



Tasmania's LINC is like a second home

Whenever I visit a new city or town, the first establishment I tend to gravitate towards is the local library. A library always feels like a second home to me – the smell of books are heaven scent (pun intended) and knowing that I will be snuggling up in a cosy library corner with one or more of those aromatic compositions just tantalises my appetite. It is no wonder that when I first moved to Hobart, it wasn't the cafés or mall that I first checked out – it was the library.

One of the things I love about the LINC (Learning and Information Network Centres) Tasmania (formerly known as the State Library of Tasmania) is its reserve system. It's a fantastic service locating resources ordered via the internet, phone or face-to-face. Sometimes there is a wait, especially for popular resources. However, the system lets you know where you are in the queue and how long the approximate wait is. Once you're logged in to your My Library account you can also keep track of your library loans by creating a Library Elf account. I like this feature because I can keep up with the many books and DVDs that my two year old son has borrowed. The Wiggles DVDs are a must in our household for fun, entertainment (his) and sanity (mine).

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Speaking of children, the LINC offers Rock & Rhyme – an interactive session for mums and bubs. The Rock & Rhyme facilitator is excellent at getting mothers/parents/carers and their babies/toddlers together for a song, nursery rhyme or story. Each library branch offers a half hour session, one day per week. It's a great way to meet other parents and their children.

There is much more that the LINC offers of course, like the new e-Books Plus, book suggestions, and the wide and varied collection catering for all Tasmanians. But most of all I would like to commend the committed and hard-working SLT staff for giving Tasmanians a place for the community to interact, and the opportunity to access free resources and information in a variety of formats.

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GREAT BUILDING + GREAT STAFF+ GREAT USERS – WA'S FORREST LIBRARY HAS IT ALL

Hale School Forrest Library in Wembley Downs is a significant new school library in Western Australia. The library was completed just over two years ago after many years of thought, design discussion and considerable expenditure. The design and environment of the library allow it to be a centre of significance for the school and the students.



Cool for school –the new Hale School Forrest Library

The library is a vast, welcoming space that has been designed to be attractive, functional and to serve the needs of the boys, parents and staff. It can comfortably cater for at least six classes in a variety of teaching areas. These range from beautiful self-contained glass walled teaching rooms that have comfortable couches as well as a more formal desk area, computer areas with incredible information technology, lounges for reading classes and small group areas.

The shelving has been arranged so it is easy to see throughout but still provides some nooks for students to read or work quietly on the couches that can be found throughout. The circulation system, with RFID (radio frequency identification) technology, allows the boys independence with their borrowing. It also allows for a new style of inventory which would make any library professional smile.

Apart from the amazing physical features of the Forrest Library, those who contribute to the work environment make the library a vibrant, productive, happy place to thrive. There is a collegiality and collaboration amongst all the staff, both library and wider school staff, which is a direct result of the library being such a pleasant and stimulating place to be.

The students enjoy the atmosphere and the facilities along with the substantial collection of resources which allows them to achieve excellent results and satisfaction with their learning. They also like to use the library to relax and make use of it throughout the day. Boarding students also come in during the evening for both study and personal reading.

The amazing facilities of the library, the staff who allow it to function so effectively and the boys who make use of the library all go towards making a library environment that is to be envied. The teaching and management of a library such as the Hale School Forrest Library is stimulating, exciting and certainly never boring. It is a joy to arrive at work each day.

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