

# 'Biker' librarians roar into NSW towns

A congregation of bike-riding librarians, including three Gosford City Council staff, descended on country towns in NSW and Victoria on 10–12 November. What a great way to break down the stereotype of librarians being quiet and conservative!

The 1600km motorcycle tour – 'Biblio Turismo 2006: Springwood to Cootamundra' – was organised by Gosford City Council staff to help raise awareness of country libraries and encourage younger people to consider our profession, emphasising that you can be a librarian and have fun.

The tour began on Friday 10 November. We visited libraries in Springwood, Bathurst, Orange, Cowra, Tumut, Wagga Wagga and Cootamundra. This was an exploratory trip, time was tight and the weather quite bad – a lot of rain on Friday and strong winds – so the ride was slower than we expected. Next year the biker librarians will not aim to travel so far each day!



We visited the Springwood library, and also the Bathurst library, where the local press took our picture for their paper. We met the State Librarian and the members of the NSW Public Libraries (Country) regional group at Orange. We also met three library staff there, the President and several members of the library's Friends group, and later the Mayor, who came to the library with Health Minister Tony Abbot, who was visiting at the time. At Cootamundra we dined with the local librarian and her husband, joined by the Mayor and his wife. On Saturday we met the librarian at Tumut.

The three Gosford Council staff who organised the ride included the Gosford librarians Rebecca Rouse and Nicole Shearer. We rode with Andrew Rouse, Gosford; Ross Balharrie, Manly; Leon Alavoine, Blacktown; Terri Paton, Kevin Lum-

ley and Linda, Rockdale; Pam and Brian Young, Griffith; Ian

McCallum and Sherrey Quinn, Canberra; Helen Sutherland, North Sydney; and Barbara Todes, Randwick. All the participants travelled in their own time and at their own expense.



We plan to develop the Biblio Turismo in 2007 as a more leisurely public relations tour with time for talks to the press, local groups and local children. The tour will be held around November, along a different regional route. Participants can ride a motorbike or drive a car. Contact details to register your interest are given below. We hope to start at Bateman's Bay on a Thursday. We will most likely visit five library systems, spending one night at Bateman's Bay and the next at Kiama, so that the journey back to Sydney on the Saturday will be an easy ride. Read our blog to keep up with the information available: <http://turismo.blogspot.com/>.

**Alan Flores, Library Services Manager**  
**Kate Carragher Communications Unit**  
**Gosford City Council**

To contact Alan or register your interest, please call 02 4325 8801 or e-mail [goscitylib@gosford.nsw.gov.au](mailto:goscitylib@gosford.nsw.gov.au).



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