon Library is the only library keeping pace with changing needs.

A report into Ku-ring-gai library services in 2018 found:

• There is a significant shortfall in floor area for all branch libraries, which means they can’t provide modern library services
• The majority of library facilities are small and cater to their surrounding communities only
• Current branch libraries in St Ives, Turramurra and Lindfield are not capable of serving wider library catchments.

Specifically:

• St Ives Library is seriously overcrowded.
• Turramurra Library is somewhat overcrowded and out-dated in terms of finishes, fitout and furniture.
• Lindfield Library is the poorest facility in terms of floor area, condition, layout and functionality.

The study recommends the branch libraries be rebuilt and renovated. All branch libraries need to accommodate community facilities, and libraries in the Ku-ring-gai area are not keeping up with demand. In the future, the shortfall in libraries will disadvantage residents and their ability to access quality library services.

New library services are a key part of the Activate Ku-ring-gai program of town centre revitalisation for major population centres in Ku-ring-gai.
GREAT LIBRARY SPACES IN SYDNEY

Across Sydney new libraries are opening as part of larger hub developments. Some of the best examples of great library spaces include Woollahra Library, Green Square Library and Canada Bay Library.

Woollahra Library, Double Bay

Opened in 2016, the Woollahra Library is a state-of-the-art library offering three floors of library space in the heart of a pedestrianised eat street and retail area.

Green Square Library, Zetland

Green Square Library is a unique architectural space – an underground library with large floor spaces that can be adapted to workshops, single study spaces and community meetings.

Canada Bay Library, Canada Bay

The library includes a range of activities suited to the needs of the local community including a men's shed and grandparents activities.

Trends influencing libraries

Places of social capital

Community 'living room'

Collaborative

Urban regeneration

Design excellence

Ecologically sustainable development

People places

Ageing community

A place for youth

New technologies

Collaborative learning

Cultural diversity

Our indigenous community
Lindfield Village Hub will deliver Ku-ring-gai’s first library of the future

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Visits to NSW libraries have grown by 24% to almost 36 million per year over the past 10 years, with 46% of the population registered as library members.

The NSW State Library has identified building social capital as the top trend in designing library services. As our society becomes more transient and multicultural, libraries are a social anchor and a ‘third place’ where people can chill out, plug in, meet-up, read a magazine, listen to music, buy coffee or learn a new skill.

The Lindfield Community Facilities Study found that a new library of 1,250sqm (co-located with a multipurpose community centre) was required to meet the needs of the growing Lindfield population.

Every dollar invested in public libraries generates $4.30 of benefits to the local community.

**CONTACT US**

Find out how you can have your say on the Lindfield Village Hub at kmc.nsw.gov.au/LVH

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