

STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

4 Oct 2022

First Nations libraries celebrated in new showcase

Queensland's First Nations library network, the only one of its kind in Australia, is celebrated in a new State Library of Queensland showcase from 8 October.

The *20 Years Strong* showcase highlights the vital role Indigenous Knowledge Centres (IKCs) play in their communities including language revival and local storytelling.

IKCs were first established by State Library in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island councils in 2002. The showcase celebrates 20 years of programs, projects, workshops and milestones.

There are now 26 IKCs across Queensland, including some of the state's most remote communities; from the islands of the Torres Strait and across the tip of Cape York to Palm Island (Bwgcolman) in the Pacific and Cherbourg in the south.

Indigenous Knowledge Centres:

- help document local histories
- share stories, songs, and language
- offer a range of activities including First 5 Forever and school holiday programs, digital workshops, culture-based activities and Elders programs.

Wimbledon champion and State Library donor, Ash Barty, and the Barty family have taken a personal interest in these First Nations libraries, donating a desktop computer to every centre in Queensland through the *PCs for IKCs* program.

The rollout of these computers has already enabled community members to apply for university admission and apprenticeship programs. They have also introduced the world of online shopping to some communities.

IKCs in Queensland: Aurukun, Badu, Bamaga, Boigu, Cherbourg, Dauan, Erub, Hammond, Hope Vale, Iama, Injinoo, Kubin, Lockhart River, Mabuiag, Mapoon, Napranum, New Mapoon, Palm Island, Pormpuraaw, Poruma, Seisia, Umagico, Warraber, Wujal Wujal, Woorabinda and Yarrabah.

Quotes from Minister for the Arts Leanne Enoch:

"This special showcase is a great opportunity to acknowledge the important role of Indigenous Knowledge Centres and their place as unique library services in remote Queensland communities.

"For two decades, IKCs have provided communities with a welcoming place to meet, learn, share and strengthen culture.

"The IKC partnership between local councils and the State Government, through the State Library, means each IKC works to understand and meet the needs of their community.



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Interviews are available upon request.

“Queensland’s IKCs help to support our *Creative Together* ten-year roadmap for arts, culture and creativity by strengthening our communities, sharing our stories and elevating First Nations arts.”

Quotes from State Librarian and CEO Vicki McDonald AM:

“IKCs have been game changers for their local communities.

“For people in remote communities, their IKC may be the only way to access vital information and services online.

“They represent a true partnership between State Library and local councils.

“State Library provides annual funding, on behalf of the Queensland Government, to councils across Queensland to support staffing, collection materials, programming, and professional development.

“Councils are responsible for the physical infrastructure, staffing and day-to-day operations of their IKCs.”

20 Years Strong showcase

8 October – 2 April 2023

Open daily | Free entry

kuril dhagun | State Library of Queensland, Cultural Centre, South Bank

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