



SA's first 'Always Open' library crowned winner of the innovation in libraries award

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The Copper Coast's library in Kadina on the Yorke Peninsula has been named winner of the 2022 Jim Crawford Award for Innovation in Libraries at the 2022 Local Government Association's Council Showcase dinner.





The Kadina Library project 'Always Open', allows the community to use the library outside of normal opening hours – providing a new way to engage those who were unable to access library services due to work or other commitments.

LGA President Mayor Angela Evans said the assessment committee were impressed by all nominations, but the Kadina Library stood out for their 'Always Open' initiative – taking the library to new heights with 24/7 access.

"There was an exceptional quality of nominations, which is reflective of the innovation and reliance on libraries we've seen off the back of COVID-19 response in the last couple of years, but the Kadina project is a remarkable solution to meet community needs," Mayor Evans said.

Copper Coast Mayor Roslyn Talbot said the new services provide access to a socially inclusive space and meets the needs of our diverse community, providing a comfortable space and access to free digital technologies.

"Library staff in Kadina took several steps to create an accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week library service – and that effort has paid off, as it opens a world of benefits to families, those busy working during business hours, and people working from home or travelling in the region who may have otherwise missed out," Mayor Talbot said.

"This has provided greater community access to our library service and the library staff need to be congratulated for overcoming any challenges to ensure this project was successfully delivered and we are thankful for their continued dedication to the Copper Coast.

"This initiative resonated with the Mission of the Copper Coast Council – to enhance Community Lifestyle by providing effective and affordable facilities and services.

"It also relates to statements in our strategic plan, ensuring the Copper Coast remains the lifestyle location of choice."

President of Public Libraries SA Damian Garcia said the awarded project demonstrated innovative thinking and was a great example of how to meet community needs.

"This change, the first of its kind in South Australian public libraries, has extended the offering of the library, which flips the traditional service model by providing library access when it's convenient for customers," Mr Garcia said.

"This forward thinking and customer centric approach shows the agility of public libraries to meet the needs of their community, and the bravery to push boundaries and think outside the box."

LGA President Mayor Angela Evans congratulated all the nominations, including finalists the City of Salisbury and the City of Tea Tree Gully for their commitment to bringing new ideas to their library offering.

"It is fantastic to see such leadership and commitment in the delivery of council library services – those that nominated, and the finalist councils have brought inspiring examples of what can be done to meet the needs of communities, and are great examples that other can learn from," Mayor Evans said.

"Kadina's 'Always Open' library project was sparked after seeing a presentation by Foster Library, which

became Victoria's first 24/5 accessible library – seeing that idea the Copper Coast were able to apply it to their own community.

“The Jim Crawford award is not only testament to the commitment of library staff in serving their community, but they also remind us of the importance of libraries as community hubs, ensuring inclusion and connectedness for our communities today.”

The City of Salisbury Library's initiative 'Sign of the Times - Auslan Online Stories Session', partnered with Deaf Can Do, to bring stories to life for people in the community living with hearing impairment – achieving over 56,000 views within six months of launching.

The City of Tea Tree Gully Library's demonstrated sector leadership through the submission of several projects including 'Virtual Reality Real Connections for Seniors', 'Kurna Language Day' and 'Symon Williamson – 26 Stories: Measuring the impact libraries have on peoples lives'.

Presented every two years, the Jim Crawford Award for Innovation in Libraries, includes a \$10,000 prize and recognises those councils making a significant contribution to the state's public libraries. It celebrates those projects that have fostered innovation and improved library services for disadvantaged communities.

There are 140 public libraries operating across South Australia, delivering a broad range of programs and services to meet the education and literacy needs of the community.



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