How did the Library adapt to the Covid–19 Pandemic?

Over the last few months there have been changes to our everyday life which most of us haven't seen in our lifetime. The Covid–19 Pandemic will probably impact our lives for a long time to come.

This seems like an opportunity to document how the library responded to the pandemic since we closed our doors in March. So much has occurred and things changed so rapidly as we adapted to the new reality of using online facilities to connect and still enjoy our reading, listening and viewing while in lockdown.

The Premier, Mark McGowan announced that Libraries would close on Monday March 23rd and we had to get creative. The Shire of Denmark Community Services Team worked together to ensure the community kept engaged. The Connected Community Channel was created to allow people to continue activities online, while we were in lockdown. This was a great success and credit to Claudia Simpson, our Community Development Officer for coming up with such a fantastic idea and all her hard work putting this program together. There were exercise sessions from the Recreation Centre, yoga, karate, knitting with friends, music, craft for kids and loads more. The Library held weekly Storytime sessions, Shakespeare and Poetry Reading groups and Book chat, all of which were well attended and great fun. These programs are still running until we are able to safely get together again at the Library.

Our members were all encouraged to use the various eResource platforms, such as eBooks, eAudios, eMagazines and Livestream movies. We were so impressed by how well everyone did adapting to the use of our eResources. We kept connected with our members via email and social media, trying to keep everyone up to date.

After closing the doors to the library, our services ceased and all items were quarantined for a certain period before we were able to implement our Library Outreach program to people who were isolated for medical reasons, over the age of 70, not connected online or needed extra support due to disability. Again the Community Services Team assisted us by delivering items to those in need. Thanks to our Rangers, Charmaine, Dave and Emma for assisting us so willingly.

During Covid lockdown we tried to keep connected with our members by offering a time to call for a cuppa and a chat. Later we offered Mystery Packs for families with specially selected books and a few little surprises.

Much to the delight of our patrons, the Library re-opened on May 25th for two days a week, as part of Phase 2 Covid–19 Recovery, allowing only 10 people at a time in the Library. After Phase 3 was announced, the Library was allowed 15 people in the Library and an extra day was added to our week.

We were kept very busy indeed, during the time we were closed. The Shire of Denmark response to the pandemic was amazing. We were well supported and informed via regular Zoom meetings. State Library of W.A also supported us with updates and Zoom meetings. We have never felt so connected! Thanks to all the staff at the Shire for the way everyone worked together for the benefit of the community.

We have strict guidelines we adhere to with our Covid–19 Safety Plan and we thank everyone for being so considerate to the changes we have had to implement.

We look forward to the day when we can have our full staffing, more opening hours and full program of events, but until then stay safe and keep positive.
New Adult Fiction Books

- The Wedding Guest by Jonathan Kellerman
- Crescent City by Sarah J Maas
- The Paris Secret by Natasha Lester
- The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams
- Gulliver's Wife by Lauren Chater
- Sweetness and Light by Liam Pieper
- The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd
- A Beggars Kingdom by Paullina Simons
- Inexpressible Island by Paullina Simons
- American Dirt by Jeannie Cummins
- Fair Warning by Michael Connelly
- Phosphorescence by Julia Baird
- Dappled by Julia Baird
- The Manifesto on how to be Interesting by Holly Bourne
- The Twentieth Man by Tony Jones
- The First Fifteen Lives of Harry August by Claire North
- The Surprising Power of a Good Dumpling by Wai Chim
- To the land of long lost friends by Alexander McCall Smith
- Replacement Therapy by Kathy Lette
- The 18th Abduction by James Patterson
- The Servants of Twilight by Dean Koontz
- Journey of the Pharaohs by Clive Cussler
- Walk the Wire by David Baldacci

Non Fiction

- The Library Book by Susan Orlean
- 488 rules for life: the thankless art of being correct by Kitty Flanagan
- All the lives we ever lived: seeking solace in Virginia Woolf by Katharine Smyth
- Under pressure: confronting the epidemic of stress and anxiety in girls by Lisa Damour
- Vegetables, chickens & bees: an honest guide to growing your own food anywhere by Arthur Carson
- The Lonely Planet bigger book of everything: a visual guide to travel and the world by Nigel Holmes
- The Awakened Family by Dr. Shefali Tsabary
- Noongar Bush Medicine by Vivienne Hansen

Sound Recordings

- The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate
- All the ways we said Goodbye by Beatriz Williams
- Letters to my younger self: 100 inspiring people on the moments that shaped their lives
- Riding with giants: by Peter Holmes à Court

Junior Books

- Amazing ninja! By Anh Do
- A Fortunate Life: Edition for young readers
- Angel Mage by Garth Nix
- The tyrant's tomb by Rick Riordan
- Whitney and Britney chicken Divas by Lucinda Gifford
- Science Workshop 60 creative ideas for budding pioneers.
- Where's Wally Double Trouble at the Museum
- Bluey and Bluey – The Creek by Bob Bilby
- Little Nic's Big Day by Nic Naitanui
- The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein

DVDs

- Inside Dame Elisabeth's garden : [dvd] with Maggie Beer and Paul Bangay
- Bohemian Rhapsody. [dvd]
- Apollo 11. [dvd]
- Amazing grace. [dvd]
- Tolkien. [dvd]
- Baptiste. [dvd]
- Judy. [dvd]