

STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND

I respectfully acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and recognise their cultures, histories and diversity and their deep connection to the lands, waters and seas of Queensland and the Torres Strait.

I acknowledge the Jagera people and the Turrbal people as the Traditional Custodians of Meanjin (Brisbane), the lands on which we meet, work and learn today and their Elders past and present.



Schools Engagement: Collaborating with the Education Sector

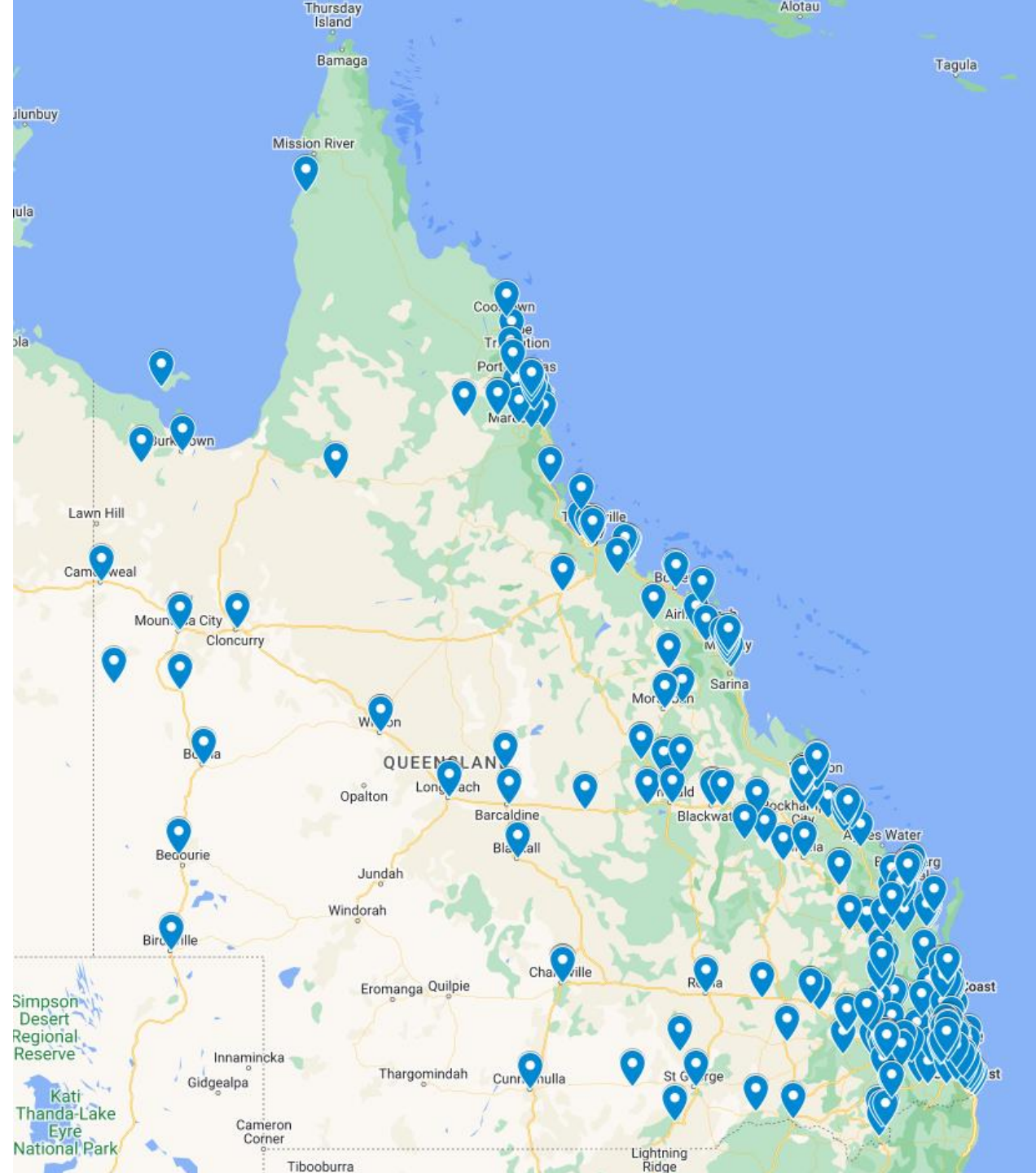
Natasha Ratajczek
Coordinator, Schools Engagement
State Library of Queensland
ALIA Mini Conference 2024

Celebrating our success

- At the end of Term 3, 2024, State Library has engaged with:
 - 417 Queensland Schools
 - 23% of 1827 Queensland schools
 - 18,269 students and teachers
 - 7000 onsite
 - 11,269 online

Our reach to date...

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1Ar_B1H1zjZWBEucD9LwAkjd_97-GM&ll=-20.539431606020813%2C144.68256707499995&z=5



Current offer

ONSITE

- Research Experience
- Bookable Study Space
- Tours (led/self-guided)
- Exhibition engagement
- Anzac Square Schools day
- Anzac Premier's Prize
- Young Historian's Workshop
- Young Researchers Program

ONLINE REGIONAL REACH

- Curriculum Connect
 - Resource creation
- Live at the Library
 - One:One
 - Multi-school
- Student resources
- Teacher Professional Development webinars

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Teacher webinars
- 1 day Curriculum Connect Symposium (every 2 yrs)



Key: Secondary students 10-12, teachers and educators, as defined in a project

Supplementary: Secondary students 7-9, Primary students 4-6

Non-focus: Pre-school – Year 3, University students, TAFE students



**Schools Engagement team
State Library of Queensland, 2024**

Building our success

1. Refining program offer
2. Removing barriers to engaging with State Library
3. Fostering relationships
4. Working collaboratively with educational bodies and teachers
5. Incorporating feedback
6. Persistence



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1. Refining program offer



- Creating a focused offer – the blueprint
- Defining what is IN and what is OUT of scope
 - is it curriculum connected
 - does it promote schools engagement with collections and resources?
- Creating opportunities for schools to engage with State Library without having to engage with us – scavenger hunt, self-guided tours

1. Refining program offer (continued)

- Building a strong online program that provides same experience to regional schools, as the experience schools having when physically coming to State Library.
 - Live at the Library – one to one / multi-school
- Expert staff supporting delivery of onsite research experience for schools.



2. Removing barriers to engaging

- Advertising offers – early to market
- Flexible booking systems
- Creating a space for program delivery
 - Schools study space (onsite);
 - White Gloves Room (Live at Library online workshops)
- Promoting the benefits of membership AND how to use it
- Curriculum Connect website – housing all learning support resources in one place

2. Removing barriers to engaging (continued)

- Adding content descriptions to learning resources
- Development of subject-specific student study guides
- Utilising expertise of State Library teams – working with our Library Information Professionals to deliver onsite research sessions
- Use of AI to engage with content – Virtual Veteran
- Increasing regional reach – Live at the Library / Anzac Square virtual tour



3. Fostering relationships

- Internal relationships with teams – we cannot deliver the schools program without support
- External relationships with like organisations – Cross Cultural Precinct Learning Network (QAGOMA, Queensland Museum, State Library, etc.)
- Employing staff with educational backgrounds / experience
- Building relationships with schools – cold calling, emailing – getting past the school gate keeper

3. Fostering relationships (continued)

- Offering opportunities to be involved in pilot programs
- Obtaining funding for roles with specific intentions for engagement
 - Identified role – First Nations Regional Schools Engagement
 - Program-specific support – Anzac Square schools engagement, online engagement

4. Working collaboratively with educational bodies and teachers



- Establishing an Educator Advisory Group
- Connecting with Professional Associations – English Teachers Association of Queensland (ETAQ), Queensland History Teachers Association (QHTA), Queensland School Libraries Association (QSLA)
- Presenting at conferences and network meet-ups
- Co-delivery of programs – Premiers Anzac Prize Young Historians workshop

4. Working collaboratively with educational bodies and teachers (continued)

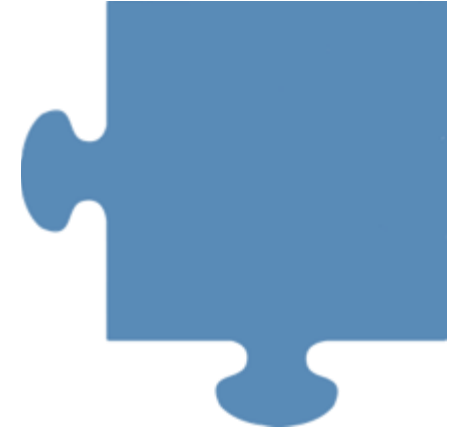
- NSLA Learning network – National and State Libraries Australasia – learn from like institutions
- ALIA – learn from and share with each other

5. Listening to feedback

- Consulting with Educator Advisory Group
 - presenting new ideas / programming for review and advice.
- Seeking feedback from teachers



6. Persistence



- Contacts change – you will need sheer grit!
Our Young Researchers Program took 3 years to get off the ground due to COVID, floods, and the inability to connect with regional schools.
- Growth takes time
Live at the Library – Term 4 2022 – 2 offers, 44 sessions, 1047 total participants; at conclusion of Term 3 2024 – 11 offers, 336 sessions, 12,295 participants

6. Persistence (continued)

- Be willing to pivot when required to ensure programming can be delivered – to align with capacity, capability and budget.
- Promotion – don't stop! Advocate to everyone and enlist the help of others to share the work you are doing. (Teachers are everywhere!)

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6. Persistence



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We invite you to

- Join a *Live at the Library* multi-school workshop this term!



Book now!

Reach out – connect



Let's connect!

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