

SA Water Library is a South Australian State Government one person Library. Until three years ago it was a very traditional specialist library, with a highly technical focus and the main customer group being the Engineers and Water Quality / Research Scientists employed by SA Water. In September 2007 the Library joined the business unit responsible for developing a new education / learning program around water. The team was tasked with creating a full year school program which would be first run in 2009. The result was the SA Water Learning Centre's [Brain Wave Learning program](#)

The Library was tasked with finding ways to be involved in the program. In 2009 and 2010 the Library Services Coordinator developed and delivered the following programs and resources:

Resources for School Teachers

Development and marketing of a collection of water related resources suitable for both primary and secondary South Australian school teachers to use in their water units. This is a free service to supplement existing school library resources. There are currently 31 teachers registered as borrowers for this collection.

Living Loans for Schools

A variation on the living loans/libraries concept used across the public library sector, this program coordinates SA Water subject experts visiting South Australian schools to discuss water issues and/or provide an insight into their roles within SA Water. In 2009 the program ran 18 in school sessions and reached 639 students. In 2010 there were 25 sessions, reaching 1320 students.

Water Conservation and Desalination picture books

A gap was identified in available resources for junior primary students on the subjects of water conservation and desalination. The Library Services Coordinator authored and published two educational picture books to fill the gap. The result was *Captain Plop's water-saving mission* (2009) and *Captain Plop: the desalination adventure* (2010), available both in print and online.

Print copies were distributed free of charge to all school and public libraries in South Australia, at information and open days, the Royal Adelaide Show, and to visitors of the Desalination Information Centre. More than 15,000 copies of the water-saving mission have been distributed and the book is in its second print run. 4,000 copies of the desalination adventure have been distributed so far.

Toilets Through Time school program and open day

The Library Services Coordinator researched, developed and presented this program during SA History Week, May 2010. It was designed to inform students about the importance of sewers to public health by showing how the development of modern sewer networks and toilets has dramatically reduced mortality rates. It showcased toilet and sewer construction from 4000 BCE to present day. Workshops were designed to get students thinking about the health of the sewer network based on what we flush down our sinks and loos; and the importance of keeping sewerage and drinking water supplies separate.

A public open day showcased SA Water's heritage photographs of sewer construction in the state, a timeline of SA sewer construction, and timeline of world toilet and sewer development. The program attracted media interest. One report is available on the [ABC site](#).

The Wacky Sticky Soaky Flowy Thing

This program is currently running from February – October 2011. Students are tasked with researching an area of water, from five key highlighted areas, and producing a creative piece to showcase their learning. The creative piece may be prose, poetry, artwork, sculpture or any other creative medium the students wish to use. A selection of entries will be chosen for publication in an online anthology.

This program is being run in partnership with the State Library of South Australia and the Art Gallery of South Australia.

During April two local children's authors, Janeen Brian and Phil Cummings, are running poetry and prose writing workshops for students, to be held at the State Library.

The State Library team have also developed a fantastic [online water guide](#) to assist students in their research.

The Art Gallery are offering water-themed guided tours for students between February and July.

The launch of the anthology is scheduled for October (National Water Week) and will be combined with displays of entries at both the State Library and Art Gallery.

Undertaking this collaborative project work has both enhanced the learning program and provided opportunities to raise community awareness of the existence of special libraries, and the important contribution they can make to both their parent organisation and the wider community.

In recognition of this work the Library Services Coordinator recently received the [ALIA Information Online Group Excellence Award 2011](#).

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