EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On the 8 February 2014 Stanton Library celebrated its 50th birthday. The Library is named after the former Mayor of North Sydney, James Street Stanton (1937-39) a keen supporter of the Free Public Library movement. The occasion was marked a few days later on Library Lover’s Day (14 February 2014) by an address from the NSW State Librarian, Dr Alex Byrne, who was welcomed by the Mayor and Councillors. Cr Marchandeau, currently President of the Metropolitan Public Libraries Association (NSW) (MPLA), introduced the speakers who were well received by a large audience of local residents and regular library users.

This report provides a copy of the State Librarian’s address (Attachment 1) as well as correspondence (a funding appeal - Attachment 2) to the Minister for the Arts, the Hon George Souris MP. The letter is signed by Cr Marchandeau for the MPLA, and Cr Graham Smith (Cessnock City Council) for the country libraries. The MPLA and the country association (Public Libraries NSW (MPLA NSW)) are in the final stages of forming one association, following the former Local Government NSW (LGNSW. The funding issue being addressed is the State Government’s Library funding formula, which has frozen the pool of public library funding. While the per capita funding to councils keeps pace with any increase in population, this increase is siphoned off the capital pool originally created for expansion of library facilities and services. Unchecked, this trend will result in only a trickle of funds available to councils seeking to revitalise ageing buildings and library collections: the immense social capital created by public libraries across the State will inevitably degrade.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council notes and celebrates 50 years of continuous library service to the North Sydney community.
2. **THAT** Council notes and supports the move of the MPLA (NSW) to join with the country libraries association to form one association and to pursue better funding for all local government public libraries.
LINK TO DELIVERY PROGRAM

The relationship with the Delivery Program is as follows:

Direction: 4. Our Social Vitality
Outcome: 4.6 Library services meet information, learning and leisure needs
4.4 North Sydney's history is preserved and recognised

BACKGROUND

Stanton Library is named after the former Mayor of North Sydney, James Street Stanton (1937-39) a keen supporter of the Free Public library movement.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement is not required.

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

This report deals with (draft) State Government Legislation/Policy which may have a substantial effect on sustainability. This report is for information purposes only; a sustainability assessment was not undertaken.

DETAIL

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Stanton Library 50th Birthday 10feb14

Acknowledgement of Country – Kameraigal

Mayor Jilly Gibson, Deputy Mayor Cr Stephen Barbour, Cr Véronique Marchandeau President of the Metropolitan Public Libraries Association and Deputy Chair of Shorelink, Acting General Manager Warwick Winn, Other Councillors, Director of Community and Library Services Martin Ellis, Library colleagues from North Sydney and elsewhere, Council staff, ladies and gentlemen.

For these remarks I have drawn on the Stanton Library’s pamphlet on its history, with thanks to the North Sydney Council Historian, Dr Ian Hoskins.

It is indeed a pleasure and honour to participate in this important event. The Stanton Library occupies an important place in the history of libraries in this state in addition to the important services it offers to the people of North Sydney and its magnificent architecture.

As State Librarian, I have one of the best jobs in the world. My colleagues and I are responsible for Australia’s oldest library and the premier collection on Australia and its region, Oceania through to Antarctica. We cherish the Mitchell Library – the collection that commenced with David Scott Mitchell’s generous legacy and has been assiduously built by generations of librarians, collectors and donors. It is an invaluable collection of our nation’s historical records and is at the heart of reading and research in Australian history and culture.
To that end, we continue to acquire major items of importance for the study of Australian history including the TAL & Dai-Ichi collection of 745 early Australian watercolours which will feature in a landmark exhibition opening on 4 March and the Wallis Album, a foundation document in the history of Newcastle, which was presented in the “Treasures from Newcastle” exhibition last year. In addition, we continue to acquire New South Wales publications comprehensively, most Australian publications, manuscript collections, photographic collections (such as the recently acquired archive of Max Dupain and Associates) and many other materials which are central to both research and creative work. We are beginning to collect born digital materials including social media to try to capture the spirit of this age as we have for the past.

These ongoing acquisitions have been complemented by the completion last December of a five year project to create online records for our entire collection, much of which was previously only recorded in the card catalogues and often with limited detail. This achievement is a boon to researchers on site and at a distance. Research and reading are also supported by the digitisation of much original material to make it more readily available online under our State Government funded, decade long Digital Excellence Program which has already delivered over 2 million pages of newspapers via Trove. Both initiatives will help make the collections more widely known and more readily useable.

Through these initiatives we aim to be recognised as both a world leading library and a centre of digital excellence. In doing that we celebrate our past and build our future as a key community resource which informs, educates, entertains and surprises the people of NSW and beyond.
But one of the greatest joys of my job is our responsibility to work with the wonderful network of 377 public libraries across NSW. We do that under the Library Act 1939 which requires us to promote the development of public libraries, monitor their standards and provide grants to local councils to support them. To date I have visited over 90 public libraries from Wentworth to Warilla, Byron to Bega and, of course, here in North Sydney where I came with the Public Libraries Consultative Committee, a vital adviser to the Library Council of NSW which in turn advises the Minister for the Arts on public libraries.

All public libraries are key resources for their communities. It has been fascinating to see how they are shaped by their communities and shape their communities.

Libraries are not standing still. They are embracing today’s technologies and responding to today’s needs. Traditional books continue to be important but have been joined by audiobooks, ebooks and e-audiobooks. All libraries have a web presence and online catalogue, the majority are using social media for communication and many are trying new technologies such as 3D printers. But it isn’t just about technology, libraries are the hubs of their communities and open to all. We see that in the daily ebb and flow of clients from mums and bubs to retirees, workers and business people, students, family historians, researchers and those going home from work. We see it in the ways they use the library from participating in events and activities, to reading newspapers and magazines, studying, borrowing, catching up with friends. It is truly a golden age for public libraries.
As Mayor Gibson has told us, this is reflected in the history of the Stanton Library, named after James Street Stanton.

Stanton was Mayor of North Sydney 1937-1939 and a keen supporter of the Free Library Movement. The Free Library Movement was begun in response to 1934 Munn-Pitt report which was funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York which was famous for supporting the creation of public libraries in many countries. The report examined libraries across Australia and criticised their number and standards. It led to considerable development, especially in NSW where the Free Library Movement was initiated in 1935 by Geoffrey Remington, Sydney solicitor and businessman. Working with John Metcalfe and William Ifould of the Public Library of New South Wales, he applied his legal expertise, public relations skills and passion to creating a grassroots movement across the state which led to the passing of the New South Wales Library Act in 1939. His passion was such that one newspaper columnist commented that 'nobody dodges Remington'.

North Sydney and the Stanton Library have a particular part in the Movement's success. In 1938 Alderman Stanton advocated the levying of a special tax to subsidise the creation of council libraries in all suburbs. The provision of State subsidies for municipal or shire libraries was subsequently included the 1939 Library Act and continues today in the 75th year of the Act. It is a provision which we must defend and advance.

Due to the Second World War, there were delays in implementing the 1939 Library Act so that there were only eight municipal libraries in Sydney by 1951. But North Sydney Council again showed its leadership
when it moved early to vote to create a library upon the cessation of the war just after Stanton’s death in August 1943 and agreed in 1945 to open the Stanton Memorial Library as part of a new civic centre development.

Although it took nearly 20 years until the Stanton Library opened its doors, the Library has continued to prosper and to be exemplary in many respects. With 5.9 visits per capita and 9 loans per capita it is above the exemplary level for the Living Learning Libraries standard. It collection of over 167,000 items in all formats represent 2.4 items per capita, well above the media of 1.5 and those items are on the median for proportion under 5 years old and well above for the proportion less than 10 years old. Membership of 42,000 included more than 22,600 North Sydney residents or 33% of the local community with another 20,000 non-residents enjoying the benefits of this excellent library.

The Stanton is of course famous for its architecture and building collection which began in 1972 when the Library accepted those subject areas under the then Sydney Subject Specialisation Scheme. It continues that commitment as well as its strong commitment to Local History, begun in 1974 and celebrated in the 2005 opening of the tremendous Heritage Centre.

The Stanton Library was also a founder member of the Shorelink Library Network which shares library usage across Sydney’s Lower North Shore and of which Cr Véronique Marchandeau is of course the Deputy Chair.
I reading the history of the Stanton Library it has been very rewarding to see how Alderman Stanton’s legacy has flourished. North Sydney Council has maintained the commitment to quality library services since it voted to establish a library in his memory. Despite early delays, it has grown into a landmark not only for North Sydney but for the whole state. Continuing development of the facilities, innovation and dedication to serving the people who live and work in the City of North Sydney has made the Stanton and living memorial to one of the founders of the New South Wales public library network. We shall remember James Street Stanton when we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Library Act 1939 in November.

As Andrew Carnegie, Scottish-American industrialist and library benefactor, whose corporation funded the review which inspired the Free Library Movement, put it:

*A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert.*
25 February 2014

RE: Public Library Funding Campaign – NSW Public Library Associations

Dear

You will be aware of the funding campaign mounted by the NSW Public Library Associations for increased state funding to local government for public libraries. There is generally a recognition that the funding level has now reached a crisis point and there is uncertainty about future funding. The evidence-based submission Reforming Public Library Funding submitted to the State Government by the Library Council of NSW in October 2012 (which recommended a fairer, simplified and more transparent method for the distribution of funds) has not resulted in any change to ongoing funding, despite representation from the Associations last year. As you know, each of the Associations has tried very hard in the past to influence decisions around state funding to public libraries. Clearly, successive state governments have also been under pressure to reduce budgets and we have been just a part of the cost-shifting debate.

We are seeing public libraries in the United States and the United Kingdom being closed at an alarming rate. Looking over the border, we have seen our Victorian public library colleagues mount a very successful campaign against state funding cuts to public libraries. We are not immune to this. There has been a disturbing number of attempted public library closures and service cuts here in NSW, which in the current financial climate will continue if the State Government fails to address the core funding issues.

Now it is time for action. It is also a time for a strong and united voice and we need to be working at various levels to have this voice heard. We have engaged a political lobbyist who is currently gathering intelligence for us and working on getting us through those government doors that have remained closed (or only slightly ajar) over the past few years. A campaign strategy has also been developed by the AECgroup who have been engaged to assist us in this process. Underpinning this strategy will be the support that can be generated at the local level to activate the campaign. We are hoping that you can play a key role in this process, and by early March the Associations’ webpage will include a range of advocacy resources and tools and information that you can use at the local level. Posters will also be distributed to you over the next few months.

However, the first step in this campaign will be to ensure that your Council and General Manager are fully informed and supportive of the campaign. We recognise the lead-time that it takes to get reports through Council, so we have provided the attached report template that we request you submit to your Council. (Please amend this to comply with your report template and your style as required.) If you are not in a position to submit reports to your Council, please discuss this with a manager or director who can. It is critical that all NSW Councils know about this opportunity to influence the future of public library funding in our state.

This campaign is being strongly supported by ALIA and by LGNSW, who have agreed to use their communication networks to disseminate information to their stakeholders. We are also seeking the support of FOLA (Friends of Libraries Australia). This means that your staff, General Manager and Councillors will soon become aware of the campaign through Circulars from LGNSW and communication from ALIA. One of the consultants is also an ex General Manager/CEO and he will be...
talking with many of your General Managers and Mayors over the next few months about the funding issue.

This will be the first of several communiqués to update you and seek your ideas. We will also send you more detailed information about the campaign strategy after we have met with the lobbyist on March 4th.

However, this first step is critical. It would be appreciated if you could advise us of your Council’s resolution in response to your report by the end of March if possible. (This information should be send to info@nswpla.org.au ). For your information the contact details for the relevant Minister (See attached report) are:

Hon George Souris MP  
Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing,  
Minister for the Arts, and Minister for the Hunter  
Level 30 Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Please do not hesitate to contact Robert Knight Knight.Robert@wagga.nsw.gov.au; Michelle Simon michelles@canterbury.nsw.gov.au or Paul Scully pscully@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au if you would like any further information or if you have any queries.

Thank you for your ongoing support and passion to get a fairer deal for public libraries.

Best Regards,

Graham Smith

Veronique Marchandeau

NSW Public Library Associations
Stanton Library was named after James Street Stanton who was Mayor of North Sydney 1937-1939 and a keen supporter of the Free Library Movement [FLM].

The FLM was begun in response to a 1934 report that criticised the paucity of libraries in NSW and a branch was established early on in North Sydney.

In 1938 Alderman Stanton advocated the levying of a special tax to subsidise the creation of council libraries in all suburbs. The provision of State subsidies for municipal or shire libraries was subsequently part of the 1939 Library Act.

Stanton died in August 1943 and three months later North Sydney Council voted to create a library upon the cessation of the war. In 1945 it was decided to open the Stanton Memorial Library as part of a new civic centre development.

There were delays in implementing the 1939 Library Act generally (there were only eight municipal libraries in Sydney in 1951) and delays locally in acquiring the residential blocks adjacent to Council Chambers in Miller Street for the civic centre.

The Stanton Library opened its doors on 8 February 1964. It featured a striking modern curtain wall façade designed by Council architect John L Browne. It was built by J.P. Cordukes Pty. Ltd. of Concord. The interior decor was the work of the well-known designer, Marion Hall Best.

The collection then held 10,000 books. By the end of March there were 4,600 registered borrowers. In 1979 the book collection had grown to 103,000 volumes. By then the Library was developing a major architecture and town planning collection. In 2014, 50 years after it opened, Stanton had 167,000 items in all formats. Well over 640,000 loans are made each year. Membership of some 40,000 included more than 22,600 North Sydney residents or 33% of the local community. Stanton is now a social hub where clubs meet, authors speak, children listen to story time, researchers investigate family histories and much more.

Stanton Library opened on 8 February by His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, Lieutenant-General, Sir Eric Woodward.

Stanton Library in 1965

Chronology

1964 Stanton opened on 8 February by His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, Lieutenant-General, Sir Eric Woodward.

1969 Reference Library established

1970s Audio-visual collection commenced including - film strips, art prints, posters, games and toys, teaching kits and audio cassettes.

1972 Large Print Book collection introduced. Stanton accepted the subject areas of architecture and building in addition to health and fitness as part of the Sydney Subject Specialisation Scheme.

1974 Local History collection begun

1976 First Floor extension constructed to cope with the Library's growth

1979 Ground floor reorganised to incorporate the new Sound Room

Home Library Service introduced

1982 Artists Bronwen Bassett, Jenny Pitty and Kate O'Connar completed the 'Heaven' mural on the Stanton Library as part of the Women and Art Festival.

1983 Referendum on user fees for Stanton defeated at Council election

1984 Shorelink Library Network established, opening up five libraries on the Lower North Shore to Stanton users

1985 ARCH - an architectural database of indexed articles from Stanton's architecture collection established

1987 Construction began on a new office block including alterations and additions to Stanton to provide much needed space. Staff workroom moved to St. Thomas' Church Hall in McLaren Street.

Stanton Library undertook management of Don Bank and Sexton's Cottage Museums and the historic St. Thomas' Rest Park.

1988 The new Stanton opened, incorporating the old Stanton on August 27, (architect, Feiko Bouman). This included extensive Sound Room facilities, a meeting room for hire, a public access personal computer and two OPACs, videos, larger display areas; public reading spaces, and an extended Local History area.

1989 All Night Long at Stanton - Stanton opened for 24 hours on Friday to Saturday 1 and 2 December) featured an amnesty for overdue
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>ARCH becomes part of the National Library's CD-ROM indexing service - AUSTROM. Public access to CD-ROM begun. OPACs (on-line public access catalogue) replaced the Library's card catalogue. Young Writers Award introduced. Writers at Stanton program began.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Oral History Program received State Government grant - publication of &quot;On the Record: a practical guide to oral history&quot; English Language Development Collection launched.</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>Council's historic Archives accessioned and made available to the public.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Shorelink upgrade of computerised network. CD-ROM LAN network installed, providing multiple access to the Library's CD-ROM and other databases. Sound Room re-designed, placing most materials on public access.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>LAN network link established with Council Chambers, providing on-line access to Council business papers, minutes and the North Sydney heritage review database.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Community information database automated and available on Internet.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Library Desk and foyer renovated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>New floor added to Stanton, Heritage Centre opens and Stanton refurbished.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Computer booking system installed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>EFTPOS for payment of fees introduced.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Sydney Harbour: A History, written by the North Sydney Council Historian wins the Queensland Premier's Literary Prize for History.</td>
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Happy Birthday Stanton!

**Stanton Celebrates!**
Please join us in celebrating Stanton Library’s 50th Birthday with a special address on the future of libraries by the NSW State Librarian, Dr Alex Byrne.

**Monday 10 February, 1pm**
Refreshments will be provided
Please RSVP to Stanton Library

**Birthday Quiz**
Test your knowledge of Stanton’s resources while learning about our history and enter the draw to win some great prizes.

**3 - 14 February**
Winners will be drawn on **Library Lovers Day, Friday 14 February.**
Return your quiz sheet to the library by 12pm to be in the prize draw.

**Send us a birthday wish!**
Tell us what you love about Stanton by filling in the form on the back of this sheet or online at:

**3 - 14 February**
Enteries will be displayed in the Library for Library Lovers Day on Friday 14 February.

234 Miller Street, North Sydney 2060
9936 8400, library@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
@Stanton_Library
Send us a birthday wish!

Wish us a Happy Birthday and tell us what you love about Stanton—submissions will be displayed in the Library for Library Lovers Day on Friday 14 February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>1. Who was Stanton Library named after?</th>
<th>2. On what date was the library opened?</th>
<th>7. Can you find the number of a block plan showing the tram lines in Miller Street, North Sydney?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. Find two photos of the original library and list their catalogue numbers.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8. Where would you find a plaque for Billy Blue’s land grant in North Sydney?</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. When was the mural painted on the outside of the library? And by whom?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9. Where is Edward Wollstonecraft’s headstone in North Sydney?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. How many pairs of gloves are held in the costume collection?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10. Who officially opened Don Bank Museum and on what date?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. What is the address of a development by architect Eric Olsen in Neutral Bay?</td>
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</table>

Return your quiz sheet to the library by **12pm, Friday 14 February** for the chance to win a prize!

Name: __________________________________________________________

Library card number: ____________________________________________

Contact phone number: _________________________________________