

WOLLONGONG LIVING BOOKS

What is it?

· An event where the 'books' are people from a diverse range of backgrounds; 'readers' sit down and have an interactive half-hour conversation with a 'book' of their choice.

· Some of the living 'books' you can choose to 'read':

- ✓ ***From Liberia to Wollongong*** – a refugee's story
- ✓ ***Unveiling the Myth*** – life of a Muslim woman
- ✓ ***Sticks and Stones*** – a gay man's story
- ✓ ***It's Not Black and White*** – the story of a Wiradjuri/Yorta Yorta woman
- ✓ ***An Enlightened Life*** -a vision impaired woman and her guide dog

· The Living Books program is a way to bring together people who would not ordinarily meet; it's a chance to ask questions you've always wanted to ask.

· Suitable for all ages – all you need is an open mind.

Background

· The first Living Library was set up in Denmark in 2000. Since then, living libraries have sprung up around the world, including Wollongong, where it was launched by Wollongong City Council in June 2008. The library has since travelled to numerous local high schools and community groups.

***“to celebrate diversity, to challenge stereotypes,
to simply inform and enthrall us”*** *Living Book volunteer*

EVENT SUMMARY JUNE 2008 – DEC 2015

60 Living Books since inception (32 active)
85 events (14 high schools, 20 organisations)
8163 conversations (average length 35 min)
4043 Readers

14 HIGH SCHOOLS

Bulli High (x2)
Corrimal High (x2)
Dapto High School (x3)
Edmund Rice College
Figtree High
Kanahooka High
Holy Spirit College
Illawarra Sports High (x3 Berkeley)
Keira High (x2)
Smith's Hill High (x4)
Woonona High(x3)
St Mary's College
Warrawong High
Wollongong High (x4)

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Wollongong Links to Learning:
Kanahooka High, Dapto High, Illawarra Sports
Illawarra Multicultural Youth Project – Keira, Warrawong High
Illawarra Youth Housing
Southern Youth and Family Services, (SYFS,)
Chain Youth Health Centre
Links to Learning SYFS
Wollongong Youth Services GLBTQI Support Group
Bellambi Links to Learning

SPECIAL EVENTS

World AIDS Day 2010 - Wollongong City Council
Seniors Week 2009 - University of the Third Age
International Women's Day x 2
Lake Illawarra Sergeants workshop - Aboriginal Living Books
Refugee Living Books – Wollongong City Gallery
Refugee Education – Dapto High School

OPEN COMMUNITY EVENTS

Wollongong Library
Dapto Library
Corrimal Library
Wollongong City Council
Seniors Week Expo
New Outlook

CORPORATE TRAINING

Wollongong City Council (housing, community services sector)
Dapto Careways Inc, staff
Keira High teachers
Social Support

DISABILITY ORGANISATIONS

Essential Personnel
Vision Australia
Northcott Disability Services
New Outlook

EVENT THEMES

Compassion – Smiths Hill High
Belonging, Stories of growing up - Keira
Social Justice – Edmund Rice
HIV/AIDS
Refugee Education – Dapto High
Community & Family Studies – Illawarra Sports High
Cross Roads (transition) – Woonona High
Mental Health – New Outlook

PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT

Wollongong & Shellharbour TAFE Living Books
2009, 2011 & 2012
St Bridget's Primary School