

COVID-19 restrictions affect library services

Mittagong Public Library will temporarily close its doors from Wednesday 30 June 2021 as a precaution to slow the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus however Bowral Public Library will remain open.

Council's Chief Information Officer John Crawford explained the decision.

"The latest restrictions have affected our library staffing levels and limited the number of patrons we can safely accommodate within the building," he said. "Our Bowral Library is fortunately considerably larger and can maintain current operating hours - including Saturday hours - under the current restrictions."

"We will however continue to monitor the situation and alert our customers should circumstances change."

Other temporary changes to Council's library services include reverting the Mobile Library Van to a 'Click and Collect' service only.

The Click and Collect service allows patrons to reserve up to ten titles through Council's online catalogue, via the *Bookmyne* App, or by contacting the library directly. Library staff will then advise when items are available for collection at your scheduled stop. Patrons are reminded to bring their Library Card and book bag when picking up their items. The Click and Collect service will follow the pre-existing Mobile Library schedule and timetable.

Mr Crawford said some pre-existing library events and activities would move online.

"Whilst some events such as our school holiday craft activities are still scheduled to be held in person, other activities will move online," he said.

"Both our children's *Winter Reading Program* and an upcoming colouring-in contest are two examples of activities that will be transferred online," he said. "These events can both be accessed through the main library website."

"Our advice is to check Council's Library website for the latest changes and developments."

The Library Services team have also brought forward the launch of their Local History Information Corner which provides an invaluable resource for people wishing to research local or family history.

"We've fast-tracked the launch of this exciting new service and will regularly update the information so that customers have an alternate Covid-safe option to enjoy," Mr Crawford said.

Mr Crawford said customers to Bowral Library should also remember to bring a facemask.

"As per current public health advice all visitors to Bowral Library will be required to wear a facemask for the time being," he said. "We understand wearing a facemask can be inconvenient however the health and well-being of our patrons and staff remains our number one priority."

RELEASE DATE: 30 June 2021

MEDIA CONTACT:

- John Crawford, Chief Information Officer, (02) 4868 0878
- Dave Sommers, Media and Communications Coordinator, (02) 4868 0863

Working with you

MEDIA.WSC.NSW.GOV.AU

Media Release



“We do apologise for any temporary disruptions and thank all of our customers in advance for their understanding and cooperation.”

For more information on Council libraries, including temporary changes to branch hours, the reintroduction of the Click and Collect service or changes and locations of events and activities, visit www.library.wsc.nsw.gov.au or phone Bowral Central Library on 1300 266 235.

For details on the Local History Information Corner, visit www.library.wsc.nsw.gov.au/local-studies.

For the latest COVID-19 updates, advice and restrictions, visit www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19.

END

RELEASE DATE: 30 June 2021
MEDIA CONTACT: <input type="checkbox"/> John Crawford, Chief Information Officer, (02) 4868 0878 <input type="checkbox"/> Dave Sommers, Media and Communications Coordinator, (02) 4868 0863

Working with you

MEDIA.WSC.NSW.GOV.AU